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**East Greenwich School Committee**

**Tuesday, September 1, 2009**

**Hanaford School Cafeteria**

**200 Middle Road**

**East Greenwich, RI 02818**

**ANY ITEMS ON THE AGENDA MAY BE SUBJECT TO A VOTE**

**6:30p.m. Executive Session, R.I.G.L. 42-46-5 (a) (2) Teacher Contract Negotiations**

**7:30p.m. Regular Session**

**I. Pledge of Allegiance**

**The regular session was held at 7:30p.m. in the Hanaford School Cafeteria. Members present: JeanAnn Guliano, Chair, Anne Palumbo, Vice-Chair, MaryEllen Winters, Robert Durant, Paul Martin, Susan Records and Deidre Gifford, as well as Superintendent Dr. Victor Mercurio, Director of Administration, Maryanne Crawford, Director of Special Services, Paula Dillon, and Director of Facilities, Robert Wilmarth. The meeting commenced with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.**

**II. Public Comments**

**Renu Engelhart, Division Road, spoke about a blind curve on her street and cars ignoring the flashing lights on buses. She asked why students have to cross a state road, even if monitors are on the bus. She asked Committee members to come to her house and take a look.**

**She suggested we mount cameras on our buses. Mrs. Palumbo**

agreed and feels no child should cross Division Road or Carrs Pond Road, adding it will be worse during the winter.

Judy Lonardo, Forest Lane, spoke regarding the building rental policy and how it is affecting Girl Scouts. She noted that leaders are waiting to see what the School Committee does before they have a meeting. Mrs. Guliano responded that there will be a revision of the building rental policy on the agenda for the next meeting.

Terry Shea, Vice-President of Academy Players, stated that in the past they used the high school for rehearsals and performances. They instituted an internship program with the high school. They also raised funds directly for the school by every performance. They want to remain a part of the community but can't afford the \$55.00 per hour. He asked for special consideration or a sliding scale. They don't want to leave East Greenwich.

Kevin Hopkins, Chestnut Drive, who is retired from the State Police, stated that he will make phone calls to the East Greenwich Police Chief and State Police to get blinking speed signs and enforcement on Division Street.

### **III. Recognitions**

Robert Holbrook was recognized for his work on the Finance Committee. He also served three terms on the School Committee, and was on the Planning Commission.

### **IV. Approval of Minutes**

a. Mr. Durant made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Winters to approve the minutes for the July 14th meeting. The motion passed with Mr. Martin abstaining. Mr. Martin made a motion which was

**seconded by Mrs. Winters to approve the minutes of the July 22 Regular and July 22 Executive Session. The motion passed with Mrs. Gifford and Mrs. Guliano abstaining.**

## **Action Items**

### **a. Resignations**

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**1. Mrs. Winters made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Winters to approve the resignation of Melissa Quinn, Special Education Teacher at Cole Middle School. The motion passed unanimously.**

**effective 8-21-09**

**2. Mr. Durant made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Winters to accept the resignation of Robert Holbrook, Finance Committee Member. The motion passed unanimously.**

### **b. Appointments**

**Mr. Durant made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Winters to approve the following appointments: The motion passed unanimously.**

**1. Steven Levesque and Chris Boie, High School Class of 2013 Co-Advisors**

**2. Ed Perrone, Finance Committee**

**3. Steve Miranda, Finance Committee**

**4. Charles Picard, Custodian, East Greenwich Public Schools Central Office, effective 8-11-09, four hours per day, five days per week.**

### **c. Bid Awards**

**1. Curriculum Consultant**

**Mr. Durant made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Palumbo to**

approve the bid for curriculum consulting services to Newman Educational Consulting in the amount of \$23,100. This will be paid out of the CRP Grant. It was noted that Mrs. Newman was the only one who applied. The motion passed unanimously.

