

Minutes of the East Greenwich School Committee

Tuesday, August 16, 2011

East Greenwich Police Station Community Room

176 First Avenue

East Greenwich, RI 02818

ANY ITEMS ON THE AGENDA MAY BE SUBJECT TO A VOTE

6:02p.m. Mr. Green made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Winters to go into executive session RIGL 42-46-5 (a) (8) Collective Bargaining-Paraprofessional Contract, 42-46-5 (a) (2) Fields' Litigation, and 42-46-5 (a) (1)-Personnel-Contract renewal for Director of Student Services and Contract for Hanaford Principal. The motion was unanimous (5-0).

Those in attendance were: Dr. Deidre Gifford, Chair; Mr. Robert Durant, Vice-Chair; Mr. David Green; Mrs. Mary Ellen Winters, and Mr. Jack Sommer. Mrs. Susan Records and Mr. Paul Martin were absent. Also in attendance were Superintendent Dr. Victor Mercurio, Director of Administration Mrs. Maryanne Crawford, and Director of Student Services Paula Dillon.

7:00p.m. Regular Meeting

I. Call to order

The regular session of the East Greenwich School Committee was

called to order in the Community Room of the East Greenwich Police Station at 7:00p.m. by Chair, Dr. Deidre Gifford.

II. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

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

III. Public Comments

There were no comments.

IV. Approval of Minutes

a. Regular and Executive for 7/12/11

b. Executive for 7/19/11

c. Regular and Executive for 8/2/11

On a motion by Mr. Green, which was seconded by Mrs. Winters, the Committee voted 4-0 to approve the regular and executive minutes of 7/12/11 and 8/2/11, and the executive minutes of 7/19/11. Mr. Durant abstained.

V. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Mercurio discussed the progress of the new district website and noted it is approximately ten days from complete promulgation. The Technology Advisory Committee will meet next week to discuss the job description of the Technology Director. Suggested job description revisions will be available at the next School Committee meeting. The Committee will look at the amount of time spent in the area of data management. Interim RINET retirees were hired to complete RIDE reports and perform the school data base rollover to the upcoming school year. Mr. Frank Leary will hold a professional development session for administrators next week at New England Institute of Technology. Dr. Lukon, the superintendent of Jamestown, is

studying the possibility of sending Jamestown students to East Greenwich in 2012. She is studying test scores and course offerings at East Greenwich. A site visit will be planned for the fall. The Cole ribbon cutting ceremony will take place on Tuesday, September 6, 2011 at 4:00p.m. Email invitations were sent out to local and state officials, RIDE officials, and community members. Dr. Gifford questioned whether there are any Archie Cole descendants and if so they should be invited. She also asked that retired faculty including Mr. Militello be invited.

VI. School Committee Concerns

Mrs. Winters asked if the .5FTE choral position has been posted. Dr. Mercurio noted it was posted on School Spring today and closes on August 26, 2011.

VII. Action Items

a. Appointments

1. Hanaford Principal

There were forty applicants for the position. The list was narrowed and six applicants were interviewed with two finalists emerging. Mrs. Beth Cauley is the recommended candidate. Mr. Durant was on the interview committee and stated he was very impressed with Mrs. Cauley's energy, accomplishments, and added she embodies what East Greenwich is looking for. On a motion by Mr. Durant, which was seconded by Mr. Green, the Committee voted 5-0 to appoint Mrs. Beth Cauley as the Hanaford Principal.

2. East Greenwich High School General Science/Biology Teacher 1.0 FTE

On a motion by Mr. Durant, which was seconded by Mr. Sommer, the Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to appoint Mr. James Mire.

**3. East Greenwich High School General Science .9 FTE/ALP Teacher
0.1 FTE**

On a motion by Mr. Durant, which was seconded by Mr. Sommer, the Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to appoint Ms. Allison Hunt.

4. East Greenwich High School Performance-Based Graduation Requirement Coordinator 1.0 FTE

On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Mr. Green, the Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to appoint Ms. Joanne Gilden.

5. East Greenwich High School English Teacher 1.0 FTE

On a motion by Mr. Durant, which was seconded by Mr. Sommer, the Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to table this position for additional clarification.

6. East Greenwich High School ALP-English Teacher 0.2 FTE 1 year only

On a motion by Mr. Durant, which was seconded by Mr. Sommer, the Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to table this position for additional clarification.

7. East Greenwich High School ALP-Math Teacher 0.2 FTE 1 year only

On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Mr. Durant, the Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to appoint Mrs. Pat Dulac.

8. Frenchtown School Reading Teacher 1.0 FTE

On a motion by Mr. Durant, which was seconded by Mrs. Winters, the Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to appoint Ms. Judy

Greenberg.

9. Meadowbrook Paraprofessional 1:1 position

On a motion by Mr. Durant, which was seconded by Mr. Sommer, the Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to appoint Ms. Cindy Gavin.

