

# **Minutes of the East Greenwich School Committee**

**Tuesday, February 7, 2012**

**Archie Cole Middle School Library**

**100 Cedar Avenue**

**East Greenwich, RI 02818**

## **7:00p.m. Regular Meeting**

**Those in attendance were: Dr. Deidre Gifford, Chair; Mr. Robert Durant, Vice-Chair; Mr. David Green, Mr. Paul Martin, and Mr. Jack Sommer. Mrs. Mary Ellen Winters and Mrs. Susan Records were absent. Dr. Victor Mercurio, Superintendent; Mrs. Paula Dillon, Assistant Superintendent, Mrs. Maryanne Crawford, Director of Administration, and Mr. Matthew Oliverio, School Attorney were also present.**

### **I. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag**

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

### **II. Public Comments**

**There were no public comments.**

### **III. Approval of Minutes**

#### **a. Executive for 1/9/12**

**Dr. Gifford has a revision for the minutes. On a motion by Mr. Durant, which was seconded by Mr. Sommer, the Committee voted 5-0 to table the minutes.**

**b. Regular and Executive for 1/17/12**

**c. Budget Workshop for 1/24/12**

**d. Budget Workshop for 1/26/12**

**On a motion by Mr. Durant, which was seconded by Mr. Sommer, the Committee voted 5-0 to approve the minutes in III a, b & c.**

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

**Dr. Mercurio asked Mr. Sullivan of SBS to discuss the recent plumbing issues at Cole. Mr. Sullivan explained the plumbing issue in the boys' bathroom and noted an initial investigation with a camera in the pipe did not identify the problem. Gilbane and Delta came out last evening and removed duct tape that was causing the clogs. Another test will be done during February break using a video camera to see if there is still a problem.**

#### **V. School Committee Concerns**

**There were no concerns.**

#### **VI. Action Items**

**a. Appointment- Cole .4FTE Orchestra at Cole (Appendix B)- Megan Catelli**

**Mr. Durant made an initial motion which was seconded by Mr. Sommer to approve the appointment. Discussion ensued regarding the necessity of the position and the work being done in this position. Dr. Mercurio noted this appendix B position (after school) was previously done by Mr. Levesque as a 1.0 FTE after school. Mr. Levesque and Mrs. Catelli would like to split the position (.6fte and .4fte respectively). It is a reallocation of funds breaking the 1.0FTE into a .6FTE for Mr. Levesque and .4FTE for Mrs. Catelli. After a**

lengthy discussion, Mr. Durant withdrew his motion. On a new motion by Mr. Durant, which was seconded by Mr. Sommer, the Committee voted 5-0 to table this item until the next School Committee meeting.

**b. Field Trip –EGHS, Spain April 2013**

On a motion by Mr. Durant, which was seconded by Mr. Sommer, the Committee voted 5-0 to approve the trip.

**c. Field Trip-EGHS, France April 2013**

On a motion by Mr. Durant, which was seconded by Mr. Sommer, the Committee voted 5-0 to approve the trip. Mr. Martin discussed his concerns regarding students' who cannot afford the cost of the trips.

Mrs. Chavez and Mrs. Varone were present and explained they give all students the opportunity to attend the overseas field trips. These trips are mainly taken by juniors and seniors. Students are made aware of the overseas trips while they are freshman or sophomores.

By giving advance notification, it offers families' time to budget for the trip. Students can do their own fundraiser to raise money. In the past an international dinner was held to raise money for all students.

Mrs. Chavez and Mrs. Varone explained the trip is booked a year in advance so students and their families have time to plan ahead. Dr. Gifford noted it would be helpful to offer direction to parents in regards to financial assistance (i.e. fundraising).

**d. Aramark Contract**

Mrs. Crawford explained the district is in year four of a five year contract. Each year the contract is reviewed. If the district does not break even, Aramark makes up the difference up to \$8,200. As of the

end of January 2012, this was the first time Aramark was not in the red. There has been a steady increase in the lunches purchased and the price increase has not affected sales. Mrs. Crawford noted the last few months of the school year are typically the most profitable.

