

Minutes of the East Greenwich School Committee

Tuesday, March 8, 2011

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 in the Hanaford School Cafeteria at 7:00p.m. by School Committee Chair Dr. Deidre Gifford. Those in attendance were Mr. Robert Durant, Vice-Chair; Mrs. Mary Ellen Winters; Mr. Jack Sommer (arrived 7:05p.m.); Mr. David Green, and Mrs. Susan Records. Mr. Paul Martin was absent. Superintendent Dr. Victor Mercurio; Director of Administration Mrs. Maryanne Crawford, and Director of Student Services Paula Dillon were also present.

7:10p.m.Regular meeting

I. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

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

II. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

III. Approval of Minutes

a. Regular and Executive minutes for 2/15/11

On a motion by Mr. Green which was seconded by Mrs. Winters, the

regular and executive minutes for February 15, 2011 were unanimously approved (6-0).

IV. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Mercurio thanked Dr. Tim Warren for his presentation at Cole today discussing his expeditions to Mt. Everest in 2007 and 2008. Dr. Mercurio said the students at Cole were mesmerized by the presentation. School Committee member Mr. Green also attended the presentation. The first round of EGHS Principal interviews are scheduled for next week. The screening committee will meet prior to the interviewing process to review the newly adopted administrator hiring policy. A candidate will be presented to the School Committee by the April 5, 2011 deadline. The public forum held last week to discuss the EGHS Principal position was sparsely attended. Survey Works (revised SALT survey) will be available online or by SMART phone. Dr. Mercurio will send out an alert now and paper message to parents. The NEASC visit will take place April 10-13, 2011 with Dr. Higgins as Chair. He is an experienced educator and was a former Principal in Branford, Connecticut before retiring. He is currently employed as an Adjunct Professor at Quinnipiac College in Connecticut. He will be meeting with Mr. Gray this week to review logistics. Dr. Higgins plans to meet with School Committee members on Sunday, April 10, 2011 before the reception in the EGHS library. He will also meet with School Committee at the end of the visit on April 13, 2011 to review final comments. More details will follow via an email to School Committee members.

V. Action Items

a. Re-appointment of Spring Coaches (except Matthew Records)

On a motion by Mrs. Records which was seconded by Mrs. Winters, the Committee unanimously approved all re-appointments (6-0).

b. Re-appointment of Matthew Records

On a motion by Mr. Durant which was seconded by Mrs. Winters, the Committee unanimously approved the re-appointment (5-0) with Mrs. Records abstaining.

c. Appointment of new spring coaches- Kathryn Warrington and Kyle Mushaweh

On a motion by Mr. Durant which was seconded by Mrs. Winters, the Committee unanimously approved the appointments (6-0).

d. Budget 2012

Mrs. Crawford discussed the proposed revenue with adjustments noting \$24,000 in “miscellaneous revenue” received from E-Rate based on land lines, internet, and 40% reimbursement. The district funds these expenses and then submits for reimbursement. The proposed budget equals \$33,038,353.00 which is an increase of about 3.86% with approximately a 3.9% increase in local revenue. There are still many unknowns including state aid and the funding formula. The state aid is budgeted at \$1,275,563.00 but may be \$1.4 million, which will reduce the local share. There are fourteen possible teacher retirements at this time. To date, two teachers will retire, two have been found ineligible, and two decided not to retire. The teachers have until April 15, 2011 to notify the district of their decision. We will have a definite number before the town adopts the budget. Mr. Durant questioned the dollars related to salary and step increases.

Mrs. Crawford noted the amount is \$527,000. Teacher retirement is approximately \$287,000 with the pension increase included. \$109,000 is for health insurance which reflects a 3% increase with \$261,000 for additional staff. Mr. Sommer questioned where the savings are which will offset the additional staff increases. He noted the budget increase is \$1.2 million and the figures noted total approximately \$923,000. He asked what line items equal the balance of \$100,000. Mrs. Crawford said some budgets went up slightly overall, but the athletic budget represents the largest increase.

Mrs. Winters questioned the rental fees which include the ice rink, swimming pool, and Armory storage area totaling \$23,000. Dr. Gifford asked if there are any changes in staffing compared to what was previously presented. Mrs. Crawford stated the district decided not to hire another technology staff member, reduced the behavior specialist position at the high school from a 1.0 FTE to .5 FTE, and reduced the reading position at the high school from 1.0 FTE to .5FTE. An additional teacher will be hired for Frenchtown and 1.3 additional itinerants will be needed throughout the district as previously presented. Dr. Gifford asked if central office recommendations are part of this budget. Dr. Mercurio noted they are not and would have to be approved by the Committee, but will be budget neutral.