10. Cole English Teacher 1.0 FTE Long-Term Substitute

No vote is needed for this position. On a motion by Mr. Durant, which was seconded by Mrs. Winters, the Committee voted 5-0 to table the vote.

11. 1.0 FTE Psychologist for Cole (.6 FTE) and Pre-K (.4 FTE)

On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Mr. Durant, the Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to appoint Ms. Michelle Pelletier.

12. EGHS Head Varsity Girls' Cross Country Coach

On a motion by Mr. Durant, which was seconded by Mr. Green, the Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to appoint Ms. Erin Newman.

13. EGHS Football –Volunteer Coach

On a motion by Mr. Durant, which was seconded by Mr. Green, the Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to appoint Mr. James Duncan.

b. Approval of the District Student Code of Conduct

Dr. Mercurio charged the Student Code of Conduct Committee to re-write the district student code of conduct. The group aligned the code with district policy and made the code of conduct more generic and broad to encompass all schools. Attorney Ray Marcaccio reviewed the document. The Committee would like the appendix removed. There was discussion regarding bullying and the new legislation that was passed. Attorney Oliverio noted the

current legislation defines bullying as one incident. The Committee discussed their concerns and requested the bullying portion be abbreviated and added to the body of the policy. The Student Code of Conduct subcommittee will meet this week to revise the document for approval at the August 25, 2011 meeting. Dr. Gifford asked if Attorney Marcaccio can be present for the meeting.

c. Approval of High School Schedule

Mr. Podraza explained the changes to the high school schedule which were recommended by the School Improvement Team. The Wednesday schedule will change with period three becoming an advisory period. The change will also provide longer instructional periods to other days on the rotating schedule. This revision seeks to reduce stress and allow for additional academic support. The faculty is supportive of this change and only three teachers voted against it. There was discussion regarding the advisory period and Dr. Gifford would like a follow-up to discuss what is taking place during advisory. Also, teachers have asked for professional development for advisory period. Mr. Podraza discussed the memo of agreement (MOA) and noted it provides flexibility on advisory periods. The MOA needs to be addressed with the upcoming contract and as per the recommendations of the NEASC report. On a motion by Mr. Durant, which was seconded by Mr. Sommer, the Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to approve the high school schedule.

d. Adoption/revision to policies

1. Approval of Administrative Organization Policy

On a motion by Mr. Durant, which was seconded by Mrs. Winters, the revised Administrative Organization Policy was adopted with a vote 5-0.

2. Approval of Peanut Allergy Policy

On a motion by Mr. Durant, which was seconded by Mrs. Winters, the revised Peanut Allergy Policy was adopted with a vote 5-0.

3. Approval of Computer use and Access to the Internet Policy

On a motion by Mr. Durant, which was seconded by Mrs. Winters, the revised Computer use and Access to the Internet Policy was adopted with a vote 5-0.

e. Approval of new Policy for Volunteers Assisting a Coach- 1st read

The new Policy for Volunteers Assisting a Coach received a first read and will go for a second read and adoption at the September 6, 2011 School Committee meeting.

f. Approval of new Health Care Plan Policy-1st read

The new Health Care Plan Policy received a first read and will go for a second read and adoption at the September 6, 2011 School Committee meeting.

g. Re-appointment of fall coaches

Dr. Mercurio thanked Mr. Cobain for his diligence in verifying all necessary certifications for the re-appointment of the fall coaches.

1. EGHS Head Coach Girls' Tennis

On a motion by Mr. Sommer, which was seconded by Mr. Durant, the Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to re-appoint Mr. Marc Brocato.

2. EGHS Head Coach Boys' Soccer

On a motion by Mr. Sommer, which was seconded by Mr. Durant, the Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to re-appoint Ms. Pat McGuirl.

3. EGHS Head Coach Girls' Volleyball

On a motion by Mr. Sommer, which was seconded by Mr. Durant, the Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to re-appoint Ms. Theresa Jones.

4. EGHS Asst. Coach Girls' Volleyball

On a motion by Mr. Sommer, which was seconded by Mr. Durant, the Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to re-appoint Ms. Jill Meyer.

5. EGHS Head Coach Girl's Cheerleading

On a motion by Mr. Sommer, which was seconded by Mr. Durant, the Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to re-appoint Ms. Stacy Munzert.

h. Resignations

**1. Dept. Chair- English 1.0 FTE, East Greenwich High School
–Lori Koplik**

The Committee thanked Mrs. Koplik for her service to the district. On a motion by Mr. Durant, which was seconded by Mr. Sommer, the Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to accept Mrs. Koplik's resignation.

