

# **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**

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**5:45 p.m. Executive Session, Vote 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) (9) EGEA Teacher Grievances; (a) (2) Collective Bargaining: Custodial Contract**

**Those in attendance were Ms. Carolyn Mark, Chair; Dr. Deidre Gifford, Vice-Chair (arrived at 6:28 p.m.); 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.**

## **7:31 p.m. Regular Meeting**

### **I. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag**

The meeting reconvened (from the joint meeting with the Town Council) at 7:30 p.m. Ms. Mark announced a vote was taken in executive session regarding teacher grievances. The vote was 7-0 in favor of the recommendation.

### **II. Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

### **III. Approval of Minutes**

#### **a. Regular for December 16, 2014**

On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Dr. Sun, the Committee voted 7-0 to approve the minutes with one revision.

### **IV. Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Mercurio has been asked by AdvancED to participate in the accreditation process for Hillsborough County Schools in Tampa, Florida from February 15-18, 2015. There are approximately forty educators taking part in this process. An advisory technology committee is being scheduled for either January 22 or January 23, 2015.

### **V. School Committee Concerns**

Mr. Osborne asked if math instruction at Cole could be on a future agenda for discussion.

### **VI. Discussion**

#### **a. Video taping of School Committee meetings**

**Dr. Mercurio discussed projected costs for videotaping meetings. A camera could cost \$200-\$700 and audio \$3500-\$7000. The major cost is the monthly archiving of the meetings. North Kingstown pays \$1500 per month to archive meetings. Mr. Fain and Dr. Sun volunteered to take part in a telephone conference with a vendor to discuss options. Ms. Mark asked Dr. Mercurio to survey as many districts as possible to find out what they use for recording meetings and the associated costs.**

## **VII. Subcommittee Updates**

### **a. Mental Health Subcommittee**

**The committee has continued to meet monthly. First Responder Training will take place on January 20 and January 27, 2015. Approximately twenty-five staff members will attend. The committee is working on various items: revising the system to track data, adding additional resources to the Mental Health webpage, reviewing program evaluation and benchmarking, and continuing to work to engage stakeholders.**

## **VIII. Updates**

### **a. Ad Hoc Committees**

#### **1. Study Start Times**

**The committee is slated to meet Wednesday, January 14, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. to review survey results and schedule an additional forum.**

#### **2. Academic Calendar**

**Forums have been scheduled for January 22 and January 26, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the Cole library. The committee is planning to present a**

report to the School Committee at the end of February. Tim Ryan, RIASC, has been asked for information on districts' that are planning to revise the February break. This information will be shared with the ad hoc committee and the School Committee.

### **3. All Day Kindergarten**

Dr. Mercurio discussed the letter that was sent from a community member regarding possible scenarios in regards to all day kindergarten implementation. This letter was shared with the Ad Hoc Committee and School Committee. Dr. Mercurio was asked to look at various assumptions to provide additional options and comparisons from other districts. This item will need further discussion at an upcoming meeting.

### **IX. Adjournment**

On a motion by Mr. Fain, which was seconded by Mrs. Winters, the Committee voted 7-0 to adjourn at 7:55 p.m.

**CHRISTINE DIMEGLIO  
SECRETARY**