

East Greenwich School Committee

Tuesday, November 3, 2009

Hanaford School Cafeteria

200 Middle Road

East Greenwich, RI 02818

ANY ITEMS ON THE AGENDA MAY BE SUBJECT TO A VOTE

7:00 P.M. Regular Session

I. Pledge of Allegiance

The regular session was held at 7:30 P.M. in the Hanaford School Cafeteria.

Members present: Jean Ann Guiliano, Chair; Anne Palumbo, Vice-Chair; Mary Ellen Winters; Robert Durant; Susan Records; and Deidre Gifford, as well as Superintendent Dr. Victor Mercurio, Superintendent; Maryanne Crawford, Director of Administration; and Robert Wilmarth, Director of Facilities. The meeting commenced with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

II. Public Comments – There were no public comments

III. Recognitions – There were no recognitions

IV. Superintendent's Report -

Dr. Mercurio stated that the State's H1N1 Vaccination Clinic will begin in East Greenwich with Hanaford School on November 5 from 4:00-8:00 P.M. He will send out reminders on Alert Now about the clinics. All students being vaccinated must be a registered student in the school holding the clinic. Dr. Mercurio quoted from a health department memo that if a student is absent the day of the clinic, the student may not receive the vaccine.

Mrs. Gifford questioned why the health department would require the student to be in school the day of the clinic.

Dr. Mercurio said that he would look the memo over again, but he was certain the correspondence was very clear. He will contact the health department for clarification. Dr. Mercurio stated that while the clinics are open they become a medical facility. He will remind the media that no entrance to conduct interviews, photos, etc. will be allowed during the clinic. Interviews and photos may be conducted outside only.

Dr. Mercurio congratulated the field hockey team as well as the boys/girls soccer teams who are in the semi-finals.

Mrs. Gifford asked Dr. Mercurio about the finance committee's follow-up discussion meeting date. He stated it will be on November 5 at 6:30 P.M. in the superintendent's conference room.

V. Approval of Minutes- Regular Session -

7b- Fields Update - Mrs. Gifford made a motion to enter statement into minutes and on the Website.

6h – CPT Consultant Update – Mrs. Gifford made a motion to change last sentence to “Mrs. Dillon will work with Dr. Mercurio to revise the consultant agreement and bring it back to the school committee.”

The school committee voted unanimously to 7b and 6h changes.

VI. Action Items

a. Appointments -

On a motion made by Mr. Durant and seconded by Sue Records, the committee voted to approve the following:

1. JoAnn Mallozzi, National Junior Honor Society Advisor at Cole Middle School

2. Marc Brocato, 0.1 Composition Skills teacher at EGHS for the 2009-2010 school year

3. Ed DePastina, 0.1 Business Teacher at EGHS for the 2009-2010 school year

4. Robert Petrucci, 0.1 Acting Teacher at EGHS for the 2009-2010 school year

Mrs. Gifford asked Mrs. Crawford if these appointments would be additions to the budget. Mrs. Crawford explained that the 0.1 appointments are anticipated and already in the budget. Mr. Durant made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Winters. The motion passed unanimously.

b. Senior Project Request – This item was tabled

c. Second Reading and Vote on Building Facilities Use Policy Revision –

Mrs. Gifford will meet again with policy committee and bring back to school committee for a vote.

d. Approval of School Committee Meeting Calendar for 2010 –

Mr. Durant made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Winters. Motion passed unanimously.

e. First Reading and Vote on Substance Abuse Policy –

Mrs. Gifford presented proposed additions to district policy on the following:

1. EGHS Student Handbook, Page 29 – “Suspension”/Cole Student Behavior Code- Section entitled “Suspension” “Students suspended for five or more days during a school year will be referred to the Youth Initiative Counselor for assessment, referral and re-entry support services. Parents of suspended students will be offered such services with the intent of ensuring a viable safety net for their child.

2. EGHS Handbook, Page 22 Section entitled “Alcohol and Drugs,” Item #4 Cole Student Behavior Code: Addendum to section entitled: “Alcohol and Drugs,” Item #4 – “First time offenders can have 15 days of this sanction deferred if they work with the substance abuse counselor for intervention as well as on a project assigned by and agreed to by the substance abuse counselor. In case of a second

offense, the deferred days will be added to the penalty.” Mrs. Gifford explained briefly Mr. Robert Houghtaling’s background and his Youth Initiative/Support Services to kids.

Mrs. Meyer, Cole Principal and Mr. Varrecchione, Cole Assistant Principal, are in favor of adding additions to the Student Behavior Code.

Mrs. Palumbo and Mrs. Guliano asked Mrs. Gifford a couple of questions regarding suspension and were satisfied with her answers.

Dr. Mercurio proposed that parents sign off that they acknowledge an understanding of the policy.

Mr. Durant made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Winters. The motion passed unanimously for second semester approval.

f. New Paraprofessional Position –

Dr. Mercurio explained that the paraprofessional position was needed due to an outside placement student returning to East Greenwich.

Mr. Durant made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Winters. The motion passed unanimously subject to placement happening.

g. Approval of Bid Award for Middle School Project-

Gilbane Construction was awarded the bid. We have a signed contract with no alterations. Mrs. Guliano made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Durant. The motion passed unanimously.

VII. Discussion Items

a. Building Committee Report-

Discussed at Joint School/Town Meeting (see minutes from meeting)

b. Fields Project Update

Victor stated official response for field turf-usage-completion of project

c. Aramark 2008-2009 Year End Report

There was an increase of lunches sold at the elementary level but a decrease at the high school and middle school. RIDE's nutritional guidelines support more nutritious meals, but the food offerings are not as popular with the kids. RIDE has revised guidelines, but menu is still nutrition based. Beverage vending machines have been replaced by vending machines supplying water only. All snack vending machines have been removed. Mrs. Crawford stated that on our recommendation, Our Lady of Mercy School has contracted with Aramark. OLM returned a small stipend to us last year.

