

EAST GREENWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 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

The School Committee meeting was called to order at 7:20p.m. in the East Greenwich High School auditorium. Members present were: Sue Cienki, Chair, Skip Day, Vice-Chair, Merrill Friedemann, Anne Palumbo, Mary Ellen Winters, JeanAnn Guliano, and Susan Records, as well as Helen O'Hara. The meeting commenced with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Mr. Day made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Guliano to seal the minutes of the Executive Session. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Public Comments

Mrs. Anne Marden, Kenyon Avenue, read a letter from her son, Zach Rotondo, in support of re-appointing the hockey coach, Len Kiernan. Zach was a former hockey player for Coach Kiernan.

Mr. Anthony DellaGrotta, Tillinghast Road, spoke on behalf of Coach Kiernan.

Mrs. Joanne Leach thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and supporting the teachers.

Kevin Hopkins, Chestnut Drive, stated that the hockey team was the State Champion last year and also received the sportsmanship award. He also noted that all eleven graduating seniors will be attending college. He stated that the credit in how the players handle themselves goes to the parents and the philosophy of the hockey program.

Mrs. Eileen Peduto, Taggart Court, stated that she has invested a lot in the hockey program and the players have gotten a mentor.

Mr. Nicholas Janickies, Old Greenwich Drive, heard of the excellence of the hockey program and stated that when you take away good coaches, you take away excellence. He noted that the School Committee is at a place to go forward for mediocrity or excellence and hopes they support Coach Kiernan.

Rob Hopkins stated that Coach Kiernan is a phenomenal coach who got the team to work together.

3. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Day made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Palumbo to approve the

following meeting minutes with a minor change to the October 16, 2007 minutes: October 1, and October 16 Regular Sessions and September 1, 2, and October 9 and 16 Executive Session. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Recognition

4.1 Lisa McKay was recognized for being selected as the Adapted Physical Education Teacher of the Year for 2007 by the Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance.

The boys' and girls' cross country teams, boys' and girls' soccer teams, and the field hockey team were recognized for their valiant efforts during the fall season.

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5. Guidance Report

Mr. Levine and Mrs. Hostetler gave a report about the scheduling process which begins now with the Program of Studies. After April vacation counselors will begin working with teachers. Mrs. Hostetler stated that SALT and NEASC visits are coming up within the next two or three years. She also stated that there are new counselors at the high school and Cole, and Mrs. Ustick will continue to work with her seniors. Mrs. Cienki asked about inviting freshman and sophomore parents to the junior post high school planning night. She also stated that the guidance office should give thought to prioritizing scheduling glitches for seniors. Mrs. Guliano would like to make sure there are no penalties for students who have been caught in glitches.

Mrs. Friedemann asked if Mr. Levine has seen the three year budget projections since he feels the high school needs more staff because we are not meeting state mandates. Mr. Levine stated that reducing staff means eliminating electives and that will show in the SALT and NEASC Reports. Mr. Meyers stated that they will try during the budgeting process to maintain the integrity of the program. Mrs. Cienki asked Mr. Levine to see if the freshman toolbox could be extended in any way so students can have computer courses.

6. Fields and Building Projects Updates

A representative from the Gifford Design Group and Caito were at the meeting to show the latest design which will be put forward. He also noted that preliminary numbers can be run but some revisions were made such as rebuilding the JV baseball and softball fields and upgrading the facilities. Mr. Winikur from SBS stated that with the new RIDE regulations it is unlikely that it is going to be done as quickly as we like. Mr. Day made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Guliano to approve the concept to move forward with the design development phase. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Meyers noted that this is a school bond but the community can use the fields when the school doesn't use them

Mr. Winikur and Mr. Frenette were present to present the refined floor plans for the proposed middle school. He noted that he is getting independent cost estimates. Alison Carcieri-Cassidy suggested we have focus groups to talk about the new educational configuration of bringing in sixth graders. She noted that parents have concerns about the facilities. Mr. Meyers stated that this plan addresses the facilities and space needs. Mrs. Friedemann stated that some parents thought the current middle structure would stay the same. Mrs. Guliano responded that she was involved from 2000 and the intent was always to build a building incorporating the sixth graders. Mrs. Records feels we need a buy in with the community. Mr. Day made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Guliano to accept the building project updates. The motion passed with Mrs. Friedemann voting no.

