

## **East Greenwich School Committee**

**Minutes of the Budget Workshop for Tuesday, January 24, 2012**

**Archie Cole Middle School Library**

**100 Cedar Avenue**

**East Greenwich, RI 02818**

### **7:01p.m. Budget Workshop**

#### **I. Call to order**

The budget workshop of the East Greenwich School Committee was called to order in the library of the Archie Cole Middle School at 7:01 p.m. by Chair Dr. Deidre Gifford. Those in attendance were: Mr. Robert Durant, Vice-Chair; Mr. David Green; Mrs. Mary Ellen Winters; Mr. Jack Sommer, and Mr. Paul Martin (arrived at 7:03p.m.) Mrs. Susan Records was absent. Also in attendance were Dr. Victor Mercurio, Superintendent; Mrs. Paula Dillon, Assistant Superintendent; Mrs. Maryanne Crawford, Director of Administration; Mr. Dom Giusti, Principal of Eldredge; Mrs. June Fischer, Finance Committee Chair, and Mr. Ed Pieroni, Finance Committee member.

#### **II. Action Items**

##### **a. Appointment**

##### **1. Director of Technology/Systems Analyst**

On a motion by Mr. Durant, which was seconded by Mr. Sommer, the Committee voted 5-0 to approve the appointment of Mr. Carlos Zambrano as the Director of Technology/Systems Analyst.

##### **b. Resignation**

## **1. Meadowbrook Farms Principal-Dr. Ronald Areglado**

**On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Mr. Durant, the Committee voted 6-0 (with regret) to accept the resignation of Dr. Areglado. The Committee stated that Dr. Areglado has been a great asset and came to Meadowbrook at the “right time.” He did a fabulous job and will be missed. Dr. Mercurio has reached out to RISSA and RIASP for names of possible interim principals. He noted many retirees are not available because they have been hired by other districts to do ISP work. Mr. Guisti and Mrs. Dillon have been helping out covering Meadowbrook Farms. Dr. Mercurio will be meeting with Meadowbrook faculty members in the morning.**

**c. Request for new 1:1 Paraprofessional to replace agency-contracted 1:1**

**Mrs. Dillon discussed this request noting this change is the result of an IEP team meeting. The new posting is for an East Greenwich paraprofessional to replace an agency-contracted para. On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Mr. Durant, the Committee voted**

**6-0 to approve this request.**

## **III. Budget Workshop-Elementary**

**Mrs. Crawford began the workshop by thanking central office employees Margo Ucci, Cheryl Gilkenson, and Tammy Walsh for their assistance with the UCOA conversion. She said these employees have gone above and beyond assisting in this process. Mrs. Crawford gave an overview of the elementary budgets for 2013. She explained that transportation is now broken out by individual**

**schools. Bus monitors have also been broken out for elementary schools. Professional development is now listed in each principal's discretionary fund and may run \$6,000-\$8,000 for all elementary schools except Frenchtown which is allocating \$10,400 (\$400.00 per teacher). Technology, as related to the direct teaching of students (example: mimeos), will be allocated to each individual school. Mrs. Crawford also discussed software programs that will be budgeted by each school (Skills Tutor, NEWA). The district technology budget will fund the "behind the scenes" infrastructure items. The district is in the third year of the bus contract and is scheduled to go out to bid in February. A 5% increase has been forecasted. This increase is hefty for transportation, but East Greenwich's costs are somewhat lower than surrounding districts. A 6% increase has been budgeted for health insurance. Claims have been low, but this could change. No increase was budgeted for dental insurance based on current figures. The pension figures for certified employees have increased 6.6% and the pension for non-certified is going up 82%. The main reason for the high increase in non-certified is due to the custodians who are covered by MERS (Municipal Employees' Retirement System).**

**Principal Giusti gave a summary of the Eldredge budget noting the increases/decreases in the FY2013 budget which include testing materials (NEWA and Skills Tutor), staff development, principal technology costs, copying costs, and school technology. Mr. Giusti also discussed the reallocation of items due to the new UCOA lines.**

**Dr. Gifford thanked Mrs. Fischer and Mr. Pieroni for their assistance in the budgeting process.**

**Mr. Pieroni discussed the budgeting process noting significant time was spent reconciling categories due to the reallocation of lines. Mr. Green asked if the increases/decreases and reallocations can be documented on the summary sheet.**

**Dr. Gifford questioned whether administrators' need both iMac laptops and iPads. Dr. Mercurio and Mrs. Dillon discussed the purpose of iPads noting their value with the teacher evaluation process. This item will be revisited. Dr. Gifford asked what percentage of students use Skills Tutor. Mr. Giusti said the majority of students use this tool and Eldredge has seen a 26% growth rate in Math. Mrs. Dillon can provide a usage report. She noted this software program is extremely effective because progress is measured immediately through testing. Teachers' can immediately change their teaching strategy to enhance student learning. Since the district has a site license, students' can use this software at home.**

**Mrs. Winters questioned the necessity of full time librarians at the elementary schools. Mr. Giusti discussed how the role of the librarian at Eldredge has changed this year. The Eldredge librarian is the key person for NEWA testing as she monitors and proctors each session. She also is the lead person for Survey Works. The librarian**

at Eldredge also assists with the writing and robotic workshops. Teachers' in the building also team teach with the librarian.

Mr. Green asked if the budget spreadsheets can be revised to footnote revisions in items such as salary and benefits explaining the increase/decrease. Mrs. Crawford will add columns to show increases/decreases and reallocations. She explained how the salary and benefits line may change significantly due to a reallocation of a teacher from one building to another based on their step and years of service (this occurred at Cole) and the change in health benefits (moving from a single plan to a family plan).

#### **IV. Adjournment**

On a motion by Mr. Martin, which was seconded by Mr. Durant, the Committee voted 6-0 to adjourn at 8:32p.m.

**CHRISTINE DIMEGLIO  
SECRETARY**