

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

**Tuesday, February 3, 2015**

**Archie R. Cole Middle School Library**

**100 Cedar Avenue**

**East Greenwich, RI 02818**

**6:04 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) (1) Discussion and/or vote on a personnel matter. Mr. Fain seconded the motion, which passed 6-0.**

**Those in attendance were Ms. Carolyn Mark, Chair; Dr. Deidre Gifford, Vice-Chair (arrived at 6:20 p.m.); Mrs. Mary Ellen Winters; Mr. Clark Smith; Dr. Yan Sun; Mr. Michael Fain, and Mr. David Osborne. 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 under Rhode Island General Laws §42-46-5 (a) (1) in regards to a personnel matter. The vote was 6-0 with 1 abstention (Dr. Gifford) in favor of the Superintendent's recommendation.**

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

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

## **III. Public Comments**

**There were no public comments.**

## **IV. Approval of Minutes**

### **a. Regular and Executive for January 20, 2015**

**On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Dr. Sun, the Committee voted 6-0 to approve the minutes for January 20, 2015.**

**Mrs. Winters abstained.**

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

**A budget workshop is scheduled for Thursday, February 5, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the Cole library. Athletics, Administration, and Technology will be presented. A tentative follow-up budget workshop is scheduled for Tuesday, February 10, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. in the Cole library.**

## **VI. School Committee Concerns**

**There were no concerns.**

## **VII. Action Items**

### **a. Resignation-Mark Scott, Custodian, Eldredge School**

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

## **VIII. Budget Workshops**

**Dr. Mercurio announced discretionary budgets would be discussed for elementary, secondary, and special education. Budgets for salary and fringe benefits for Cole and EGHS need to be revisited at a future meeting. Dr. Mercurio thanked budget owners for their effort,**

**detail, and reflection in preparing their budgets.**

**a. Elementary**

**Principals' Vaughn and Marcaccio gave an overview of their proposed budgets. Mrs. Vaughn discussed the need to add an additional grade 1 classroom at Frenchtown. Mr. Marcaccio discussed the expected increase in enrollment for preschool at Meadowbrook. The upgrading of Science kits, Common Core Standards materials for ELA, piloting of ELA programs, and equalization of per pupil expenditure and synchronization of programs/materials between Meadowbrook and Frenchtown were discussed. The increase in health insurance for Grade One at Frenchtown needs further review.**

**Principals' Cauley and Giusti presented their proposed budgets noting increases for the EnVisions Math program for grades 4 and 5 and the purchase of one more Chromebook cart for each grade level.**

**Mr. Giusti discussed the possibility of adding an additional grade three teacher based on enrollment, the addition of one intensive resource teacher, one paraprofessional, and adding a 0.2 FTE Speech Pathologist. Principals' Cauley and Giusti noted their biggest needs for professional development (PD) are with EnVisions Math, integrating technology, and for half-day data collection/discussions. Dr. Mercurio discussed the possibility of using Title II funds for PD. Mr. Giusti provided background information on Science kits and the partnership with East Bay Collaborative. The Committee questioned increased transportation**

costs for Hanaford and Eldredge. Dr. Mercurio noted it may be attributed to the cost of transporting across districts between the schools, but will review.

**b. Secondary**

Principal Meyer discussed FY2016 discretionary purchases, along with two 0.2 FTE increases in Latin and Chorus. Mrs. Meyer discussed the increasing enrollment at Cole and noted 20-30 students typically register during the summer. Enrollment for FY2016 could jump to 650 students. The increase in the technology budget is the purchase of an LCD projector for Science. Mrs. Meyer provided information regarding the web-based program, Renaissance Math, which is used for remediation and enrichment. The overall discretionary fund is a 0.3% increase. Mrs. Wilcox was asked to investigate document copying, which is still a substantial cost.

Principal Podraza and EGHS Department Chairs were present to discuss the EGHS budget. Mr. Podraza and Mrs. Meyer thanked all Department Chairs for their assistance. Mr. Podraza highlighted discretionary items proposed for each department. Various documents, such as the Program of Study and Student Handbooks, will only be available digitally. By digitizing these documents, savings will be seen in the printing line. Mrs. Dulac explained the cost analysis conducted to determine whether it is advantageous to purchase Math textbooks, rather than on-line subscriptions. Mr. Podraza discussed technology spending and explained the need for online virtual courses to support students who have exceeded EGHS

offerings. Five slots for Math are proposed. Hardware purchases are replacements only and software includes Panorama, a survey platform. There are no personnel changes in this budget. Dr. Gifford requested additional information regarding the total cost and per pupil cost for the aviation program.

#### **c. Special Education**

Mr. Wilson outlined the proposed budget noting unbudgeted expenses last year and new discretionary items for FY2016. The Committee requested a dollar figure for last year's unbudgeted items. Mr. Wilson explained the offset of Medicaid, but noted the funds are funneled back to the town. The budget includes several personnel changes including a new 1.0 FTE self-contained teacher at Eldredge, a 0.2 FTE Speech/Language Pathologist at Eldredge, a new 1.0 FTE Mild & Moderate Resource Teacher at Frenchtown, and two (2) new 1:1 paraprofessionals for full day kindergarten students at Frenchtown.

### **IX. Discussion**

#### **a. Strategic Planning Update**

Ms. Mark gave an overview of the strategic planning process with timelines of work that began in February 2013. Recommendations for moving forward and new timelines were discussed. Ms. Mark would like to reconstitute and reconvene the ad hoc committee in March 2015 and add new members where necessary. Community surveys and forums will be conducted to garner feedback. A draft of the Strategic Plan is targeted for June 2015 with a first read at the September 1, 2015 School Committee meeting. Questions regarding

process, timelines, School Committee involvement, Title 16 language, etc. were discussed. The Strategic Planning Process will be discussed at the February 24th School Committee meeting. The Charge and list of members with new openings will be provided. Mr. Osborne and Ms. Kristen Lehoullier were thanked for their assistance.

**b. FY2016 Budget**

Dr. Gifford would like the Committee to look deeper at the new requests for FY2016.

**X. Updates**

**a. Ad Hoc Committees**

**1. Study Start Times**

A public forum is scheduled for February 26, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the Cole library.

**2. Academic Calendar**

A morning public forum is scheduled for February 25, 2015 at 9:30 a.m. in the EGHS cafeteria.

**3. All Day Kindergarten**

The Committee has been drafting questions regarding the RFP for All-Day Kindergarten.

**XI. Subcommittee Updates**

**a. Technology Advisory Committee**

The Committee met on January 22, 2015. Committee responsibilities, phone system, and FY2016 budget were discussed.

**XII. Adjournment**

On a motion by Mr. Fain, which was seconded by Dr. Sun, the

**Committee voted 7-0 to adjourn at 10:00 p.m.**

**CHRISTINE DIMEGLIO**

**SECRETARY**