

East Greenwich School Committee

Tuesday, February 2, 2010

East Greenwich High School Library

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 in the Hanaford School at 7:07p.m. by Chair, Jean Ann Guliano. Those in attendance were: Deidre Gifford, Paul Martin, Robert Durant, Susan Records, and Mary Ellen Winters, as well as Superintendent of Schools Dr. Victor Mercurio, Maryanne Crawford, Director of Administration, and Paula Dillon, Director of Student Services. Mrs. Palumbo was absent. The meeting commenced with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

II. Public Comments

Mr. William Higgins, Greenwich Boulevard, spoke in support of hiring Vincent Ucci as football coach. He noted that Vincent has been an Assistant Coach, Offensive Coordinator for six years, and has coached for ten years. Mr. Higgins stated that Vincent studies plays and films and has shown loyalty to the East Greenwich sports program, therefore we should show loyalty to him by hiring him as the Football Coach.

Mr. Michael Kiernan, Church Street, spoke in favor of candidate for football coach, Vincent Ucci. He asked the Committee to think about

what Vincent has done and earned. He added that Vincent is a good quality person.

Mr. Jerome Egan, NEARI representative for the custodians and maintenance union in East Greenwich, spoke about possible privatization of custodians and maintenance. He noted that there are presently 22 workers and the union's position is that privatization costs more. It also leads to layoffs which costs workers and the community. Mr. Egan indicated that many of the workers went to school in East Greenwich. He added that there have been few problems with this group but if need be they have always been resolved. Mr. Egan also stated that privatizing will be harmful to the three women employees since they have a harder problem finding work with private companies. He noted that he is willing to meet with the School Committee, and administration to reach a successful three year agreement. Mr. Egan will provide the School Committee with his studies on privatization.

Mr. George Dziekiewicz, custodian at Frenchtown School, stated that he has been an employee for 22 years and he cares about the kids. He noted we have good custodians here and they take care of the children.

A parent asked if there is a search committee available for the Meadowbrook Farms Principal. Dr. Mercurio will have a meeting to finalize the search committee.

III. Recognitions

a. Brett Estes was recognized for winning the Geography Bee from Cole Middle School

b. The following students were recognized for being selected to the All-State Field Hockey Teams: Lindsey Buckheit, Tracy Mason, Sarah Testoni, Kayla Santos, Rebecca Cooper, Kate DePietro, Alex Fontaine, Arielle Stopa, Rose Cheng and Stephanie Filardo

c. The following high school Girls' Soccer players were recognized for being selected to the Providence Journal All-State Teams: Cara Nunez, Stephanie DePasquale, Megan Hallworth, Skyler LeBlanc, Megan Greineder, Kristen Oh, and Callie Russo

IV. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Durant made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Winters to approve the June 30, 2009 Regular and Executive Sessions, November 17, Executive Sessions, December 22, Regular and Executive Sessions, January 5 Regular and Executive Sessions and January 12 Regular and Executive Sessions. Mrs. Gifford abstained from voting on the December 22, 2009 minutes as she was absent.

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V. Superintendent's Report

The Superintendent thanked the Finance Committee members and the budget owners for their diligence during the past month during the budget meetings.

Dr. Mercurio stated that high school commencement will be held on June 6, 2010 at the Veteran's Memorial Auditorium at 2:00p.m.

The H1N1 Clinics are complete. The leadership at the state level and the Department of Health did an exceptional job.

The high school early release for mid-term exams was done very well.

VI. Action Items

a. On a motion made by Mrs. Winters and seconded by Mr. Durant, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the Cole Middle School Class Trip to High Meadow in Granby, CT on June 11, 2010

b. ESCO Contract Approval

Jon Winikur, from SBS, stated that Schneider Electric was selected as the provider. He added that the contract was reviewed by our legal counsel and is ready to go. The information will come back to the Committee in approximately 90 days. The funding source is the school bond and the Rhode Island Department of Education is comfortable with the process. Mrs. Gifford had questions about the process with regard to sub-contracting. She asked why we wouldn't do the work ourselves. Mr. Winikur stated the bid doesn't obligate us to do the work. Mr. Wilmarth will provide the School Committee with a full in-depth audit detail. He'll also get an audit from another school district. Mr. Durant made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Winters to approve phase one for the audit. The motion passed with Mrs. Gifford voting no.

c. Appointments: Mrs. Winters made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Martin to approve the following advisors: The motion passed unanimously.

