

EAST GREENWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 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 7:00p.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 Charles Meyers, Maryanne Crawford, Helen O'Hara, and Robert Wilmarth. The meeting commenced with the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

2. Public Comments

Mr. Robert Houghtaling. the district's Drug and Substance Counselor, spoke about a town project embracing parents which came about because of the situation in Barrington concerning young people who have lost their lives due to alcohol. He noted that in East Greenwich, there are a number of people who care. He stated that there will be a community safety forum at Swift Gym in February with experts in the legal field such as Judge Jeremiah. He asked the School Committee to help support this endeavor. Mr. Houghtaling also stated that stress and parenting dynamics will be addressed.

3. Approval of Minutes-There were no minutes to approve.

4. Recognition

Coach Dion and the boys' cross country team were recognized for their achievements.

4.1 Boys' Cross Country Team State Champions

4.2 Peter Dion, Boys' Cross Country Team, Coach of the Year

5. Appointments

5.1 Teacher

On a motion made by Mr. Day and seconded by Mrs. Palumbo, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the following appointment.

5.1.1 Nancy Fitter, paraprofessional at Meadowbrook Farms School, for fifteen

hours per week, effective 9-26-07.

5.2 High School and Cole Middle School Winter Coaches

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

5.2.1 Lee Walker, Assistant girls' basketball coach at EGHS

5.2.2 Jeff McGuirl, Head girls' basketball coach at Cole

5.2.3 Anthony Randall, Head girls' swim coach at EGHS

5.2.4 Tana Fatkin, Head basketball/competition cheerleading

5.2.5 Nitasha Madan, Head hockey cheerleading (pending CPR/FA update)

Mrs. Palumbo stated that coaches should sign a document that says they have

to abide by school district policy and interscholastic league rules. Mrs. Friedemann stated that we need something more formal. Mr. Meyers noted that coaches are being asked to comply with interscholastic league rules and school district policy.

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6. Mr. Day made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Guliano to approve the following out of state trip: High School Physics Day to Agawam, MA. The motion passed unanimously.

7. Mrs. Guliano made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Day to approve the out-of-state field trip to Washington, DC from January 31 to February 3, 2008 for a Leadership Conference. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Mr. Day made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Guliano to approve the overnight trip to Nature's Classroom in Wakefield, RI for Hanaford School 6th grade students from June 4, 2008 to June 6, 2008. The motion passed unanimously.

9. Bid Award for Hazmat Clean-up at the High School and Cole Middle School

Mr. Day made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Guliano to award the bid for the hazmat clean-up to Vortex in the amount of \$65,704. Mrs. Friedemann asked if the warrant article project numbers have been audited. Mr. Meyers responded that the warrant article project numbers will be audited. The motion passed unanimously.

10. Bid Award for Fire Alarm Service Contract

Mrs. Winters made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Day to award the bid for the fire alarm service contract to Cintas Corporation in the amount of \$15,060. The motion passed unanimously.

11. Request for teacher to add another year to the Gems-Net Teacher-in-Residence Program for the 2008-2009 school year

Mr. Adam Scott spoke to the Committee about adding a third year to his service to GEMS-NET Program. He told them about the work he does providing curriculum support to districts, and he doesn't feel he is done with his work. Mr. Meyers stated that East Greenwich has been involved with Gems Net for twelve years and they have served us well especially at the elementary level. He also noted that Adam's replacement has done an excellent job. Mrs. Guliano made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Day to approve the third year leave for Adam Scott. The motion passed unanimously.

12. Three Year Budget Projections and Discussion of Budget Priorities for school year 2009

Mrs. Crawford spoke about increases in utility costs, health care, and retirement and decreases in revenues. She noted that the town can't raise taxes to offset revenue losses and the tax rate can't go up past the cap. It was noted that the town is in the same shape as the school. Mrs. Crawford stated that the budget will be re-visited for cuts. Mrs. Guliano asked how the School Committee wanted the finance committee to move forward since they want to go over budget line items. Mrs. Friedemann would like the number of employees needed for the sixth grade to Cole transition.

13. School Committee Concerns

It was noted that veterans came into Meadowbrook and Hanaford, spoke to students, and stayed for lunch. The students were dressed in red, white and blue.

There was a complaint that the high school labs are not fully functioning. Mr. Meyers responded that after the clean-up, they will be functioning.

Mr. Day stated that he received an email that the high school band didn't show up for the Veteran's Day parade. Mr. Meyers responded that the band leader had a previous commitment and it won't happen again.

It was noted that there have been about 20 accidents at the end of Avenger Drive so far and a light should be put there to control traffic. Since it is a state road

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we have to petition the State and they say there is not enough traffic there. It was suggested that the mirror be removed.

Mrs. Guliano noted that the Teen Safety Forum will be put on an agenda and they would like to approach the EGEA, East Greenwich Rotary and Chamber of Commerce to get behind this. She also noted that meetings will be held on the new Cole Middle School design and they will also reach out to seniors with a meeting.

Mrs. Records asked about a process flow to see what a sixth grader does today in an intermediate school and will do as part of the middle school.

Mrs. Friedemann asked if we are currently members of NSBA and the

amount of the dues.

14. On a motion made by Mr. Day and seconded by Mrs. Guliano the Committee voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:20p.m. to go into Executive Session under RIGL 42-46-5 (a) (1) (2) to discuss Teacher Contract Negotiations, Superintendent's Goals and Performance Review.

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia Giuliani

Secretary