

**EAST GREENWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 9, 2007 SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

**East Greenwich High School Auditorium, 300 Avenger Drive**

**ANY ITEMS CONSIDERED BY SCHOOL COMMITTEE MAY BE  
SUBJECT TO A VOTE**

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Sue Cienki at 7:00p.m. The following

members were present: William Day, Mrs. Friedemann, Mary Ellen Winters, Susan Records, JeanAnn Guliano, and Anne Palumbo, as well as Superintendent Charles Meyers, Maryanne Crawford, Helen O'Hara and Robert Wilmarth.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag**

The meeting commenced with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**3. Student Council Liaison Report**

There was no student council liaison report.

**4. Public Comments**

Mr. Steve Gregson, Shady Hill Drive, asked if the Superintendent followed up on School Committee's access to bills. The Superintendent responded that he would check on that. Mr. Gregson asked if anyone was checking on access to Frenchtown Road for the McHale property. Mr. Meyers responded that he met with Caito and Gifford at DEM and he would share that information with Mr. Gregson.

Mr. Gregson spoke about the lack of judgment in our attorney's letter

to him. He also wondered who ordered the new truck for the school department.

Renu Engelhart, Division Road, had math concerns as students are using Everyday Math and she feels that it is not thorough enough and not reinforcing the basic curriculum. She feels that 5th graders are not able to do basic multiplication. She stated that many parents are supplementing their student's math. Mr. Meyers stated that he would put Renu in touch with Pat Dulac, Math Department Head, and Laurie Ratigan, Math Curriculum Coordinator.

## **5. Approval of Minutes**

### **December 19 regular meeting and Executive Session**

On a motion made by Mr. Day and seconded by Mrs. Palumbo, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the December 19 regular and executive sessions.

## **6. New Business**

### **6.1 Parental Leave**

6.1.1 Mr. Day made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Palumbo, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the parental leave of Diane Paolino, CPT Teacher for grades 4-6, from January 31, 2007 until the end of the 2006-2007 school year.

### **6.2 Appointment**

6.2.1 On a motion made by Mr. Day and seconded by Mrs. Palumbo to approve the appointment of Laurie Ratigan, K-6 Math Curriculum Coordinator, Mrs. Cienki, Mr. Day, Mrs. Palumbo, Mrs. Winters, Mrs. Guliano and Mrs. Records voted yes, and Mrs. Friedemann voted no. The motion passed.

## **7. Vote on High School Program of Studies for 2007-2008**

**Mrs. Palumbo made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Day to approve the High School Program of Studies for 2007-2008. Mrs. Guliano asked about money for**

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**the video production course and related technology. Mr. Levine reported that there is some money already in the budget for materials for TV production equipment, which can also be used by the Science Department. He noted that some money for this program can come from grants. Mrs. Friedemann asked if Mr. Levine is anticipating layoffs. He responded that the high school has some one year positions that would be pink slipped. He also stated that the department of education is pushing them to eliminate study halls, and some of the new courses would add to that.**

**Mrs. Cienki asked about the cost for refurbishing the rooms for the new course. Mr. Levine responded that he has spoken to Mr. Wilmarth and there are no major renovations involved. Mr. Levine stated that on January 29, he will meet with students in grades 9, 10 and 11, and also go to the middle school.**

**Mrs. Cienki asked Mr. Levine to re-think the Freshmen Toolbox. She doesn't want kids to be playing video games. Mr. Levine prefers to evaluate this and run it for one year. Mrs. Winters feels that this is a problem every year for kids and guidance. Mr. Levine also wanted the Committee to be aware that if courses are added he may not have staff and may have to remove the courses. Mrs. Cienki stated that Mr. Levine should think about a drama teacher and offering courses**

bi-annually. Mrs. Records asked when study halls would be eliminated. Mr. Levine responded that would be done when he gets more staff. On a motion made by Mrs. Records and seconded by Mrs. Palumbo, the Committee voted to approve the High School Program of Studies with the stipulation that Mr. Levine re-visit the Freshmen Toolbox and get back to the Superintendent. Mrs. Guliano abstained from the vote.

#### **8. Preliminary Budget FY 2008**

Mr. Meyers presented his preliminary budget with a 4.86% increase. Several items were eliminated in this budget such as the Intramural Program at the elementary and middle schools, and the COA Director.

Mr. Day wants this budget given to the new Finance Committee. Mr. Meyers wants to give this new committee a charge that they should study the impact of the tax cap levy on the budget. Mrs. Guliano asked for a breakout of purchased services. She also asked if there is a plan for capital improvements and wants to make it a priority. Mr. Meyers stated that he plans to set aside the fund balance at the end of this school year for capital improvements. Mrs. Cienki wants the Human Resources and Paraprofessional Study before the meeting with the Town Council.

Mr. Meyers noted that the School Committee meeting on January 23 will be a work session in the budget.

#### **9. Follow-up Discussion on State Aid to Education Meeting with Barrington School Committee**

Mr. Meyers noted that five recommendations were made at this meeting:

- 1. Reimbursement to school districts and towns for the implementation of State mandates.**
- 2. Gather data on the impact of 3050**
- 3. Seek relief from the State for transportation of students to out-of-district placements and private schools.**
- 4. Support and lobby for a fair and reliable State funding formula for education**
- 5. Options for purchasing health insurance at a discounted rate.**

**Mrs. Friedemann stated that the balance of power is against us in the General Assembly and we need to get more creative.**

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#### **10. Timeline for Decisions Regarding Improvements to School Facilities**

**Mr. Meyers noted that Strategic Building Solutions put together options for a bond issue. We will probably go with a fall referendum since we need accurate figures from the Facilities Committee.**

#### **11. Financial Report**

**Mrs. Crawford stated that we are on target for what we budgeted. She noted that she is going to meet with our health care consultants soon.**

#### **12. Vote on Disposal of Obsolete Textbooks from Cole Middle School**

**On a motion made by Mr. Day and seconded by Mrs. Guliano the Committee voted unanimously to dispose of the obsolete textbooks from Cole Middle School.**

### **13. Home School Plans:**

**On a motion made by Mr. Day and seconded by Mrs. Guliano, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the following home school plans:**

**Kaylyn Murphy, grade 4, and Michael Murphy, Grade 7 from January 2, 2007 until the end of the school year, June 18, 2007**

### **14. Adjournment**

**On a motion made by Mr. Day and seconded by Mrs. Guliano, the Committee, being polled individually, voted unanimously to adjourn and go into Executive Session at 9:02 p.m. on the following items under R.I.G.L. 42-46-5 (a) (1) (2):**

- 1. SLRB Hearing on Athletic Director**
- 2. Litigation: Jane Doe vs. East Greenwich School District**
- 3. Custodians' Union Arbitration**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Virginia Giuliani**

**Secretary**