

EAST GREENWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES

MONDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2007

Hanaford School Cafeteria

200 Middle Road

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 Hanaford School Cafeteria. Members present were: Sue Cienki, Chair, William 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

Mrs. Ilene Hoffman, 47 Lillibridge Drive, stated that she is an abutter to the proposed middle school and feels that it will be a monstrosity in her backyard. She feels that a three story building doesn't belong in a residential neighborhood and a different design should be considered. She has been a town resident for 34 years, and wonders what this building will do to her property values.

3. Recognition

3.1 EGHS Sailing Team 2007, Single-handed Champions Top Overall School – Matthew and Emily Gowell; Boys and Girls Combined.

Trophies were presented to Emily Gowell by her sailing coach and she was commended for her expertise in winning the Bello Sportsmanship Award and the high school Singlehanded Championship. Her brother, Matthew, who was not able to be present, was also recognized.

4. Approval of Minutes

On a motion made by Mrs. Winters and seconded by Mrs. Palumbo, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the November 19, 2007, and December 4, 2007 meetings.

5. New Business

5.1 Appointment

5.1.1 Mrs. Palumbo made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Winters to approve the appointment of Kayla Martineau, Paraprofessional for Meadowbrook Farms Preschool, effective November 26, 2007. Mrs. Friedemann asked for justification in this hiring. Mrs. O'Hara responded that this position is for a one-on-one for a pre-school student, and the appointments are dependent on the student's IEP, but it wasn't an anticipated cost in the budget. Mrs. Crawford stated that the money comes from under-budgeting in other areas such as the out-of-district tuitions. Mrs. Friedemann asked where the money will come from if other students who need support move into the district. Mrs. Crawford stated that additional paraprofessionals will be budgeted for 2008-2009. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Two Overnight trips for boys' track team to New Hampshire and Connecticut.

On a motion made by Mrs. Palumbo and seconded by Mr. Day, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the overnight trip to New Hampshire for the boys' track team.

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7. First Reading of High School Program of Studies

Mr. Levine spoke about the new Social Studies curriculum which will meet State and National Standards. Mr. Meyers stated that it is good to see Rhode Island History in the Social Studies Curriculum. He added that no new courses require additional staffing. Mr. Meyers spoke about the new partnership with the Academy Players who will give the school a percentage of their proceeds which will help to upgrade the facilities.

Mrs. Records asked about the virtual high school. Mr. Levine responded that his leadership team looked at the virtual high school and noted that it is run as an enrichment program by SORICO. He noted that it is not an accredited course in Rhode Island, and it would be a huge task to monitor it, since we don't pick the instructors or rigor. Mr. Levine also noted that it is a budget issue as the tuition to SORICO is \$500 to \$800 per student.

Mrs. Guliano thanked the Rotary Club for their fruit drive to benefit the high school's video production program. It was also noted that \$2600 was received by Dunkin Donuts for the program.

Mrs. Friedemann asked for a report on the Program of Studies once the budgeting process starts.

8. Building Committee Report

Mr. Meyers noted that he toured the buildings with Mr. DaSilva from the Department of Education and he will meet again for the Stage 1 approval. He also noted that several public relations events took place and were very successful. The upcoming meetings will be in January with teachers from Eldredge, Hanaford, Cole and East Greenwich High School. There will also be a meeting with Cole neighbors continuing the public relations process. Mrs. Friedemann asked how the design was tweaked. Mr. Meyers stated that two story and different orientation designs were looked at in response to comments at the meetings. Mrs. Friedemann asked why new buildings are not built in the New England style instead of glass and steel. Mrs. Guliano stated that the new building will be glass and brick. Mrs. Cienki responded that one of the requirements is that it fit into the community. Mrs. Records wants to commit to a date for a forum with John Nishka from Rhode Island College on the success of the middle school model.

9. High School Principal Salary Range

Mrs. Records feels the salary should be based on the number of students in the school. Mr. Meyers wants to get a top candidate and make the salary attractive. Mrs. Guliano found salaries for principals in the top thirteen high performing schools and came up with \$96,000 to \$108,000. Mrs. Friedemann feels we should call Providence College to let them know we are looking for someone. Mr. Day made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Guliano to have a salary range of \$98,000 to \$108,000. The motion passed unanimously.

10. School Committee Calendar for 2008

The only change was that the January 8, 2008 meeting will be a joint meeting with Town Council. Mr. Day made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Winters to approve the School Committee meeting dates for 2008. The motion passed unanimously.

11. School Committee Concerns

Mrs. Guliano noted that Cole Middle School dry well clean-up will be postponed until January but the high school is being done now.

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Mrs. Palumbo stated that snow was removed from the front of Hanaford School too late. Mr. Meyers will speak to Seascope and Mr. Wilmarth about this.

Mrs. Records would like to set a date for a forum for the middle school configuration and invite others from different education fields. It will be held on Tuesday, February 12, 2008.

Mrs. Cienki stated that parents were pleased with the notification method system during the last snowstorm.

Mrs. Friedemann asked if the Eldredge water issue has been resolved. Mr. Meyers responded that Serv Pro did a great job and a claim was put into our insurance company, but our deductible is \$2500.

Donna Hayes, teacher's union president, asked if Mr. Meyers' performance evaluation was going to be discussed during open session. Mrs. Cienki stated that it is up to the Superintendent if it is in open session or executive session. Mrs. Friedemann asked why

the discussion of the Superintendent's Evaluation was put back on the agenda. She stated that if the discussion includes the terms of the contract to be offered it needs to be in open session as he is a non-union employee.

Ms. Hayes stated that teachers believe the Superintendent works very hard and deserves to be paid well. She also noted that the schools are high performing and the Superintendent should be given a fair raise, but it should be noted that all school personnel deserve the same.

The following items may be discussed in Executive Session:

12. Mr. Day made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Palumbo to go into Executive Session at 8:30p.m. under RIGL 42-46-5 (a) (1) (2) Teacher Contract Negotiations, and the Superintendent's Performance Evaluation. Mrs. Friedemann stated that it will be a violation of the open meetings law if the Committee discusses the negotiation and terms of the Superintendent's contract. Mrs. Cienki stated that the Committee will discuss his performance evaluation. The motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia Giuliani

Secretary