

Minutes of the East Greenwich School Committee

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Archie R. Cole Middle School Library

100 Cedar Avenue

East Greenwich, RI 02818

6:00p.m. Executive Session, Mrs. Winters 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) Paraprofessional and Teacher Contract Negotiations, Custodial Grievance. Mr. Smith seconded the motion, which passed 4-0.

Those in attendance were Mr. David Green, Chair; Mrs. Mary Ellen Winters; Ms. Carolyn Mark; Mr. Clark Smith; Mr. Jack Sommer (arrived at 6:16p.m.), and Mrs. Susan Records (arrived at 6:23p.m.). Dr. Deidre Gifford 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

The meeting was called to order at 7:03p.m. Mr. Green announced three votes were taken in executive session at the last School Committee meeting on April 15, 2014.

One vote was in regards to a student hearing. The vote was 5-1 in favor of the recommendation. Mr. Sommer voted no and Dr. Gifford abstained. The next vote was in regards to teacher contract negotiations. The vote was 7-0 in favor of the recommendation. The last vote was 5-2 in regards to paraprofessional contract negotiations. Dr. Gifford and Ms. Mark voted no. Tonight's vote in executive session was 6-0 regarding a custodial grievance.

II. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

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

III. Public Comments

Dr. Peter Snyder, 20 Sparrow Lane, discussed delaying the start of school by an hour for middle/secondary students. He discussed the benefits and research conducted in this area. Ms. Rebecca Bliss, 30 McPartlin Way, discussed the same topic and noted 136 signatures have been received on a petition to delay the start of school. Ms. Bliss asked about the possibility of creating an ad-hoc committee to study this topic for the 2015-16 school year for Cole and EGHS. Ms. Kelly Carpenter, 9 School Lane, discussed the data she sent to the Superintendent concerning blended learning and flipping classrooms.

IV. Approval of Minutes

a. Regular and Executive for April 15, 2014

On a motion by Mr. Sommer, which was seconded by Mrs. Winters, the Committee voted 5-0 to approve the regular minutes (Ms. Mark recused) and 6-0 to approve the executive minutes.

V. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Mercurio announced this week is teacher appreciation week. He acknowledged the fine work done by East Greenwich teachers. Professional development for mentors has taken place the last few days at NEIT. The grant proposal for \$10,000 to support a feasibility study for all-day kindergarten has been submitted to RIDE. Funding will support a facilitator and fund studies of transportation, instruction, and enrollment. The School Committee will be notified once confirmation of the grant is received. So far four community members have filled out the form to participate on the ad-hoc committee to study all-day kindergarten. A list of participants will be available for the next meeting. A reminder to sign-up will be sent out on the Superintendent's weekly memo. Dr. Mercurio thanked all community members who participated in the senior exhibition project. EGHS Senior Project Coordinator Joanne Gilden was also thanked for her hard work.

VI. School Committee Concerns

There were no concerns.

VII. Action Items

a. Retirement

1. Paula Aubee, Frenchtown/Meadowbrook/Eldredge

On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Mr. Sommer, the Committee voted 6-0 to approve the retirement. All retirees will be invited to the June 17, 2014 school committee meeting for recognition.

b. Approval-Senior Project Revamp 2014-2015

Ms. Gilden and Mr. Podraza discussed the current project and requirements and explained the new pathways and the rationale behind each pathway. The new pathways were a collaborative effort of EGHS staff and were voted on at a recent faculty meeting with 100% approval. On a motion by Mr. Sommer, which was seconded by Mrs. Winters, the Committee voted 6-0 to approve the senior project revamp for 2014- 2015.

c. Approval of School Calendar for 2014-2015

Dr. Mercurio explained the template for the calendar, which is in concert with RIDE. All district calendars need to be submitted to RIDE on/before May 16, 2014. Dr. Mercurio spoke about areas that need to be considered when drafting a calendar including transportation, three separate bargaining units with three separate agreements, transportation to private schools (i.e., OLM, Rocky Hill, Career Tech, etc.), and also professional development/collaborative opportunities. Ms. Kelly Carpenter, 9 School Lane, asked the Committee to consider delaying the start of school until after Labor Day due to the fact that many students work in local shops, restaurants, etc. Dr. Mercurio would like to form an ad-hoc group to explore possibilities for the 2015- 2016 school calendar. This group will need to provide feedback to the School Committee by October 1st. A charge will be voted on at the next meeting. On a motion by Mr. Sommer, which was seconded by Mrs. Winters, the Committee voted 6-0 to approve the school calendar for the 2014-2015 school year. One additional make-up day (snow day) will be added to the 2014-15 calendar.

Ms. Heather Tibbitts, 29 Hickory Drive, stated she has been in contact with State Representative Giarrusso regarding holding school on Election Days. He has filed a bill and a hearing is scheduled for tomorrow.

d. Home School Request-Grade 8

On a motion by Mr. Sommer, which was seconded by Mrs. Winters, the Committee voted 6-0 to approve the home school request.

VIII. First Read #8245 Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment Policy

Ms. Mark discussed the proposed changes, which will align district policy with the statewide bullying policy known as the Safe Schools Act. Ms. Mark contacted district administrators and legal counsel in revising this policy. Questions were raised surrounding social media and what guidelines are provided to students. Dr. Mercurio will clarify this topic with principals’.

IX. Sub Committee Update

a. Health and Wellness Committee

At last Friday’s meeting, Ms. Mark unveiled a draft of the revised Health and Wellness policy, which will be discussed at the Policy Committee meeting on May 9, 2014. The Healthier U.S. School Challenge bronze awards will be given out at Eldredge and Hanaford on May 22, 2014. Eldredge will begin at 9:30am, followed by Hanaford at 11:00a.m. Mrs. Records asked if a representative from RIDE could attend this event.

The School Committee and Dr. Mercurio were invited. Dr. Mercurio will note the award ceremony in his field memo.

X. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Sommer, which was seconded by Mrs. Winter, the Committee voted 6-0 to adjourn at 8:31p.m.

CHRISTINE DIMEGLIO

SECRETARY