

Minutes of the East Greenwich School Committee/Town Council Joint Meeting

Monday, January 12, 2015

Swift Community Center

121 Peirce Street

East Greenwich, RI 02818

School Committee members in attendance were Ms. Carolyn Mark, Chair; Dr. Deidre Gifford, Vice-Chair; Mrs. Mary Ellen Winters; Mr. Clark Smith; Mr. David Osborne; Dr. Yan Sun, and Mr. Michael Fain. Dr. Victor Mercurio, Superintendent; Mrs. Gail Wilcox, Director of Administration; and Mr. Brad Wilson, Director of Student Services were also in attendance.

Town Council members in attendance were Mr. Michael Isaacs, President; Dr. Mark Schwager; Mrs. Suzanne McGee Cienki; Mr. Sean Todd, and Mr. William Stone. Mr. Thomas Coyle, Town Manager and Mrs. Kristen Benoit, Finance Director were also in attendance.

7:00 p.m. Joint Meeting

I. Call to Order

Ms. Mark, School Committee Chair and Mr. Isaacs, Town Council President, called the joint meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

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

III. Joint meeting with Town Council per RIGL 16-2-21 and 16-2-21.3 to review the revenue and expenditure projections and to discuss issues affecting the preparation of the school budget

Ms. Mark gave an update on School Committee budget preparations and dates of upcoming budget workshops. Dr. Mercurio shared the recommendations of the Ad Hoc All Day Kindergarten Committee, which includes three different options for all day kindergarten at three different price points. The full Ad Hoc report/presentation is posted on-line and will be forwarded to Town Council members. Dr. Mercurio noted that RIDE has \$170,000 available to districts for start up costs. Town Council members asked questions regarding funding, staffing, and state aid. Dr. Mercurio noted the district might receive an additional \$360,000 in state aid based on the district's average daily membership. Mr. Isaacs briefly discussed issues affecting the town including pension payments and loss of revenue. The School Committee was given a copy of the town's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2014. Mr. Isaacs noted there were no problems with the audit and no areas of concern. The Town Council and School Committee need to schedule a meeting with the auditor to answer any questions.

Ms. Mark suspended the joint meeting to reconvene the regular school committee meeting at 7:28 p.m.

CHRISTINE DIMEGLIO

SECRETARY