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East Greenwich School Committee

Tuesday, March 2, 2010

Hanaford School

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 7:40 p.m. by Chair, Jean Ann Guliano. Those in attendance were: Jean Ann Guliano, Chair, Anne Palumbo, Vice-Chair, Paul Martin, Deidre Gifford, 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.

I. The meeting commenced with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag Mrs. Guliano announced the vote taken in Executive Session that Mrs. Palumbo made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Martin to approve the agreement with the custodian and maintenance union. Mr. Martin, Mrs. Palumbo and Mrs. Gifford voted yes, Mrs. Guliano, Mrs. Winters and Mr. Durant voted no, and Mrs. Records abstained. The motion did not pass.

II. Public Comments

Mrs. Ellise Wolff, 100 Phillips Road, the Family and Consumer Science Teacher, handed out items that her students made in her classes. She noted that her classes are made up of students with

various aptitudes. She also noted that parents know the program stands on its own merit. Mrs. Wolff stated that their academic skills are reinforced by assignments, and community service is emphasized. She is partnering with Aramark for a \$1600 grant that is being incorporated into the curriculum. Mrs. Wolff stated that her students look forward to coming to class.

III. Recognitions

a. National Merit Finalists for EGHS: Brian Neaves, Scott Neaves and Alexander Rickert. Alexander is the Valedictorian and Scott is the Salutatorian for the Class of 2010.

b. Theodore Palumbo was recognized for being selected as RI's top high school youth volunteer in the 2010 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards Program

IV. Approval of Minutes

On a motion made by Mr. Durant and seconded by Mrs. Winters, the Committee voted to approve the minutes of the February 23, 2010 Executive and Regular Session with changes in several areas. Mr. Martin abstained. He also feels that the names of teachers who received suspensions and non-renewals of their contracts should be included in the minutes. Mrs. Guliano stated that the names of these teachers weren't made public. Attorney Oliverio stated that the names don't have to be discussed since they weren't part of the agenda. He added that they were laid off under State Statute. Mr. Durant stated the names aren't made public because many of these teachers will be recalled. Mr. Oliverio noted that he will research whether the names should be placed on the agenda and in the

minutes in the future. Mr. Martin also had many questions on the notes taken by the secretary on the fields project update, and wanted more clarification.

V. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Mercurio stated that the Meadowbrook Farms Principal Search Committee is looking to extend the first round of interviews to include two more candidates on March 3rd. Mr. Maresca, the Interim Principal, will stay on until March 31st. The Superintendent noted that we will continue to explore our options if we need to extend the interim principal for the next few months until school ends.

Dr. Mercurio stated that the school department is looking to see where they can revise the proposed cuts to restore the programs for kids. They are also looking at how to use money from Title II and the middle school transition. Dr. Mercurio stated that maintenance of effort has a lot of interpretations, and no one knows exactly what the requirement means. He added that we will look at the school department's ability to deliver a full comprehensive program to meet our student's needs. The Basic Education Program (BEP) which takes effect July 1st, 2010 doesn't specifically talk about personnel, it is more rigorous to make sure students have opportunities.

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Mrs. Gifford feels we aren't in a position to approve a budget on March 9th. Mrs. Gifford would like to know if there are any course offerings at the high school that are going to be cut and how many sections of French will be cut.

VI. Action Items

a. Resignation

1. Mr. Durant made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Palumbo to accept the resignation of Kimberly Ives McQuade, Paraprofessional at Cole Middle School, effective February 26, 2010. The motion passed unanimously.

b. Grant through the Bureau of International and Cultural Affairs to finance a reciprocal athletic exchange between EGHS Athletes and the Costa Rican Sports Federation. Mr. Craig MacKenzie, Spanish Teacher at East Greenwich High School, asked for permission to have this reciprocal exchange. Mr. MacKenzie stated that he enlisted the help of the Institute of International Sports at URI and they gave permission to use them as an umbrella organization. Mr. Martin feels it is an important project but if Mr. MacKenzie becomes ill, no one else will be there to take over this project. On a question by a School Committee member, Mr. MacKenzie stated that students will be offered housing with families both here and in Costa Rica. Mr. Durant made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Winters to approve this exchange. The motion passed unanimously.

c. Permission for high school teacher to participate in Aspiring Principals Program

