

AGENDA

EAST GREENWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE

TUESDAY, JUNE 5, 2007

East Greenwich High School Auditorium

300 Avenger Drive

East Greenwich, RI 02818

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

6:15p.m. Executive Session, R.I.G.L. 42-46-5 (a) (1) Student Discipline Appeal

7:00p.m. Open Session Call to Order

Members Present: Sue Cienki, Chair, William Day-Vice-Chair, Merrill Friedemann, MaryEllen Winters, Anne Palumbo, Susan Records, and JeanAnn Guliano, as well as Superintendent Charles Meyers, Assistant Superintendent Helen O'Hara, Director of Administration Maryanne Crawford, and Director of Facilities Robert Wilmarth.

1. Pledge of Allegiance – the meeting commenced at 7:15 with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

2. Public Comments – There were no public comments.

3. Approval of Minutes

Mrs. Guliano suggested revisions to the April 3, 2007 Meeting.

4. New Business

4.1 Appointments

Mr. Day made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Guliano to

approve the following appointments pending contract negotiations with them. The motion passed unanimously.

4.1.1 Michael Zajac, Principal, Archie Cole Middle School

4.1.2 Alexis Meyer, Assistant Principal, Archie Cole Middle School

4.2 Teacher Recalls

Mr. Day made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Winters to approve the recalls as follows: The motion passed unanimously.

4.2.1 Amanda Rogers-Merida, Amy Bell, Cynthia Kendall, Kerri Doyle, Jennifer Vadnais, Nathan Potter

4.3 Leave of Absence

Mr. Day made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Palumbo to approve the leave of absence of Susan Adamo for the 07-08 school year. She is a grade 5 Teacher at Eldredge School and this is without benefits.

5. Second Reading and Vote on School District Wellness Policy

Mrs. Guliano had some questions on the wording of items for foods to be shared or sold. She noted that it is not what the statute states and we are not required to do that. Bonnie Brayton-Simmons, School Nurse Teacher at Frenchtown School stated that students shouldn't be sharing food anyway

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because of food allergies and concerns about food borne illnesses. Representatives from Kids First and the Department of Health were at the meeting to speak about food safety and the best interests of the children. Mrs. Guliano stated that the policy causes some confusion locally. She also asked to change #6 in the policy to add that this is

in compliance with State Law. Mrs. Guliano stated that we should educate, not dictate, about making healthy choices. Mrs. Cienki stated that the policy will be revised as we go along. Mrs. Guliano stated that on the last page of the policy under administrators, faculty and staff, it should state that it be strongly encouraged that food served at faculty meetings and professional development activities meet the wellness policy guidelines. Mrs. Cienki stated that exceptions to the policy must be approved by the Superintendent. Mrs. Palumbo made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Records, to approve the Wellness Policy as is with exceptions designation by Mr. Meyers. Mrs. Palumbo and Mrs. Records voted yes, and Mrs. Cienki, Mr. Day, Mrs. Friedemann, Mrs. Winters and Mrs. Guliano voted no. The motion didn't pass. Mrs. Friedemann made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Guliano to adopt the changes to the Wellness Policy made by Mrs. Guliano to revise the policy for certain designated occasions but not have the Superintendent of Schools approve the exceptions. On that motion, Mrs. Cienki, Mrs. Friedemann, Mrs. Winters, Mrs. Records and Mrs. Guliano voted yes, and Mr. Day and Mrs. Palumbo voted no. The motion passed.

6. Second Reading and Vote on Mental Health Policy

Mrs. Guliano made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Palumbo to approve the Mental Health Policy. It was suggested that the fourth line in the first paragraph have some wording changes. There was also one other suggested change on page 2. The motion passed unanimously with the wording changes.

7. First Reading of High School Student Handbook Changes

There were many suggested changes by School Committee. Mrs. Palumbo stated that the bullying policy should be in the handbook. She also feels that a School Committee member should be in on the process when changes to the handbook are suggested. Mr. Levine disagrees. After further discussion, Mrs. Cienki suggested that she sit down with the Superintendent, Mr. Levine, and Mr. Varrecchione to discuss the policy concerning student suspensions. Mr. Day asked Mr. Levine about Title 14, 14-1-64, releasing information on juveniles. Mr. Meyers stated that this has to be discussed at an upcoming meeting. Mr. Levine feels that he has the right to impose a consequence at school. He also feels that if the information is shared, they will be able to see a pattern of behavior. Mrs. Guliano wants to add bullying, intimidation and harassment under suspensions. Mr. Day stated that people can't exchange names of juveniles. Mrs. Cienki stated that there will not be a vote on the handbook until June 19.

8. Bid for Archie Cole Middle School bathroom partitions

This item is not ready for a vote.

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9. Contract Renewal for Director of Administration

Mr. Day made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Friedemann to table the contract renewal for Mrs. Crawford. The motion passed unanimously.

10. Teacher Evaluation Process

Mr. Meyers stated that this process has been worked on for five

years. He noted that there are provisions for tenured and non-tenured teachers, and the focus of the document is the improvement of instruction. Mrs. Cienki asked the School Committee to look at the old and new evaluation. Mrs. Records feels that teachers should be evaluated based on changes in education. Mrs. Records made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Friedemann to table the vote on the Teacher Evaluation Process. The motion passed unanimously.

11. School Committee Concerns

It was noted that the new gym floor would be covered for graduation. Mrs. Guliano asked about termite spraying at Cole. Mr. Wilmarth responded that everyone in the building is notified and spraying is done when school is not in session.

Mr. Day asked about impact fees. Mr. Meyers stated that this may be worked out with the Town Manager.

Mr. Meyers noted that we are moving ahead with the fields and working with DEM on a proposed design.

Mr. Day also asked about captain's practices and liability. We will check with our lawyer.

Mrs. Guliano asked about the legislation for the bond issue. It has been introduced at the Senate and we will know by next Thursday.

Mr. Raptakis and Mr. Lenihan introduced it in the Senate.

12. On a motion made by Mr. Day and seconded by Mrs. Palumbo, the

Committee, being polled individually, voted unanimously to go into Executive Session at 9:15p.m. under R.I.G. L. 42-46-5 (a) (1) (2) Update

on Teacher Contract Negotiations.

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia Giuliani
Secretary