Mr. Tom Hoagland, Aramark General Manager of Operations for RI, opened with praise for the East Greenwich Schools for being one of the first to sign up with Aramark. He reiterated what Mrs. Crawford said about RIDE's nutritional guidelines not being accepted by the kids. He said that the healthy menu initiated a 15-20% reduction in lunch sales.

Mrs. Guilliano stated that suburban areas have little state aide in helping sustain the program.

Mr. Hoagland agreed that state-wide suburban areas are showing a 2/3 deficit, while urban areas have money. RIDE has altered their guidelines on milk and bread, and revisions have been made to menu items. Mr. Tom Hoagland stated that East Greenwich ended their first year contract with Aramark with a deficit of \$134,000.00

Mr. Hoagland explained that there have been a lot of management, staff, and operational changes. Staff changes resulted in a savings of \$12,000.00 in salaries. Annie Stoeher, Aramark Food Service Director, has formed a firm foundation here in East Greenwich. We are now sharing Annie with Rocky Hill and Chariho. Changes in the distribution of food resulted in savings - \$16,000.00 in May to this October \$6,600.00. Mr. Hoagland calculates that we will break even or better next year.

Mrs. Palumbo questioned voting on the contract?

Mrs. Crawford recommended that we do not go with another vendor. If the budget is not met for the 2009-2010 year, Armark will be financially responsible for any end-of-year deficit. Mrs. Crawford stated that our reimbursement is low because East Greenwich does not have many qualifying free and reduced children. Also, the nutritional guidelines have resulted in a reduction in the sale of lunches, especially with the high school and middle school students.

Mrs. Crawford stated that sometime in the future, East Greenwich may need to supplement the school lunch program.

Mrs. Gifford asked Mr. Hoagland about food waste being an issue

with the kids in the cafeteria.

Annie Stoeher responded that training was provided to employees in ordering just enough food. However, Mr. Hoagland said that the regulations require that we have available a choice of different foods, meat, milk, vegetables, and fruit. This availability of offering 3 vegetable and fruit choices adds to the waste.

Mrs. Giualiano asked if anything is being done to bring up the sales at the high school and middle school. Mr. Hoagland said, "Yes."

Mrs. Stoeher said that with support from RIDE grants, they are able to present power-up orientation programs to students as well as holding informative meeting with parents and students on a monthly basis.

Mrs. Winters asked the cost of lunch at the high school. Mrs. Stoeher told her the cost of lunch at the high school is \$2.50.

Mrs. Palumbo applauded Aramark on bringing nutrition to East Greenwich Schools.

d. Student Activity Accounts

Mrs. Crawford stated that there has been a great deal of publicity across the state regarding these accounts. Mrs. Crawford explained that the high school students involved in sports, band, etc. will raise money to offset costs. The money is then placed in one of the student activity accounts. There are 13 accounts between Cole and the high school, the bulk of them at the high school. Before any purchasing is done, it must have principal approval. At this time, there is one signature required on the check. Mrs. Crawford stated that she receives a band statement on a monthly basis. The athletic

director is in charge of the athletic accounts. Mrs. Crawford explained that the secretaries at the high school use the program Quick Books® for the student activity accounts.

Mrs. Gifford asked whether the same procedures are in place for all accounts.

Mrs. Crawford responded that all were with the exemption of the Booster Club.

Mrs. Giuliano asked whether the student activity accounts will fit in with the uniform chart of accounts.

Mr. Mercurio stated that a number of provisions within the uniform chart of account are in place.

Mrs. Gifford asked whether the athletic director is aware of all fund-raising.

Mrs. Crawford responded that all the fund-raising is tracked by the athletic director. The school tax ID must be used.

Mrs. Giuliano and Mrs. Gifford would like a policy for student activity accounts. A template policy will be sent by Mrs. Crawford to Mrs. Gifford

Mrs. Palumbo asked whether there were any Petty Cash accounts.

Mrs. Crawford responded, "No."

e. Subcommittee Report

f. Technology Committee Report

Dr. Mercurio stated that there was a technology meeting on Wednesday, October 28 in the central office conference room to

review First Class. On November 18, the team will meet to work on a technology plan for a district goal of December or January 1. The Technology Committee would initiate what the time frame will be for the technology plan. Dr. Mercurio was very pleased with the goals of the Technology Committee.

Mrs. Records said that the meeting was very productive and she was pleased with the ongoing meetings. An e-mail policy will be in place shortly.

Dr. Mercurio said that the central office staff will go live with First Class on November 5. Central office staff will keep Outlook until First Class is up and running.

Mrs. Gifford asked about the goal of egds.net.

Dr. Mercurio stated that implementation of the e-mail system will follow a list of guidelines. These guidelines need to be formalized into a policy. Once the policy is established, the district has ownership.

VII. School Committee Concerns

Mrs. Gifford stated that she would like to see the final numbers from Aramark before approval.

Mrs. Guliano asked whether follow-up training was scheduled with RIDE for going live with chart of accounts.

Mrs. Crawford stated that we are waiting for approval first.

Mrs. Guliano would like to add “Going Live” on the agenda with the next joint town/school committee meeting.

Dr. Mercurio said that he would take care of that from his office.

Mrs. Palumbo had concerns about the schools being closed on two consecutive Wednesdays, one for Veteran’s Day, and one for Professional Learning Day on November 18.

VIII. On a motion made by Mrs. Guiliano and seconded by Mr. Durant, the Committee voted unanimously to adjourn at 9:03 P.M.