

Minutes of the East Greenwich School Committee

Tuesday, October 18, 2011

Archie Cole Middle School Cafetorium

100 Cedar Avenue

East Greenwich, RI 02818

6:07p.m. Executive Session, Vote to go into executive session for discussion and/or action regarding those items of business exempt from open meetings under General Laws of Rhode Island 42-46-5 (a) (2) Collective Bargaining-Paraprofessional Contract and SMMA Contract Negotiation

Those in attendance were Dr. Deidre Gifford, Chair; Mr. David Green; Mr. Jack Sommer, Mrs. Mary Ellen Winters, Mr. Paul Martin (arrived at 6:15p.m.) , and Mrs. Susan Records (arrived at 6:37p.m.) Mr. Robert Durant, Vice Chair was absent. Dr. Victor Mercurio, Superintendent; Director of Administration Mrs. Maryanne Crawford, and Attorney Matthew Oliverio were also in attendance.

7:11p.m. Regular Meeting

I. Call to order

The regular session of the East Greenwich School Committee was called to order in the Cafetorium of the Archie Cole Middle School at 7:11 p.m. by Chair Dr. Deidre Gifford. Dr. Gifford announced a vote was taken during Executive Session regarding a contract for Meadowbrook School. The vote was 5-1 in favor of the contract with

Dr. Gifford voting no.

II. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

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

III. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

IV. Approval of Minutes

a. Regular for 9/16/11

Mrs. Records made an initial motion to accept all minutes listed above, but withdrew due to needed abstentions from Dr. Gifford and Mr. Martin. Mr. Green questioned the Burman alternative plan figures in the minutes of 9/16/11. The figures will be reviewed and revised if necessary. Mr. Sommer made a motion to accept the regular minutes for 9/16/11 with revisions (if necessary) and Mrs. Winters seconded the motion. The vote passed 5-0 (with Dr. Gifford abstaining).

b. Regular and Executive for 9/20/11

On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Mr. Sommer, the regular and executive minutes for 9/20/11 were approved (4-0). Dr. Gifford and Mr. Martin abstained.

c. Regular and Executive for 10/4/11

On a motion by Mr. Sommer, which was seconded by Mr. Martin, the regular and executive minutes for 10/4/11 were approved (5-0). Mrs. Winters abstained.

V. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Mercurio discussed his conversation with Jamestown Superintendent Marcia Lukon

regarding the possibility of transferring Jamestown high school students to East Greenwich for the 2013-2014 school year. RIDE staff came to East Greenwich to discuss the work for the common core which will be assessed by the PARC test. Dr. Mercurio thanked Assistant Supt.

Paula Dillon, Principals, Dept. Chairs, and Teachers for their work. A Collaborative Learning

Outcome meeting is scheduled for tomorrow to discuss Race to the Top. There is also a meeting on Thursday regarding the certification system. Dr. Gifford would like a report from the team

regarding Race to the Top.

VI. School Committee Concerns

Mr. Martin asked Dr. Mercurio why the high school is not participating in Project Close-Up. Mr. Martin would like to have the School Committee's photo taken at the first meeting in November. Meadowbrook Farms took a picture of their entire student body and Mr. Martin would like the other Principals to consider doing the same.

VII. Action Items

a. Recognitions

- 1. NECAP Science Scores for 2011-East Greenwich High School**

Science teachers

At a press conference on 10/27/11, Commissioner Gist announced that East Greenwich High School had the highest Grade 11 Science NECAP scores in the state. More than 60% of the students scored in the “proficient range.” Dr. Mercurio, Principal Podraza, and EGHS Science Chair Mr. Rath attended the press release. Mr. Podraza acknowledged the hard work by the senior class and the Science teachers. Mr. Rath spoke about the overall increase in proficiency and noted the scores are the result of the hard work and motivation of students, dedication of teachers, the wonderful community of East Greenwich, and the support at home. Mr. Rath noted the changes in the past 3-4 years including the Science lab renovation, the increased amount of problem solving activity, and the schedule changes were all contributing factors to the scores. Dr. Gifford thanked Mr. Rath and the entire Science department for their work and for making Science fun and relevant for students.

2. School Committee Scholarship Recipient

Mr. Martin presented a \$1000 check to Rhode Island College student Miriam Scheff. This is the second consecutive year that an East Greenwich college student has received a check from donations from current/ and or previous School Committee members.

b. Appointments

On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Mr. Martin, the appointments listed below were unanimously approved (6-0). Mr. Podraza explained why there are .1FTE positions. Dr. Gifford would like to know the number of teachers above 1.0 FTE.

