

**Minutes of the East Greenwich School Committee**

**Tuesday, June 28, 2011**

**Archie Cole Middle School Cafetorium**

**100 Cedar Avenue**

**East Greenwich, RI 02818**

**ANY ITEMS ON THE AGENDA MAY BE SUBJECT TO A VOTE**

**6:08p.m. Mrs. Winters made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Martin to go into Executive Session under RIGL 42-66-5(a) (1) (2) Discussion of request under Article 12.3 of the Custodial/Maintenance Association and 42-46-5(a) (9) Collective Bargaining Grievance-Custodial**

**On a motion by Mr. Durant, which was seconded by Mr. Martin, the Committee unanimously (6-0) voted to adjourn at 7:20p.m. Mr. Green then made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Winters to seal the minutes of the executive session. The motion passed unanimously (6-0).**

**Meeting reconvened in Open Session at 7:23p.m.**

**The regular session of the East Greenwich School Committee was called to order in the Cafetorium of the Archie Cole Middle School at 7:23p.m. by Chair, Dr. Deidre Gifford. Those in attendance were: Mr.**

**Robert Durant, Vice Chair; Mrs. Susan Records; Mrs. Mary Ellen Winters; Mr. Paul Martin, and Mr. David Green. Mr. Jack Sommer was absent. Also in attendance were Superintendent Dr. Victor Mercurio and Director of Administration Mrs. Maryanne Crawford.**

#### **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 for 6/7/11**

**On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Mr. Durant, the Committee voted 4-0 (with Dr. Gifford and Mr. Martin abstaining) to approve the regular and executive minutes for 6/7/11.**

##### **b. Executive for 6/14/11**

**Mr. Durant made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Winters to approve the executive minutes of 6/14/11. Mr. Green stated he would like one revision before approval. The Committee voted (6-0) not to approve the minutes until the revision is made.**

#### **IV. Superintendent's Report**

**Dr. Mercurio noted the posting for the Hanaford Principal is still on School Spring.com and will close on July 1, 2011. He would like a School Committee volunteer for the screening committee which will meet towards the end of July. Mrs. Crawford gave the Committee three examples (Exhibit A, B, and C) of financial reports which are available. Exhibit A was a detailed and lengthy "budget to actual"**

report. Exhibit B is under the old structure and is less detailed. Exhibit C is in the middle of A and B. Dr. Gifford noted Mr. Sommer prefers Exhibit B and Mr. Durant stated he prefers Exhibit C. Mr. Green would like to meet with Mrs. Crawford to offer guidance and develop a financial report specifically for the Committee. Dr. Gifford would like the report to include a graph that compares the current budget year with the previous year detailing variances. Mrs. Crawford also presented a revenue report and WB Community Health report. Mrs. Crawford discussed the revenue sources and anticipates a \$200,000-\$250,000 surplus. \$50,000 extra revenue was attributed to the aviation program. The Hanaford Trust was under budget, but with increased interest rates, revenue is anticipated. There will be a shortfall in the Medicaid fund of approximately \$325,000. There were increases in out- of- district tuitions for January and March. Overall, the district had a good year with WB Community Health claims with the exception of May which ran a \$20,000 deficit with claims exceeding the premium.

## **V. Action Items**

### **a. Home School Approval for 2011-2012 – Grade 9**

Mr. Durant made a motion to approve the request and Mrs. Winters seconded the motion. However, both members would like to discuss the request before a final vote. Dr. Gifford noted this request is of concern and wants to be sure the issue is addressed. This item cannot be discussed publicly during open session and needs further discussion. On a motion by Mr. Durant, the Committee unanimously (6-0) agreed to vote against his previous motion.

## **b. Fund Balance Policy- Second Read and Adoption**

Revisions were made to #5 of the policy in regards to the percentage and the word “aim” was added. On a motion by Mr. Green, which was seconded by Mrs. Records, the Committee voted unanimously (6-0) to approve the second read and adopt the policy.

## **c. Re-appointment- Fall Coaches**

Mr. Martin made a motion to approve the re-appointment of fall coaches. Mr. Durant seconded the motion. Dr. Gifford stated she would like the back-up documentation regarding each applicant’s certification and qualification. Mr. Martin questioned why since these appointments are re-appointments and not new appointments. Mrs. Records also asked for specifics. Dr. Gifford stated there are a number of new requirements around concussion mandates, RIDE, and School Committee policies. Dr. Mercurio recommended the Committee table this re-appointment. Mr. Green would like a brief one page matrix documenting the certifications, qualifications, and any other pertinent items needed for coaches before appointments and reappointments are made. Mrs. Winters would also like a listing of all volunteers in each sport and noted Mr. Cobain should have this information. Mrs. Winters added that R.I.I.L. is now asking for volunteer certification. The motion to approve the re-appointment of coaches did not pass (3-3). Mr. Durant, Mr. Martin, and Mrs. Records approved, while Dr. Gifford, Mr. Green, and Mrs. Winters did not approve the motion. The Committee would like a matrix consistent with R.I.I.L. directives available for the July 12, 2011 meeting and would also like the listing of volunteer coaches.

