

Minutes of the East Greenwich School Committee

Tuesday, June 16, 2015

Archie R. Cole Middle School Library

100 Cedar Avenue

East Greenwich, RI 02818

5:38 p.m. Executive Session, Mr. Fain 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) Paraprofessional Collective Bargaining Evaluation Process; Custodial Negotiations; Litigation Update: Lamendola v Town of EG, et al; (a) (9) E.G.E.A. Teacher Grievance Arbitration; (a) (4) Investigation of Student/Parent complaint regarding allegations of misconduct. 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. Brad Wilson were also present.

7:00 p.m. Regular Meeting

I. Call to Order

Ms. Mark called the meeting to order at 7:09 p.m. and announced that a vote was taken in executive session in support of the paraprofessional collective bargaining evaluation process. The vote was 6-0 in favor.

II. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

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

III. Public Comments

Mr. Peter Dion (non-resident), Cole teacher/coach, discussed the possibility of a track team at Cole.

IV. Recognitions

a. Science Olympiad

- 1. EGHS students**
- 2. Cole students**

b. Mock Trial- Cole students

The Committee recognized and congratulated all on their accomplishments.

V. Approval of Minutes

a. Regular and Executive for June 2, 2015

On a motion by Mr. Osborne, which was seconded by Mr. Fain, the Committed voted 5-0 to approve the regular minutes. Mrs. Winters abstained. On a motion by Dr. Sun, which was seconded by Mr. Osborne, the Committee voted 4-0 to approve the executive minutes. Mr. Smith and Mrs. Winters abstained.

VI. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Mercurio has reached out to Tim Ryan at RIASC regarding funding for all day kindergarten, but has not heard back. The Town

Council voted to support the School Committee's resolution regarding local authority on state holidays. They omitted Veterans' Day from the resolution. The school department was cited for an unintentional oversight of an APRA request. District policy and procedures have since been revised to ensure an oversight will not happen again. Several moving on ceremonies are scheduled this week including Frenchtown, Meadowbrook, Hanaford, and Eldredge. Cole is scheduled for Monday at 11:00 a.m. \$15,000 has been secured to fund one all day kindergarten class at Frenchtown. EGEF has awarded grants to five district schools. The details of each grant will be posted on the Superintendent's Field Memo on Friday. EGEF was thanked.

VII. School Committee Concerns

There were no concerns.

VIII. Action Items

a. Resignations

1. Sharon Kitchin, Administrative Assistant, Central Office

On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Mr. Osborne, the Committee voted 6-0 to accept the resignation.

2. John Sabalewski, Jr., Part-time Custodian, Central Office

On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Dr. Sun, the Committee voted 6-0 to accept the resignation.

b. Bid Award-Meadowbrook dishwasher

On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Mr. Fain, the Committee voted 6-0 to award the bid to Kittredge Equipment Company.

IX. Discussion

a. 1:1 first year review

Mr. Podraza was thanked for his leadership and stewardship during the implementation and support of Chromebooks at the EGHS. Mr. Podraza summarized the process of collecting Chromebooks noting the collection went extremely well. Seniors have either paid for or made arrangements with Central Office regarding any outstanding bills.

Out of 760 Chromebooks, 590 were insured (77.6%) and 170 were uninsured (22%) and 30 were kept as loaners in the library. Out of the 134 Chromebooks that were damaged, 112 were insured and 22 were uninsured. Several touch screens were damaged. The district will decide whether or not to purchase future Chromebooks with touch screens. Underclassmen will take their computers home for the summer. Computers are collected from students' who are moving out of the district. Mr. Podraza said there are enough Chromebooks for the incoming freshman class. Mr. Podraza and Mrs. Wayles explained the process for claims noting the lag time is with the insurance provider. Other options are being pursued, but it was noted the freshman have already paid for three years with the same insurer. Mr. Podraza plans to survey teachers about the Chromebook by the end of the year. EGHS department chairs (Mrs. Flanagan, Mrs. Pontarelli, Mrs. Dulac, and Mr. McPartlin) discussed pros/cons of the first year using Chromebooks. All department chairs were thanked for their input. The PowerPoint will be posted on the website.

b. Strategic Planning

The district's educational philosophy was drafted by the administrative council and shared with the ad hoc committee. Both groups reached consensus. Strategic priorities have been reviewed by the administrative council and narrowed to five priorities. The philosophy and priorities are on track to be presented to the School Committee in the fall.

c. Dual Enrollment Policy

Mr. Osborne gave an overview of the required policy for Dual and Concurrent Enrollment. A draft policy has been crafted, but numerous issues still need to be clarified prior to adoption. Mr. Osborne explained the numerous challenges including funding, transportation, textbooks, and the fact that students' have already selected their courses at EGHS. Additional concerns related to the process for identifying students, eligibility criteria, application process, student supports, grading policy, and credits were also discussed.

X. Advisory/Subcommittee Updates

a. Special Education Advisory Committee

The final meeting for the year took place on June 2nd. Two representatives from the bus company attended the meeting to address parent concerns regarding communication.

An optional student fact sheet may be drafted to assist bus drivers. A list serv for mini bus parents may be developed so routes/times can be shared. Recognitions for special educators and social events to get parents engaged may be planned for next year. A tool to

explain STAR testing is being discussed. Meeting dates for 2015-16 have not been scheduled.

b. Policy Committee

The only item discussed was the Dual Enrollment Policy (see IX- c).

c. Health and Wellness

The Health and Wellness Committee and the Mental Health Subcommittee held final meetings for the year. End of year assessments for both committees will be completed. A video showing policy in practice for Health and Wellness has been posted on the School Committee You Tube channel. The Strategic Planning forums will also be posted on this site.

XI. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Osborne, which was seconded by Mrs. Winters, the Committee voted 6-0 to adjourn at 9:18 p.m.

CHRISTINE DIMEGLIO

SECRETARY