

Minutes of the East Greenwich School Committee

Tuesday, May 21, 2013

Archie R. Cole Middle School Library

100 Cedar Avenue

East Greenwich, RI 02818

6:51p.m. Executive Session, Mr. Green called the meeting to order. Mr. Sommer 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; Mr. Jack Sommer; Ms. Carolyn Mark, and Mrs. Susan Records. Mr. Clark Smith was absent. Dr. Victor Mercurio, Superintendent; Mrs. Maryanne Crawford, Director of Administration, and Attorney Matthew Oliverio were also in attendance.

7:02p.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

There were no public comments.

IV. Approval of Minutes

a. Regular and Executive for May 7, 2013

On a motion by Mr. Sommer, which was seconded by Dr. Gifford, the Committee voted 5-0 to approve the regular and executive minutes for May 7, 2013. Mrs. Winters was not present for the vote.

V. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Mercurio will attend the Board of Education meeting on Thursday at the Ryan Center. Archie R. Cole Middle School will receive a citation from the Board of Education Chair due to its designation as a "green school." Sixteen EGHS students attended the informational meeting on Mandarin at the high school. A meeting has also been set up for current eighth grade students. Dr. Mercurio signed off on an agreement with Middlebury for teacher training for the URI teachers who will teach the course. Dr. Gifford asked if the URI teachers (who are student volunteers) would need School Committee approval. Dr. Mercurio said the teachers would go through the same credentialing process as student teachers, which requires a background check. Two parents in the district are part of the National Chemistry Foundation. They provided information regarding a program called, "You be the Chemist." This program provides all materials and professional development. East Greenwich is the first district to receive a presentation on this program. A discussion with elementary principals will take place to discuss the possibilities for 2013-14.

VI. School Committee Concerns

Mr. Sommer asked if the district is on track with strategic planning.

Mr. Green said the district is behind schedule, but this item will be discussed as an agenda item during discussion. Mr. Green noted Board of Education Chair Eva Mancuso has solicited input on retaining Commissioner Gist. Mr. Green and Dr. Gifford have provided their input under their own signature and forwarded to the Chair. All members are welcome to forward their input.

VII. Action Items

a. Second Read/Adoption #2190 Extracurricular Fundraising and Commercial Activities

The Policy Committee met and discussed the input that was given at the last School Committee meeting. Dr. Gifford read through the suggested revisions. The first paragraph regarding gifts was borrowed from Barrington and Exeter-West Greenwich. Dr. Mercurio reviewed this policy with the PTG at the May 13, 2013 meeting. The PTG voiced concerns regarding fundraising for store cards (i.e. Stop & Shop, Target). The district receives substantial dollars from this fundraiser, which is used for classroom purchases. Mrs. Osborne asked if a preapproved list can be available so the PTG and other groups could make classroom purchases consistent with district preferences. After a lengthy discussion regarding solicitation via flyers and list serv, the Committee agreed this policy needs further clarification and will go back to the Policy Committee for further review.

VIII. Subcommittee Reports

a. Policy Committee

Dr. Gifford listed the policies that are being reviewed by the Policy Committee which include the Mental Health Policy, Criminal Background Check, Volunteer Policy, and the Statement of Non-Discrimination. Legal feedback is necessary to move forward on these policies. Mrs. Kate Goldman asked if the Committee was discussing the schedule for elementary schools at tonight's meeting.

This item was discussed at the last meeting and Dr. Gifford had asked if the schedule could be discussed at a subsequent meeting.

This item was not listed on tonight's agenda and could not be discussed. Mr. Green asked Mrs. Goldman to send him and Dr. Mercurio an email stating her expectations. Further discussion will take place at an upcoming meeting.

IX. Discussion

a. Strategic Planning Process

Dr. Mercurio and Mr. Green met with Mr. Richard Diamond today, the district facilitator for strategic planning. Mr. Diamond recommends a group size of no more than 12-15 members. The group will be comprised of teachers, administrators, School Committee members, one or two "at large" representatives, and an NEIT representative, who will participate as a community member or provide technical services. Dr. Mercurio would like to solicit PTG presidents to see if any member is interested in serving. If no PTG president wishes to serve, community members will be solicited. Once the process is underway, there will be an opportunity for community input similar to the reconfiguration meetings. The process will begin the first or

second week in June with meetings taking place every two weeks. A one-time meeting with the School Committee will be held with the facilitator prior to the group meeting. This meeting will be posted as a workshop meeting.

b. Finance Committee FY2014 Recommendations

June Fischer, Finance Committee Chair was present to discuss the Finance Committee's FY2014 recommendations. Prior to tonight's meeting, additional edits were made to the recommendations and will be forwarded to the School Committee. Mr. Sommer gave an overview of the recommendation process and Mrs. Fischer reviewed each recommendation. Recommendation #2 includes providing new items such as pension expense, deferred budget items, payroll expense, and health insurance offerings. Recommendation #3 includes the recommendation of possibly using an outside consultant for assistance in initiating a comprehensive plan for one-to-one- implementation. Recommendation #4 noted the need to dissect the special education budget and look at transportation and tuition, which represent significant dollars of the total budget. Alignment of dollars with federal and state mandates is recommended to

provide assistance in understanding the budget. Recommendation #5 discussed the need to constantly evaluate processes, programs, and services by using metrics. Mr. Sommer thanked all Finance Committee members for their time and efforts. Mr. Green said the recommendations would be discussed at a subsequent meeting and asked Mrs. Fischer for a copy of the revised recommendations. After

reviewing and discussing the recommendations, the Committee will accept, not accept, or modify the recommendations and then charge the Superintendent to execute them. Dr. Gifford noted that Recommendation #5 is hard to measure in regards to #3 and #4. She asked Mrs. Fischer to provide an example or a method that could be used for evaluation.

X. Adjournment

On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Mr. Sommer, the Committee voted 6-0 to adjourn at 8:13p.m.

**CHRISTINE DIMEGLIO
SECRETARY**