

Minutes of the East Greenwich School Committee

Tuesday, June 2, 2015

Archie R. Cole Middle School Library

100 Cedar Avenue

East Greenwich, RI 02818

5:30 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 §42-46-4 and §42-46-5, (a) (2) Custodial negotiations; Litigation Update: Lamendola v Town of EG, et al; (a) (3) School Safety/Security. Mr. Fain seconded the motion, which passed 4-0.

Those in attendance were Ms. Carolyn Mark, Chair; Dr. Deidre Gifford, Vice-Chair (arrived at 5:57 p.m.); Mr. Clark Smith (arrived at 6:51 p.m.); Dr. Yan Sun; Mr. David Osborne; and Mr. Michael Fain. Mrs. Mary Ellen Winters 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 7:01 p.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

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

III. Public Comments

Mr. Peter Kosakowski, 70 Partridge Run, stated he is against the proposed later school start and thinks it puts a burden on many families, is costly, and he doesn't understand the Science behind it. Ms. Mark said she could provide resources regarding the Science to support the decision.

IV. Recognitions

- a. National Spanish Exam EGHS students**
- b. National French Exam EGHS students**
- c. National Latin Exam EGHS students**
- d. Math Counts-Cole students**

The Committee recognized and congratulated all on their accomplishments.

V. Approval of Minutes

- a. Regular and Executive for May 19, 2015**

On a motion by Mr. Osborne, which was seconded by Mr. Fain, the Committee voted 5-0 to approve the regular and executive minutes. Dr. Gifford abstained.

VI. Superintendent's Report

Flu clinics for the fall have been scheduled for October 6, 2015 (Frenchtown, Eldredge, and Cole students/families) and November 5, 2015 (Meadowbrook and Hanaford students/families). Both clinics will take place at Cole from 4:00-6:30 p.m. The high school's clinic will take place during the school day. Open house dates have been scheduled and are posted on district website. This week is senior week at the EGHS. Ivy Day will take place on Friday, June 5th and commencement on Sunday, June 7th at 1:00 p.m. at Veterans'

Auditorium in Providence. Moving on dates for elementary schools start June 17th. Cole's moving up ceremony will take place on June 22nd at 11:00 a.m. Bills #87 and #5160 related to charter schools are being reviewed by the General Assembly.

VII. School Committee Concerns

There were no concerns.

VIII. Action Items

a. Resignations

1. Susan O'Connell, Paraprofessional, Meadowbrook & Eldredge

On a motion by Mr. Smith, which was seconded by Mr. Fain, the Committee voted 6-0 to accept the resignation.

2. Rob Bikash, Finance Advisory Committee Member

On a motion by Mr. Smith, which was seconded by Mr. Fain, the Committee voted 6-0 to accept the resignation. A new member will be solicited using the district/school list servs and the Superintendent's field memo.

b. Retirement-Dorothy Carter, Special Education Teacher, EGHS

On a motion by Dr. Gifford, which was seconded by Dr. Sun, the Committee voted 6-0 to accept the retirement. Retirees will be recognized at the June 16th meeting.

c. Appointment-Greg Rumowicz, Network Support Specialist, District-wide

On a motion by Dr. Gifford, which was seconded by Mr. Fain, the Committee voted 6-0 to approve the appointment.

IX. Discussion

a. Senior Project Revamp Report

Mr. Podraza discussed the year-end review of senior project with the new pathways. Mr. Podraza said senior project was not a barrier for the few students who are not graduating and the revamp is a success. Ms. Mark congratulated Mr. Podraza and thanked Ms. Gilden for her efforts. Ms. Mark asked several questions including why so few students chose community service, mentor feedback, communication regarding the advisory board and appeals board/process, feedback from students, and support for writing research papers. Mr. Podraza was also asked if the advisory panel could play a greater role in getting faculty support for senior project approval and how the district stacks up to other districts (process).

b. Budget FY2016

Mrs. Wilcox provided two schedules that summarize the proposed FY2016 budget expenditure decreases and the updated budget revenue sources based on the discussion with the Town Council. On a motion by Dr. Gifford, which was seconded by Mr. Osborne, the Committee voted 6-0 to accept the recommendations presented to allocate resources accordingly.

c. Strategic Planning

The administrative council and Ad Hoc Committee have worked diligently on crafting the educational philosophy for the district. A final draft will be included in June 16th School Committee packets. Strategic priorities have been reviewed with administrative council members, which reduced the number of priorities from twenty-six to six. Two community forums have been held for Strategic planning. Ms. Kristin Lehoullier presented the "Vision 2020 School Committee

Update on Strategic Planning.” The community survey received 523 responses. The report, along with the Vision and Purpose Statements will be posted on the district website and added to the Superintendent’s Field Memo.

X. Advisory/Subcommittee Updates

a. Student Advisory Council–RIDE (Student report)

EGHS student Colby Anderson gave highlights of the first meeting that took place at RIDE yesterday. Officers were elected and Colby was elected Chair. Meetings will take place twice a month during the school year and once a month during the summer. Members were given a poll to discuss the biggest issues facing students. Some issues were standardized testing, graduation requirements, transportation (especially inner city), Common Core, substance abuse, and school structure.

b. Policy Subcommittee

The Committee met last week to discuss the policy that needs to be drafted for dual/concurrent enrollment. There are numerous issues that need to be resolved including payment, training for teachers, etc. This policy has been shared with EGHS administration for input.

c. Mental Health Subcommittee

The Committee will compile an end-of-year report for the School Committee.

XI. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Osborne, which was seconded by Dr. Sun, the Committee voted 6-0 to adjourn at 8:45 p.m.

CHRISTINE DIMEGLIO
SECRETARY