

# **Minutes of the East Greenwich School Committee**

**Tuesday, September 16, 2014**

**Archie R. Cole Middle School Library**

**100 Cedar Avenue**

**East Greenwich, RI 02818**

**6:06 p.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) (8) Student Hearing/Determination. Mr. Sommer seconded the motion, which passed 6-0.**

**Those in attendance were Mr. David Green, Chair; Dr. Deidre Gifford, Vice-Chair; Mrs. Mary Ellen Winters; Mr. Jack Sommer; Ms. Carolyn Mark; Mr. Clark Smith, and Mrs. Susan Records (arrived at 6:33 p.m.). Dr. Victor Mercurio, Superintendent and Mr. Brad Wilson, Director of Student Services were also present.**

**7:00 p.m. Regular Meeting**

**I. Call to Order**

**Mr. Green called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and announced two votes were taken in executive session regarding a student hearing/determination. Both votes were 6-0 with Mrs. Records abstaining. The Committee voted to deny a request of relief in a student hearing/determination. Mr. Green also announced the Mental Health Assessment would be tabled (Item VIII. c).**

## **II. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag**

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

## **III. Public Comments**

**There were no comments.**

## **IV. Approval of Minutes**

### **a. Special Meeting Minutes for August 25, 2014**

**On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Mr. Sommer, the Committee voted 4-0 to approve the minutes. Dr. Gifford, Ms. Mark, and Mrs. Records abstained.**

### **b. Regular and Executive Minutes for September 2, 2014**

**On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Dr. Gifford, the Committee voted 6-0 to approve the minutes. Mr. Sommer abstained.**

## **V. Superintendent's Report**

**Commissioner Gist will visit Cole tomorrow to view the live streaming of Discovery Education in Mr. Scott's Science class. The metrics used to rank EGHS in Newsweek and U.S. News and World Report will be discussed in Friday's Superintendent's Field Memo. Dr. Mercurio has been asked by RIDE to participate in the Innovation Powered by Technology Conference on October 25, 2014 at the R.I. Convention Center. The conference is open to the public. Open house dates are listed on the district website. The Hassenfeld Institute for Public Leadership at Bryant has scheduled the Third Annual Leadership Conference on October 28, 2014. School Committee members are invited to attend. Mr. Sommer reported on the recent meeting of the Ad Hoc Kindergarten Committee. Tentative**

public forum dates were discussed; possibly a one-day forum, a night forum, and a Saturday forum. The Committee plans to schedule them by

October 31, 2014. The Committee will work with the finance department for cost projections and will also reach out to districts that have instituted all-day kindergarten (Barrington and EWG) to gather input. Strategic Building Solutions (SBS) will do a walkthrough at Meadowbrook and Frenchtown on September 29, 2014 to evaluate the space/facility. The \$10,000 grant from RIDE will be the financial resource for payment.

## **VI. School Committee Concerns**

Ms. Mark asked for a report as to how the additional minutes are being allocated in the four elementary schools. Ms. Mark also asked for information regarding the Building Committee's decision not to install air conditioning in Cole. Mr. Sommer and Mr. Green noted the Building Committee is in the process of preparing a document that will outline the decision-making process and what the retro fit solution would be for Cole.

## **VII. Action Items**

### **a. Appointments**

#### **1. 0.5 FTE Chorus Teacher, Cole/EGHS One Year Only-Mary Larsen**

On a motion by Mr. Sommer, which was seconded by Mrs. Winters, the Committee voted 7-0 to approve the appointment. This is a one-year only position because it was posted after school began. The Appendix B position is separate from this position and is posted. Dr. Gifford would like this position standardized in the

**future to provide for a more robust program.**

**2. Director of Administration, Central Office-Gail Wilcox**

**On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Mr. Sommer, the Committee voted 7-0 to approve the appointment. Mrs. Wilcox is scheduled to start on September 29, 2014.**

**3. Director of Technology/Systems Analyst-Victor Babson**

**On a motion by Mr. Sommer, which was seconded by Mrs. Winters, the Committee voted 7-0 to approve the appointment. Mr. Babson will start sometime during the first week of October.**

**4. Visual Arts Coordinator, 40 hours per year-Nina Reiner**

**On a motion by Mrs. Records, which was seconded by Mrs. Winters, the Committee voted 7-0 to approve the appointment.**

**5. Performing Arts Coordinator, 40 hours per year-Megan Catelli**

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

**6. 1:1 Paraprofessional, Hanaford School, Niki Burnetti**

**On a motion by Dr. Gifford, which was seconded by Mrs. Winters, the Committee voted 7-0 to approve the appointment.**

**b. Resignation-Alison Meier, Paraprofessional, Meadowbrook**

**On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Dr. Gifford, the Committee voted 7-0 to accept the resignation.**

**c. Approval of change in School Committee meeting date for November 4, 2014**

**recommend revising to November 3rd**

**On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Ms. Mark, the**

**Committee voted**

**7-0 to change the meeting date. Members agreed to receive their packets on the Friday prior to the meeting.**

**d. Approval of Members for the Ad Hoc Committee to study the Academic Calendar**

**On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Mr. Sommer, the Committee voted 7-0 to approve the members.**

**e. Approval of Members for the Ad Hoc Committee to study School Start Times**

**On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Mr. Sommer, the Committee voted 7-0 to approve the members.**

**f. Third Read/Adoption of #4215 Health and Wellness Policy**

**Ms. Mark reviewed the revision to the policy on the bottom of page 4 and asked to amend the paragraph on the top of page 4 to include, "Recess should not be used routinely as a time to make up classroom work." Mr. Green discussed his concerns with the language on the bottom of page 10 (school-sponsored events) and his previous request for a sunset clause so the policy could be revisited in a year. Mr. Green and Ms. Mark discussed their conversations with Mr. Cobain regarding school-sponsored events.**

**On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Mr. Sommer, the Committee voted 6-1 to adopt the policy with the amendments as noted. Mr. Green voted no.**

**VIII. Discussion**

**a. Update on 1:1 rollout at EGHS**

**Devices are on hand and are scheduled for distribution the week of**

**September 22nd. School Committee members will be invited to see the distribution of devices. The EGHS 1:1 website is up and running. On September 9th, the faculty participated in the third professional development for 1:1 using Hapara, a classroom management system. The Technology Integration Specialist started last week. The EGHS Principal met with students' today to discuss what to expect next week. Dr. Gifford asked if an anonymous follow-up survey could be sent to staff to gauge their professional development (PD) needs, measure the quality of PD provided, and find out what else the district needs to do. The previous survey will be used as a baseline. The same questions or additional questions may be used to measure wants/needs, etc. Dr. Gifford also asked if the incoming Directory of Technology could provide information to the School Committee and parents as to what information can/cannot be collected from the Chrome Books (i.e., Internet searches) and also whether pop-up ads appear on the screen.**

**b. Update on enrollment**

**Dr. Mercurio discussed the current enrollment figures and discussed triggers that prompt opening a new classroom. Dr. Mercurio was asked to provide enrollment numbers for the last few years for comparison.**

**c. Mental Health Assessment**

**This item was tabled until the October 7, 2014 meeting.**

**IX. Sub Committee Report**

**a. Policy Committee**

**The Committee met on September 5th and reviewed the proposed**

revisions for the Health and Wellness Policy and started working on revisions to Policy #1140: Selection of Ad Hoc Committees and School Committee Advisory Committees from the Community.

#### **X. Adjournment**

On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Mr. Sommer, the Committee voted 7-0 to adjourn at 8:30 p.m.

**CHRISTINE DIMEGLIO**

**SECRETARY**