

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

**Tuesday, July 14, 2015**

**Archie R. Cole Middle School Library**

**100 Cedar Avenue**

**East Greenwich, RI 02818**

**6:10 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) (1) Superintendent's Contract (a) (2) Custodial Negotiations. Mr. Fain seconded the motion, which passed 7-0.**

**Those in attendance were Ms. Carolyn Mark, Chair; Dr. Deidre Gifford, Vice-Chair; Mrs. Mary Ellen Winters; Mr. Clark Smith; Dr. Yan Sun; Mr. David Osborne; and Mr. Michael Fain.**

**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. and announced the following votes were taken during previous meetings. On June 17, 2015, a vote was taken to renew six district administrative contracts**

for three years. The vote passed 6-0. On July 8, 2015, a vote was taken in support of a memorandum of agreement for speech pathologists. The vote passed 6-0. A second vote was taken to support a three-year contract for the superintendent. The vote passed 6-0. A vote was taken tonight in executive session to allow the superintendent to teach a course at JWU in the fall. The vote passed 7-0.

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

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

## **III. Public Comments**

There were no comments.

## **IV. Approval of Minutes**

### **a. Regular and Executive for June 16, 2015**

On a motion by Mr. Smith, which was seconded by Mrs. Winters, the Committee voted 6-0 to approve the regular and executive minutes. Dr. Gifford abstained.

### **b. Executive for June 17, 2015**

On a motion by Mr. Osborne, which was seconded by Dr. Sun, the Committee voted 6-0 to approve the minutes. Dr. Gifford abstained.

### **c. Special Meeting and Executive for July 8, 2015**

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

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

Dr. Mercurio has invited Dr. Wagner, the new Commissioner of Education, to join the Committee for a meeting in the fall. The town

manager and Town Council will be invited. The Rhode Island School Superintendents' Association has also invited Dr. Wagner to their general meeting in August. The 2016 projected enrollment numbers are lower than previous years for kindergarten. With low enrollment, there may not be a need to hire an additional kindergarten teacher for 2016. Since this position was budgeted, Dr. Mercurio discussed the possibility of hiring a special education teacher, which was cut from the original budget. The numbers will be monitored and a decision will need to be made in the near future. There were questions whether a budgeted position could be moved from one area to another (grade 1 to special education). Dr. Mercurio will get clarification. Dr. Mercurio is still waiting for an answer regarding the kindergarten funding from Tim Ryan. Dr. Mercurio announced Cole is a finalist for a National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence (NBRSE) award. The tentative recognition will take place on either November 9, 10, or 11.

## **VI. School Committee Concerns**

Mr. Osborne acknowledged the great work done by community member Jen Condon, who will be moving out of East Greenwich.

## **VII. Action Items**

### **a. Resignations**

#### **1. Jayce Winiarski, Paraprofessional, Cole**

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

#### **2. Desiree Brown, French Teacher, EGHS**

On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Dr. Gifford,

**the Committee voted 7-0 to accept the resignation.**

**b. Appointments**

**1. Special Education Resource Teacher, EGHS-Danielle Sherman**

**On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Mr. Osborne, the Committee voted 7-0 to approve the appointment.**

**2. Finance Committee Membership**

**Mr. Smith explained the process used to solicit community members for the Finance Committee. Mr. David Sullivan will continue on the committee, but six additional community members will be added.**

**Mr. Smith recommended the following community members: Mr. Jeff Dronzek; Mr. Mo Raissi; Mr. Dan Forbes; Mr. Vic Veters; Ms. Mandy Lehne, and Ms. Rosemary Stitt. The other members who submitted applications will be held as alternates. On a motion by**

**Mr. Smith, which was seconded by Mrs. Winters, the Committee voted 7-0 to accept the six recommendations. Appointment letters will be sent to all.**

**c. Parental leaves**

**1. Mary Catherine Smith, Music Teacher, Eldredge and Hanaford**

**On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Mr. Fain, the Committee voted 7-0 to approve the leave.**

**2. Deanna Agresti, Art Teacher, EGHS**

**On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Dr. Sun, the Committee voted 7-0 to approve the leave.**

**3. Megan Catelli, Orchestra/Band Teacher, Cole**

**On a motion by Mr. Osborne, which was seconded by Dr. Gifford, the Committee voted 6-0 to approve the leave. Mrs. Winters recused.**

#### **d. Home School Requests for 2015-2016**

##### **1. Grade 1 (a)**

**On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Dr. Gifford, the Committee voted 7-0 to approve the home school request. All end-of-year reports are required.**

##### **2. Grade 1 (b)**

**On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Dr. Gifford, the Committee voted 7-0 to approve the home school request. All end of year reports are required.**

#### **VIII. Discussion**

##### **a. Bob Houghtaling 2014-2015 update**

**Mr. Houghtaling provided a 2014-2015 end of year report and discussed statistics, preventative initiatives, and upcoming events.**

##### **b. Strategic Planning**

**The administrative council met for a full-day retreat to look at objectives to support the strategic priorities. Mr. Osborne also met with the group to discuss metrics. The ad hoc committee met tonight to review the work of the administrative council. Feedback, concerns, etc. were provided and will be forwarded to the administrative council. The ad hoc committee is reviewing the vision statement, along with survey results to ensure the**

**statement is complete and contains the necessary wording. The draft of the strategic plan will follow the meeting on August 12th. The goal is to provide a draft to the School Committee in September.**

##### **c. Fiscal Update FY2015**

**Mrs. Wilcox provided a preliminary general fund surplus/deficit**

report for fiscal year ending June 30, 2015. Exhibit B shows a shortfall of \$142,465, but this figure does not show revenue sources that have not been recorded. The preliminary general fund deficit is approximately \$46,512. Mrs. Wilcox will reach out to Mrs. Benoit for the audit schedule.

**d. Dual Enrollment Policy**

A draft was presented during the June 16th School Committee meeting. The draft was circulated to high school administration for feedback. Dr. Mercurio provided a draft copy of Barrington's policy for discussion. Mr. Osborne explained the main issues with the policy (grading, credits, reimbursement, etc.). A call was placed to RIDE to get clarification on their intent and expectations for reimbursement. No response has been received. A policy committee meeting needs to be scheduled. The Dual Enrollment Policy will remain a standing item on future agendas.

**e. School Start Time Implementation Plan 2016-2017**

Dr. Mercurio provided an Action Plan for 2016-2017 School Start Time Change. The next step is to designate a district-planning item. Mr. Osborne asked Dr. Mercurio to include a variety of staff members who could provide a different point of view regarding activities before/after school (custodians, paraprofessionals, secretaries, etc.).

The plan is to present a final report on December 1, 2015. Ms. Mark asked Dr. Mercurio to look at policy (if any) governing transportation, after-school activities, length of practices, homework, length of athletic practices, etc.

## **IX. Adjournment**

**On a motion by Mr. Osborne, which was seconded by Mr. Fain, the Committee voted 7-0 to adjourn at 8:26 p.m.**

**CHRISTINE DIMEGLIO**

**SECRETARY**