

Minutes of the East Greenwich School Committee

Tuesday, December 3, 2013

Archie R. Cole Middle School Library

100 Cedar Avenue

East Greenwich, RI 02818

6:45p.m. Executive Session, 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) (2) (8) Teacher Negotiations. Ms. Mark seconded the motion, which passed 5-0.

Those in attendance were Mr. David Green, Chair; Dr. Deidre Gifford, Vice-Chair (arrived at 6:49p.m.); Mrs. Mary Ellen Winters (arrived at 6:47p.m.); Ms. Carolyn Mark; Mr. Jack Sommer; Mr. Clark Smith; and Mrs. Susan Records. Dr. Victor Mercurio, Superintendent; and Mr. Bradley Wilson, Director of Student Services were also present. Mrs. Maryanne Crawford, Director of Administration was absent.

7:00p.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

Ms. Chris Perrett discussed the opportunity of a Confucius Classroom in East Greenwich. She has previously spoken with Dr. Mercurio, Mr. Podraza, and Mr. Green regarding this opportunity. This classroom would be a center for Chinese language in the district. The district would be provided with about \$10,000 per year to promote Chinese language and understanding. An agreement has been provided to the district and is time sensitive. Ms. Perrett asked if this agreement could be added to the next agenda in December.

Mr. Green needs to discuss this further with Dr. Mercurio. Dr. Gifford asked for additional background on the Confucius Institute especially information regarding their government structure. Ms. Perrett will get the requested information. Mr. Paul Martin expressed his concerns regarding the status of the teachers' contract. Mr. Green said the district is still in negotiations. Mr. Martin congratulated Mr. Green for keeping the School Committee in agreement throughout the process.

IV. Recognition- Mrs. Susan Verdon, NEARI Education Support Professional of the Year

Mrs. Verdon was congratulated for receiving the NEARI Education Support Professional of the Year.

IV. Approval of Minutes

a. Regular and Executive for November 19, 2013

On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Dr. Gifford, the Committee voted 6-0 to approve the minutes. Mr. Sommer abstained.

V. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Mercurio discussed the \$20 million wireless bond grant that was awarded to the state. The district will receive \$229,136.67. This bond needs School Committee approval and will appear on the next School Committee agenda. Dr. Mercurio and other administrators have met several times with RIDE concerning funding of the bond. Counsel will also review the proposal. Funding will be allocated to all schools except the high school. NESDEC enrollment projections were received today. Dr. Mercurio will

forward the information to the School Committee. A technology advisory committee meeting is scheduled for Friday, December 6, 2013 at 7:30a.m. Dr. Mercurio discussed the “You Be The Chemist” program, which provides students with hands-on chemical activities. A pilot school will be chosen to participate locally and nationally.

VI. School Committee Concerns

Dr. Gifford was asked if further information is needed regarding the bus monitor issue. Mrs. Crawford previously sent the School Committee a detailed memo of events/actions that took place. Since this document contained confidential personnel information, it was not shared with the public. The bus monitor issue will appear on the next School Committee agenda.

VII. Action Items

**a. Appointment-Asst Coach Girls’ Basketball-EGHS-Lori Michailides
On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Mr. Sommer, the Committee voted 7-0 to approve the appointment.**

VIII. First Read Policies

a. Policy #10-210 Internet Safety Policy

Mr. Green summarized the policy and explained the necessity of this policy, which is to ensure compliance with the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA). Mrs. Records asked questions about downloading programs and monitoring traffic. Mr. Green said those items would be discussed in the Internet Use Policy. This policy will receive a second read/adoption at the next School Committee meeting.

b. Policy #8435- Waiver to R.I. State Assessment Graduation Requirement Protocol

Dr. Mercurio explained the policy and noted language is from the RIDE template and from two other districts. Additional language will be added to the timeframe of the request and to note the district's commitment to being proactive in monitoring a student's eligibility. There were questions regarding students moving on to transition and participating in the graduation ceremony. Dr. Mercurio will seek clarification. Ms. Mark would like a link to the RIDE website that lists evidence examples.

IX. Sub Committee Updates

a. Policy Committee

The next Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for December 13th. The technology use policy will be discussed, along with some health-related policies.

b. Mental Health Subcommittee

Ms. Mark discussed the meeting that took place on November 19th with Bob Houghtaling, two parents, and Mr. Wilson. The Committee is exploring ways to assess the state of the district to gauge the

challenges and opportunities. Mr. Wilson will meet with his support staff in the district. The Committee will reconvene on December 19th to hear the results and determine the next steps.

X. Adjournment

On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Ms. Mark, the Committee voted 7-0 to adjourn at 7:45p.m.

CHRISTINE DIMEGLIO

SECRETARY