

Minutes of the East Greenwich School Committee

Tuesday, February 4, 2014

Archie R. Cole Middle School Library

100 Cedar Avenue

East Greenwich, RI 02818

6:08p.m. Executive Session, 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; Superintendent 2013-2104 Evaluation Update. Mrs. Winters seconded the motion, which passed 7-0.

Those in attendance were Mr. David Green, Chair; Dr. Deidre Gifford, Vice-Chair; Mrs. Mary Ellen Winters; Ms. Carolyn Mark; Mr. Jack Sommer; Mr. Clark Smith, and Mrs. Susan Records.

Dr. Victor Mercurio, Superintendent; Mrs. Maryanne Crawford, Director of Administration; Mr. Bradley Wilson, Director of Student Services; and Attorney Matthew Oliverio were also present.

Regular Meeting

I. Call to Order

Mr. Green called the meeting to order at 7:03p.m.

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. Recognitions

a. All-State Athletes-EGHS

The following students were recognized and congratulated for their achievement: Field Hockey: Emily Karn, Jamie Fugere, Caroline Neupauer. Girls' Soccer: Alexandra Freeman and Marissa Light. Girls' Tennis: Peri Sheinin, Heather Shen, Aleksandra Drjlaca. Girls' Cross Country: Margaret McCaffrey. Boys' Cross Country: Garrett Scanlon and Thomas Sommer.

V. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Mercurio noted the NECAP release is scheduled for February 13, 2014. District administrators will meet collaboratively on February 11, 2014 to discuss the results. Dr. Mercurio met with Frenchtown PTG today and answered questions surrounding technology and scheduling. Dr. Gifford asked about the bus delay this week. Dr. Mercurio said the second tier busses were running 15-20 minutes late due to the weather. The district experienced a server delay in the list serv email that was sent to notify parents. The last bus picked up students at approximately 3:45p.m.

VI. School Committee Concerns

There were no concerns.

VII. Action Items

a. Field Trip-EGHS-International Trip-4/17/15-4/26/15

Mrs. Munzert was present to explain the purpose of the trip. This is a ten-day trip, which is open to the entire student body. The maximum

number of students to book an entire bus is 42 students. This would allow EGHS students to have their own bus and not share with outside groups. The minimum number of students for the trip is six. Ms. Mark questioned whether fundraising would take place for this trip. At this point, Mrs. Munzert is not sure, but will discuss with parents and students. Ms. Mark also asked if scholarships would be available. The policy committee will discuss scholarships in regard to fundraising during their upcoming meeting. On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Mr. Sommer, the Committee voted 7-0 to approve the trip. Dr. Gifford asked Mrs. Munzert to report back (next school year) with details of the trip. Ms. Mark will get an update on fundraising.

b. Resignation- Robert Palmisano-Frenchtown Custodian

On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Mr. Sommer, the Committee voted 7-0 to accept the resignation.

VIII. First Read of Amended Policy #10-110 Acceptable Use Policy for Network

Resources and Digital Devices

Dr. Mercurio presented the revised policy and discussed the need for a comprehensive re-write. Mrs. Records expressed concerns surrounding devices or hardware in the event they are lost, stolen, or compromised. There were suggestions about separating the policy that speaks to staff and students. Student insurance also needs clarification. Dr. Mercurio said there would be a sign-off by students/parents, which is referenced in policy #10-210. This policy will go back to the Policy Committee for revisions.