1. Daniel Seger, co-advisor to the Cole Middle School Mock Trial

Team.

2. Katherine Thoreson O'Rourke, co-advisor to Cole Mock Trial Team

d. Leave of Absence

1. Mr. Durant made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Winters to approve a leave of absence of Christina O'Day, Foreign Language Teacher at EGHS from 2-10-10 to approximately March 17, 2010. The motion passed unanimously.

VII. Proposed Budget for FY 2011

1. Outsourcing of Maintenance and Custodial Work

Mr. Durant stated that the School Committee is going through the process of meeting with the budget owners and looking for an opportunity where money can be saved. We are looking at investigating outsourcing the custodian and maintenance work. East Providence has done this. We will be doing the Town of East Greenwich a disservice if we don't look at outsourcing. This is an opportunity to examine any savings and keep the same level of service. We need to reduce the budget by over \$700,000. Mrs. Guliano noted that East Greenwich lost \$92,000 in the Governor's budget on State Aid for next year. There was also mention of outsourcing technology services. We will find out what other communities have done for outsourcing technology services. Mr. Durant noted that the quality of the custodian's work is not the issue, it's completely the cost. Mrs. Gifford stated this isn't the first place she would look for savings. She feels it's a move of desperation. It involves loyal employees and it is low on the list of things to be examined. There will be a meeting next week to examine the issue of

outsourcing. Mr. Martin stated he has a high opinion of our custodians and is very satisfied with their work. Mrs. Winters wants to look at everything for cuts. Mrs. Records stated that outsourcing will be a fiscal decision. Dr. Mercurio would like to see Mr. Egan's research.

2. Bus Monitor Waiver

We spend \$250,000 a year on bus monitors. We can request a waiver from the Commissioner of Education. Mrs. Crawford is working with the bus company.

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VIII. Discussion Items

a. Building Project Update

Mr. Kenneth Romeo spoke about the new middle school activity. He noted that the steel erection will begin the middle of February. We are now seeing some soil issues. New soil will be put in. Mr. Romeo added that there are some concerns from neighbors about vibrations and cracks. An independent firm installed seismic monitoring devices and complete structural analyses. They ran tests on every piece of equipment and it was determined that the equipment shouldn't be enough to cause structural damage. Mr. Winikur and Dr. Mercurio have been pro-active in answering neighbor's complaints. The high school work started the beginning of December, and the foundations are in. The front entry area is being worked on now and in the summer work will begin in the guidance area. We are on schedule.

b. UCOA

The final cross walk needs to be done. February 26th is the deadline.

d. Technology Plan Timeline

The Technology Committee is scheduled to meet to work on a plan to be finished in March/April. They will get a better understanding of the middle school where the epicenter will be housed in the library. Dr. Mercurio asked Mr. Winikur to put him in touch with other superintendents where their districts went from an older middle school to a state-of-the-art middle school. Dr. Mercurio stated the first piece is a whole series of expectations and then develop a document that lists these things with software to support them.

e Technology Advisory Committee

Mrs. Records stated that we want to look at the way other people do things and get their feedback. It is a second set of eyes. Dr. Mercurio would like this to be an opportunity to expand the work we are doing.

f. Assistant Superintendent

Mr. Martin stated that this district had assistant superintendents in the past. He added we are paying a consultant now to do curriculum work and she agrees we need an assistant superintendent. We are not creating a new position, just bringing back an old position. We can look into this down the line.

g. Aramark Contract

Attorney Oliverio, Mrs. Crawford and Dr. Mercurio attended a meeting with Aramark at RIDE to speak about the deficit that had occurred. The vendor represented that they would guarantee a surplus. The

contract language contains some ambiguity. Aramark said they would issue a grant over the next four years. We still wanted to have our \$5,000 surplus. Mr. Oliverio drafted an addendum then received their version of an addendum. Mrs. Crawford stated the district is happy with Aramark's services and this really is a fiscal issue. Mrs. Guliano stated that there will not be a deficit.

IX. School Committee Concerns

A recommendation for the evaluations of coaches, non-teachers should be the work of the Personnel Subcommittee. Mr. Cobain, the Athletic Director, is getting us some information on the coaching evaluations.

The football coach position closes on February 5th.

X. On a motion made by Mr. Durant and seconded by Mrs. Winters, the Committee voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:55p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia Giuliani