7. Three Year Budget Projections

8. Appointments

8.1 Teacher

Mrs. Guliano made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Records to approve

the appointment of Cheryl Simmons, 0.6 Occupational Therapist for the East Greenwich Public Schools, effective November 20, 2007. The motion passed unanimously.

8.2 High School Winter Coaches

There was a discussion of language in the coaching agreements about having coaches sign a contract that they will abide by the school athletic policies and the policies of the Rhode Island Interscholastic League. Mrs. Friedemann feels there

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should be policies for hiring and posting. Christopher Boie stated that teachers who are coaches will not sign a separate contract to coach. Mr. Meyers stated that the protocol we follow is that coaching positions are posted internally first and the athletic director will reappoint coaches based on previous work. If there are still openings, we advertise on the outside. Mr. Varrecchione, the Athletic Director, stated that we try to post in the buildings first but sometimes it is concurrent because of time constraints. He also stated all positions not held by union members are posted every season. Mrs. Friedemann asked if we can post this procedure on our web page.

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

Craig Mackenzie, Head boys' basketball

Don Bowen, Assistant boys' basketball

Josh Odugbelah, Freshmen boys' basketball

Peter Dion, Head girls' basketball

Joseph Amato, Head wrestling

Jim Westell, Assistant wrestling

Stanley Johnson, Head girls' indoor track

Charlotte Evasick, Head boys' indoor track

Sean Fahey, Assistant boys' hockey

Nicole Christie, Assistant girls' Track

Mark Davis, Assistant boys' Track

Anthony Randall, Head boys' Swim

Mr. Day made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Friedemann to approve the appointment of Len Kiernan, Head boys' hockey coach.

The motion passed with Mr. Day, Mrs. Friedemann, Mrs. Records and Mrs. Palumbo voting yes. Mrs. Cienki and Mrs. Guliano voted no, and Mrs. Winters recused herself.

8.3 Cole Winter Coaches

Mr. Day made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Friedemann to approve the following coaching appointments: The motion passed unanimously.

Nicole Christie, Intramural Field Hockey

Robert Petrucci, Intramural Flag Football

Mr. Day made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Friedemann to approve the following coaching appointment: Matthew Records, Head Boys' Basketball; the motion passed with Mrs. Records recusing herself.

9. Out-of-state field trip for Cole Middle School 8th graders

Mr. Day made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Guliano to approve the out-of-state field trip for Cole 8th graders. The motion passed unanimously. Mrs. Friedemann asked if the insurance and chaperones are adequate.

10. High School Senior Trip to Florida

Brittany Coccozza senior class president, spoke about the trip. She noted that the chaperones are 1 to 6. Mrs. Friedemann wants to make sure the right people are chaperoning. It was noted that there will be security from 12 to 6:00a.m. in the hotel. Charlotte Evasick stated that fundraising is available and there are partial scholarships. Mrs. Day made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Winters to approve the senior class trip to Florida. The motion passed unanimously.

11. School Committee Concerns

It was noted that the Town Council will meet with School Committee on December 3 about the building project.

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Mrs. Guliano stated that the DEM application we submitted for clean up didn't pass, the grant was rejected. She noted that specs for the clean up were put out to bid.

Mrs. Guliano stated that the special education regulation meeting was held and she will distribute copies.

Mrs. Records stated that there is movement on talking to the Town Council on consolidation, and Mr. Meyers is trying to get a date to meet.

12. On a motion made by Mr. Day and seconded by Mrs. Guliano the Committee voted unanimously to go into Executive Session at 10:10p.m.under RIGL 42-46-5 (a) (1) (2) Teacher Contract Negotiations, Jane Doe Litigation.

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia Giuliani

Secretary