

## **Minutes of the Joint Meeting**

**East Greenwich School Committee and Town Council**

**Tuesday, December 4, 2012**

**Archie R. Cole Middle School Cafetorium**

**100 Cedar Avenue**

**East Greenwich, RI 02818**

**6:30p.m. Executive Session, Mr. Green called the meeting to order. Mrs. Winters 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(a) (1) (2) Teacher negotiations. Dr. Gifford seconded the motion which passed 6-0.**

**School Committee members in attendance were Mr. David Green, Chair; Dr. Deidre Gifford, Vice-Chair; Mrs. Mary Ellen Winters; Mrs. Susan Records; Ms. Carolyn Mark; Mr. Clark Smith, and Mr. Jack Sommer (arrived at 6:36p.m.). Dr. Mercurio, Superintendent and Mrs. Maryanne Crawford, Director of Administration were also in attendance.**

**Town Council members in attendance were Mr. Michael B. Isaacs, President; Mr. Jeffrey B. Cianciolo, Vice-President; Mr. Michael S. Kiernan; Mr. Bradford C. Bishop, and Mr. Mark Watkins Gee. Mr. William Sequino, Town Manager was also in attendance.**

## **7:09p.m. Regular Meeting**

### **I. Call to Order**

**The School Committee was already in session. Town Council President Michael Isaacs called the Town Council meeting to order.**

### **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. Recognitions**

**The School Committee recognized the following:**

- a. Cole- Boys' Soccer State Champions**
- b. EGHS- All-State Band, Orchestra, Jazz Ensemble, Choir**
- c. Cole – R.I. Jr. All-State Musicians**

### **V. School Committee and Town Council Pre-Budget discussion**

**Mr. Isaacs congratulated newly elected School Committee Chair Mr. Green and Vice-Chair Dr. Gifford. Mr. Isaacs noted tonight's joint meeting between the school and town is to discuss revenue, expenditures, and issues that affect the preparation of the 2014 school budget. All budget numbers are preliminary. The next pre-budget joint meeting is scheduled for**

**January 7, 2013. Tonight's meeting is to talk about process and identify issues of concern. Mr. Isaacs would like this process to be a collaborative effort with the School Committee. Mr. Green noted this budget cycle will be his third and he would also like the process to be**

a collegial effort. Dr. Mercurio discussed items that will impact the 2014 budget such as grade reconfiguration, state funding formula, the “fiscal cliff,” teacher negotiations, and technology initiatives. Budget owners are in the process of working with their Finance Committee partners. Mr. Cianciolo asked what impact the “fiscal cliff” could have on the district. Mrs. Crawford said the cut in federal dollars could total \$60,000-\$80,000, which will mainly affect salaries. Dr. Gifford would like to discuss substance abuse issues within the town that were discussed by Mr. Houghtaling at the December 4, 2012 School Committee meeting. Dr. Mercurio would like to further discuss the possibility of consolidating certain services with other districts (i.e., curriculum, teaching). This topic was discussed at a brainstorming session at Bryant University’s Hassenfeld Institute. Mr. Isaacs would like the town and school to continue to look at areas for consolidation. Mr. Green noted the district is making progress in efficiencies in the shared purchase of services. The town and school would like to establish common guidelines regarding capital reserve funds. On a motion by Mr. Kiernan, which was seconded by Mr. Bishop, the Town Council voted 5-0 to adjourn at 7:29p.m.

## **VI. Approval of Minutes**

### **a. Regular for November 27, 2012**

On a motion by Mrs. Records, which was seconded by Mrs. Winters, the Committee voted 7-0 to approve the regular minutes for November 27, 2012.

## **VII. Superintendent’s Report**

Dr. Mercurio reminded the Committee about the I-Pledge Campaign.

He encouraged members to visit the site, [www.educationpledgeri.org](http://www.educationpledgeri.org) and submit their pledge. This week students' were given opt-out forms for participation in Survey Works. The deadline is December 17, 2012 for students whose parents do not want their child taking part in this voluntary and anonymous survey. For more information on the survey, the site is <http://surveyworks.ride.ri.gov>

#### **VIII. School Committee Concerns**

There were no concerns.

#### **IX. Action Items**

##### **a. Resignation- Lisa Kane- Paraprofessional-Cole Middle School**

On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Mr. Sommer, the Committee voted 7-0 to accept the resignation.

##### **b. Field Trips**

##### **1. Cole Middle School-Ski Trip, Sunday River, Maine-February 8-10, 2013**

On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Mrs. Records, the Committee voted 7-0 to approve the field trip.

##### **2. Cole Middle School-Close Up Trip, Washington DC, May 26-29, 2013**

On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Mr. Sommer, the Committee voted 7-0 to approve the field trip.

#### **X. Grade Configuration**

Dr. Mercurio gave an overview of the grade reconfiguration moving the incoming grade three (for the 2013-2014 school year) to Eldredge and Hanaford Schools. Principals are preparing their 2014 budget reviewing staffing based on the new configuration. Itinerant staffing

is complicated due to the different start and end times of the buildings. Many itinerants service elementary and middle schools. There are five (incoming 2013-14) grade three classes that will be moved to Eldredge and three classes moved to Hanaford. Contractual limits also vary at the elementary and middle school levels. In grades K-3, the maximum number of students per classroom is twenty and in grades 4-6, the maximum is twenty-five. Parents in the audience asked about all-day kindergarten, which Dr. Mercurio noted is not part of this discussion and is a community discussion with fiscal implications for the district and community. The grade reconfiguration report that was generated in March 2012 will be posted on the district website and grade reconfiguration will be a standing agenda item. Mrs. Carosotto asked about the timeline of the move and the preparation that is needed for special need students. Dr. Mercurio noted that requires a more detailed discussion and those student needs will be addressed first. PTG Co-President Mrs. Lopez asked if there would be a parent forum for feedback during the budget process. Mr. Green said one has not been scheduled, but noted it is a great idea. Dr. Mercurio will speak with the PTG Presidents about the budget at the next PTG meeting.

## **XI. Discussion Items**

### **a. School Committee Subcommittee Membership**

The School Committee Advisory and Subcommittee Membership were revised to include newly elected members Ms. Mark and Mr. Smith. Mr. Green read the proposed membership for the 2012-2014 term.

## **b. Financial Impact Statement-Custodians/Maintenance Staff**

**Mrs. Crawford discussed the Financial Impact Statement which will be posted on the district website. The 2013-2015 contract for the custodial/maintenance staff included salary increases of 2%, 2%, and 2% for each fiscal year. The 2012-13 increase did not go into effect until**

**November 1, 2012. The sick bank was eliminated as the bargaining unit is now participating in Temporary Disability Insurance. Eliminating the sick bank equals about \$2,200 per year based on fifteen sick days per year over a five-year period. The critical illness, which was barely used, was eliminated. Total cost of the 2013-2015 contract equals \$42,778.00.**

## **XII. Adjournment**

**On a motion by Dr. Gifford, which was seconded by Mrs. Winters, the Committee voted 7-0 to adjourn at 8:10p.m.**

**CHRISTINE DIMEGLIO  
SECRETARY**