

EAST GREENWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 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**

1. Call to Order

The second September meeting of the School Committee was called to order at 7:05p.m. in the East Greenwich High School Auditorium.

The following members were present: Sue Cienki, Chair, William Day, Vice-Chair, Anne Palumbo, Mary Ellen Winters, JeanAnn Guliano, and Susan Records. Mrs. Friedemann arrived at the meeting at 8:00p.m. The meeting commenced with the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

2. Public Comments

Mr. Garrett Neaves, Grandview Road, stated that public education is the cornerstone of democracy. He noted that the public has not been informed of contract offers. He also spoke about contract compliance. He stated that the contract treats everyone the same and terrible teachers would received the same increase as everyone else.

Mr. Neaves noted that the School Committee has taken the job of balancing their needs and salary increases are not their only priority. He feels that not receiving a 3.5% increase is not a slap in face and is not bullying. He invited all teachers and the community to see if the

union's aggressive tactics are in the best interest of the town.

Donna Hayes, co-president of the EGEA, asked if the grievance on summer pay for teachers could be held in open session.

Renu Engelhart, Division Road, want to see more openness in the mediation. She feels that parents don't know the numbers and are not informed. She can't afford to pay more taxes.

Mrs. Cienki responded that the School Committee is in active negotiations now and it would distort the whole process if the School Committee gives out numbers. She also noted that the School Committee will be looking at deficits in the coming years. He noted that secrecy helps those with a bad agenda. Mr. Day stated that once the union agrees on a contract, it will be in open session.

3. Superintendent Report on the Opening of School

Mr. Meyers thanked everyone for a good school opening. He especially congratulated Deb Murphy from Laidlaw Transportation, for a problem free start. Mr. Wilmarth and Mr. DiSaia were thanked for helping to get the buildings ready. The Superintendent noted that the year started with 2407 students. He also outlined the four objectives in the strategic Plan.

4. Approval of Minutes

4.1 On a motion made by Mr. Day and seconded by Mrs. Guliano, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the following minutes with a minor wording change to the August 14 minutes: August 14, August 27, and September 4 School Committee Meetings

5. Parental Leaves

Mrs. Palumbo made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Guliano

to approve the following parental leaves: The motion passed unanimously.

5.1.1 Kristin Pontarelli, Spanish Teacher at EGHS, from December 4, 2007 through the end of the 2007-2008 school year.

5.1.2 Julie Wortmann, Mathematics at Cole Middle School, from October 29, 2007 to January 18, 2008

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6. Home School Requests

Mrs. Palumbo made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Day to approve the following hoe school requests: The motion passed unanimously.

6.1 Leah Rachel Bode, grade 9 and Isaac Bode, grade 4

6.2 Nicole Morin, grade 5

6.3 Emily

Mrs. Crawford stated that she is still finalizing the financial statements and submitted paid invoices for July and August.

8. School Committee Concerns

Mrs. Guliano stated that Mr. Jack Sommer is going to be a new member of the Finance Committee and will be a welcome addition.

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

appoint Mr. Sommer to the Finance Committee. The motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Guliano stated that she is pursuing grant opportunities with the EDC. She noted that we can't receive money for work already done but we may be able to for future work.

Mr. Meyers noted that the building application is in for the first phase and is right on schedule to plan for a referendum in April 2008.

The teacher's union requested that the discussion of the grievance on summer pay for teachers be held in open session, Donna Hayes, co-president of the teacher's union, stated that summer school started for the extended school year in July 2007, and there were twelve teachers who worked. Article 17-2 of the teacher's contract sets forth a different rate of pay for a certain group beyond 183 days. She noted that they should receive their daily rate of pay. She also noted that last year they were paid the correct rate after complaining to the Superintendent. Ms. Hayes also noted that five other teachers worked this summer and were paid incorrectly.

9. On a motion made by Mrs. Guliano and seconded by Mrs. Palumbo, the Committee voted unanimously to go into Executive Session at 8:00p.m. under R.I.G.L. 42-46-5 (a) (1) for Teacher Contract Negotiations, and a Special Education Request.

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia Giuliani
Secretary