

Minutes of the East Greenwich School Committee

Tuesday, January 20, 2015

Archie R. Cole Middle School Library

100 Cedar Avenue

East Greenwich, RI 02818

6:02 p.m. Executive Session, Mr. Osborne 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) Collective Bargaining: Custodial Contract, (a) (2) Collective Bargaining: Teachers' Contract. Mr. Fain seconded the motion, which passed 5-0.

Those in attendance were Ms. Carolyn Mark, Chair; Dr. Deidre Gifford, Vice-Chair (arrived at 6:24 p.m.); Mr. Clark Smith; Mr. David Osborne; Dr. Yan Sun, and Mr. Michael Fain. Mrs. Mary Ellen Winters was absent. Dr. Victor Mercurio, Superintendent; Mrs. Gail Wilcox, Director of Administration; and Mr. Brad Wilson, Director of Student Services were also in attendance.

7:00 p.m. Regular Meeting

I. Call to Order

Ms. Mark called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and announced a vote was taken in executive session to approve the Superintendent's recommendation in regards to a collective bargaining matter. The vote was 5-0 in favor of the recommendation.

II. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

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

III. Public Comments

Ms. Joy Teng, 950 Frenchtown Road, asked questions regarding an AP computer class at the high school that is listed in the program of study, but never runs. She stated that she called the high school and was told there are teachers who can teach the course, but there is a lack of student interest to run the course. She asked about the possibility of the course running in the fall and noted there is a computer club at the high school, which could be of help to students in the AP course.

IV. Approval of Minutes

- a. Regular and Executive for January 12, 2015**
- b. Joint SC/TC Pre-Budget for January 12, 2015**

On a motion by Mr. Osborne, which was seconded by Dr. Sun, the Committee voted 6-0 to approve the regular, executive, and joint minutes of January 12, 2015.

V. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Mercurio has contacted Dr. Naspo regarding concerns in Math. The district plans to host a Math forum after the February break. This forum will discuss rigor, challenges, and changes in Math for students in K-12. More information will be forthcoming. The first mental health training took place today at the EGHS. The next session is scheduled for January 27, 2015. Dr. Mercurio, Mr. Babson, Dr. Sun, Mr. Fain, and Mr. Smith took part in a digital tools webinar on January 15, 2015. The webinar focused on digitizing School

Committee meetings with solutions for posting agendas and minutes.

There was not a lot of information regarding uploading video content. The cost for this program is \$1000 per month to use all digital tools. Dr. Mercurio surveyed RISSA members in regards to whether they video School Committee meetings. Exeter-West Greenwich, Barrington, South Kingstown, Middletown, Lincoln, and Chariho video in some combination using in-house and outside entities. Dr. Mercurio will ask these districts about their start-ups costs and funding and forward information as available.

VI. School Committee Concerns

Dr. Sun discussed three emails she received from community members regarding AP Math. The emails asked questions about course offerings, how demand for a course is determined, etc. Dr. Mercurio will follow-up on this concern.

VII. Discussion

a. Courtyard Reflection Garden at EGHS

Mrs. Sherry Mong, EGHS Guidance Secretary, provided the Committee with the details of the proposed memorial garden for former co-worker/EGHS employee Carrie Maksymowicz. Mrs. Deana Agresti, Beautify EGHS Club Advisor, and several club members also provided input. Mr. Podraza provided details on the location of the garden and the plan to maximize usage of the courtyard. The proposal has already been discussed with Mr. Wilmarth. All supplies and materials will be donated. Mrs. Healy's "Best Buddies" will paint the ceramic pots that will be featured in the garden. Dr. Mercurio thanked all for the wonderful tribute to a phenomenal person, Mrs.

Maksymowicz. Dr. Mercurio will revisit the charter and policies to ensure this project is in compliance. More information will follow and School Committee members will be invited to the dedication.

b. Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers Update

Dr. Mercurio received information from Commissioner Gist's office regarding the PARCC test and opting out. There are many unanswered questions including how opting out will effect the school's classification, proficiency rates, and teacher evaluations.

PARCC is not a graduation requirement for 2015. Dr. Mercurio recommends the district participate in the PARCC testing. Dr. Mercurio will post a Question/Answer post regarding PARCC on this week's field memo.

VIII. Updates

a. Ad Hoc Committees

1. Study Start Times

The Committee meet last week and has scheduled a second forum for February 2, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the Cole library. The Committee will meet subsequent to the forum.

2. Academic Calendar

The first of two forums is scheduled for Thursday, January 22, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the Cole library.

3. All Day Kindergarten

The Committee is scheduled to meet to revisit assumptions on Thursday,

January 22, 2015 at 5:00 p.m. in the Cole library. A Request for

Proposal (RFP) for all day kindergarten was received today from RIDE. Once completed, the RFP will be forwarded to the School Committee.

IX. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Fain, which was seconded by Dr. Sun, the Committee voted 6-0 to adjourn at 7:57 p.m.

CHRISTINE DIMEGLIO

SECRETARY