

East Greenwich School Committee

Tuesday, September 7, 2010

George R. Hanaford

200 Middle Road

East Greenwich, RI 02818

ANY ITEMS ON THE AGENDA MAY BE SUBJECT TO A VOTE

7:04p.m. Regular Session

I. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

September 7, 2010 School Committee meeting was held at the George R. Hanaford School. The meeting commenced with the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. Vice-chair Anne Palumbo called the meeting to order at 7:04 P.M. Those present were Jean Ann Guliano, Vice-chair, Anne Palumbo; Susan Records; Robert Durant; Mary Ellen Winters; Deidre Gifford and Paul Martin as well as Dr. Victor Mercurio, Superintendent of Schools and Paula Dillon, Director of Pupil Services.

II. Discussion Items –

a. Building Committee Report- Mr. John Winikur, of Strategic Building Solutions introduced Mr. Paul Shiner of Simpson Gumpertz & Hager. Mr. Shiner proceeded to give a presentation about SGH and their evaluation of Meadowbrook Farms' moisture and humidity problems. He stated that SGH employs 400 people on both the East and West

Coasts. He gave examples of SGH's experience monitoring moisture in flooring. Included in his examples was the repairing of the E.G. High School gym floor. They conduct approximately 50 flooring problems a year. Mr. Shiner has been studying the moisture problem at Meadowbrook Farms from November 2009 to June 2010. He stated that there is deterioration of the flooring system currently installed in Meadowbrook Farms School. There is excessive condensation from concrete humidity, from ceiling vents, and from doors and windows. He would recommend removal of floor system and vent tubes.

Mr. Winikur stated that the cost would be \$3 million to address each of the items presented by SGH.

Mr. Durant asked what the life expectancy of the building is.

Mr. Winkur stated that Meadowbrook Farms is a structural sound building that is 30 years old and could be usable for another 30 years.

Mr. Durant asked if there was a health risk to students and staff.

Mr. Winikur stated that he was not qualified to answer.

Mr. Martin asked if the \$3 million would be a bond issue. Mr. Winikur stated that the bond has already been approved for 1 million. However, realignment of 2 million would need to be approved by

School Committee, Town Council and RIDE and that would come out of the \$8 million saved.

Mr. Durant stated that his concern was that he did not want another Cole. He said that \$20,000.00 a year for maintenance to Meadowbrook Farms moisture problems for 40 years equals out to \$800,000.00. Perhaps the money could be spent on another project or returned to the town for a savings to the taxpayers.

Mr. Winikur stated that the system in place currently at Meadowbrook Farms is failing and that he felt that the 3 million would be a valuable investment.

Mr. Durant questioned if 3 million was an estimate.

Mr. Winikur explained that 3 million would be for everything that was discussed. SGH has a lot of experience with this problem. The last company hired to repair the flooring system did not have this experience.

Mr. Winikur stated that the building committee addressed the roofs of the different schools. The cost is \$405,000.00 for High School over administration and library areas, ¼ million for Frenchtown, and \$826,000.00 for Meadowbrook Farms. The Ribbon Cutting at the high school was excellent.

III. Public Comments – Lou Lepry compared the School Committee

members to any other board of a large corporation by saying that they have a responsibility to fill the board with experienced members.

He stated that the School Committee had a teacher on the committee and should consider Mr. Paul Martin as the next vice-chair.

IV. Action Items –

a. School Committee Chair Election

Vice-Chair, Ann Palumbo recognized Jean Ann Guliano's achievements as chairperson. We have a new athletic field complex, high school renovations to the front entrance, and soon a new middle school. "Jean Ann we would like to thank you for all your hard work and you are respected for all your efforts."

On a motion made by Mrs. Guiliano and seconded by Mr. Durant the Committee voted unanimously to approve the appointment of Dr. Deidre Gifford as School Committee Chair.

