

East Greenwich School Committee

Tuesday, December 15, 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 7:27 p.m. by the Chair, Jean Ann Guliano. Those in attendance were: Anne Palumbo - Vice Chair; Susan Records, Deidre Gifford, Susan Records, as well as Superintendent of Schools Dr. Victor Mercurio, Maryanne Crawford, Director of Administration, and Paula Dillon, Director of Special Services. Paul Martin and Mrs. Winters were absent. The meeting commenced with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

I. Public Comments-There were no public comments.

II. Recognitions

The following students were recognized and given certificates by the School Committee:

- a. All State Chorus from high school: Chad Ryan, Marshall Ross, Meghan Gallogly, Tara Gibson, Elizabeth Kerin, Hope Serdakowski;**
- Cole All State Chorus: Victoria VanVleet, Ali Marcus, Ella Myette.**
- Honors Chorus: Kellie Reardon**

b. EGHS Girls' Field Hockey

III. Superintendent's Report-Dr. Mercurio stated that the last H1N1 clinic was held at Cole. He thanked everyone for making the clinics successful.

The high school construction project is going along well and the East Greenwich Police are thanked for being present during the start of the project.

The high school is proposing a revised schedule for mid-term exams. This item will be on the next agenda. The state requirement is that schools should be in session for 5.5 hours. The same process will be repeated for final exams.

First Class training is ongoing. It is a year long learning process.

The Regents approved a new teacher evaluation system. They want teachers evaluated every year. Dr. Mercurio will re-convene the teacher evaluation committee again.

Mr. Winikur would like to have the School Committee approve the materials testing at a meeting scheduled for December 22nd.

The Commission on Teacher Excellence will be starting a group in January.

IV. Approval of Minutes

a. On a motion made by Mrs. Palumbo and seconded by Mrs. Gifford, the Committee voted to approve the minutes of the November 17, 2009 School Committee meeting. The motion passed with Mr. Durant abstaining.

V. Action Items

a. Appointments

Mrs. Palumbo made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Gifford to approve the appointments number one through five. The motion passed unanimously.

1. Increase of hours for Julie Calise, preschool teacher at Meadowbrook

Farms School from 0.5 to 1.0

2. Paula Glod, Yearbook Advisor for EGHS for the 2009-2010 school year

3. Audrey Nazareth, Head Coach for Cole Middle School Girls' cheerleading team for winter season

4. Eric Brennan, Head Coach for Boys' Varsity Swim Team at EGHS for winter season

5. Jason Martin, Head Coach for Cole Middle School Girls' Basketball Team for the winter season

Returning Coaches

386

Mr. Durant made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Palumbo to approve the appointments of the following coaches. Mrs. Records recused herself from the appointment of Matthew Records, and abstained from the appointment of Lee Walker.

6. Joe Amato-Head Wrestling; James Westell- Assistant Wrestling,; Peter Dion-Boys' Indoor Track; Dustin Coleman-Assistant Boys' Indoor Track; Stan Johnson-Head Girls' Indoor Track, Nicole Christie-Assistant Girls' Indoor Track; Matt Records-Head Girls' Basketball; Lee Walker-Assistant Girls' Basketball; Craig

MacKenzie-Head Boys' Basketball; Don Bowen- Assistant Boys' Basketball; Evan Kreke-Freshman Boys' Basketball; Joe Szymkowicz-Cole Middle Boys' Basketball; Kristina Lamoreaux-Head Girls' Swim; Nitasha Madan-Head Hockey cheerleading; Stacey Munzert-Head Basketball/Comp Cheer; Len Kiernan-Head Hockey; Sean Fahey-Assistant Hockey.

b. Recall

1. Mr. Durant made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Palumbo to approve the recall of Kelly Vartanian, paraprofessional at Meadowbrook Farms School for three and a half hours per day, effective November 30, 2009. The motion passed unanimously.

c. Resignation

On a motion made by Mr. Durant and seconded by Mrs. Palumbo the Committee voted unanimously to accept the resignations below.