**2. Language Lab Lease Financing**

Mr. Durant made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Winters to award the three year lease finance purchase for the language lab to Cal Tran. It was noted that the first payment will be mad during this fiscal year. The motion passed unanimously.

d. Mr. Martin made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Durant to approve the following home school: A Kindergarten Student and Grade 7 Student. The motion passed unanimously.

**e. Approval of Change Order #5 for Fields Project**

Mr. Martin made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Winters to table this item until the meeting with the Town Council on September 8th. The motion passed unanimously.

**f. Approval of Contract for Meadowbrook Principal**

Mr. Durant made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Winters to approve the one year contract for the Meadowbrook Principal with the stipulation of an improvement plan. Mr. Martin stated that he supported a three year contract recommended by the previous superintendent. The motion passed with Mrs. Palumbo abstaining.

**VI. Discussion Items**

**a. Revised Fields Budget**

Discussion is withheld pending the meeting on September 8th.

**b. CPT Focus Group Update**

**We are going forward with the previous recommendation but we will revisit to make sure the plan entails what is going to happen. Paula Dillon stated that the consultant will meet with members of the focus group. Mrs. Gifford would like to put the charge for the consultant on a future agenda.**

#### **c. SORICO and RIASC Updates**

**Mr. Martin stated that Dr. Mercurio was at the last meeting. He added that the SORICO group consists of a School Committee Member and a Superintendent from each southern district. We use the collaborative for contract situations, Child**

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**Find Services and the transition position of our special education program. We have one student from East Greenwich who attends Forward View Academy (a behavior school). Dr. Mercurio stated that SORICO has a new Executive Director interested in making professional development opportunities open to everyone, as well as looking to brainstorm out of the box thinking about supporting districts in these tough times.**

**Mrs. Gifford attended the RIASC meeting in August. She noted that RIASC opposes legislation about contracts that are unresolved automatically going to binding arbitration. Mrs. Guliano noted that the Town Council passed a resolution opposing binding arbitration legislation. They are asking School Committees to send letters to the General Assembly.**

#### **d. First Reading Building Facilities Use Policy Revision**

**The Finance Subcommittee will look at this policy and report back to**

the School Committee.

## **VII. School Committee Concerns**

**Mr. Martin asked about how we deal with retirements gifts. He will put something in writing.**

**Mrs. Gifford asked about the employee dress code, noting that a policy was passed but teachers wanted more input. She asked to have the policy suspended and ask Dr. Mercurio to get together with teachers to look at it for minor changes. Mrs. Crawford stated that the origin of the policy was when it was brought up at an administrative council meeting by principals. Dr. Mercurio will look at it. Mr. Martin disagrees and doesn't want to suspend the policy. Mrs. Judi Cavanaugh, Co-president of the Teachers' Union, stated that a grievance has been filed which has to do with violation of working conditions.**

**Mrs. Records will set up a meeting with the personnel subcommittee concerning job descriptions. We should list the subcommittees and who is on them. Mr. Martin volunteers as the third member of the Facilities Subcommittee.**

**Mrs. Records asked if there has been a discussion with the technology committee on the fire wall. Dr. Mercurio spoke to Jerry Nettik and they are looking at it.**

**Mrs. Palumbo had a question about the fields Mrs. Guliano stated there is a meeting coming up with Field Turf to talk about field drainage, use of fields and liability issues. We are suspending activities on the fields for now and rescheduling games, but the project is continuing.**

**Mrs. Palumbo stated that the middle school parents are going to car pool the first day of school because of traffic concerns. Dr. Mercurio stated the Cole traffic pattern is established already and police will keep a close eye in things at Cole. Parking for Cole Open House will be available at the church and at the businesses across the street. Precautions are put in place to make sure students can walk safely in that area. Student drop off for dances will be the same as for the buses.**

**Dr. Mercurio will be in every building the first day of school.**

**VIII. On a motion made by Mr. Durant and seconded by Mrs. Winters, the Committee voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:45p.m.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Virginia Giuliani**