

Minutes of the East Greenwich School Committee

Tuesday, March 5, 2013

Archie R. Cole Middle School Library

100 Cedar Avenue

East Greenwich, RI 02818

6:04p.m. 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. Records 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. Clark Smith; Mrs. Susan Records, and Mr. Jack Sommer (arrived at 6:18p.m.). Dr. Victor Mercurio, Superintendent; Mrs. Maryanne Crawford, Director of Administration; and Attorney Matthew Oliverio were also in attendance.

7:08p.m. Regular Meeting

I. Call to Order

The meeting was already in session.

II. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

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

IV. Public Comments

There were no comments.

V. Approval of Minutes

a. Regular and executive for February 26, 2013

On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Mr. Sommer, the Committee voted 7-0 to approve the regular and executive minutes for February 26, 2013.

VI. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Mercurio expressed congratulations to Mrs. Meyer who was the recipient of the Golden Apple Award yesterday. Patrice Wood, Channel 10 News Anchor and Commissioner Deborah Gist presented Mrs. Meyer with the award. Mrs. Meyer is the first administrator in the state to receive this award. Adam Scott, Cole Science Teacher, nominated Mrs. Meyer for the Golden Apple. Mr. Scott and numerous Cole students were present for the ceremony. The clip is scheduled to air on March 7, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. Dr. Mercurio also announced March is National Youth Art Month. Several students will be recognized for their achievement in art at the next School Committee meeting.

VII. School Committee Concerns

There were no concerns.

VIII. Action Items

a. Appointments

- 1. Baseball- Head Coach-EGHS-Robert Downey**
- 2. Baseball-Asst Coach-EGHS-Steve Whittaker**

3. **Baseball-Volunteer Coach-EGHS-Scott Woodward**
4. **Softball-Head Coach-EGHS-Robert Petrucci**
5. **Softball-Asst Coach-EGHS-Kerri Fuller**
6. **Softball-Volunteer Coach-EGHS-Doug Mainerio**
7. **Boys' Volleyball-Head Coach-EGHS-Terri Jones-Garno**
8. **Boys' Volleyball-Asst Coach-EGHS-Ryan Garno**
9. **Golf-Head Coach-EGHS-Marc Brocato**
 10. **Boys' Lacrosse-Head Coach-EGHS-Brian Trapani**
 11. **Boys' Lacrosse-Asst Coach-EGHS-Chris Callahan**
 12. **Boys' Lacrosse-Volunteer Coach-EGHS-Bruce Roberts**
 13. **Girls' Lacrosse-Head Coach-EGHS-Karen Lemont**
 14. **Girls' Lacrosse-Asst Coach-EGHS- to be determined**
 15. **Boys' Outdoor Track-Head Coach-EGHS-Peter Dion**
 16. **Boys' Outdoor Track-Asst Coach-EGHS-Bruce**

Mastracchio

17. **Girls' Outdoor Track-Head Coach-EGHS-Erin Newman**
18. **Girls' Outdoor Track-Asst Coach-EGHS-Kyle Mushaweh**
19. **Boys' Tennis-Head Coach-EGHS-Marissa Salvadore**
20. **Baseball-Head Coach-Cole Middle School-Harris Alkins**
21. **Softball-Head Coach-Cole Middle School-Kate Warrington**

Item #14 was tabled. All appointments with the exception of #13 and #20 have the appropriate certification. On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Mr. Sommer, all appointments except #13 and #20 were unanimously approved 7-0. On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Mr. Sommer, appointments #13 and

#20 were unanimously approved 7-0 with the provision that the appropriate certification is received. Dr. Mercurio said he is confident the certification will be in place. Mr. Sommer asked that Mr. Cobain confirm the certifications prior to practice.

b. Second Read/Adoption of amended Policy #3410 Spending Policy and Minimum Fund Balance

