

EAST GREENWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE February 6, 2007 SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Hanaford School, 200 Middle Road, East Greenwich, RI

**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 7:10p.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.

2. Public Comments-There were no public comments.

3. Approval of Minutes

3.1 On a motion made by Mr. Day and seconded by Mrs. Palumbo, the Committee voted to approve the minutes of the January 9 and January 23 regular and executive sessions. Mrs. Friedemann abstained.

4. Recognitions

The following students were present to receive certificates from the School Committee for the following awards:

4.1 High School Scholastic Art Awards 2007: Anika Rounds, silver

key; Maret Paetznick-silver key; Devin Rochford-silver key; and Annie Keithline-gold key, American Vision Award and Fine Arts Portfolio Award

4.2 Cole Scholastic Art Awards 2007: Dan Farrell-gold key; Matthew Kan-gold key; Angela Devine-silver key; Charlotte O'Donnely-silver key; Karen Finn-silver key; Rachel Basso-silver key

4.3 Cole RI Junior All-State Musicians: Dan Caron, Crawford Leeds, Bianca Sperduti, Ben Savitt, John Kalajian, Betsey Thompson, Miriam Scheff, T.J. Cienki, Ben Pallant, Aidan Hutt and Ivy Shen

4.4 Cole RI Honors: Han Xu, Meghan Gallogly, Hope Serdakowski and Rachel Rossetti.

4.5 Cole Geography Winner: First place-William Gifford. Runner Up: Merrick Villeneuve and Dylan Manning.

5. New Business

5.1 Appointment

5.1.1 On a motion made by Mrs. Palumbo and seconded by Mrs. Guliano, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the appointment of Elaine Balkcom, intramural coordinator at Cole Middle.

6. Facilities Committee Report and Request for RFQ

Mr. Jay Gowell, Facilities Chair, spoke about the six options for the work being proposed for five schools. Cole was not included in the report since it is too far gone to repair. He noted that Strategic Building Solutions (SBS) recommends that the School Committee authorize a request for qualifications for management and architectural services, then focus on operating costs Mr. Jon Winikur

from SBS stated that there were 800 projects identified for repair at a cost of \$27.3 million for maintenance

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needs. The plan is to have a middle school with grades 6, 7 and 8 on the Cole site. Mrs. Guliano wants the new Cole to be energy efficient.

Mr. Gregson stated that there is a trend getting away from the middle school concept. He would like to see a cost analysis between building a new middle school and a junior high school. Mr. Meyers stated that there is no interest in a junior high school. Mrs. Cienki stated that the academic program is enhanced when you have a middle school model because teachers need a middle school endorsement. Mr. Militello stated that nationally, there is a shift to middle school and 6th graders are emotionally ready for the middle school experience. Mrs. Friedemann stated that most parents don't want 6th graders in middle school. Mr. Michael Zajac stated that he came from a 5 to 8 middle school and there were no problems since it can be designed to avoid interactions.

Dr. Al Ross asked if the School Committee voted to go to a 6, 7 and 8 model. He noted that they should decide what is better academically, and then the architect can direct them to build a school that is academically correct.

Mrs. Palumbo made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Records to have the administration put out an RFQ for interested firms then provide a recommendation to the School Committee.

7. Search for Assistant Principal at East Greenwich High School

Mr. Day made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Palumbo to advertise for an Assistant Principal at East Greenwich High School. It was noted that the current Assistant Principal had a one year contract. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Approval of Science Curriculum K-12

Mrs. Linda Newman, Curriculum Consultant, presented the Science Curriculum to the School Committee. She thanked Mr. Lenox, Mr. Rath, Mrs. O'Hara and Mr. Meyers, noting that work on this curriculum engaged 35 teachers from the district. She also thanked Margo Ucci for all her revision work. Mrs. Newman stated that this is the first science curriculum in the state that embeds the GLE's. Mrs. Friedemann made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Palumbo to approve the Science Curriculum. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Meyers thanked Mrs. Newman for her leadership.

9. Out-of-State Field Trip to Sunday River, Maine for Cole Ski Club from February 9 to 11, 2007

Mr. Day made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Palumbo to approve the out-of-state field trip. The motion passed unanimously.

10. Home School Plan for Kassandra McDonald, Frenchtown, grade 2

The parent has decided to enroll the student in a private school.

11. FY 2008 Budget Discussion

Mr. Meyers noted that the Cultural Organization of the Arts Director's stipend was re-instated as well as intramurals at the elementary and middle school. Mrs. Friedemann asked for a detailed budget as well as a breakdown of the maintenance budget. Mr. Day asked if there is a plan if State Aid is cut.

12. School Committee Concerns

Mrs. Guliano had questions about School Lunch accountability.

Mrs. Friedemann had a question of heat issues at Hanaford School. It was noted that a new boiler was needed at a cost of \$15,000 to \$20,000 and they are using a portable furnace in the interim.

Mrs. Friedemann also requested a memo detailing an analysis of the boiler repairs from Mr. Wilmarth and a memo from Mr. DiSaia also.

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On a motion made by Mrs. Winters and seconded by Mrs. Guliano, the Committee, being polled individually, voted unanimously to go into Executive Session at 9:10p.m.on the following item under R.I.G.L. 42-46-5 (a) (1) (2): Teacher Contract Negotiations.

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia Giuliani

Secretary