

Minutes of the East Greenwich School Committee

Tuesday, July 17, 2012

Archie Cole Middle School Library

100 Cedar Avenue

East Greenwich, RI 02818

6:06p.m. Executive Session, Mr. Green made a motion 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 (1) (2) Discussion of potential litigation involving claims by H. Carr & Sons, Superintendent's Contract, Teacher Contract Negotiations. Mrs. Winters seconded the motion and it passes unanimously 4-0.

7:00p.m. Regular Meeting

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

7:01p.m. Regular Meeting

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Robert Durant, Vice-Chair. Mr. Durant reported that a vote was taken in executive session to approve Dr. Mercurio's contract for 2012-2015. The contract was approved unanimously 5-0.

I. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

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

II. Public Comments

A member of the audience asked if the revised Transportation Policy will be discussed this evening. Mr. Durant explained the policy needs additional revisions and will receive a second read on August 14, 2012.

III. Approval of Minutes

On a motion by Mr. Green, which was seconded by Mr. Sommer, the Committee voted 5-0 to approve the regular minutes for June 12, 2012; regular and executive for June 19, 2012, and regular and executive for June 21, 2012

IV. Recognition

a. EGHS Girls' Softball Team

The team and their coaches were recognized for their outstanding performance winning the state championship for a second year.

V. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Mercurio will attend the Attorney General's summit on Friday, July 27, 2012 which will discuss open meeting laws and review changes in the law. Administrators' will be meeting with RIDE representatives on Friday, July 20, 2012 to discuss Race to the Top projects, strategies, communication, and gather feedback. A follow-up meeting may take place in October or November.

VI. School Committee Concerns

There were no concerns.

VII. Action Items

a. Retirement-Janet Rufful, Eldredge School

On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Mr. Sommer, the Committee accepted the retirement of Janet Rufful. Mr. Durant noted that Mrs. Rufful is a wonderful teacher and will be missed. She will be recognized at the August School Committee meeting. The vote passed 5-0.

b. Parental leave-Megan Catelli-Cole

On a motion by Mrs. Records, which was seconded by Mr. Sommer, the Committee voted 4-0 to approve the parental leave. Mrs. Winters recused from voting.

c. Appointments

1. On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Mrs. Records, the following appointments were unanimously approved (5-0):

Grade 5 Teacher- Hanaford-Veronica Munroe

Special Education Teacher- 1 year only-Hanaford-Jennifer Prior

East Greenwich High School Secretary-Patricia Balles

Grade 3 Teacher-Frenchtown-Megan Anastasi

Grade 3 Teacher-Frenchtown-Eileen Peduto

Paraprofessional 1:1- Hanaford-Michele Lambert

Paraprofessional –Cole-Joanne Macaruso

East Greenwich High School- Art Teacher-Deanna Agresti

East Greenwich High School Special Education Teacher-Kerianne Fuller

2. On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Mr. Green,

the Committee voted 5-0 to table the appointment for the Eldredge School Secretary.

3. On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Mr. Green, the following reappointments were unanimously approved (5-0):

Reappointment-EGHS Boys' Football Coach-John George

Reappointment-EGHS Boys' Football Asst Coach-Kyle Mushaweh

Reappointment-EGHS Boys' Football Asst Coach-William Conway

Reappointment-EGHS Boys' Football Volunteer Coach-James Duncan

d. Approval- Award Three Year Contract-Cox Communication

On a motion by Mr. Sommer, which was seconded by Mrs. Winters, the Committee voted 5-0 to award the three year contract to Cox Communication. This contract is for land-line phone numbers.

e. Approval-Award bid to Chicago Micro

On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Mr. Sommer, the Committee voted 5-0 to award the bid to Chicago Micro. This bid is for twenty-four Dell computers for the Tech Ed Lab at the high school. These computers will replace twenty Apple computers that have exceeded their life expectancy.

f. Approval-Award bid to Apple Inc.

On a motion by Mrs. Records, which was seconded by Mr. Sommer, the Committee voted 5-0 to award the bid to Apple, Inc. Forty-two MacBook Pros and ten I-Pads will be ordered for EGHS faculty. Mr. Sommer questioned the process for teachers taking laptops home. Mr. Zambrano explained that all laptops are inventoried and signed out. Three year warranties cover damages that may occur. Mr.

Zambrano will draft language for a district policy that details the steps to be taken when a teacher moves to another building. This policy will ensure that technology remains in the building for which it was purchased.

g. Approval-Award bid to Third Millennium Communications, Inc.

On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Mr. Sommer, the Committee voted 5-0 to award the bid to Third Millennium Communications, Inc. The Technology Advisory Committee met with consultants to discuss the current system and what steps need to be taken to improve the system. After performing a thorough site survey, the consultants issued a design plan for the high school. 117 data drops, 96 wireless access points, and necessary cabling will be installed.

h. Approval-Award bid to Carousel Industries

On a motion by Mr. Sommer, which was seconded by Mrs. Winter, the Committee voted 5-0 to award the bid to Carousel Industries. This bid will improve the high school wireless infrastructure. Mr. Hemmindinger, a member of the Technology Advisory Committee, discussed the level of wireless capability needed for the high school and noted this infrastructure will be more than enough for the high school.

i. District Technology Plan

Dr. Mercurio gave an overview of the plan for integrating technology into the East Greenwich Public Schools. Mrs. Dillon highlighted the action plan for each strategic goal. She also explained that the plan needs to be a living document and revised as needed. The district is

working to reduce paper by sharing live binders, documents, etc. on the web in real time. Mrs. Dillon also discussed the need to revise the district's Internet and Computer Use Policy. The Committee asked about the costs to move to a 1:1 program. Discussion needs to take place regarding purchasing or leasing and the costs involved. Mr. Durant said the Committee is ready to hear the cost to move to the next step and the projected savings. Mr. Green said the Committee needs input on dollars needed to sustain the program. On a motion by Mr. Sommer, which was seconded by Mrs. Winters, the Committee voted 5-0 to approve the District Technology Plan.

