

**MINUTES OF THE EAST GREENWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MEETING**

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2009

HANAFORD SCHOOL CAFETERIA

200 MIDDLE ROAD

EAST GREENWICH, RI 02818

**ANY ITEMS CONSIDERED BY SCHOOL COMMITTEE MAY BE
SUBJECT TO A VOTE 7:00p.m. Regular Session**

I. Call to Order

The second February meeting of the East Greenwich School Committee was held on Tuesday, February 10, 2009 at the Hanaford School at 7:00p.m. Members present: JeanAnn Guliano-Chair, Anne Palumbo-Vice-Chair, Mary Ellen Winters, Susan Records, and Robert Durant as well as Superintendent Charles Meyers, Director of Administration, Maryanne Crawford, and Director of Special Education, Paula Dillon. Mr. Martin and Mrs. Gifford were absent.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting commenced with the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

III. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

IV. Action Items

a. Approval Building Committee Charge and Fiscal Management

Procedure

Mrs. Guliano asked to have item changed to a Discussion Item. Mr. Oliverio will explain to the Town Council why the School Committee will have jurisdiction over the project, and it is because of state statute. Mr. Isaacs is in the process of making changes to the charge.

It was noted that some on the building committee think that all of the \$52 million needs to be spent. Mr. Meyers feels that the Town Council can't weigh in on how the dollars are spent. Mr. Isaacs feels that the money saved can go to tax relief but it can't. The bond council will not let them do it. Mr. Oliverio will work it out with Peter Clarkin. It is not money left over, it is money never borrowed. The Town Council is scheduled to review this on February 23, 2009.

V. Discussion Items:

a. FY 2010 Budget

Mr. Meyers stated that in November or December the Town Manager asked that the budgets come in at 2.67%. We are not sure what is going to happen with our health insurance. We will save money on retirees but we are not sure about the professional development money. The pension contribution is part of the Governor's Supplemental Budget. Bus monitors and transportation are in discussion. There are certain areas where we can cut programs but we need to see the community input. We do not plan program cuts at this time, but if things change and the Town Council asks us to get the budget lower, we still have time to do this. Mr. Meyers added that we are going to review the school facilities rental policy and will look at it with administrators. Groups such as PTG's will be required to at

least pay the custodial overtime fees. The Department of Education may want to do an RFQ for a technology department study. Mrs. Records doesn't want to spend money on this, as she wants to keep it in house. She has full confidence in Jerry Nettik and his ability. Mr. Meyers feels we need someone has a different perspective. Mrs. Guliano would like to get an idea of the cost first. Mrs. Records stated that we need someone who has expertise on software applications. Mr. Meyers will speak to the person at the Department of Education and talk to a few vendors. Mrs. Dillon feels that the person should have an education background.

The phone system is going out to bid. As far as a statewide health insurance is concerned, we are not sure about it but in the supplemental budget there may be a 20% co-pay. The consensus is to stay with West Bay for now. We have to purchase a truck and this will be left in the budget for now. Mrs. Records stated that she sent an email to the town manager concerning the Armory but he never responded.

Mrs. Winters asked about a paraprofessional being cut in the high school library. She asked if this is something we should worry about.

Mr. Meyers responded that the Basic Education Plan stating that a library should have a paraprofessional if they have over 500 students may be changed and

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may not be tied into any staff members. He added that there will be a security system in the library where students will check out their own books and we could have teachers assigned a duty in the library.

b. First Reading East Greenwich High School Program of Studies

Mr. Meyers noted that there will be a new Superintendent' message in the Program of Studies. He has tried to streamline the document and eliminate general studies courses. He added Spanish a, b, and c will be added to enable special needs students to take the course over time. There will be one new course and we did drop some courses. Mrs. Dillon asked if the name of the Life Skills class could be changed. Mr. Meyers noted that we are likely going to a block schedule next year and hopes it will be voted on since it is one of the better schedules. It eliminates study halls and incorporates an advisory. He added that we will need two paraprofessionals to provide hall and lunch duty. Mrs. Dillon stated that she has some bright students who have to take four years of math and there are not enough courses for them at our high school. Virtual high school courses are not accredited but for practice and there is a cost for these courses.

c. Recognizing Teacher Leaders

Mrs. Palumbo, Mrs. Records and Mrs. Guliano would like to have a monetary reward for teacher recognitions, recognizing teachers who are leaders and who do extra work. Mr. Meyers noted that he shared this idea with administrators and the union leadership and it wasn't well received. They felt that recognizing teachers in other ways was more appropriate. The union sees it as a tactic for performance based pay. Mrs. Records stated that once a teacher gets to the top step all raises should be based on performance. Mr. Meyers noted

that administrators will be much more receptive if we lay out the criteria, actual selection process and evidence. A stipend of \$250 per month was suggested. Mr. Meyers will put something together and we need to put a line item in the budget for this. It was decided that this may not be a good year to do this but we could give out certificates of recognition.

VI. Executive Session

Investigative Proceedings pertaining to School Lunch Program pursuant to R.I. General Laws 42-46-5(a) (4)

This session was held at 7:00p.m. at the beginning of the meeting.

VII. Adjournment

On a motion made by Mr. Durant and seconded by Mrs. Winters the Committee voted unanimously to adjourn at 9:00p.m.

Virginia Giuliani

Secretary