Mr. Martin stated that before a new vice-chair could be appointed, Mrs. Palumbo would need to submit a written resignation.

b. Appointments –

On a motion made by Mr. Martin and seconded by Mr. Durant the Committee

voted unanimously to approve the following appointments:

- 1. Mary Ellen Flanagan, Special Education Department Head for Cole Middle and EG High School, Effective August 30, 2010.**
- 2. Christine DiMeglio, Secretary to the Superintendent**

- 3. Caitlin Coulombe, Grade 6 Teacher at Hanaford School, effective, August 30, 2010**
- 4. Colleen Dunn-O'Brien, Self-Contained Teacher at Frenchtown School, effective August 30, 2010**
- 5. Jill Parker, .4 ABA Paraprofessional at Meadowbrook School, effective August 30, 2010**
- 6. Anna Dufresne, Paraprofessional, one-year only at Frenchtown School, effective August 30, 2010**
- 7. Laura Aulenbach and Elizabeth Sanfilippo, Job Sharing, Social Studies, one-year only at EG High School, effective August 30, 2010.**

b. Resignation

- 1. On a motion made by Mr. Durant and seconded by Mrs. Winters to**
approved the resignation of Ashley Richer, Special Education Teacher at
Cole Middle School. The motion passed unanimously.

c. Home School Request On a motion made by Mr. Durant and seconded by

Mr. Martin to approve the home school requests for a High School Student

Grade 10, for a High School Student Grade 11, for a Cole Middle School

Student grade 7, and for an Elementary School Student Grade 4.
The motion

passed unanimously.

d. Advisory Committee Policy (second read)

A motion made by Mr. Durant and seconded by Mr. Martin to table any action on the Advisory Committee Policy. The motion passed unanimously.

V. Approval of School Committee Minutes-

On a motion made by Mr. Martin and seconded by Mrs. Palumbo to approve the minutes of Executive Session, August 2, 2010 and Regular and Executive Sessions of August 17, 2010 (with Mr. Durant and Mrs. Guliano abstaining due to their absence on August 17). (two minor changes on page 2 of the Executive Session minutes of August 17). "Change dollar figure from 1 million to \$100,000.00. and the word arbitration to mediation." The motion passed with the abstention of Mr. Durant and Mrs. Guliano.

VI. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Mercurio stated that the opening of schools went very well. The open house dates can be found on the website. Mrs. Crawford and I are addressing some transportation issues. A Race to the Top orientation meeting is scheduled, and I will report to the Committee at our next meeting.

Mr. Martin stated that even though this was Dr. Mercurio's first year as Superintendent, he was very impressed that he visited each of the six schools on opening day.

VI. Discussion Items (resumed)

a. UCOA Update

Dr. Mercurio stated that we are fully converted. The first payroll for the new

academic year went very smoothly. I would like to thank Tammy Walsh, Maryanne

Crawford, Kristin Benoit, Kathy Raposa, and Wendy Schmidle.

b. Technology Update

Dr. Mercurio stated that he met with Dave Hemendinger of Lifespan and Tom

Thibodeau of New England Tech. last Friday. We discussed a variety of

things regarding technology. "I must be honest a lot of their advanced

technology went right over my head." Both gentlemen are willing commit to

hours of their time. They will return next Friday to meet with our technology personnel.

Mrs. Records stated that it was a great meeting. Mr. Thibodeau and Mr.

Hemendinger will walk through our six schools to see firsthand how they can make suggestions to streamline our technology.

c. Fields Project Update

Dr. Mercurio stated that he attended the Injury Fund Football game on Saturday and it was wonderful to be on our campus, on our fields. Everything was great—the press box, the score board, the lights, and the great view from the seats. It is a great athletic complex.

VIII. School Committee Concerns

a. Mr. Martin would like to discuss at the next School Committee meeting the

dedication of the new baseball field in honor of Mr. Arthur Kershaw, former

high school football and baseball coach. Also, he would like to discuss the

dedication of a walkway between the fields in honor of Lou Lepry --“Lepry Lane.”

b. Mrs. Winters suggested that they could rededicate the fields and have tours of

the fields and high school at homecoming on October 23. She would also

like to inform the public on the opening and closing times of the fields and

track. She announced that the crash gates are up.

Dr. Mercurio stated that he will set up a meeting with Mr. Sequino next week.

IX. Adjournment

On a motion made by Mr. Martin and seconded by Mrs. Palumbo, the Committee voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:15 P.M.

Secretary,

Margaret M. Ucci