#### **d. Contract-EGHS Principal**

**Dr. Mercurio emailed School Committee members the recommended contract for the EGHS Principal and included R.I.A.S.C. data which details salary and vacation information from other high schools in the state. On a motion by Mr. Durant, which was seconded by Mr. Martin, the Committee unanimously (6-0) approved the Contract for EGHS Principal Mr. Michael Podraza with the salary adjustment and vacation adjustment as recommended in Dr. Mercurio's email. Mr. Durant thanked Dr. Mercurio for the data.**

#### **VI. Discussion Items**

##### **a. Field Dug-Out discussion**

**Dr. Mercurio reported the Fields' Committee has been meeting per the charge of the Town Council and School Committee. At their March 24th meeting, The Diamond Baseball Club presented a proposal to construct dug-outs. Mr. John Mahoney, of The Diamond Baseball Club, was present tonight to explain the dug-out proposal. The idea of constructing dug-outs came from parents who saw a need based on weather, safety, privacy, and game delays. The group would like to lengthen the pad, create a storage area, and construct a dug-out. The group was given estimates of \$18,000-\$21,000 per dug-out. Mr. Mahoney discussed dug-outs that were built by a parent group in Arizona and gave the Committee pictures. The group believes they can construct each dug-out for \$4,000-\$5000. So far The Diamond Baseball Club has raised \$2500 through one fundraiser. The boys' varsity team will have the first dug-out constructed because they have a greater need (being further away from the building) and also**

because their parents initiated the plan. The timeline for completion is November 1, 2011. Mr. Green questioned liability insurance and Mr. Durant noted a separate policy can be purchased. Mr. Mahoney is looking for School Committee approval to move forward. Dr. Gifford thanked him for his efforts and noted funds may be available from the town using impact fees. She would like Mr. Mahoney's group to reconvene with the Fields' Committee in July to finalize a plan. The Fields' Committee can then bring a recommendation to the School Committee for approval at the August 16, 2011 meeting.

#### **b.. Subcommittees**

Mr. Martin gave the Committee a handout of suggested subcommittees with possible members. He discussed the background of subcommittees explaining their purpose. He stated subcommittees should be made up of only School Committee members, with no more than three members on a subcommittee. Mr. Martin noted the specific subcommittee would review presentations/proposals and present a recommendation to the entire School Committee. Dr. Mercurio cautioned the Committee because some matters need to come before the entire School Committee due to state statute and mandatory vote by the entire committee.

#### **c. Fields' MOU**

Dr. Mercurio gave the Committee a copy of the revised MOU via email with red-lined items noted for deletion. The document was discussed looking at school and town responsibilities. Water usage was discussed in length. Mrs. Winters questioned whether the district is paying to water the grass at schools that only use the fields for

physical education. Dr. Mercurio asked Mr. Cobain who said the district is paying. Mrs. Winters also questioned passing on fees to user groups who use the fields. The Committee agreed the MOU still needs further revisions and clarification delineating town and school responsibilities.

## **VII. School Committee Concerns**

Mr. Martin asked if the July 12th and August 16 School Committee meetings could take place in the East Greenwich Police Station community room which is air conditioned and available. The Committee agreed to use the community room for the July 12 and August 16 meetings. Mr. Martin would like the Committee to recognize teachers who have “good attendance.” Mrs. Crawford will provide attendance data at a future meeting. Mr. Martin would like the item, “School Committee Concerns” moved up on the agenda after the “Superintendent’s Report” to allow for additional discussion time.

Dr. Gifford noted she prefers it at the end because additional items may develop during the course of the evening, but agreed to move the item. Dr. Mercurio will speak with Mr. Winakur regarding the air system at Cole. It is not fully completed and should be finished by the end of July. Mr. Green would like a snapshot of the Cole project including pending/completed items. Dr. Mercurio stated Mr. Winakur proposed a meeting on July 11th and this date needs to be confirmed.

The Committee would like an update on the 2011-2012 choral program.

## **VIII. Adjournment**

On a motion by Mr. Martin, which was seconded by Mr. Durant, the

**Committee voted (6-0) to adjourn at 9:11p.m.**

**CHRISTINE DIMEGLIO**

**SECRETARY**