Any surplus pays down the grant up to \$35,000. If there is an excess we roll it over to the next year. The grant was \$130,000 and at the end of the fifth year, the district can go with the state or go out to bid on our own. Mrs. Crawford is pleased with the service and current management. She recommends approval of the contract. She will provide sales reports at the next meeting. Dr. Gifford asked clarifying questions as to how the district operating costs are calculated (#2- Section 3.4). It was questioned why Aramark is still calculating on labor costs from two years ago since they made a point of discussing their reduction in labor. Attorney Oliverio will discuss this with Aramark and will have an answer at the next School Committee meeting. On a motion by Mr. Durant, which was seconded by Mr. Sommer, the Committee voted 5-0 to table the Aramark contract.

**e. Meadowbrook -RFQ**

Mr. Sean Sullivan of SBS discussed the summary sheet for the RFQ. Mr. Sullivan met a subcommittee comprised of Dr. Mercurio, Mrs. Crawford, and Mr. Wilmarth to review the qualifications. Of the nine contractors who responded, the subcommittee recommends three firms who meet the criteria. The reasons the other contractors were not chosen were due to lack of financial capacity for the project, no public school experience, or negative references or negative press.

**Mr. Martin made a motion to go forward with the recommended firms.**

**Mr. Durant seconded the motion and it passed 5-0.**

## **VII. Cole lighting- report on findings**

**Mr. Winakur of SBS gave the Committee a handout with the timelines of the electrical issues and corrective measures taken at Cole. . Mr. Winikur also provided the Committee with the Griffin Electric letter and warranties of all Cole purchases. He highlighted the events that took place from August 28, 2011 to the present. The tropical storm in August created an electrical surge which shorted out two lighting control panels and tripped several main breaker panels. The overvoltage, which was 409 volts on a 277 volt line, was significant, but not enough to engage the surge protection unit which is only activated at 1200 volts. Mr. Winakur stated that the surge protected did save areas of the school even though there was damage to the panels. Mr. Winikur noted the electrical costs due to the lighting may be \$1,000-\$3,000. Mr. Winikur state the warranty for surge protection is 5 years, but this should be revisited with our insurer because the systems was compromised. Mr. Green asked questions regarding insurance coverage and whether the system worked as expected. Mr. Durant questioned whether a new surge protector should be installed since the current one was compromised. Attorney Oliverio will look at the insurance policy. Mrs. Crawford submitted all paperwork to The Trust. Dr. Gifford asked that Mr. Wilmarth work with Siemens to get a new surge protector based on the input from our insurer. The Committee also had questions regarding who is paying for the electricity cost and the magnitude of the claim. This**

**item will be discussed again at the next meeting.**

### **VIII. Presentation- Commission on Retaining High Quality Teachers**

**Dr. Gifford said the East Greenwich Teachers' Association was invited to be part of this presentation. Dr. Mercurio presented the findings of the Report of the Commission on Retaining High Quality Teachers. He explained how the BEP, RIDE's Strategic Plan, and the EGEA Collective Bargaining Contract (September 2009-August 2012) was used in this process. The Committee's process for developing conclusions was based looking at current contractual language vs. current BEP language. Fourteen recommendations were developed. Dr. Mercurio and Dr. Gifford discussed each recommendation. Dr. Gifford noted conclusions #2 and 3 speak to the current contract as to what can and can't be used in a formal evaluation. She added the district needs to be able to conform to the state-wide system. The Committee discussed seniority and Dr. Mercurio noted this has been the primary way of moving teachers.**

**Mr. Martin questioned whether tenure could move from three years to five years. Dr. Mercurio noted tenure is three years per state law. Due to the depth of some of the recommendations, Dr. Mercurio, Dr. Gifford, and Mr. Sommer would like to put together a series of presentations that hone in on each recommendation to discuss it in depth. The public is encouraged to attend these in-depth presentations.**

### **IX. Discussion Items**

**a. East Greenwich High School Library Technology Infrastructure**

**Dr. Mercurio noted the tech infrastructure project has gone out to bid.**

**b. East Greenwich High School Library Hours**

**Dr. Mercurio met with Mrs. Argentieri regarding extending the library hours from 2:00 to 4:00pm every day except Friday. A paraprofessional will be present in the library from 2:00-4:00pm and the library hours can be reevaluated after a few months and extra time added if needed. Dr. Mercurio can also survey students to see their needs. The new library will be fully operational either before the February break or immediately after the break.**

**X. Adjournment**

**On a motion by Mr. Durant, which was seconded by Mr. Green, the Committee voted 5-0 to adjourn at 9:00p.m.**

**CHRISTINE DIMEGLIO  
SECRETARY**