

EAST GREENWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 2, 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 October 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, Merrill Friedemann and Susan Records. Also in attendance were Charles Meyers, Helen O'Hara and Maryanne Crawford. The meeting commenced with the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Public Comments

Mr. Anthony DellaGrotta, Tillinghast Road, stated that the Superintendent did a great job attending school functions. He noted that the hockey program has been magnificent for the past years and thanked the Superintendent and School Committee for the funds they put into the program.

Jane Leeds asked about the high school science lab not having water because of the drywell situation. Mr. Meyers stated that there is a closure plan to hook up to sewers and it has been submitted to

EPA. Mr. Rath has made arrangements to bring water in and the system needs to be flushed first before the hook up can take place. Mr. Meyers feels that it will be up and running within a few weeks.

Mrs. Leeds also asked the Committee to look at start times since other districts are considering it. She noted that studies show test scores are better if there is a late start. She feels that the middle school should consider it also. Mrs. Winters feels it should be statewide since some sports events start at 2:30p.m.

3. Decision on Summer School grievance

It was noted that there is a difference of \$7000 teachers feel they are owed for their summer school work. Mrs. Guliano asked if the teacher's contract supersedes any kind of posting. The intent of 17.2 of the teacher's contract was not to pay the per diem rate to summer school teachers. The positions were posted for \$35 per hour with the caveat that it might change during negotiations. In the past, special education teachers were not given the per diem rate. The contract doesn't say summer school work, just work after 183 days. Mrs. Friedemann asked how the jobs were posted. Mr. Meyers stated that they were posted in all schools by positions at \$35.00 per hour for special education teachers. Mrs. Friedemann stated that it would be a revision to the contract if the amount was changed. She noted that once you make an exception to the contract you have revised the contract.

Mrs. Palumbo made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Day to deny the grievance. The motion passed with Mrs. Guliano voting no.

4. Recognition of Head Custodian at Cole

Mr. Meyers stated that Mr. Dilorio has done more than is asked, and the Committee appreciates his efforts to keep Cole a safe and healthy place to learn.

5. Resignations

241

Mr. Day made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Palumbo to accept the following resignations:

5.1 Elizabeth D'Abbraccio, 0.6 Art Teacher at East Greenwich High School, effective approximately September 28, 2007

5.2 Suzanne Chapin, Guidance Secretary at East Greenwich High School, effective 10-12-07. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Appointments

Mrs. Guliano made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Day to approve the following appointments:

6.3 Anabela Olsen, Spanish Teacher at East Greenwich High School, effective 9-17-07, for one year only

6.4 The position of Occupational Therapist 0.6 for East Greenwich High School and Cole Middle School for the remainder of the 2007-2008 school year.

6.5 Stacey Munzert, Art Teacher 0.6 at East Greenwich High School for one year only. The motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. O'Hara stated that she sent a letter to parents that we don't have anyone to service some students who need OT. She noted that students may have to go without services until we find someone.

Mrs. Friedemann suggested that we hook up with colleges but Mrs.

O'Hara stated that they have to be supervised and we don't have OT's to supervise them. Mrs. Cienki suggested that we split an OT with another district. Joanne Leach feels that we should find our own person because they are more committed. The motion passed unanimously.

7. Bid Proposal

7.1 Mr. Day made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Guliano to award the bid for elevator renovations at East Greenwich High School to Otis Elevator Company in the amount of \$75,563.00. The money is coming from the warrant articles. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Approval of ELA Curriculum

Mrs. Linda Newman, Curriculum Consultant for the district, stated that this curriculum was revised over the past eighteen months and meets the GLE's and GSE's. Mr. Meyers stated that we monitor our performance on state assessments, and certain standardized tests are used in the classrooms. Samples of student work will be included in this document. Mrs. Guliano asked if there was an alternative for those performing below grade level. Mrs. Newman responded this is a document for all kids. Mrs. Cienki asked Mrs. Newman to come back to the School Committee to see what is working and not working. Mrs. Friedemann asked to see sample tests. The motion passed unanimously.

9. East Greenwich Building Committee Charge

Mr. Meyers presented the charge by taking the resolution and developing a statement close to that of the Facilities Committee. It outlines their roles and responsibilities. The motion passed with Mrs.

Friedemann voting no.

10. Direction from the Finance Committee on the Budget

Mr. Meyers stated that the School Committee may seek advice from the Finance Committee in developing the FY09 budget. Mrs. Friedemann would like to see the correlation between each line item and what has been spent in the last few years to see where over budgeting took place. She would also like the number of students in each classroom. Mrs. Friedemann feels that the Finance Committee should be looking at zero based budgeting.

242

11. Discussion on High School Principal Search

Mr. Meyers stated that a committee needs to be put together and then we should advertise in Education Week and the Boston Globe after the first of the year. He also feels we should post on School Spring now. Mrs. Friedemann feels we should send a letter to new superintendents who came from another state to see if they know anyone interested. She also feels that the committee should be comprised of a broad spectrum of townspeople. Mrs. Guliano wants the committee to look at averages for salary.

12. On a motion made by Mr. Day and seconded by Mrs. Guliano, the Committee, being polled individually, voted unanimously to go into executive session at 8:10p.m. under RIGL 42-46-5 (a) (2) Teacher Contract Negotiations.

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia Giuliani

Secretary