

**East Greenwich School Committee**

**Tuesday, December 1, 2009**

**Hanaford School Cafeteria**

**200 Middle Road**

**East Greenwich, RI 02818**

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

The regular session of the East Greenwich School Committee was called to order at 7:10 p.m. by the Chair, Jean Ann Guliano. Those in attendance were: Anne Palumbo - Vice Chair; MaryEllen Winters, Susan Records, Deidre Gifford, as well as Superintendent of Schools Dr. Victor Mercurio, Maryanne Crawford, Director of Administration, and Paula Dillon, Director of Special Services. Mr. Martin and Mr. Durant were absent.

**7:00p.m. Regular Session**

**I. The meeting commenced with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.**

**II. Public Comments-There were no public comments**

**III. Recognitions**

**a. The Archie Cole Girls' Soccer State Champions were present to receive congratulations and certificates from the School Committee**

**IV. Superintendent's Report**

**Dr. Mercurio thanked the staff, faculty and administration at the high school for a well run H1N1 Clinic. Cole will be the last clinic held on**

December 10th. Younger students are supposed to receive a second dose but we have no information yet. The revised high school traffic pattern didn't happen. The construction company needs more time. They will let us know when they need to block off the circle. There was a slight gas leak in the new science wing. The master switch will be turned off now. Middle School Update: students like the new shuttle service from Cole to the High School for physical education classes. The Superintendent thanked everyone involved from both schools.

The Commissioner of Education will be visiting East Greenwich on December 9th from 8:00am to 11:00am. The visit will start at the high school and end at Frenchtown School. It is open to anyone in the district who wants to meet with the Commissioner face-to-face. Commissioner Gist will come back to East Greenwich on January 19th.

#### **V. Approval of Minutes**

a. Mrs. Winters made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Palumbo to approve the minutes of the Tuesday, November 3 Regular Session. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **VI. Action items**

a. Appointments-There were no appointments.

#### **b. Resignation**

1. On a motion made by Mrs. Winters and seconded by Mrs. Records, the Committee voted unanimously to accept the resignation of Judy Nacci, Mathematics Teacher at Cole Middle School, effective November 16, 2009.

**c. Assignment of Obligations from Salter Transportation to Ocean State**

**Mrs. Crawford stated that Salter Transportation is now Ocean State Transportation. The contract is the same, just a name change and everything will remain the same. Mrs. Winters made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Palumbo to approve the assignment of obligations. The motion passed unanimously.**

**d. Second Reading and Vote on Substance Abuse Policy-A follow-up document will be submitted with a vote at the December 15th meeting.**

**e. Fields Project Change Orders**

**Ernie DiSaia stated that the contingency was under budgeted when the project was bid. We only had a 3.5% contingency and that wasn't enough. The School committee wasn't aware of this and Mrs. Gifford**

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**asked why the budget was exceeded when it wasn't approved by the School Committee in advance. Mr. DiSaia stated that the project would have been held up if he asked for permission before work was done. Mrs. Guliano stated it wouldn't have been an issue if extra money was put into the contingency. Mrs. Gifford stated she is confused by the change orders, and feels the Committee should have seen them before the work was done. Mr. DiSaia stated that he communicated with the previous administration and the Town Council eight months ago about his concern that there was no money for gates to protect the fields. The motion to approve the change orders passed with Mrs. Gifford voting no.**

## **VII. Discussion Items**

### **a. ARAMARK Contract**

**Mrs. Crawford stated they are still working on this year's contract. She and Attorney Oliverio met with Aramark and they are proposing a grant. This will be finalized at the December 15th meeting. We hope to stay with Aramark for another year. We would like to eliminate the fine print in the contract. We aren't looking to make significant dollars, just break even. Mrs. Guliano feels we shouldn't owe anything because we were misled by the State and were not given the information up front. It is felt that Carolyn Dias from RIDE should address the School committee on this issue. Mrs. Crawford feels we can explore going out to bid after this year. She would rather address the deficit with Aramark. Mrs. Crawford stated that we haven't officially signed a contract for this year; we are just working on a memo of understanding.**

### **b. Building committee Report**

### **c. Fields Project Update**

**Mr. DiSaia will meet with Fleet Construction. They have already started on the punch list items, and some are completed. He spoke about recent vandalism on the new soccer fields. The cost could amount to between \$10,000 and \$15,000. Mr. DiSaia stated that the fields will eventually be chained. The Superintendent will speak to the police about the incident. There will be a joint meeting of the fields committee next week.**

### **d. FY 2011 Budget Update**

**The Finance Committee has been meeting with the budget owners.**

January budget meetings will be scheduled in front of the School Committee. We need to take a look at the revised technology plan. Mrs. Gifford stated that she has misgivings about having meetings with the Finance Committee. She feels that principals shouldn't be making cutting decisions if they aren't comfortable with them. She doesn't want us to preempt the open process. She wants us to keep the lines of communication open, and the first priority is what we need educationally. Mrs. McAuliffe, Meadowbrook Principal, stated that the Finance Committee was happy with what principals are doing and the educational decisions they are making which are in the best interest of students. Dr. Mercurio stated that teachers should have a say in what they need.

#### **e. UCOA Report**

Mrs. Guliano stated that East Greenwich is the only district that has not gone live with UCOA. We'll continue as we are now. Wendy Schmidle is the only one at the Town to get this done.

#### **VIII. School Committee Concerns**

Mrs. Guliano stated that she had a Saturday meeting with some regional school committee members. They spoke about what issues to bring to legislators.

**IX. On a motion made by Mrs. Gifford and seconded by Mrs. Records, the Committee voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:45 p.m.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Virginia Giuliani**  
**Secretary**