

EAST GREENWICH TOWN COUNCIL & SCHOOL COMMITTEE JOINT SESSION MINUTES

Monday, January 7, 2013

7:00 PM – Swift Gym

- Council Members: Michael B. Isaacs, President
Jeffrey B. Cianciolo, Vice President
Bradford C. Bishop, Councilor
Mark Watkins Gee, Councilor
Michael S. Kiernan, Councilor
- Staff Members: William Sequino, Jr., Town Manager
Kathy Raposa, Finance Director
Peter Clarkin, Town Solicitor
Pamela Aveyard, Administrative Assistant to Town Manager
- School Members: David Green, Chairperson
Dr. Deidre Gifford, Vice-Chairperson
Mary Ellen Winters
Susan Records
Jack Sommer
Carolyn Mark
Clark Smith
- Others: Dr. Victor Mercurio, Superintendent
Maryanne Crawford, Director of Administration
Matthew Oliverio, Attorney, EG Schools
Margaret Ucci, Administrative Assistant EG Schools

7:00 P.M. Call to Order

JOINT SESSION WITH SCHOOL COMMITTEE

1) Pre-budget Discussion

The joint session was held at 7:04 P.M. in the Swift Gym.

Members present: David Green, Chair; Dr. Deidre Gifford, Vice Chair; Jack Sommer; Carolyn Mark and Clark Smith as well as Superintendent Dr. Victor Mercurio; Maryanne Crawford, Director of Administration and Matthew Oliverio, Legal Counsel for East Greenwich Schools. Mary Ellen Winters and Susan Records (absent)

Mr. Sequino explained briefly to the new members of the Town Council the Budget Discussion Process. He stated that it is a collaborative process. Mr. Green declared that this was the third pre-budget meeting. He explained that the School Committee has not yet met with school administrators. Dr. Mercurio stated that the School Committee will meet with the Finance Committee to talk about budget and planning. For the school year 2013/2014 we are looking at an estimated increase of 3.5 %. We see health care up 8%, dental down 5%, retirement up 7%. We have reached an agreement with the custodian and paraprofessional unions with a 2.0% increase. East Greenwich Schools will continue to receive 24% in state aid funding, which will generate 2.7

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million in revenue. As of now, our enrollment is 2,432. NESDEC projections for 2013/2014 is 2,351 students. Mr. Gee asked whether we have the facilities and space to support the NESDEC report. Dr. Mercurio stated that the study of facilities and student enrollment was below the 24,000 square feet of RIDE's requirement for student body. We are below the percentages for school year 2013/2014.

There are two major criteria, district initiative and mandated. (1) School year 2012/2013 grade 3 reconfiguration of Hanaford/Eldredge from MBF and Frenchtown was not possible. We do plan to go ahead with the grade 3 reconfiguration in the 2013/2014 school year. This will involve staffing and moving costs. (2) One-on-one environment at high school with technical purchase and training. We will research other districts using this technology.

NECAP mandated testing that was taken with paper and pencil will be replaced with on-line testing. Common Core curriculum is being used across the country with 30-31 states participating. The Common Core will measure student learning, curriculum work, professional development, and support techniques.

Mandated Teacher Evaluation model is a major shift -- evaluation instruction, student growth, teacher effectiveness. The Race to the Top Grant, which will expire in 2014, has financially supported these mandates. We will be responsible after the implementation and the expiration of the RTTT Grant. Mrs. Crawford stated that the school budget will fall within the 4%, probably at 3.5 % due to state aid. Dr. Mercurio stated that the 3.5 % is estimated. Mr. Sequino questioned whether the numbers from the state will remain intact or be cut when the state budget is finalized. Dr. Mercurio said that he is always concerned about state funding, but he and RIDE feel that it looks good. Mr. Kiernan asked for clarification on the 24 % which totals 2.27 million. Mr. Green said there would be an increase of \$428,500.00 from last year. Mr. Green was relatively certain that the \$139,000.00 from last year, a one-time amount, carries over to this year amounting to \$426,000.00. Mr. Gee stated that the state has 6 months to change. Do you still trust it? Mrs. Crawford stated that she is optimistic that the state aid will remain intact. The funding formula given to us was enacted in the formula, so any decrease would mean unraveling the entire funding formula. East Greenwich has been under funded over the years, so this one-time revenue will be part of our base--\$139,000.00. Dr. Mercurio stated that there is increased enrollment and an increase in free/reduced lunches. Mr. Bishop asked if we could proportionality deliver the increased enrollment number. Dr. Mercurio stated that RIDE based the increase in enrollment on the submitted daily attendance report. Our enrollment has increased steadily for the last 3 years even though 20-25% of school age children in East Greenwich attend private schools. Mr. Sequino asked about enrollment surplus. Dr. Mercurio stated that the middle school will be at capacity next year. The high school numbers are up but reaching capacity-- there is no trending in that direction. Mr. Gee stated that guidelines take into account many things including instructional space. Dr. Mercurio stated that the renovations increased flexible space.

On a motion made by Mr. Isaacs and seconded by Mr. Gee, the Council members voted unanimously to adjourn at 7:40 P.M..

On a motion made by Mr. Sommer and seconded by Dr. Gifford, the committee voted unanimously to adjourn at 7:40 P.M

Submitted,

Margaret M. Ucci, Secretary