

Minutes of the East Greenwich School Committee

Tuesday, February 5, 2013

Archie R. Cole Middle School Library

100 Cedar Avenue

East Greenwich, RI 02818

5:37pm. Executive Session, Mr. Green called the meeting to order. Dr. Gifford 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. Mrs. Winters seconded the motion which passed 6-0.

Those in attendance were Mr. David Green, Chair; Dr. Deidre Gifford, Vice-Chair; Mrs. Mary Ellen Winters; Ms. Carolyn Mark; Mr. Jack Sommer; Mr. Clark Smith, and Mrs. Susan Records (arrived at 6:25p.m.) Dr. Victor Mercurio, Superintendent; Mrs. Maryanne Crawford, Director of Administration, and Attorney Matthew Oliverio were also in attendance.

7:06p.m. Regular Meeting

I. Call to Order

The meeting was already in session. Mr. Green, School Committee Chair, announced a vote was taken in executive session regarding teacher negotiations. The vote was 7-0.

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. Approval of Minutes

a. Regular and executive for January 22, 2013

On a motion by Dr. Gifford, which was seconded by Mr. Sommer, the Committee voted 7-0 to approve the regular and executive minutes for January 22, 2013.

V. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Mercurio thanked all cast members of Fiddler on the Roof for their outstanding performance. He thanked Mr. Petrucci, Mr. Carniaux, and Mr. Kenney for their efforts.

VI. School Committee Concerns

There were no concerns.

VII. Action Items

a. Parental leave- Christa Torti

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

b. School Committee Resolution-Layoff Notification Date

On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Dr. Gifford, the Committee voted 7-0 to approve the resolution with the word "then" changed to "than" in the third sentence.

c. School Committee Resolution-Binding Arbitration

There was discussion regarding this resolution due to the fact that the Committee has not seen the proposed legislation. Ms. Mark

asked if this resolution can be tabled until the Committee can review the proposed bill. Dr. Gifford asked that the third sentence regarding “state aid” be removed. On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Mr. Sommer, the Committee voted 5-2 to approve the resolution. Dr. Gifford and Ms. Mark voted no.

d. School Committee Resolution-Contract Continuation

Ms. Mark asked if this resolution can be tabled until the Committee can review the proposed bill. Mrs. Joanne Leach, East Greenwich teacher and teachers’ union vice-president read a prepared statement regarding the proposed resolution. Mr. Sommer asked that the third sentence regarding “state aid” be removed. On a motion by Mr. Sommer, which was seconded by Mrs. Winters, the Committee voted 6-1 to approve the resolution. Ms. Mark voted no.

e. Bids

On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Mr. Sommer, the Committee voted 7-0 to approve the following bids. Mr. Wilmarth said that all bids are within the budget.

1. Bid Award-Electrical Contractor-BZ Electric
2. Bid Award-HVAC-Environmental Systems, Inc.
3. Bid Award-Plumbing Contractor-Deltufo Plumbing
4. Bid Award-Carpet/Tile Installation-Ruggeri Flooring
5. Bid Award-Fire Protection Systems Testing and Inspections-Red Hawk Fire and Security

6. Bid Award-Roofing Inspections and Maintenance-Furey Roofing

VIII. Budget Workshop-Administration

Mrs. Crawford presented the administration budget noting this budget encompasses the Superintendent's office, the Director of Administration, School Committee and related expenses.

The proposed budget is an 8.3% increase. Legal fees and tuitions (i.e., vo-tech, charter school) have projected increases. 2% was also budgeted for contractual salary increases. The addition of a staff member added in the fall (fiscal office) needs to be budgeted in full for FY2014. Mrs. Crawford thanked the Committee for the additional staff member who is still training. Mrs. Crawford would like to explore the possibility of renovating the central office in the FY2015 budget year. She noted various problems with heat, air conditioning, holes in the walls, and ripped carpets. Mrs. Crawford would like Mr. Wilmarth to start exploring the costs of the renovation. Dr. Gifford would like the renovations to be part of the Building Committee's agenda. Mr. Green said the renovation is beyond appearance, it is functionality.

IX. Budget FY2014

Dr. Gifford has several questions concerning the special education budget and would like to review it again. Dr. Gifford asked if the Committee can provide specific questions ahead of time. Dr. Mercurio said the special education budget will be discussed again at the February 26th meeting.

X. Acceptance of Ethics Commission Decision

Mr. Green acknowledged the receipt of a formal advisory opinion

pursuant to the Code of Ethics §36-14-11 in regards to School Committee members participating in the East Greenwich teachers' negotiation team.

XI. Discussion

1. Strategic Planning Process

Several School Committee members expressed a desire for a more formalized process. Dr. Mercurio provided a Strategic Planning Proposal to initiate the conversation. The Strategic Plan has not been revised since 2009. Dr. Mercurio explained the process including the theory of action graphic, workflow timeline and the essential elements of the plan. Dr. Mercurio would like a variety of stakeholders from the learning community to take part in the process.

Funds will be put aside for a strategic facilitator. The Committee expressed concerns about the timetable and asked that the strategic planning process be discussed at the next meeting on February 26th.

2. School Safety Follow-up Discussion

Chief Coyle is planning to give a full report at the March 5th School Committee meeting. Cole recently had a lock down drill and the process went well. The district is continuing to work with the East Greenwich Police Department in reviewing safety. There is a School Safety Workshop at the East Bay Collaborative on February 12, 2013. The district is planning to send interested teachers and administrators, along with the School Resource Officer. Mrs. Winters questioned the status of the inside doors locking. Dr. Mercurio said the schools are still going through the process and he will have a

complete list on March 5th. Outside doors are locked and keys are being distributed within the schools. Mr. Wilmarth said the doors at Hanaford, Eldredge, Frenchtown and the High School would have to be upgraded in order to automatically lock from the inside. The doors are currently being locked using keys. Dr. Mercurio explained that all classroom doors are locked once the students are in the rooms. Ms. Mark asked what the cost would be to upgrade the four schools. Mr. Wilmarth said it could be upwards of \$100,000 for custom-made levers and installation.

XII. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Sommer, which was seconded by Ms. Mark, the Committee voted 7-0 to adjourn at 8:17pm.

CHRISTINE DIMEGLIO
SECRETARY