

Minutes of the East Greenwich School Committee

Tuesday, April 15, 2014

Archie R. Cole Middle School Library

100 Cedar Avenue

East Greenwich, RI 02818

5:52p.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) (8) Paraprofessional and Teacher Contract Negotiations, Student Hearing. Ms. Mark seconded the motion, which passed 5-0.

Those in attendance were Mr. David Green, Chair; Dr. Deidre Gifford, Vice-Chair (arrived at 6:16 p.m.); Mrs. Mary Ellen Winters; Ms. Carolyn Mark (present during executive session); Mr. Jack Sommer; Mr. Clark Smith, and Mrs. Susan Records (arrived at 6:04 p.m.). 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

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 p.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

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

III. Public Comments

Mr. Christian Roos suggested posting minutes of the meetings for the public who are unable to attend. Mr. Green explained that all meeting minutes are posted (as required) on the R.I. Secretary of State website. The minutes are typically approved at the next School Committee meeting and then posted on the site. The district website provides a link to posted School Committee agendas and minutes (under the School Committee tab).

IV. Recognitions

The following teams were recognized and congratulated for their achievement:

- a. EGHS Boys' Indoor Track Class C Champions**
- b. Cole Chess Team-State Middle School Champions**

V. Approval of Minutes

- a. Regular and Executive for April 1, 2014**

On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Mr. Sommer, the Committee voted 6-0 to approve the minutes for April 1, 2014.

VI. Superintendent's Report

A field memo has gone out to the school community the past two weeks via the district list serv. The answers to questions submitted will be posted this week under the FAQ section. Due to the holiday, the field memo will go out on Thursday, rather than Friday. A pod cast of the town/school public hearing that took place on April 14, 2014 will be included. Dr. Mercurio spoke with Kristen Green of RIDE regarding grant funding to study the feasibility of all-day

kindergarten. The district will apply to RIDE to secure funding.

VII. School Committee Concerns

There were no concerns.

VIII. Action Items

a. Resignation

1. Galen Ryley, EGHS

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

b. Retirements

1. Dale DiNapoli, Cole

2. Theresa Taylor, Frenchtown

On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Mr. Sommer, the Committee voted 6-0 to approve the retirements. Both retirees will be recognized during a June School Committee meeting.

c. Appointment

1. Central Office Part-Time Custodian-Richard Waddington

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

d. School Committee Resolution-Contract Continuation

On a motion by Mr. Sommer, which was seconded by Mrs. Winters, the Committee voted 6-0 to approve the School Committee Resolution with the third sentence removed.

e. Bid Award-School Transportation

Mrs. Crawford provided highlights of the bid process and award. The Flahive Consulting Group was used to analyze and score the bid submittals. Mr. Flahive was present and disclosed there were no

conflicts of interest in this process. The recommendation is to award the bid for a three-year period, with the option to extend another two years, to Ocean State Transit. Mrs. Crawford said the district is in a position to initiate a two-tier system with Ocean State Transit. The bid requirement included the mandatory background check to comply with state and federal regulations and ordinances. If the pending state legislation passes, Ocean State will comply with FBI fingerprinting. On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Dr. Gifford, the Committee voted 6-0 to award the transportation bid to Ocean State Transit.

f. Bid Award-Wireless Classroom Out-of-Scope

Three months ago, a bid was awarded to Carousel Industries for the wireless classroom initiative, which was funded by the state. Some pieces of the project (switches, wiring) were not included in the initiative. The cost of this out-of-scope work is \$57,000, which was included in the FY2014 budget. On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Dr. Gifford, the Committee voted 6-0 to award the bid to Carousel Industries.

g. Approval of Varnum Armory Lease

On a motion by Dr. Gifford, which was seconded by Mrs. Winters, the Committee voted 6-0 to approve the modification and lease for a two-year period.

h. Approval of Charge for Ad Hoc Committee to Study Feasibility for All-Day Kindergarten at Meadowbrook and Frenchtown

Dr. Mercurio provided highlights of the Charge and noted this week's field memo will solicit volunteers for the committee. The

Committee asked that the Charge be revised to allow four parents to participate. Although not mandatory, School Committee participation of up to three members will be added to the Charge. “Current capacity of public school and non-public school learning centers (in the district) will be evaluated” will be added to the list of activities. On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Mr. Sommer, the Committee voted 6-0 to approve the Charge with the revisions noted.

IX. Sub Committee Update

a. Policy Committee

Dr. Gifford provided a summary of the policies being worked on by the Committee. Ms. Mark, in consultation with district counsel, is working on the bullying policy, which may be ready for a first read in May. Other districts are being examined to assist in drafting a code of conduct for professional and administrative staff. The Committee recently reviewed the policy regarding the use of school buildings for religious groups to ensure compliance. At the request of COA, the fundraising policy was reviewed to determine whether their flyers could be sent home with students. It was determined their flyers do not violate district policy. The policy for field trips is being discussed to determine whether the “expensive” field trips should include a modification to ensure that no students’ are excluded due to their ability to pay. The Committee is also looking into developing a policy for “above grade level placement.” The acceptable use policy for school devices will be presented at the next School Committee meeting for a second read/adoption.

X. Adjournment of Open Session

On a motion by Mr. Sommer, which was seconded by Mrs. Winters, the Committee voted 6-0 to adjourn open session and reconvene executive session at 8:03p.m.

CHRISTINE DIMEGLIO

SECRETARY