- 1. East Greenwich High School .1 Acting – Robert Petrucci**
- 2. East Greenwich High School .1 Social Studies- Andrew Perrin**
- 3. East Greenwich High School .1 Psychology- Jennifer Driscoll**
- 4. East Greenwich High School .1 Theater for Children-Timothy Kenney**
- 5. East Greenwich High School Freshman Co-Class Advisor-Kristen Twardowski**
- 6. East Greenwich High School Freshman Co-Class Advisor-Christine Rivers**
- 7. East Greenwich High School Sophomore Co-Class Advisor-Krista Harvey**

c. Resignations

On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Mr. Martin, the following resignations listed below were accepted (6-0). Both employees were thanked for their service to the district. Mr. Martin asked if the employees will receive a token of appreciation. Dr. Mercurio will check on their years of service and also expressed his thanks for their service.

- 1. Cheryl Campbell, Secretary, Frenchtown School**
- 2. Tara Messenger, Teacher, Grade 8, Cole Middle School**

d. Approval of School Committee Meeting Dates for 2012

On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Mr. Martin, the Committee unanimously approved the meeting dates (6-0). Mr. Martin would like to see a meeting take place at Meadowbrook, Eldredge, and Frenchtown. Dr. Gifford noted this was discussed previously and the Committee agreed to hold the meetings at one

venue. Previous School Committee minutes will be reviewed regarding this topic.

e. Presentation of language survey results-Chris Perrett

Mrs. Perrett surveyed the district in June to see if there was interest in learning other languages; specifically Mandarin Chinese. She sent out a survey to families of students in K-10 and received 270 responses. Mrs. Perrett discussed her results with the Committee. Mr. Martin asked for a copy of the survey that was given to parents. Dr. Gifford asked if the survey questions were open ended or were choices given. Mrs. Perrett said ten language choices were listed along with "other." Mrs. Chavez, the Foreign Language Dept. Chair was present and noted she was surprised with the results which contradict her data (especially in regards to Latin). Her data shows Latin as stable/or growing. There is also concern due to the lack of certified teachers in Chinese. Mrs. Perrett stated that St. George, Wheeler, and Barrington High School all offer Mandarin Chinese. Dr. Mercurio thanked Mrs. Perrett for her presentation. He noted the necessity to build capacity for a program and sustain it over time. Credentialing and the curriculum aspect are crucial factors. Mrs. Chavez cautioned the Committee that it is important not to go with trends and ensure there is an overarching commitment for a new program. She explained that college admissions are looking for depth in a language and look for a four or five year commitment to one language. Dr. Gifford stated this topic is a curriculum committee issue and needs to be explored by professional educators. If the curriculum committee feels there is a need, they can recommend a

task force to study adding a new language. Dr. Mercurio explained the process which involves discussion, research, and exploration by the curriculum committee. Mr. Martin offered to volunteer if a task force is formed.

f. Approval of Finance Committee Recommendations

On a motion by Mrs. Records, which was seconded by Mr. Sommer, the Committee voted (6-0) to table this discussion.

g. District Grade Configuration Committee Charge

Dr. Mercurio will discuss this topic at a future meeting.

VIII. Discussion Items

a. East Greenwich High School Library Update

Mr. Romeo from SBS discussed the progress of the EGHS library. The library has been moved to the old gym and partitions have been constructed. Initial demotion has begun and the heavy demolition will start at the end of the week. The first job meeting is scheduled for tomorrow. Mr. Sommer asked if the project is on time. Mr. Romeo said it is on time and the deadline will be met. The Committee asked about the impact on the language lab. Mr. Romeo noted there will be some limitations.

b. Financial Discussion as of 9/30/11

Mrs. Crawford gave the Committee an Expenditure Report as of September 30, 2011. For future reports, Mr. Green would like to see what is spent by monthly or quarterly. Dr. Gifford would like to see the percentage spent in relation to the percentage of the fiscal year. Mrs. Crawford also gave the Committee a WB Community Health Cumulative Fund Balance Report listing revenues and expenditures.

Mrs. Crawford explained that all West Bay districts are reviewed and graded on an individual basis.

c. School Lunch Status as of 6/30/11

Mrs. Crawford discussed Aramark's performance as of 6/30/11. Aramark has moved forward with cost savings for fall and spring to make up for last year. There were increased costs last year associated with the Cole opening that were not budgeted and resulted in a loss of \$21,495. Tom Hoagland and Jessica Roberts from Aramark discussed their performance and plans for the coming months. Overall, participation has increased throughout the district. There have been staff changes, menu changes, and new initiatives district-wide.

X. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Martin, which was seconded by Mr. Sommer, the Committee voted (6-0) to adjourn at 8:55p.m.

**CHRISTINE DIMEGLIO
SECRETARY**