

Minutes of the East Greenwich School Committee

Tuesday, May 19, 2015

Archie R. Cole Middle School Library

100 Cedar Avenue

East Greenwich, RI 02818

6:08 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 §42-46-4 and §42-46-5, (a) (2) Custodial negotiations; Litigation Update: Lamendola v Town of EG, et al. Mr. Osborne seconded the motion, which passed 6-0.

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

7:00 p.m. Regular Meeting

I. Call to Order

Ms. Mark called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

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. Recognitions

- a. Mock Trial-EGHS students**
- b. National Exam-Cole Students**
 - 1. Spanish Exam**
 - 2. French Exam**
 - 3. Latin Exam**

The Committee recognized and congratulated all on their accomplishments.

- c. Math Counts-Cole students**

Recognitions for Math Counts will take place on June 2, 2015.

V. Approval of Minutes

- a. Regular and Executive for May 5, 2015**

On a motion by Mr. Osborne, which was seconded by Mr. Fain, the Committee voted 6-0 to approve the regular and executive minutes.

VI. Superintendent's Report

After Prom EG is all set for Friday, May 22nd. Dr. Mercurio thanked all involved for their efforts and time in designing a great night for students. An alternative location may be used for the School Committee meetings that take place in July and August. Town Council chambers, Swift Community Center, and the Police Station community room are options. Various testing is taking place in the district including NECAP, PARCC, advanced placement, etc. It is still unclear whether two testing windows will be used next year for PARCC. The curriculum forum was held last week at the high school.

Principals', Dr. Naspo, Mrs. Dulac, and Mrs. Izzo were thanked for their efforts.

Next year's forums will include a topic or two with possible speakers from RIDE.

The PowerPoint that was presented during the forum will be posted on the website with links on the Superintendent's Field Memo.

VII. School Committee Concerns

There were no concerns.

VIII. Action Items

a. Home School Request- Grade 7

Dr. Mercurio gave background details on the revamped Home School Policy, which has requirements for the district, parent, and Committee. Dr. Mercurio explained reasons why this request is insufficient and recommended denying the request. The parent will be contacted regarding the policy and given a template of a previously approved request. On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Mr. Fain, the Committee voted 6-0 to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to deny the request.

b. Retirement- Sandra Scott, Special Education Teacher, EGHS

On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Mr. Osborne, the Committee voted 6-0 to accept the retirement. Mrs. Scott will be recognized at the June 16, 2015 meeting.

c. School Start Time

Mrs. Winters made a motion to convene an implementation team for a change of school start times and to investigate the general and

financial implications of this change. This body would vet the bussing issues, before/after school activities and classes, impact of interscholastic athletics and investigate other districts where this was successful.

The motion did not receive a second and failed. Mr. Fain made a motion to implement a later start time of 8:00 a.m. at Cole and EGHS for the 2015-2016 school year. The motion did not receive a second and failed. Mr. Osborne made a motion to support the implementation of option #2 (two-tier system with an 8:00 a.m. start for Cole and EGHS and 8:50 a.m. start for the elementary schools) effective for the 2016-2017 school year. This motion will direct the Superintendent to develop an implementation team and plan, provide an initial outline at the July School Committee meeting, provide regular updates on progress, and ask district administrators to provide direction to the Policy Committee regarding policy implications. Discussion included clarification about policy, issues surrounding homework, athletic practices, etc. Mr. Osborne noted the implementation team might find that certain things can't be done.

Mr. Fain asked to amend the motion to have the team look at 8:00 a.m. and 8:30 a.m. start times. The motion did not receive a second and failed. Dr. Mercurio asked for closure of this school year prior to working on the implementation plan and asked for one specific target time. Mr. Smith seconded the motion, which passed 5-1. Mrs. Winters voted against the motion.

d. School Committee Resolution- School Calendar

Ms. Mark gave the Committee background details on the resolution.

On a motion by Mr. Osborne, which was seconded by Mr. Fain, the Committee voted 6-0 to approve the resolution.

IX. Discussion

a. Budget FY2016

The Committee discussed the budget reductions made at the joint meetings with the Town Council. The first reduction was \$100,000; the second went to \$170,000 and an additional \$130,000 was added at the last meeting. Dr. Mercurio reviewed the initial WB health care projections that started at 12-15% and have since been reduced to 5.5%. Mrs. Wilcox provided a fund balance projection FY2015 to FY2017. \$218,282 will be taken from fund balance, \$75,398 from operating budget decreases, which totals \$293,680 in proposed budget revenue. By taking \$99,140 out of unrestricted funds, the remaining balance totals \$707,600. Mrs. Wilcox explained the assumptions used to arrive at the operating budget decreases and noted unrestricted funds have not been used in seven years. Dr. Mercurio noted the district is not looking to cut programs or employees. Ms. Mark discussed concerns regarding withdrawing funds. Dr. Mercurio said it might be helpful to invite members of the Town Council to a briefing on school legal matters and other items with associated costs that are out of the district's control (i.e., out of district bussing, private school textbooks, etc.). Ms. Mark will contact Tim Duffy of RIASC to see if there are options available for a

workshop/meeting. The budget assumptions will be voted on at the June 2nd meeting.

b. Strategic Planning

Over 500 survey responses have been received. The administration council has been working on strategic priorities and drafting a district-wide educational philosophy. A detailed report will be reviewed at the June 2nd meeting. The second community forum will take place on Monday, June 1st to discuss non-academic measures.

c. Dual enrollment

Dr. Mercurio, Mr. Wilson, and high school administration are gathering information regarding dual enrolment. RISSA has a template, which districts' may use. The Policy Committee will need to discuss this potential program at their meeting on May 28th, as the district needs to have policy in place by June 30th.

X. Advisory/Subcommittee Updates

a. Technology Advisory Committee

The Committee met on May 5th to review the district's technology plan. Some minor revisions were made to the existing plan. Action items will be prioritized and evaluated as to the impact on the budget. Discussion took place with the town concerning collaboration to save money. Possible collaboration could include surveillance software and network storage.

XI. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Osborne, which was seconded by Mr. Fain, the Committee voted 6-0 to adjourn at 8:36 p.m.

CHRISTINE DIMEGLIO
SECRETARY