1. Robert Corr, Head Varsity Football Coach, effective November 27, 2009

2. Michelle Sullivan, paraprofessional at EGHS, effective 1-1-10

d. Out-of-State Ski Trip to Sunday River, Maine on February 5, 6, and 7, 2010 for Cole Middle School

On a motion made by Mr. Durant and seconded by Mrs. Palumbo the Committee voted unanimously to approve the ski trip to Maine.

On a motion made by Mrs. Palumbo and seconded by Mr. Durant the Committee voted unanimously to approve the following home school plans:

e. Home School Request for a grade three and a grade six student for the 2009-2010 school year.

f. Second Reading and Vote on Substance Abuse and Suspension Policy

Mr. Robert Houghtaling, the Drug and Substance Abuse Counselor, stated that this substance abuse policy is an opportunity to turn a discussion into an educational dynamic. It only applies to the first offense. Mr. Durant made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Palumbo to approve the Substance Abuse Policy. It needs to reflect the change so the substance abuse counselor is consistent throughout. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Durant made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Palumbo to table the Suspension Policy. The motion passed unanimously.

V. Discussion Items

a. Overview of high school NEASC Process – NEASC Self-Study School Proposal

Mrs. Patricia Dulac gave a presentation and stated that the last time the high school went through the accreditation process was 2000. Dr. Mercurio noted that the visiting team receives no compensation. Mrs. Nota stated that the standards are new and east Greenwich is one of the first groups of schools being judged under the new standards. This is an intensive four days for the school and it's a look at the entire school community. She also noted that the standards don't go into effect until 2011. The high school needs time for committee members to work on gathering evidence and they are trying to imbed the work into the school day. Mrs. Nota stated that in other school

systems, student come in late or leave early to enable the faculty to do the committee work. Mrs. Dulac noted that students can come in at 9:00am the first Wednesday of each month increasing to two Wednesdays per month for the next school year.

b. ESCO Review

Representatives from Schneider Electric and ENE were present to talk about an energy assessment for the school system. An RFQ was developed and Schneider Electric was selected to deliver a complete energy assessment of the schools. There could be \$100,000 savings from the energy budget which will allow us to invest in energy infrastructure improvements. The detailed audit will take 90 to 120 days. It was decided to assign this project to the Building Committee before the School committee authorizes the audit. Mrs.

387

Gifford would like to see the particulars of how the financing works. Mr. Durant made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Palumbo to assign this to the Building Committee and charge them to conduct a review as to whether an audit is advised. The motion passed unanimously.

c. Fields Project Update

The punch list was delivered on December 16th.

d. UCOA Update

Feedback has been received that the go live date will be February 15th. RIDE will review this within a week.

e. FY 2011 Budgeting Process Update

Dr. Mercurio met today with the Finance Committee. They want to go back and meet with budget owners one on one. The members of the Finance Committee want to participate in looking at contracts. They will also look at collective buying. Mrs. Guliano noted that it appears we will have a cut this year. Dr. Mercurio stated that goal is to start the cuts as far away from the classroom as possible.

f. School Committee Scholarships-There was no discussion on this item.

g. Proposal to reduce size of School Committee

Mrs. Guliano stated that a recommendation would have to be made to the Town Council as a charter change. There are some advantages to this financially. Mr. Garrett Neaves feels it is a good idea and helps people be prepared to serve. He would like information out to help people learn about the issues, especially teacher contracts. Mrs. Winters let Mrs. Guliano know that she has concerns going to five members because of attendance issues. Mrs. Records agrees with five members but the term should stay four years. Mrs. Gifford stated that we have had trouble getting people to run. She added that diversity of opinion is healthy and she agrees with the Committee being non-partisan. Mrs. Palumbo would like to stay with seven members. Mr. Durant favors seven members over five, especially in January when the budget is discussed.

h. Possible resignation of School Committee member Paul Martin

VIII. School Committee Concerns –There were no concerns.

IX. On a motion made by Mr. Durant and seconded by Mrs. Palumbo, the Committee voted unanimously to

adjourn at 9:35p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia Giuliani