

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

**Tuesday, November 27, 2012**

**Archie R. Cole Middle School Library**

**100 Cedar Avenue**

**East Greenwich, RI 02818**

**Those in attendance were Dr. Deidre Gifford, Mr. David Green, Mr. Jack Sommer, Mrs. Mary Ellen Winters, Mrs. Susan Records, Ms. Carolyn Mark, and Mr. Clark Smith**

**7:04p.m. Regular Meeting**

## **I. Call to order**

**The meeting was called to order by School Committee Clerk Christine DiMeglio for the purpose of electing a Chair and Vice-Chair for the ensuing two years.**

## **II. Election of School Committee Chair and Vice-Chair**

**Mrs. Winters made a motion to nominate Mr. Green as Chair. Dr. Gifford seconded the motion and voiced her enthusiastic support for Mr. Green. She noted it is with regret that she needs to step down as Chair due to the demands of her job. There were no further nominations for Chair. The Committee voted 7-0 to appoint Mr. Green as School Committee Chair. Mrs. Winters made a motion to nominate Dr. Gifford as Vice-Chair. Mr. Green seconded the motion.**

**There were no further nominations for Vice-Chair. The Committee voted 7-0 to appoint Dr. Gifford as Vice-Chair of the School Committee. Mr. Green acknowledged Dr. Gifford's service as an**

**outstanding School Committee Chair. Mr. Green thanked the Committee for their support and confidence in electing him Chair of the School Committee.**

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

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

### **IV. Public Comments**

**There were no public comments.**

### **V. Approval of Minutes**

#### **a. Regular and executive for November 13, 2012**

**On a motion by Mrs. Records, which was seconded by Mrs. Winters, the regular and executive minutes for November 13, 2012 were approved 7-0.**

### **VI. Superintendent's Report**

**Dr. Mercurio welcomed newly elected School Committee members Ms. Carolyn Mark and Mr. Clark Smith. Dr. Mercurio discussed the funding formula meeting that he and Mr. Sequino attended last week at Bryant University with members of the Hassenfeld Institute. The group will reconvene again in a few months with RIDE officials possibly attending. Dr. Mercurio recommended holding the December 4, 2012 School Committee meeting in the Cole Cafetorium due to the number of recognitions that will be made and due to the pre-budget discussion with the Town Council. Dr. Mercurio asked the Committee to view the website, [www.educationpledgeri.org](http://www.educationpledgeri.org). This site is seeking input on how to support the education process.**

**Interviews for the position of Director of Student Services will take place next week. Mr. Sommer volunteered to serve as School**

**Committee representative. Citizens Who Care has scheduled a meeting on January 14, 2013 at St. Luke's to discuss adolescent stress. Joe Militello, President of EGEF, will discuss the grant process with school administrators' at the December 4, 2012 administrative council meeting. Commissioner Gist contacted Dr. Mercurio and noted how impressed she is with the level of discourse and understanding shared by the principals' in regards to the teacher evaluation process. Mrs. Meyer and Mr. Seger were thanked for their outstanding presentation at the third forum on "Teacher Excellence." Cheryl Osborne asked about the status of grade configuration. It will be discussed at the next School Committee meeting.**

## **VII. School Committee Concerns**

**There were no concerns.**

## **VIII. Action Items**

### **a. Appointments**

#### **1. Head Coach-Girls' Swim-EGHS –Regina Hand**

**On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Mr. Sommer, the Committee voted 7-0 to approve appointment #1.**

#### **2. Head Coach-Boys' Swim-EGHS**

**This item was tabled.**

#### **3. Head Coach -Girls' Basketball-EGHS –Tori Ahrens**

#### **4. Girls' Basketball-Cole –Gary Faragalli**

**On a motion by Mrs. Records, which was seconded by Mrs. Winters, the Committee voted 7-0 to approve appointments #3 & 4.**

#### **5. Yearbook Advisor – EGHS-Paula Glod**

**On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Mr. Sommer,**

**the Committee voted 7-0 to approve appointment #5.**

**b. Parental Leave**

**1. Sarah Sewatsky-Cole**

**On a motion by Dr. Gifford, which was seconded by Mrs. Winters, the Committee voted 7-0 to approve the parental leave.**

**c. Budget Workshop Dates 2013**

**Dr. Gifford asked if the School Committee meeting on January 22, 2013 can be combined with the budget workshop scheduled for January 24, 2013. Mr. Green noted it will depend if there is an abbreviated agenda. Dr. Mercurio reminded the Committee that layoffs, suspensions, and non-renewals have a deadline of March 1, 2013. The 2012- 2013 school calendar will be included in the next School Committee packet.**

**IX. Health and Wellness Discussion –Drug Use**

**Mr. Houghtaling was asked to present this evening to discuss drug use in the schools and town. He provided a Drug Program Report and Assessment with statistics from the 2011-12 school year and also a report with activities from July 1, 2012-November 24, 2012. Mr. Sommer asked what the Committee can do in the way of preventative measures. Mr. Houghtaling noted the SRO has made an impact with a consistent presence in the schools. The TLC group has been a significant resource in gauging the school climate and stressors affecting students. Mr. Houghtaling suggested enhancing the transition of students from grade five to grade six and grade eight to grade nine as these transitions are critical points where students experience stress. Measures need to be enhanced to get students**

involved in viable activities within the first few weeks of school. Dr. Mercurio discussed the grade nine “team” approach which was used in the past. Mr. Sommer asked Mr. Houghtaling to provide input on a transition plan or best practices for the transition of grades five and eight. Dr. Gifford discussed the statistics in Rhode Island noting there is a behavioral health crisis in Rhode Island. Dr. Gifford asked if the district has adequate therapeutic options for students in schools. Mr. Houghtaling explained there is a significant waiting list for students to get into behavioral settings. Mr. Houghtaling is planning to set up a disposal box for outdated/unwanted prescription drugs. This box will be available for the community and housed at the East Greenwich Post Office. This project may be ready in a month or so and will be advertised in the local press and through the district list serv.

#### **X. Adjournment**

Mr. Green welcomed Mr. Smith and Ms. Mark to the School Committee and thanked them for running for office and noted they will find it rewarding. On a motion by Dr. Gifford, which was seconded by Mrs. Records, the Committee voted 7-0 to adjourn at 7:59p.m.

**CHRISTINE DIMEGLIO**

**SECRETARY**