

Minutes of the East Greenwich School Committee

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Archie R. Cole Middle School Library

100 Cedar Avenue

East Greenwich, RI 02818

6:05 p.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) (9) Contract Negotiations, EGEA Grievance Hearing, Possible Litigation. Mrs. Winters seconded the motion, which passed 5-0.

Those in attendance were Mr. David Green, Chair; Dr. Deidre Gifford, Vice-Chair (arrived at 6:07 p.m.); Ms. Carolyn Mark; Mr. Jack Sommer; Mrs. Mary Ellen Winters; Mr. Clark Smith, and Mrs. Susan Records (arrived at 6:24 p.m.). Dr. Victor Mercurio, Superintendent; Mrs. Maryanne Crawford, Director of Administration; Mr. Brad Wilson, Director of Student Services; and Attorney Matthew Oliverio were also present.

Regular Meeting

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

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

III. Public Comments

Ms. Bambi Lukens expressed concerns regarding class size of the outgoing fifth graders. She also questioned whether the district would add a new advanced math course for next year's sixth graders. Dr. Snyder discussed research pertaining to later school starting times. Ms. Katy Sharkey also discussed delayed starting times and discussed issues related to sleep, mood regulation, and negative health consequences. Ms. Catherine Rodgers discussed and provided examples of schools that changed their start times. Ms. Nicole Hosteter discussed class size for the current grade 4 students noting the grade level at Eldredge is at maximum with a waiting list. She questioned whether another grade 5 teacher would be added for next year.

IV. Recognitions

a. Cole Boys' Basketball Team

b. Wei-Li-EGHS Semi-Finalist –USA Bio Olympiad

The Committee recognized the Cole Basketball Team on their championship and Wei Li on her achievement as EGHS Semi-Finalist in the USA Bio Olympiad.

V. Approval of Minutes

a. Regular and Executive for March 18, 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. Mrs. Winters recused.

b. Strategic Planning Workshop for March 25, 2014

On a motion by Dr. Gifford, which was seconded by Mr. Sommer, the Committee voted 6-0 to approve the minutes for March 25, 2014. Mrs. Winters recused.

VI. Superintendent's Report

RIDE recently announced remaining funding which will provide planning grants to districts that do not yet operate full-day kindergarten. Funds may be used to hire or pay an individual(s) to develop a Full-Day Kindergarten Implementation Plan. Since funds need to be expended by June 30, 2014, districts need to act quickly. Dr. Mercurio will follow up with Commissioner Gist regarding the application timeline and parameters.

There are nine confirmed cases of Pertussis at Cole. Mrs. Vaughn and Mrs. Meyer have been working closely with the R.I. Dept. of Health to share information and provide direction. This Friday Dr. Mercurio will begin sending out Friday weekly field memos (via list serv) to the school community. The memo will provide information, spotlight faculty, and encourage interaction with the community.

VII. School Committee Concerns

There were no concerns.

VIII. Action Items

a. Appointments

- 1. Cole Boys' Baseball-Volunteer Coach-Ryan O'Kelly**
- 2. Cole Girls' Softball-Volunteer Coach-Christina Noland**
- 3. EGHS Boys' Tennis Volunteer Coach-Julie Pearson**
- 4. EGHS Boys' Baseball Volunteer Coach-Aaron Harbin**
- 5. EGHS Boys' Lacrosse Volunteer Coach-Ethan Zink**

6. EGHS Boys' Volleyball Assistant Coach-Mike Penza

On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Mr. Sommer, the Committee voted 7-0 to approve appointments #1-4 pending receipt of certification prior to the start date. On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Mr. Sommer, the Committee voted 7-0 to approve appointments #5 & 6.

b. Approval of School Calendar for 2014-2015

Mr. Green briefly discussed last year's calendar survey noting the results (staff and community) were mixed at best. Ms. Mark asked if the Committee and the community could have an opportunity to review the results from last year's calendar survey prior to voting on next year's calendar. Mr. Green said yes, but noted there is not enough time to modify the calendar. On a motion by Dr. Gifford, which was seconded by Mr. Sommer, the Committee voted 7-0 to table the approval of the 2014-15-school calendar.

c. Home School Approval

On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Ms. Mark, the Committee voted 7-0 to approve the home school request.

IX. Discussion

a. Aramark Update

Mr. Derek Hague gave an overview of Aramark's financial performance and also discussed steps taken to lower food costs.

X. Sub Committee Update

a. Policy Committee

The Committee met last Friday and reviewed #10-110 Acceptable Use

Policy for Network Resources and Digital Devices, which will be ready for a second read/adoption at the next School Committee meeting. Mrs. Records asked if the Tech Advisory Committee could review this policy. The bullying policy is also being reviewed and edited by Ms. Mark. Additional work is needed on the policy, along with a review by Attorney Oliverio. #9215-Use of School Building by Religious Organizations is being reviewed with Mrs. Crawford researching this topic to ensure compliance. Fundraising for school trips is being addressed to see whether fundraising should be included in the policy to defray costs. A code of professional conduct for administrative staff is under development.

XI. Reconvene executive session

Open session commenced at 8:02 p.m. and executive session reconvened at 8:05 p.m. Open session reconvened at 8:32 p.m. and Mr. Green announced that two votes took place in executive session regarding a grievance matter and litigation. Both votes were unanimously approved.

XII. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Sommer, which was seconded by Mrs. Winter, the Committee voted 7-0 to adjourn at 8:33 p.m.

**CHRISTINE DIMEGLIO
SECRETARY**