j. FY 2013 Budget

This item was only a place holder and did not need discussion.

k. School Resource Officer

Dr. Mercurio and Mr. Sequino have not had an opportunity to sit with Chief Coyle to discuss this item. The Committee would like to vote on this item at the August meeting.

l. Approval – District Contract Renewal – School Food Service Program 2012-13

Jessica Patroliia, Aramark, was present to discuss Aramark's performance. This is the fifth year working with Aramark. Next year the district will go out to bid. The 2011-12 school year ended with a surplus over \$19,000. Last year there were many successes such as the smoothie program and the green initiatives. Mr. Durant questioned whether students can use the school kitchens (under supervision) after school. Ms. Patroliia said the district owns the equipment so the decision is up to the district. However, Aramark

would like “heads-up” if the kitchen will be used. Mrs. Records thanked Ms. Patrolia and said she has been very helpful to the Health and Wellness Committee. On a motion by Mr. Green, which was seconded by Mrs. Winter, the Committee voted 5-0 to approve the contract renewal.

m. Second Read/Adoption of Revised Policies

On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Mr. Sommer, the Committee voted 5-0 to adopt policy #3310 Disposal of School Properties.

n. Second Read/Adoption of Revised Policies

On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Mr. Green, the Committee voted 5-0 to adopt policy #4140 Immunization and Testing for Communicable Diseases

VIII. Presentation-Donor Choose Program

Kate Goldman was present to discuss the Donor Choose Program. She explained the program and how teachers seek support for classroom materials. There are program guidelines and teachers’ need their Principal’s approval. Teachers are limited to \$1,000 for their first purchase. Mr. Durant discussed technology requests and the need for teachers to funnel their requests through Dr. Mercurio and Mr. Zambrano to ensure that items purchased compliment district technology and are sustainable.

IX. Meadowbrook Farms Update on Renovations

Mr. Sean Sullivan, of SBS, has been providing weekly progress updates which have been posted on the Meadowbrook website. Phase one of the abatement process was completed last week.

Phase two should be done tomorrow or Thursday. The abatement process will be complete within two weeks. The roof over the gym/cafeteria has been removed and the new roof system has been installed. The concrete floor slab preparation and installation of the moisture mitigation system are underway. Mr. Durant asked if the hygienist on-site has found any issues. Mr. Sullivan said rips in controls were found before abatement and corrected. Mr. Sullivan also explained how the hygienist does air measurement readings to ensure that air quality is below the requirement. The project is on schedule, but some areas may still have concrete floors for the opening of school. New bookcases need to be ordered via bid and may not be delivered before school opens. Updates from SBS will be posted on the Meadowbrook website weekly.

X. Disproportionality Report

Mrs. Dillon explained this report and the requirement to report disproportionality on an annual basis. East Greenwich reported students in the OHI category which appears higher than nationally reported students. Diagnoses are made by medical doctors outside the district. Mrs. Dillon discussed how a disability needs to impact the student in order for IEP services to be provided. Case study work is done to ensure that students' meet the criteria for services.

XI. School Committee Reports

a. Finance Committee-Mr. Durant, Chair

Mr. Durant stated that Mrs. Fischer is in the process of putting recommendations into a grid for School Committee scoring in June.

b. Building Committee-Mr. Green, Chair

Mr. Green said there is a Building Committee meeting scheduled for July 31, 2012. This meeting will coincide with the completion of the abatement process. The renovations to Hanaford and Frenchtown will be discussed.

c. Fields-Mrs. Winters, Chair

Mrs. Winters is working to coordinate a meeting with town and school officials. Mrs. Colgan asked if there is a policy regarding dogs on the turf field and inside the fences. Mr. Sommer discussed this issue and has contacted the Town Council to see if owners' can be fined if they walk their dogs on the turf field. There is signage on the fields to keep dogs off the turf field. Damage to the field caused by dogs may invalidate the turf warranty.

d. Health and Wellness-Mrs. Records, Chair

Grant paperwork for Hanaford and Eldredge was filed by Jessica Patroliia. Mrs. Records plans to hold a health and wellness meeting in August. A meeting to discuss substance abuse in the schools and town needs to be rescheduled with Colonel Coyle, Mrs. Dillon, and Mr. Houghtaling.

e. Policy-Dr. Gifford, Chair

Dr. Gifford was absent.

f. Ad Hoc E-Boards-Mr. Sommer, Chair

Mr. Sommer and Mrs. Dillon listened to a presentation on E-Board. The district would like to make School Committee meeting information available to residents who are not in attendance. While E-Board offers many modules, the cost is extremely high (\$11,000 per

year). The new district website may have the capability to provide some of the same functions as E-Board. Mrs. Records questioned whether School Committee presentations can be videoed in advance and then have the presenter come in only for questions/answers. Dr. Mercurio said he needs clarification from legal counsel on this matter.

g. Personnel-Mr. Green, Chair

Mr. Green reported that seven out of eight administrative contracts have been renewed and approved.

h. Technology-Mrs. Records, Chair

Mrs. Records was absent from the last meeting, but all items discussed by the Technology Advisory Committee have been approved by the School Committee this evening.

XII. Discussion Items

a. Update on Cole softball field

Mr. Sullivan reported that SBS has been negotiating with Gilbane and the receiver for the contract. Work should be completed by the end of August.

XIII. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Green, which was seconded by Mr. Sommer, the Committee voted 5-0 to adjourn at 8:51p.m.

**CHRISTINE DIMEGLIO
SECRETARY**