

Minutes of the East Greenwich School Committee

Tuesday, March 18, 2014

Archie R. Cole Middle School Library

100 Cedar Avenue

East Greenwich, RI 02818

6:33p.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) (2) Teacher Negotiations and Grievance Issues. Dr. Gifford seconded the motion, which passed 5-0.

Those in attendance were Mr. David Green, Chair; Dr. Deidre Gifford, Vice-Chair; Ms. Carolyn Mark; Mr. Jack Sommer; Mr. Clark Smith, and Mrs. Susan Records (arrived at 6:43 p.m.). Mrs. Mary Ellen Winters was absent. Dr. Victor Mercurio, Superintendent; Mrs. Maryanne Crawford, Director of Administration; and Attorney Matthew Oliverio were also present.

Regular Meeting

I. Call to Order

Mr. Green called the meeting to order at 7:04p.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

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

III. Public Comments

Mr. Aaron Wisebord, 90 Partridge Drive, spoke on behalf of several

East Greenwich parents who are excited about the Superintendent's draft vision statement (Strategic Planning) and are interested in how the vision will be accomplished and the steps towards reaching the goal. Mr. Wiseboard also encouraged the School Committee to engage parents/community in the discussion and implementation process.

Mr. Zhang, 1460 Highhawk Road, posed questions regarding above grade level placement questioning policy and infrastructure. He discussed a policy that Barrington uses. Ms. Rebecca Bliss, 30 McPartlin Way, echoed Mr. Wiseboard's comments. She also asked the Committee to look at start/end times of the school day. She questioned the possibility of earlier "shared" start/end times for the partner elementary schools; and later start times for the middle and high school. Ms. Bliss also offered to provide research on the benefits of starting/ending times via email.

IV. Recognition-Scholastic Art & Writing Award 2014-Gold Key Winner-Fionna Chan, EGHS

EGHS student Fionna Chan was recognized and congratulated by the Committee.

V. Approval of Minutes

a. Regular and Executive for February 25, 2014

On a motion by Mr. Sommer, which was seconded by Dr. Gifford, the Committee voted 6-0 to approve the executive minutes. On a motion by Mr. Sommer, which was seconded by Dr. Gifford, the Committee voted 4-0 to approve the regular minutes. Ms. Mark and Mrs. Records recused.

b. Regular and Executive for March 4, 2014

On a motion by Mr. Sommer, which was seconded by Dr. Gifford, the Committee voted

6-0 to approve the regular and executive minutes of March 4, 2014.

c. Strategic Planning Workshop for March 11, 2014

On a motion by Mr. Sommer, which was seconded by Dr. Gifford, the Committee voted

6-0 to approve the minutes for March 11, 2014.

VI. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Mercurio discussed the Collaborative Learning Outcome (CLO) meeting that he attended today with Dr. Naspo. He discussed the purpose of the meeting and Race to the Top Funding. Dr. Mercurio discussed the PARCC testing pilot and explained how testing is spread out amongst classes per grade level and how testing is a mix of digital and paper/pencil. Next year's juniors will still take NECAP testing, while the rest of the district moves to PARCC.

VII. School Committee Concerns

Ms. Mark questioned the process for changing the start/end times for school. Mr. Green explained the numerous variables that need to be considered including financial considerations, scheduling logistics, employee contracts, etc. The transportation contract recently went out for bid and once the process is complete, costs and flexibility in regards to start/end times can be determined. At that time, the Superintendent can advise the Committee whether a change in schedule is viable. Ms. Mark also asked the Superintendent for additional information regarding policy for above grade placement.

Mr. Green asked the Superintendent to discuss the school schedule and above grade placement at the next meeting.

VIII. Action Items

a. Resignation-Christina Baggesen-Paraprofessional-Meadowbrook

On a motion by Dr. Gifford, which was seconded by Mr. Sommer, the Committee voted 6-0 to accept the resignation.

b. Parental leave-Kendra Hamzo

On a motion by Dr. Gifford, which was seconded by Ms. Mark, the Committee voted 6-0 to approve the parental leave.

c. Home School Request

Per the Superintendent's request, this item was tabled.

d. Fund Balance Transfer

Mrs. Crawford summarized the fund balance activity of FY2013 and the fund balance as of June 30, 2013. Out of the excess fund balance of \$573,785, Mrs. Crawford recommends that \$459,027 be set-aside for the School Improvement Capital Fund and \$114,758 be set-aside for the Technology Improvement Fund. The split in funds is 80%/20% as outlined in the district's Fund Balance Policy. On a motion by Mr. Sommer, which was seconded by Dr. Gifford, the Committee voted 6-0 to set-aside \$459,027 for the School Improvement Capital Fund and \$114,758 for the Technology Improvement Fund.

e. Approval of East Greenwich Special Education Advisory Committee By-Laws

Dr. Mercurio met with Mr. Wilson again to make additional revisions to the by-laws. Beth Pinto at RIDE also reviewed the revisions. On a

motion by Ms. Mark, which was seconded by Mr. Sommer, the Committee voted 6-0 to approve the Special Education Advisory Committee By-Laws.

IX. Sub Committee Update

a. Health and Wellness Committee

Ms. Mark is working with a wellness collaborative to revise the Health and Wellness Policy. The policy may be ready for a Policy Committee read in April and a subsequent School Committee read. The Mental Health Subcommittee has been meeting monthly to assess mental health in the district. Findings will be presented prior to the close of the school year. This group plans to add student representation.

X. Adjournment

On a motion by Mrs. Records, which was seconded by Dr. Gifford, the Committee voted 6-0 to adjourn at 7:51p.m.

CHRISTINE DIMEGLIO

SECRETARY