

Minutes of the East Greenwich School Committee

Tuesday, February 26, 2013

Archie R. Cole Middle School Library

100 Cedar Avenue

East Greenwich, RI 02818

6:10p.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. Ms. Mark seconded the motion which passed 5-0.

Those in attendance were Mr. David Green, Chair; Mrs. Mary Ellen Winters; Ms. Carolyn Mark; Mr. Jack Sommer; Mr. Clark Smith, and Mrs. Susan Records (arrived at 6:17p.m.). Dr. Deidre Gifford, Vice-Chair was absent. Dr. Victor Mercurio, Superintendent; Mrs. Maryanne Crawford, Director of Administration; and Attorney Matthew Oliverio were also in attendance.

7:10p.m. Regular Meeting

I. Call to Order

The meeting was already in session.

II. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

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

III. Public Comments

Leslie Barone of 54 Tanglewood Drive asked questions regarding the possibility of banking minutes each school day to eliminate the numerous days that are added on to the end of the school year due to snow/hurricane days. Dr. Mercurio addressed the question noting this alternative is not acceptable by Commissioner Gist.

IV. Approval of Minutes

a. Joint Minutes School Committee and Town Council for January 7, 2013

Mr. Sommer made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Winters to approve the minutes. Mr. Green asked for amendments to the minutes of the pre-budget discussion including changing 8.2% increase to 2.0%, changing “potentially” to “continue to,” changing 2.27 million to 2.7 million, and remove “additional” from the first sentence on the second page. On a motion by Mr. Sommer, which was seconded by Ms. Mark, the Committee voted 5-0 to approve the minutes with Mrs. Records abstaining.

b. Budget Workshop Minutes for January 29, 2013

c. Budget Workshop Minutes for January 31, 2013

d. Regular and executive for February 5, 2013

e. Budget Workshop Minutes for February 7, 2013

On a motion by Mr. Sommer, which was seconded by Mrs. Winters, the Committee voted 6-0 to approve the minutes of #IV b, c, d, e.

V. Superintendent’s Report

Dr. Mercurio announced the Unified Volleyball team has been invited to defend their championship title in Lexington, Kentucky over the Memorial Day weekend. An Alert Now message will be sent this

Thursday evening to notify parents that NECAP scores will be sent home on Friday, March 1, 2013. Ms. Mark asked Dr. Mercurio questions regarding supporting high school students due to the graduation requirements and NECAP scores. Dr. Mercurio said the district met with representatives from RIDE concerning graduation requirements and NECAP Math results in early February. Mr. Podraza will discuss strategies to assist these students at next School Committee meeting.

VI. School Committee Concerns

There were no concerns.

VII. Action Items

a. Approval of Layoffs, Suspensions, Non-Renewals, and Reconfiguration

Dr. Mercurio explained state statute requires these approvals by March 1st of each year. On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Mr. Sommer, the Committee voted 5-0 to approve the layoffs, suspensions, non-renewals, and reconfiguration. Mrs. Records abstained.

b. First Read of amended Policy #3410 Spending Policy and Minimum Fund Balance

This policy was adopted in 2011. At that time, the policy did not specify how the district would handle excess funds over 2.5% of the general fund operating budget. This amended policy designates how the excess funds will be used. Mrs. Crawford explained the excess funds will be split 80/20 (%) between capital projects and technology improvements. The Committee discussed the policy in detail and

asked Mrs. Crawford to revise the language giving the School Committee discretion to adjust the percentages if either the capital fund or technology fund fall below \$5,000. They also asked her to clarify non-recurring expenditures.

VIII. Discussion

a. Strategic Plan Process and Facilitator

Dr. Mercurio handed out an overview of the strategic planning process at the last School Committee meeting. This Friday he and Mr. Green will take part in a conference call with Mr. John Kim of the District Management Council. Mr. Kim's organization is used for strategic planning by large and small districts and also colleges. Ms. Mark may also take part in the conference call.

b. Review of Special Education Budget Workshop

This item was discussed during the public hearing discussion.

IX. Public Hearing on the FY2014 Budget

Dr. Mercurio thanked the Finance Committee for their assistance in the budget process.

Dr. Mercurio explained the FY2014 budget using a PowerPoint presentation which detailed district opportunities and challenges, strengths, and major initiatives in regards to the FY2014 budget. Enrollment projections, budget adjustments, and FY2014 revenue were also detailed.

X. Adjournment

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

6-0 to adjourn at 8:09 p.m.

CHRISTINE DIMEGLIO

SECRETARY