

TUESDAY, MARCH 11, 2008

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 7:10p.m. in the East Greenwich High School Auditorium. Members present were: Sue Cienki, Chair, Skip Day, Vice-chair, Anne Palumbo, Mary Ellen Winters, and Susan Records as well as Superintendent Charles Meyers, Director of Administration, Maryanne Crawford, and Assistant Superintendent Helen O'Hara. The meeting commenced with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Mrs. Friedemann and Mrs. Guliano were absent.

2. Public Comments

Laurie Ratigan, Cypress Court, and a first grade teacher, received a letter from a parent about the all day pilot program for kindergarten at Meadowbrook. She asked the Committee not to get rid of the program because it allows kids to be independent. She also stated that not settling the contract is taking its toll on teachers, and some are starting to worry if teaching is the right career for them. She also noted that teachers have watched buildings erode because the School Committees have ignored maintenance.

Jen Congdon, Hickory Drive, asked about the town taking over the

plowing and landscaping for the schools.

Renu Engelhart stated that the school department is very heavy on benefits.

3. Recognitions

4. Approval of Minutes

February 26, 2008 School Committee meeting, and February 28 Executive Session

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

February 26, 2008 minutes. The motion passed unanimously. Mrs. Guliano made a motion which was seconded by Palumbo to table the February 28, 2008 executive session minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

5. New Business

5.1 Resignation

5.1.1 On a motion made by Mr. Day and seconded by Mrs. Guliano, the Committee voted unanimously to accept the resignation of Peter Fitzpatrick, boys' tennis coach at EGHS.

5.2 Parental leave

5.2.1 On a motion made by Mrs. Palumbo and seconded by Mrs. Records, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the parental leave of Renee Haskins, grade 6 at Hanaford School, from March 31, 2008 until the end of the 2007-2008 school year, approximately June 23, 2008.

6. Approval of Revised Facilities Strategic Plan – Jon Winikur, SBS and Ed Frenette, SMMA

Mr. Jon Winikur from Strategic Building Solutions gave an update on the Department of Education's review of our Stage 1 application. They granted us approval for Stage 1 and the parties agreed to a timeline. RIDE gave approval for a 100,000 sq. ft. school. This will save \$2 million and can accommodate 650 students.

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Mr. Winikur also noted that the State made it clear that they would only reimburse for modernization of the high school science spaces. He also spoke about changes in the elementary schools and some high priority repairs. Mr. Winikur stated that the state is also pressing for more research on synthetic fields. He noted that we may receive reimbursement from the State in the amount of \$18 million which means that the cost to the town will be \$34 million. On April 1 the School Committee will have the plan to approve.

7. Second Reading of new Policy Manual

Mrs. Records made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Guliano to approve the new policy manual. Mr. Meyers announced that this has been an eight year project and part of the NEASC Study. He added that when it is passed, it will become an e-policy, and most of it is based on the State model policy. Mrs. Records feels that the technology plan should be published within this document as well as a software licensing policy. On the vote to approve the new policy manual, the motion passed with Mrs. Friedemann voting no.

8. Adoption of School Calendar for 2008-2009

Mrs. Palumbo made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Day to approve the calendar for the 2008-2009 school year. It was noted that

State Law says schools must be closed on primary and election day. We may have to look at the School Committee meeting on November 4. The motion passed unanimously.

9. Adoption of the FY 2009 Budget

Mr. Meyers will recommend the budget which was adopted at the public hearing. He noted that health care costs will be reduced from 8% to 6% and he is able to put the Autism teacher back into the budget. Mrs. Winters made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Palumbo to adopt the 2009 budget as proposed in the amount of \$32,336,926. Mr. Meyers stated that it is time for the Committee to contemplate what the increase and co-share will be for administrators. Mrs. Friedemann feels that an administrative position should be eliminated. She also asked if the Behavior Development position could remain in the budget as it important to have that position when students transition from 6th to 7th grade. The motion to adopt the budget for 2009 passed with Mrs. Friedemann voting no.

10. School Committee Concerns

Donna Hayes, Co-President of the Teachers' Union stated that in the original budget, the health care increase was 10%, and now it is going to be 6%. She stated that it continues to be about choices.

It was noted that a school-wide choral concert is scheduled for March 19th, and the CPR Program is scheduled for March 14th.

Mrs. Guliano stated that she attended the Association of School Committee's meeting and the Uniform Chart of Accounts was discussed. This needs to be up and we need to get on board by next year. She added that the Article V legislation on the statewide teacher

health insurance plan was discussed as well as out-of-district transportation, and buying bus fuel separately from First Student.

Mr. William Sequino, Town Manager, stated that the Town isn't going to charge the School Department for plowing but will take the money for services that the School Department budgeted for Seascope, and the Town will provide the services. The savings is that it will be a reduction in services someplace else. He also said he would not take two school maintenance workers. Mr. Sequino stated that the next town budget work sessions are April 7, 9 (with the School Committee), and April 10 (public hearing at Swift Gym). Mrs. Palumbo stated that in the past, the school grounds were

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not well maintained. Mr. Sequino stated that his staff is out taking pictures of the schools now and we will get the same service. He noted that the Town's job is to balance the educational as well as Town's needs. Mrs. Cienki stated that we are all looking into consolidation.

The following items may be discussed in Executive Session:

11. On a motion made by Mrs. Palumbo and seconded by Mr. Day, the Committee, being polled individually, voted unanimously to go into Executive Session under RIGL 42-46-5 (a) (2) Teacher, Secretary/Paraprofessional and Custodian Contract Negotiations, Summer School Pay Arbitration.

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia Giuliani
Secretary