

Minutes of the East Greenwich School Committee

Tuesday, February 25, 2014

Archie R. Cole Middle School Library

100 Cedar Avenue

East Greenwich, RI 02818

6:12p.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 Rhode Island General Laws §42-46-5(a) (1) (2) Teacher Negotiations; Superintendent Evaluation Update 2013-2014. 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; Ms. Carolyn Mark; Mr. Jack Sommer; Mr. Clark Smith; and Mrs. Susan Records (arrived at 6:22p.m.). Ms. Mark and Mrs. Records were present only during executive session. Dr. Victor Mercurio, Superintendent; Mrs. Maryanne Crawford, Director of Administration; and Mr. Bradley Wilson, Director of Student Services were also present.

Regular Meeting

I. Call to order

Mr. Green called the meeting to order at 7:02p.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

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

III. Public Comments

Mrs. Ellise Wolff, EG teacher and resident, spoke about the importance of the Family Consumer Science program at Cole. Cole student Bella Saborio also voiced her support. Mr. Green explained there has not been discussion on eliminating the program.

IV. Recognitions

The following students were recognized and congratulated for their achievement: a. Cole- 2014 Scholastic Art Gold and Silver Key Winners: Sophia Andrade, Audrey Brecher, Ariana Douglas, Kristina Kim, Isabella Saborio, Ashley Smyth

b. Cole- 2014 Spelling Bee Winner-Suraj Sait

V. Approval of Minutes

a. Regular and Executive for January 28, 2014

b. Budget Workshop and Strategic Planning Workshop for January 30, 2014

c. Regular and Executive for February 4, 2014

e. Budget Workshop minutes for February 11, 2014

On a motion by Mr. Sommer, which was seconded by Dr. Gifford, minutes #a, b, c, & e were unanimously approved 5-0.

d. Strategic Planning Workshop for February 6, 2014

On a motion by Dr. Gifford, which was seconded by Mr. Sommer, the Committee voted 4-0 to approve minute #d. Mrs. Winters recused.

VI. Superintendent's Report

A district robo call will go out on Thursday notifying all that NECAP scores will be going home. Mrs. Katie Hook of Cole Middle School received the Golden Apple Award. The segment will air on Thursday

on Channel 10 at 6:00p.m. Tomorrow Dr. Mercurio will attend a R.I. Tech conference to discuss potential skill gaps in the workforce. Three EGHS students have advanced to the finals for the 2014 National Merit Scholarship. The students are Andrew Miner, Heather Shen, and Connor Ross. These students will be recognized at a later date.

VII. School Committee Concerns

There were no concerns.

VIII. Action Items

a. Appointment-Head Custodian Frenchtown-Robert Feuti

On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Mr. Sommer, the Committee approved the appointment 5-0.

b. Approval of Parental Leave extension-Amy Cerro

On a motion by Dr. Gifford, which was seconded by Mrs. Winters, the Committee approved the request 5-0.

c. Approval of Parental Leave-Kendra Hamzo

Item was tabled. Employee has withdrawn this request and will re-submit.

d. Approval of layoffs, non-renewals, suspensions

This approval is an annual requirement to determine whether any potential layoffs, non-renewals, or suspensions need to be made as a result of the budgetary process.

Dr. Mercurio explained the different classes of individuals and noted this is a preliminary and precautionary measure. No programmatic revisions are suggested. This approval is for nine teachers only and “one-year only” teaching positions. One grade three position is

being eliminated due to enrollment along with two 0.2FTE Technology positions at Cole.

On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Mr. Sommer, the Committee voted 5-0 to approve the layoffs, non-renewals, and suspensions.

e. Fields' Construction Committee Dissolution

This item is a formal dissolution of the committee. On a motion by Dr. Gifford, which was seconded by Mrs. Winters, the Committee voted 5-0 to dissolve the committee.

X. Public Hearing on the FY2015 Budget

Dr. Mercurio presented a PowerPoint summarizing the FY2015 budget. Opportunities, challenges, enrollment, initiatives, and NECAP results were discussed. Since enrollment numbers have been above the NESDEC enrollment projections, Mr. Green asked if the enrollment numbers (actual vs. projection) could be made available. Mrs. Crawford noted \$60,000 from the fund balance would be used to purchase a truck and \$80,000 for 1:1 technology. After a lengthy conversation, Mr. Green asked Dr. Mercurio to review the budget again and look for potential reductions, which would bring the increase in-line with previous years. Dr. Mercurio thanked Mrs. Crawford, principals', and central office staff for their assistance. There were several questions and comments from the audience regarding stem ranking, the curriculum director, insurance costs, ranking for the strategic plan vision, reductions in text budget, and questions regarding the chrome books.

XI. Sub Committee Update

a. Policy Committee

At the next meeting on March 28, 2014, the Committee will review the acceptable use policy for technology, the policy regarding the use of school buildings by religious organizations, discuss field trips and fundraising to ensure access for all students, the code of professional conduct for administrative staff, and discuss recommendations for the bullying policy.

b. Health and Wellness Committee

The Mental Health Subcommittee will meet tomorrow at 10:00a.m. in the EGHS guidance conference room.

XII. Adjournment

On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Dr. Gifford, the Committee voted 5-0 to adjourn at 8:16p.m.

CHRISTINE DIMEGLIO

SECRETARY