

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

**TUESDAY, APRIL 21, 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 April meeting of the East Greenwich School Committee was held on Tuesday, April 21, 2009 at the Hanaford School at 7:00p.m. Members present: JeanAnn Guliano-Chair, Anne Palumbo-Vice-Chair, Susan Records, Robert Durant, Mary Ellen Winters, and Deidre Gifford, as well as Superintendent Charles Meyers, Director of Administration, Maryanne Crawford, Director of Special Education, Paula Dillon Technology Director, Jerry Nettik, and Director of Facilities, Robert Wilmarth. Mr. Martin arrived at 8:00p.m.

**II. Pledge of Allegiance**

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

**III. Public Comments**

Erin Fazio, Shippeetown Road, asked about the zero tolerance policy regarding bullying. She has a concern with an issue at Frenchtown School. Mr. Meyers stated that he will meet with her to address her

concerns.

#### **IV. Approval of Minutes-April 7, 2009**

**On a motion made by Mrs. Palumbo and seconded by Mr. Durant, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the April 7, 2009 meeting.**

#### **V. Announcements and Recognitions**

**a. The following Cole Middle School students were recognized for participating in the Technology Student Association Tech Fair: Rory Cowman, Alex Denault, Mark Palumbo, William McDonald, Chris Luo, Jesse Zhan, Thomas Nocera, Antoine Emery, Bennett Lallo and Dominic Rizzo**

**b. Noelle Patenaude, from East Greenwich High School, was recognized for being selected as the first female recipient of the Rising Star Scholarship.**

**c. Jeff Winters from East Greenwich High School was recognized for being voted Rhode Island Swimmer of the Year**

**d. Mr. Frank Lenox, Science Teacher at East Greenwich High School, was recognized for being honored with the 2009 Amgen Award for Science Teaching Excellence. Mr. Meyers stated that this is a very prestigious award and everyone is very proud of Mr. Lenox's work.**

**e. Two Juniors at East Greenwich High School were recognized for winning prizes for a national essay writing contest, sponsored by the Bill of Rights Institute: Brian Neaves and Brooke MacDonald**

**f. The following Cole Chorus Students were recognized for performing at the Rhode Island Music Educators Association Junior Choral Festival and receiving an Excellent rating: They are: Kathleen**

**Corrigan, Symantha Davies, Meredith Gurwitz, Margaret Hamann, Laura Lorenzo, Letticia Luz, Ali Marcus, Ella Myette, Briana Rapoza, Kellie Reardon, Kasey Riccio and Victoria VanVleet**

**VI. Superintendent's Report – this will be given at the next meeting.**

**VII. Action Items**

**a. Appointment**

**1. Mr. Durant made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Winters to increase hours of Pre-school Teacher, Mary Sullivan, from 0.5 to 1.0 for the remainder of the 2008-2009 school year. The motion passed unanimously.**

**b. Retirements**

**Mr. Martin made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Durant to approve the following retirements: The motion passed unanimously.**

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**1. Curtis Mathews, Custodian at Archie Cole Middle School, effective 4-1-09**

**2. Judithanne Chiello, Paraprofessional at Frenchtown School, effective 6-22-09**

**3. James Boulanger, Head Custodian at Hanaford School, effective 6-30-09**

**c. Financial Report**

**1. FY 2010 Budget**

**The Town Council asked the School Committee not to exceed the 2.67% increase. The School Committee went with a 0% increase in teacher and administrative salaries. On February 24, the School Committee was told that the increase was 2.3%, and on March 30th,**

they were told about an almost \$700,000 shortfall. Mrs. Guliano stated that the Committee went through some options and came up with several items that would generate savings. They include savings because of teacher retirements, cuts in the professional development money, high school sports cuts, cuts in paraprofessional substitutes, and phasing in the Social Studies books instead of purchasing them next year. It was noted that our health insurance increase will be 12% instead of 10%. Mrs. Guliano would like to go back to the Town Council to see if there is additional revenue so we won't have to cut further. She added that COA and CPT are not mandated by the state but the Committee believes in them. Mrs. Guliano noted that Senator Raptakis put in legislation for residents of East Greenwich to allow them to make donations to programs. This is similar to the legislation passed for Coventry which saved their Freshman Football Program.

Lisa Sussman, COA Director, stated that research shows the importance of this program. She added that even though they had budget cuts this year, they still brought many programs to all schools, reaching every child in every grade. Next year, COA plans to have two Artists in Residence programs.

