

East Greenwich School Committee

Minutes of the Budget Workshop for Tuesday, January 29, 2013

Archie R. Cole Middle School Library

100 Cedar Avenue

East Greenwich, RI 02818

6:34p.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 6:34p.m. by School Committee Chair Mr. David Green. School Committee members in attendance were: Mrs. Mary Ellen Winters; Mr. Jack Sommer; Mrs. Susan Records; Mr. Clark Smith, and Ms. Carolyn Mark. Dr. Deidre Gifford, Vice-Chair was absent. Also in attendance were Dr. Victor Mercurio, Superintendent and Mrs. Maryanne Crawford, Director of Administration. Principals Podraza, Meyer, Vaughn, Cauley, Marcaccio, and Giusti were also present, along with Assistant Principal Seger. Mrs. June Fischer, Finance Committee Chair; Mr. David Sullivan; Mr. Scott Van Winters; Mr. Rob Bikash; Mr. Ed Pieroni, and Mr. Tom Stocker of the Finance Committee were also present.

II. Budget Workshop-Elementary

Mrs. Crawford thanked all budget owners for their efforts in preparing the 2014 budget. She also thanked the Finance Committee and staff members Tammy Walsh, Margo Ucci, and Chris DiMeglio

for their assistance. The FY2014 proposed budget will increase by \$1,315,976 (3.92%). Expected increases include health care costs and the teachers' pension. Two percent salary increases were negotiated for the paraprofessional and custodial bargaining unit. Budget increases are also expected in various non-discretionary areas such as legal fees, out of district tuition, and technology. A minimal increase due to grade three reconfiguration was also included. The teachers' contract is currently under negotiation. The district expects a \$500,000 increase in state aid.

Mr. Giusti and Mrs. Cauley gave an overview of their proposed budgets. Mr. Green questioned the increased cost of the grade three reconfiguration and asked Mrs. Crawford to provide a detailed breakdown. Some of the increases in Eldredge are due to the need for a .2FTE Physical Education Teacher, contractual step increases, and the need for a technology refresh. Mrs. Cauley explained the salary differences between Eldredge and Hanaford which can be attributed to hiring teachers' at varying steps.

Mrs. Vaughn and Mr. Marcaccio summarized their proposed budgets explaining the shift of grade three teachers to Eldredge and Hanaford. Frenchtown will cut one grade two position next year. Mrs. Vaughn and Mr. Marcaccio discussed the need for updated technology. With Common Core implementation, new textbooks and consumables will be needed.

III. Budget Workshop-Secondary

Mrs. Meyer summarized her proposed budget noting there are no staffing changes for next year. She anticipates 595 students at Cole next year. This year's grade 8 is a small class of only 156 students. Cole will gain additional students next year with the incoming grade 6 class. Mrs. Meyer explained various increases including purchasing non-fiction books (due to the Common Core) copy costs, and school supplies. The PARCC testing also has budget implications, along with the next generation of Science standards.

Mr. Podraza gave an overview of the high school budget. One major cost is new textbooks for Math. Mr. Podraza discussed the 1:1 I-Pad proposal and the personnel needed. There was discussion regarding the breakdown of costs for 1:1 implementation. Mr. Podraza will create two proposals: one with the proposed I-Pad purchase, and one without. The Committee asked Mr. Podraza for a list of possible savings if the district purchases I-Pads (i.e. textbook savings, copy costs, etc.) and also a list of technology that can be reallocated to other schools.

Mr. Green thanked the Finance Committee for their time and effort in assisting in the budget process. Mrs. Fischer thanked the budget owners for their effort and detail in developing their budgets. Mrs. Fischer said the budget summaries are an improvement over last year, but the process still needs additional work. The timetable for reviewing budgets was difficult. Ms. Mark questioned whether all-day

kindergarten was considered in the elementary budgets. Dr. Mercurio said it was not considered. Budget owners were only asked to consider the grade three reconfiguration.

IV. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Sommer, which was seconded by Mrs. Winters, the Committee voted

6-0 to adjourn at 7:51p.m.

CHRISTINE DIMEGLIO

SECRETARY