Mrs. Crawford presented the policy and noted the revisions from the previous read. The Committee asked for additional revisions in #1-5 including changing the wording to “between 1.5-2.5%,” revising language surrounding “excess funds,” and also adding language noting “as promulgated by GASB.” On a motion by Mr. Sommer, which was seconded by Mrs. Winters, the Committee voted 7-0 to approve the policy with the edits that were discussed and incorporated into the revised policy.

c. Adoption of FY2014 Budget

Dr. Mercurio noted the FY2014 budget is presented with adjustments and he is seeking School Committee approval to maintain the timeline in submitting the budget to the town manager. Mr. Green explained the FY2014 budget process has been ongoing for the past two months with a public hearing held at the last School Committee meeting. Several public budget meetings were held with budget owners and finance committee members in January and February. The initial budget proposal was \$34,927,552. Administration amended the budget with reductions totaling \$245,000. The revised budget totals \$34,682,051. Ms. Mark asked how sequestration may impact the budget. Mrs. Crawford stated it would only impact federal

funds and explained the impact on grants. Mrs. Crawford also discussed the federal qualified school construction (QSC) bonds for Cole and the recent news regarding reimbursement. Mrs. Crawford placed a call today to get an idea of the financial impact and will report back with an update. Mr. Sommer made a motion to approve the FY2014 budget as amended and presented in the amount of \$34,682,051. Mrs. Winters seconded the motion, which passed 7-0. Mr. Green thanked Dr. Mercurio, Mrs. Crawford, and Mrs. Fischer.

IX. Discussion

a. Graduation Requirements-Process

Mr. Podraza was present to discuss the process in place to support students' who were not "proficient" in NECAP testing. Mr. Podraza discussed the four graduation requirements: PBGR, credit requirements, NECAP scores, and mid-terms/finals. He also discussed the grading policy and the interventions available to support students (tutoring, National Honor Society, etc.).

Mr. Podraza explained that students' need to score a "2" in Math and Reading on the NECAP. The testing for Science does not carry a graduation requirement. Students' who do not attain the "2" in grade 11 can take the NECAP again in October of their senior year. If the student then fails to show statistical growth or attain a "2," the student will take a revised test with the higher order items removed and the student given opportunity to show growth. RIDE has not defined the specifics of this opportunity yet. Mr. Podraza also explained there are numerous opportunities for retakes in regards to senior project. He also discussed the possibility of interviews taking

the place of the research paper.

Mr. Podraza explained the steps the high school has taken to support students using progress monitoring, individual reading plans, etc. Letters were sent mid-year to parents if their child needs additional support. Dr. Mercurio said Mr. Podraza and Mrs. Meyer are reviewing grade 8 NECAP scores. The PARCC exam is chunked by grade (i.e., 3-5 and 6-8). The district wants to ensure there are no gaps from one building to another.

Mr. Green and Ms. Mark discussed the meeting they attended regarding graduation requirements and the topic of a fourth step waiver. Right now it appears the district needs to have a policy in place to provide a waiver. This topic needs further clarification from the Commissioner. Dr. Mercurio said he thought the waiver was only for rare circumstances.

b. Superintendent's Goals

Dr. Mercurio read through his five major goals for the 2012-2013 school year. Later this summer the Committee will provide input for Dr. Mercurio's annual evaluation. Mr. Green discussed the need to put the goals in front of the Committee prior to the evaluation process. This way the Committee can give feedback at the onset of the evaluation process rather than the end.

c. School Calendar 2013-2014

Dr. Mercurio explained that the school calendar is based on a template provided to superintendents from RISSA. The current

proposed calendar does not have an early release day in May for Senior Project Exhibition. Dr. Mercurio and the Committee discussed the possibility of eliminating the February and April break and having only one break in March. The Committee also discussed the possibility of starting after Labor Day and eliminating some religious holidays. Dr. Gifford discussed surveying parents for their preference. Dr. Mercurio will draft a survey for possible study.

X. Adjournment

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

7-0 to adjourn at 8:41p.m.

**CHRISTINE DIMEGLIO
SECRETARY**