Giovanna Mandarini and Alea Robinson, Eldredge students, presented petitions to keep Cole sports. They asked about having fundraisers for this purpose. Mr. Meyers responded that they may need to do a little fundraising.

Joe Cooney, spoke about the Cole sports program and how it develops kids.

**Christine King, Chestnut Drive, asked how the East Greenwich Education Foundation works with regard to money for sports programs. Mr. Meyers stated that the focus of the Foundation is to provide grants to enrich the existing programs. It will give teachers an opportunity to create new programs, not to fill holes in the operating budget. Mr. Durant added that the Foundation kicks education up a notch. Tricia Colgan, Red Barn Lane, asked if the Foundation can give money for professional development. Mr. Meyers stated that it could but it has to be very specific such as relating to a new program. It is more teacher driven. Mr. Meyers also noted that the Foundation will be giving a presentation at the May 5th meeting.**

**Eric Barnes, High Hawk Road, has a son going to Cole next year. He stated that sports promote school spirit. He stated that we should scale back at the middle school instead of taking sports away.**

**Mr. Brian Sullivan predicts that the School Committee will find a way to fund middle school sports. He stated that we should start a Booster's Club at Cole.**

**Bob Quinn stated that a lot of money is being spent on facilities and we don't need fancy things but a chance to compete.**

**Ellen Garcia, CPT Teacher, stated that the program is a very important and valuable program. She feels that the program could be scaled back instead of cutting it since it is difficult to start up a program once it is cut.**

**d. Second Reading and Vote on Charge for Personnel Subcommittee  
Mrs. Records read the policy. Mr. Durant made a motion which was**

seconded by Mr. Martin to approve this policy. The motion passed unanimously.

e. **Vote to Contract with the Center for Educational Law, Police and Practices in Partnership with East Bay Collaborative to offer school districts services including guidance and professional development in new state and federal regulations.**

Mrs. Dillon stated that this came about because of new 504 regulations. She stated that Mr. David Kane is a well respected attorney and a great resource and he provides guidance to school departments. We will be able to write his fee into our grant. Mr. Kane also provides alternate dispute resolutions before we have to get to a legal aspect. Mrs. Palumbo made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Winters to approve this contract. The motion passed unanimously.

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## **IX. Discussion**

### **a. Superintendent Search Process**

Mrs. Guliano stated that the New England School Development Council provides training

through focus groups for the interview committee. She noted that the cost for the interview and training for the interview committee will be \$1900. The School Committee can go on the school spring website to view the applications. Mr. Martin stated that he is opposed to spending money for a focus group. He feels we have expertise to

make good decisions in hiring a superintendent. Mrs. Guliano stated that NESDEC was strongly recommended to her. Mrs. Records made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Palumbo to hire NESDEC for the focus group and training. The motion passed with Mr. Martin voting no. Mr. Durant and Mr. Martin feel that there are too many people on the Interview Committee. There was a consensus to just have the School Committee conduct the interviews.

#### **b. Building Committee Update**

Mr. Jon Winikur stated that the first phase of the project is the partial demolition of Cole Gymnasium and work on updating the High School Science Labs. He noted that the work will continue for the next several years. He added that the Phase II design includes refining the exterior of the building. The color of the roof and windows still need to be flushed out. Mr. Winikur noted that the Fields Committee has concerns about the electrical capacity but the electrical engineers feel it is a non-issue. The next major step will focus on the interior design. The logistical issues raised of having the fields and lab work done at the same time includes looking at alternative routes for buses. Mrs. Gifford asked if there was a plan for moving kids around and Mr. Meyers responded that he plans to have an informational meeting for parents. Mrs. Palumbo asked about physical education classes. Mr. Meyers responded they will be outside on most days. Mr. Winikur also responded that the Cole cafeteria will be modified for physical education.

#### **c. New Building Rental Policy**

**Mr. Meyers stated that we have been too kind in terms of building rentals and the policy needed to be revisited and revised. The fees will be restructured to cover maintenance and utility costs for rentals.**

**The fees will be more detailed for different groups using the buildings. Mr. Meyers recommended the revisions and new rental fees. Mr. Martin made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Durant to approve the new building rental policy. The motion passed unanimously.**

#### **X. School Committee Concerns**

**Mrs. Records would like the employee survey on the next agenda.**

**XI. On a motion made by Mr. Durant and seconded by Mrs. Winters, the Committee, being polled individually, voted unanimously to adjourn at 10:05p.m. and go into Executive Session under R.I.G.L. 42-46-5 (a) (2) for Teacher Contract Negotiations**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Virginia Giuliani**

**Secretary**