

East Greenwich School Committee

Tuesday, September 15, 2009

Hanaford School Cafeteria

200 Middle Road

East Greenwich, RI 02818

ANY ITEMS ON THE AGENDA MAY BE SUBJECT TO A VOTE

6:00p.m. Executive Session, RIGL 42-46-5(a) (1) Interview for Recommended Athletic Director Candidate

6:30p.m. Executive Session, RIGL 42-46-5 (a) (1) (2) Discussion and Possible Vote on Proposed Tentative Agreement with Teachers' Union; Custodian Negotiations Update; and Legal Advice concerning proposed memorandum of agreement involving Salter Transportation

7:00p.m. Regular Session

Announcement of Vote Taken in Executive Session

Mr. Durant made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Winters to ratify the tentative agreement between the teachers' union negotiating committee and the School Committee negotiating committee. The details will not be released until this agreement is ratified by the teachers' union. The motion passed unanimously.

Pledge of Allegiance

I. The regular session was held at 7:00p.m. in the Hanaford School Cafeteria.

Members present: JeanAnn Guliano, Chair, Anne Palumbo, Vice-Chair, MaryEllen Winters, Robert Durant, 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. Mr. Martin was absent.

II. Public Comments

Wendy Fachon would like the school department to give the facts about the swine flu so everyone could make their own decision on vaccines.

Al Ross, Tanglewood Drive, spoke about the fields and stated that the school department has been advised to let kids run around on them to let them drain. He added that if we accept the fields as they are, and they don't work as promised, we have to live with a white elephant. He added the high school gym floor cost us a lot of money and a lot of work to get it where we are now. If they were not built to specs and we accept them and something happens, we have accepted part of the blame. He added that we shouldn't accept them without questions being answered to the satisfaction of the town. Mrs. Guliano stated we don't want another gym floor issue.

III. Recognitions

a. Rose Miner was present to give awards to the teachers who received East Greenwich Education Foundation (EGEF) Grant Awards. She noted that this was the first year that grant awards were given out and they were given to seven teachers.

IV. Approval of Minutes

August 18 Regular and Executive Sessions

Mrs. Palumbo made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Winters to

approve the minutes of the August 18, 2009 regular and executive sessions. Mr. Durant and Mrs. Records abstained. The motion passed.

V. Action Items

a. Resignations

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1. On a motion made by Mr. Durant and seconded by Mrs. Winters, the Committee voted unanimously to accept the resignation of Melissa Costa, National Junior Honor Society Advisor at Cole Middle School, effective 8-26-09

b. Appointments

Mr. Durant made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Winters to approve the appointments one through three. The motion passed unanimously.

1. Joseph Benjamin Asermelly, Freshman Football Coach for the fall season

2. Judy Nacci, Mathematics Teacher at Cole Middle School, effective 8-31-09, for one year only

3. Ashley Richer, Special Education Resource Teacher at Archie Cole Middle School, effective 8-31-09, for one year only

4. Christopher Cobain, Athletic Director, East Greenwich Public Schools. No vote was taken at this time.

c. Home School Requests

Mrs. Winters made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Gifford to

approve the following home school requests: Grade 3, 6, and 8 student, Grade 11 and 12 students. The motion passed unanimously.

d. Approval of change Order #5-This item was already taken care of at joint meeting with Town Council and School Committee.

e. Approval of new paraprofessional position

Mrs. Dillon stated that a student with significant needs is returning to the district and will need a paraprofessional. Mr. Durant made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Winters to approve the new paraprofessional position. The motion passed unanimously.

f. Salter Transportation/Ocean State Transit

Mr. Durant made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Winters to direct legal counsel to negotiate a memorandum of agreement between Salter Transportation and its wholly owned subsidiary, Ocean State Transit, operating in RI. The motion passed unanimously.

VI. Discussion Items

a. Building Committee Report

Jon Winikur from SBS, received a certificate of occupancy for the high school labs. They were able to get the vast majority of the furniture. He added that he is getting ready to pre-qualify the general contractors, and thanked the High School and Cole for their support. Mrs. Guliano thanked Jon and SBS for having the labs ready for the beginning of school. Mr. Winikur stated the Fire Marshall asked about compliance codes, and meeting is coming up with him.

b. Fields Project Update

Mr. Feeney gave an overview of the past two weeks. He stated that

the School Committee and Town Council met with GZA, the independent experts we hired to look at the fields. The first issue is that the field was built to specs and we received what we paid for. He noted that after the rain in late August, we met with Field Turf and based on their information, GZA feels the field is playable and more than safe. It can take 2 to 4 inches of water. He noted that water was not there this past weekend. Mr. Feeney stated that in torrential rain, games won't be played. He asked the Committee not to make an opinion based on what they read in the paper. He stated that there are fears generated by rumor. It was noted that Caito Corporation will deliver a punch list to the Superintendent on September 16, 2009. The drainage issue will be excluded from that list. The warranty issues will be

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addressed by our lawyers. Mrs. Guliano stated there is a perception we are being overly cautious. The town staff has concerns about the sub base. Mrs. Guliano stated that there is still a layer of water that sits on the fields. Field Turf has offered to apply an anti-static material. Fleet Construction is willing to give us an extra five years on the sub base. Mrs. Winters stated that kids need to lay on the field before they play a game on it. Mr. Feeney asked people not to go on the easement field too early and we will need police details to keep people off the areas not open. The School committee would like to know the components of the surfactant. A parent stated that the baseball field seems to have a pitch but it is exactly to the specs

designed by Gifford and it fits within the NCAA specs. It was noted that a gradual slope was built in to keep the water to the sides and from coming back to the infield. It does look different. Mr. Feeney stated that they would like to have a dedication ceremony this year, possibly in November. Mr. Feeney noted that the fields committee has raised over \$10,000 for the concession stand, and they would be upset if the Town charges us for usage. He would like a joint meeting with the Recreation Department and recreation leagues. It was noted that the warranty will be void if we sign off on the fields before we receive all the approvals. Dr. Mercurio has to sign off on the baseball field as well as all fields.

c. First Reading Building Facilities Use Policy Revision

Mr. Wilmarth stated that he added a \$25.00 per hour non-resident or surcharge. But Girl Scout and Boy Scout groups are allowed one meeting at no charge. Mr. Durant stated that the finance committee did an analysis of the fees we receive and organizations that don't require an additional custodian will not be charge if they meet before 5:00p.m. The new amounts were brought in line with what other organizations charge. This item is tabled to enable the policy subcommittee to review the language and fee schedule.

Heather Cianciolo asked who gets preference in rentals Mr. Wilmarth stated that schools get preference 90% of the time. Dr. Ross likes the community involvement and is pleased that the schools are opened up for community use.

d. Sub-Committee Update

Mr. Martin asked that this item be on the agenda but he was not

present at the meeting. This item will be tabled.

VII School Committee Concerns

Mrs. Palumbo feels that at least one or two School Committee members should attend an open house.

VIII. On a motion made by Mr. Durant and seconded by Mrs. Winters, the Committee voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:40p.m. to go into Executive Session under R.I.G.L 42-46-5 (a) (2) to interview the candidate for Athletic Director.

At 9:25p.m. the Committee re-convened in regular session to announce the vote on the Athletic Director appointment.. Mr. Durant made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Palumbo to approve Christopher Cobain as Athletic Director, subject to a one year successful probationary period; with an additional two year contract after that successful year. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Durant made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Winters to adjourn at 9:30p.m. The motion passed unanimously.