2. Tamra Bouchard-Frenchtown Kindergarten 1.0 FTE

On a motion by Mr. Durant, which was seconded by Mr. Sommer, the Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to accept Ms. Bouchard's resignation. She was also thanked for her service to the district.

i. Retirement- Kathleen MacGunnigle – Eldredge Teacher

On a motion by Mr. Durant, which was seconded by Mr. Sommer, the Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to accept the retirement of Mrs. MacGunnigle. Mrs. MacGunnigle will be recognized at a future School Committee meeting.

j. Retirement- Carolyn Palazzo-Meadowbrook Para

On a motion by Mr. Durant, which was seconded by Mrs. Winters, the Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to accept the retirement of Mrs. Palazzo. She will also be recognized at a future School Committee meeting.

k. Parental leave approval - Melissa Brightman, Cole

On a motion by Mr. Durant, which was seconded by Mrs. Winters, the parental leave for Mrs. Brightman was unanimously approved (5-0).

l. Approval-Contract for the Director of Student Services

Dr. Mercurio gave the Committee a graphic illustration of the progression of responsibilities for the Director of Student Services. He discussed how this position has morphed over time from 2005 to the present, and how it will progress into the future. Current responsibilities include all of the duties and responsibilities of the Director of Student Services plus all duties that were performed by the previous Assistant Superintendent. Dr. Mercurio recommended that Mrs. Dillon's title be changed to Assistant Superintendent based on the significant duties and level of responsibilities required in her position. The Committee asked clarifying questions regarding the work that is being performed by Mrs. Dillon. Mr. Durant asked

Dr. Mercurio if the graphic basically lists the honest appraisal of all the work being performed by Mrs. Dillon and he said it does. Dr. Gifford asked if other administrators (who have fewer students this year) may be able to take on some of Mrs. Dillon's responsibilities. Dr. Mercurio asked that this item be tabled for a further recommendation. On a motion by Mr. Durant, which was seconded by Mrs. Winters, the Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to table this item.

m. Approval-Contract for the Hanaford Principal

On a motion by Mr. Durant, which was seconded by Mr. Green, the Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to approve the contract for Mrs. Cauley.

n. Fields' Committee- recommendation for dug-outs

On a motion by Mr. Durant, which was seconded by Mr. Sommer, the Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to table this item.

o. Construction Project Update –Recommendation

Mr. Jon Winikur, of SBS, gave the Committee an outline and background information of proposed projects for the district. The Committee discussed the moratorium that has been issued by the General Assembly (effective June 30, 2011) which eliminates new funding for three years. Projects that were approved five years ago, but not undertaken have been closed. The project phase I and II savings of \$988,000 may be reallocated to renovate the EGHS library. Dr. Mercurio sent a letter to RIDE in May 2011 which discussed the reallocation of funds for Meadowbrook, the EGHS roof, Technology, and the Frenchtown roof. There are time

constraints on many projects. The projects from the \$52 million bond need to be completed by December 31, 2011. Forty percent (40%) reimbursement is still available from RIDE. The Committee and Mr. Winikur discussed several options for the EGHS library noting the project could begin in September with completion in December. SBS has a meeting scheduled with Burman next week. A joint meeting with the Town Council is scheduled for August 25, 2011 to discuss the library proposal. Concerns regarding staffing at the EGHS library were discussed. Dr. Mercurio held a preliminary meeting with union members regarding staffing and the relocation of the library during renovation.

Mr. Durant made a motion to spend up to \$988,000 to renovate the library subject to subsequent approval of parameters of the design. Mrs. Winters seconded the motion. The vote was 1-4 with Dr. Gifford voting for the motion. Mr. Green made a motion to authorize \$988,000 for purposes of renovating the high school library and seek subsequent approval from the Town Council. Mrs. Winters seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously (5-0).

The Committee discussed other projects in the district. Mr. Durant made a motion to charge the Building Committee to examine the security and access issues that have been approved previously as part of the bond and report back to the School Committee. Mrs. Winters seconded the motion and it passed unanimously (5-0). Mr. Sommer questioned whether the EGHS library can be completed

using different funds (warrant money instead of bond money) and also would like to investigate the timeline with RIDE. Dr. Mercurio will contact Mr. DaSilva at RIDE tomorrow.

p. MOU

Dr. Mercurio and Mr. Sequino are scheduled to meet next week to discuss maintenance and delineate costs. Dr. Mercurio will email the draft MOU to the School Committee this week. There has been discussion regarding shifting the cutting of the grass back to the town and the associated cost.

VIII. Discussion Items

a. Athletic Director- report on spring sports

On a motion by Mr. Durant, which was seconded by Mr. Sommer, the Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to table this item.

b. Rental of turf field

On a motion by Mr. Durant, which was seconded by Mr. Sommer, the Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to table this item.

X. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Durant, which was seconded by Mr. Green, the Committee voted (5-0) to adjourn at 10:13p.m.

**CHRISTINE DIMEGLIO
SECRETARY**