Mr. MacKenzie stated that he would like to pursue his administrative certificate and the Principal's Residency Network offers this opportunity. He stated that Jeannine Nota will be his mentor. Mr. MacKenzie noted that there is no released time involved and no cost to the school district. Mrs. Palumbo made a motion which was

seconded by Mr. Martin to approve this participation. The motion passed unanimously.

d. First Reading of EGHS Program of Studies for 2010-2011

Dr. Mercurio stated that there are few if any revisions to this document. It was suggested that this first reading be tabled, but no vote was taken to do so. Mrs. Records feels that all offerings are for students going to college. Dr. Mercurio stated that the Board of Regents requires that all students have the opportunity to be college bound. He also stated that the high school is thinking about piloting an open period to relieve stress on students. Mrs. Gifford would like more information on the Way to go RI website. She would also like to speak about the computer education issue. Dr. Mercurio stated that there has to be a technology requirement. He also stated that we can explore options outside of the high school. Mrs. Gifford would like some of these options in the Program of Studies. Mr. Martin would like to have the pages numbered.

VII. Discussion Items

a. Building Projects Update

Mr. Jon Winikur and Mr. Ken Romeo were present at the meeting to give their monthly update on the building projects. Mr. Romeo stated that the steel has been going up for a month and the work is moving rapidly. He added that the underground utilities work is progressing. He gave amounts for the work which are as follows: \$20,000 to \$60,000 for the steel work; \$75,000 for the platforms; \$10,000-\$15,000 for utilities and the work is on target. Mr. Winikur noted that an independent firm has been hired and they have seismic monitoring

on site to answer some neighbor complaints. They're continuing the evaluation of homes of the abutters. Mr. Romeo stated that the work at the high school is moving along quickly. Because of the amount of rain, two catch basins overflowed but they dried out quickly. At Meadowbrook Farms School, data collection points are set up in areas of the building. SGH was hired as an expert to monitor the moisture situation. It may cost up to \$2.5 to \$3 million to deal with the work at Meadowbrook Farms School. Mr. Romeo stated that ESCO Energy Services has been on site in the schools for the past several weeks. They are bringing in specialists to look at the windows, glazing and roofs. We are probably two months away from having a list of findings. Mrs. Guliano stated that we want to wrap up the warrant article work by June.

b. Fields Project Update-Dr. Mercurio stated that the Town Council voted 4 to 1 to approve the gates, and the minutes from that meeting will be forwarded to Mr. Ernie DiSaia.

c. FY 2010 Budget- this was addressed under the Superintendent's Report.

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c. Review of RFP for custodial and maintenance outsourcing

Mrs. Guliano stated that the Committee took a vote in Executive Session and the contract didn't pass. That motion is referenced

above. She stated that some Committee members want to put out an RFP to have an idea of their options. She noted this is a difficult year and she needs the information. Mrs. Guliano noted that going out for an RFP is in no way linked to contract negotiations. She feels it is too soon to move forward with contract acceptance. Mr. Martin noted that it was a close vote and who knows what may change next time. Mrs. Crawford stated that the RFP is in draft for and there are a number of timetables that need to be met. She also stated that the union was notified and they will be able to review the RFP. Mrs. Crawford stated that once we have a pre-bid conference, we'll rush the process along. Mr. Jerry Egan stated that he received a letter from Mrs. Crawford but he has concerns the bids would be ready in 90 days. Mr. Egan also stated that the union voted to ratify the tentative agreement. Mr. Egan will be corresponding with Attorney Oliverio. Both Mr. Durant and Mrs. Records noted that they need to look at everything and right now they don't have enough information to make a recommendation. Mr. Durant made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Winters to allow Mrs. Crawford to proceed with the RFP process. Mr. Durant, Mrs. Winters, Mrs. Records and Mrs. Guliano voted yes, Mrs. Gifford, Mrs. Palumbo and Mr. Martin voted no. The motion passed.

VIII. School Committee Concerns

Mrs. Guliano stated that the Team Leadership Consortium would like to do a presentation to the School

Committee at an upcoming meeting. She will find a suitable time to have this presentation.

IX. On a motion made by Mrs. Winters and seconded by Mr. Durant, the Committee voted unanimously to adjourn at 9:35p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia Giuliani