IX. Discussion

a. Affordable Care Act Update

Mrs. Crawford provided an update on the Affordable Care Act. Mrs. Crawford explained the guidelines for offering health insurance including the look back period, measurement period, and penalties. She noted the district is currently in the measurement period. An employer with over fifty employees must offer the minimum health insurance to 95% of employees who work thirty hours within a week. The district needs to look at substitutes, coaches, ticket takers and anyone else who is considered a common law employee. Mrs. Crawford estimates three to four people may be eligible for insurance. Mrs. Crawford explained the penalty if insurance is not offered to qualified workers. There were questions regarding record keeping and how penalties are assessed. Mrs. Crawford will seek further clarification. The Committee discussed establishing a policy surrounding limiting hours for per diem workers.

b. Department Chair- Arts/Music

Dr. Mercurio presented a draft of a job description for a Director of Performing and Visual Arts. There was a lengthy discussion about the rationale of a forty-five day position. This type of position will require flextime and latitude without the constraints of an academic day. Forty-five days will allow the Director to be in the building once a week to work with teachers on curriculum and work with students on performances. Dr. Mercurio was asked to discuss this proposal with teachers from the art and music departments and determine the funding needed whether the position is part time or full time.

c. FY2014 Financial Report

Mrs. Crawford discussed the current financial status of the FY2014 budget (YTD through December). The one area of concern may be special education, which may have an increase in purchase of services and out of district tuitions. Mrs. Crawford explained the appearance of a significant increase in Hanaford benefits. This line is a holding account, which will be journalized at a later date.

X. Sub Committee Update

a. Policy Committee

The Policy Committee will meet this Friday to revisit policy #10-110 Acceptable Use Policy for Network Resources and Digital Devices along with a review of several other policies.

b. Technology Advisory Committee

The last meeting held was to discuss/review 1:1.

c. Mental Health Subcommittee

The Committee met on January 15, 2014. The group plans to meet on a monthly basis. District staff is looking at data collection and data sources to analyze trends. The group plans to report to the full School Committee at the end of the school year.

XI. Budget Workshops

a. Athletics

Mr. Cobain presented his budget, noting all uniforms have now been updated. The district is now a host site for track and field events. Tennis has grown considerably and can be attributed to the program at Cole. Dr. Gifford questioned the revenue from rental of the EGHS field and gate receipts. Mrs. Crawford will work with Mr. Cobain to

explore whether gate receipts can be broken down in the budget. Mrs. Winters asked if the school department could discuss rental revenue with the town.

b. Facilities

Mr. Wilmarth discussed his proposed budget, which is a 3.8% increase over last year. Some of the increases are attributed to negotiated salary increases, benefits, phone costs, and the purchase of a new truck. Water and sewer are budgeted using the actual figures. There was discussion about the cost of watering the fields. Mrs. Crawford asked to discuss this at the administration level. Mr. Wilmarth discussed plowing-related expenses and noted the town uses school trucks for plowing. Mr. Wilmarth explained the use of a third party service for monitoring school alarms. He questioned whether the school could use the town dispatcher. Alarm costs are proposed with a 31.3% increase. Mr. Wilmarth noted additional repairs are needed. With an increase of this size, the Committee would like additional information on the repairs at an upcoming meeting. There was a lengthy discussion about the harvesting tank. Dr. Gifford asked for a breakdown/analysis at a future meeting. Mrs. Winters asked for a list of items that could potentially be consolidated with the town.

c. Administration

Mrs. Crawford presented the administration budget, which includes the Superintendent's office and central office staff. The proposed budget is a 1.25% increase over last year. Part of the increase is benefits related to insurance tax. There has been a reduction in the

number of teachers retiring, with only one teacher retiring last year. The district pays for retiree (teacher) insurance for two years. One large increase is additional tuitions for charter schools. Next year, the district anticipates eight students will attend charter schools (Compass, Beacon, Greene, The Met). The district pays charter schools the town's per pupil cost to attend. Students have to provide their own transportation. Workers' compensation premiums are increasing for the entire district. Ms. Mark asked if an employee assistance program was included in the budget and would like to see an EAP developed prior to the close of the school year. Mrs. Crawford said she looked into an EAP with WB Health, but did not include it in the budget. Mr. Green would like feedback on the costs of an EAP and the services that it will provide.

XII. Adjournment

On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Mr. Sommer, the Committee voted 7-0 to adjourn at 9:28p.m.

CHRISTINE DIMEGLIO

SECRETARY