Mr. Sommer questioned whether a resource officer could be hired. Dr. Mercurio stated it has been discussed, but there are too many

questions regarding state aid at this point. Mr. Sommer asked if there is flexibility in this budget and Mrs. Crawford noted there is flexibility. There was discussion regarding utilization of instruction and the sharing of itinerants due to the new Cole. The Committee also discussed the new teacher evaluation system and the dollars needed to support PD for teachers and evaluators. Dr. Mercurio noted funds will be available through "Race to the Top" dollars and through district funds. Mrs. Dillon stated there is also \$180,000 budgeted for PD and additional funds may be rolled over from the CRP grant, but we will not know until May. Dr. Gifford asked Dr. Mercurio to speak with Maryann Snider from RIDE to get a projected cost of funds needed. Mr. Green questioned the time table and the many unknowns with funding. Mrs. Dillon and Dr. Mercurio noted that funding for the upcoming year is all set, it is year two and four of the grant which may be difficult.

Dr. Gifford asked whether an enrichment program was included in the budget. Dr. Mercurio noted it was not included, but discussed the blocks of time that are designated for remediation and enrichment. He added that enrichment is taking place, but not on an individual basis and not supported by a designated staff member. He also added that the school configuration (grade levels) needs to be reviewed by September 1, 2011 for the 2012 school year. Mr. Durant noted that an RFQ for an enrichment program was done in the past, but no one responded. Dr. Mercurio said individual enrichment programs are not part of the BEP which is why many districts eliminated them. Mrs.

Dillon discussed the use of instructional coaches which are being used by many districts. They have a skills block and use a coach to accelerate learning- similar to what's being done in Title I Math, but for all students. Mr. Durant would like the district to look into other communities and Massachusetts to see what they're doing. Dr. Mercurio will ask Principals Giusti and Uhrin to look into this. Mrs. Dillon noted a full time person could be hired and split equally between Hanaford and Eldredge. Mr. Durant asked if it's best to start with grades 4 & 5 and then move to grade 3 depending on the school configuration. Dr. Mercurio and Mrs. Dillon will look at the data to see the needs. Mrs. Dillon noted the coach would need to be an experienced individual with a master's degree in reading as a base line credential. The instructor would coach numeracy and literacy. It was decided that \$70,000 will be allocated for this position. Mr. Green noted the importance of enrichment, but had questions whether this should be going on in the classroom anyway. On a motion by Mr. Durant which was seconded by Mrs. Winters, the Committee voted unanimously (6-0) to approve the presented 2012 budget of \$33,038,353.00 with all the proposed revenue and adjustments as provided to the Committee.

VI. Discussion Items

a. Middle School Transition

Mrs. Meyer stated that packing bins arrived on Monday. Yesterday the faculty met with Mr. Nettik, Mr. Wilmarth, and Mr. Sullivan of SBS to discuss packing, labeling, and software. Work orders need to be initiated for current software. The traffic pattern was reviewed with

Dr. Mercurio, EG Police and Ocean State Transit. In the morning, teachers will be asked to park in the back of the building as buses will drop off in front of Cole on Cedar Avenue. Parents will be asked not to pick up students until 2:15p.m. The traffic pattern will switch in the afternoon with buses picking up in the back. This traffic plan is short term-approximately two months. The moving committee has compiled a teacher checklist for transition and students have generated questions through their advisory class. A FAQ (frequently asked questions) form will be distributed to students the Thursday before vacation. SBS will provide a fly-through presentation for students and a parent session will be scheduled for April 7th which will also include a discussion of the traffic pattern. The first day at the new Cole will be the equivalent to the first day of school. Students will be broken up by grade level- reporting to either the gym or the cafeteria. Balloons will alert students to their homeroom and homeroom will be extended to the first two periods. During this time, students will get locker assignments and tour the building with SBS. Principals will also meet with students to review expectations. A silent fire drill will take place on the first day with a real drill taking place the following day. Mrs. Meyer would like to publicly thank SBS staff members who have been wonderful partners throughout this process. She feels well-equipped and ready to go. Dr. Mercurio noted Mrs. Meyer's attention to detail including planning for traffic on the stairwells. The target date for technology installation is April 15, 2011. Next Monday teachers will have one hour dedicated to packing with help from National Honor Society students, PTG parents, and

students who need community hours. It was noted that a reception for the community will take place in the future. The next Building Committee meeting is scheduled for March 15, 2011 in the library at Hanaford at 5:30p.m.

VII. School Committee Concerns

Since the proposed budget was approved tonight, the School Committee canceled meeting that was scheduled for March 15, 2011. The next scheduled meeting is April 5, 2011 at Hanaford School. The fund balance will also be discussed at this meeting.

IX. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Green which was seconded by Mrs. Winters, the Committee voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:29p.m.

CHRISTINE DIMEGLIO

SECRETARY