

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

**Tuesday, September 1, 2015**

**Archie R. Cole Middle School Library**

**100 Cedar Avenue**

**East Greenwich, RI 02818**

**6:34 p.m. Executive Session, Dr. Gifford 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) Legal Services Contract. Mr. Fain seconded the motion, which passed 6-0.**

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

**August 4, 2015 regarding anticipated litigation regarding class size. The vote was 6-0. Ms. Mark shared the statement that was provided**

**to media outlets upon request.**

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

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

## **III. Public Comments**

**Mrs. Ying Wang, 90 Hamilton Drive, expressed concerns regarding two accidents near Avenger Drive. She asked the Committee if there are better measures to improve traffic safety on Avenger Drive and Middle Road. Mrs. Erin Penhall, 140 Crystal Drive, discussed issues with the bus #2 driver for Hanaford. Children who ride the bus reported the driver made personal comments about parents, plays offensive sexual music, and yells/screams at students. Mrs. Penhall said several phone calls have been made to Ocean State Transit regarding this issue.**

## **IV. Approval of Minutes**

### **a. Executive for August 4, 2015**

**On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Dr. Gifford, the Committee voted 5-0 to approve the minutes. Mr. Smith abstained.**

### **b. Regular for August 11, 2015**

**On a motion by Mr. Osborne, which was seconded by Mr. Fain, the Committee voted 4-0 to approve the minutes. Mrs. Winters and Dr. Gifford abstained.**

### **c. Special for August 20, 2015**

**On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Mr. Fain, the Committee voted 4-0 to approve the minutes. Ms. Mark and Dr. Gifford abstained.**

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

**Dr. Mercurio said the first few days of school went well. He thanked faculty, staff, and administration for their preparation. Ridership patterns are still being reviewed. The bus concerns presented during public comment will be shared with Deb Murphy at Ocean State Transit and the traffic concerns will be shared with the town. Dr. Wagner, the new Commissioner, will attend the October 6th School Committee meeting for a meet/greet in the Cole cafetorium. Faculty and staff will be invited. Recognitions for Cole drama students, all-state finalists, and grant recipients of EGEF will take place at the September 15th meeting.**

## **VI. School Committee Concerns**

**There were no concerns.**

## **VII. Action Items**

### **a. Appointments**

#### **1. Grade 1 Teacher-Frenchtown-Dale Wildenhain**

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

#### **2. Building Paraprofessional .6FTE-Meadowbrook-Charlene Langlais**

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

#### **3. Head Coach Boys' Cross Country-Cole-John Frenze**

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

**b. Approval of new positions**

**1. 1:1 Paraprofessional-Cole**

**This position is for a newly enrolled student. On a motion by Mr. Fain, which was seconded by Mrs. Winters, the Committee voted 6-0 to approve the new position.**

**2. Head Coach Girls' Cross Country-Cole**

**Mr. Cobain discussed the large number of students interested in the cross-country program (40-50 students). He would like to add a coach for the girls. This position will increase the quality/management of the program and increase safety for students.**

**The estimated cost of this position is \$1200. Mr. Cobain is willing to reallocate funds within his budget for this position. On a motion by Mr. Fain, which was seconded by Mr. Osborne, the Committee voted 6-0 to approve this position using reallocated funds from Mr. Cobain's budget.**

**c. Home School Approvals**

**1. Grade 12 (a)**

**On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Mr. Smith, the Committee voted 6-0 to approve the request.**

**2. Grade 12 (b)**

**On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Mr. Smith, the Committee voted 6-0 to approve the request.**

**3. Grade 11**

**On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Mr. Smith, the Committee voted 6-0 to approve the request.**

#### **4. Grade 1**

**On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Mr. Smith, the Committee voted 6-0 to approve the request.**

#### **d. Resignation-Alan St. Amand, District Attendance Officer**

**On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Mr. Fain, the Committed voted**

**6-0 to accept the resignation.**

#### **e. Policy-Second Read/Adoption #8720 Dual Enrollment Policy**

**RIDE told Mr. Osborne that middle school students are not eligible for the dual enrollment policy. While there is no age limit, the policy is for secondary students only. All references to Cole Middle School were eliminated from the policy. There were questions regarding instructional minutes. RIDE is looking into minutes in conjunction with digital learning. Links to state law will be included in the policy. Dr. Gifford asked for explicit language regarding what guidance uses in their discretion in 5.4. Mrs. Winters asked for feedback from Mr. Podraza and his staff regarding GPA/credit, etc.**

**This policy will receive a third read/adoption at either the September 15th or October 6th meeting.**

#### **f. Approval of FY 2016 District Contract Renewal for Food Service Program**

**Mrs. Wilcox reviewed the one-year contract renewal with the Committee and detailed the operating results for the past three years. On a motion by Mr. Fain, which was seconded by Mrs. Winters, the Committee voted 6-0 to renew the contract.**

#### **g. Superintendent Goals 2015-2016**

**Dr. Mercurio incorporated input from the previous meeting. Mr. Osborne drafted additional points for insertion regarding instructional leadership. Dr. Mercurio discussed support needed in regards to resources/funding. This item will be listed for approval on the next agenda.**

## **VIII. Discussion**

### **a. Financial Update**

**Mrs. Wilcox presented the unaudited financial status as of June 30, 2015. An \$11,418 deficit is listed for operating expenditures. After the fund balance transfer of \$170,000 and the self-insurance surplus and deficit are included, the unaudited general fund shows a potential surplus of \$113,684.**

### **b. Strategic Planning**

**All information will be combined into one document for a first draft for the September 15th meeting. Administrative Council and the Ad Hoc Committee will meet to process feedback after the first read. The goal is to approve the Strategic Plan by October 6th or October 20th.**

### **c. All Day Kindergarten Update**

**Kindergarten numbers for Meadowbrook are 22 students in the a.m. and 22 in the p.m. The full-day class has 18 students. Frenchtown a.m. and p.m. each have 21 students. The full-day class has 17 students. There have been new enrollments and withdrawals. As of July 1, 2015, all districts in the state are required to offer full-day kindergarten for the FY2016 school year. A transportation meeting with Ocean State Transit and principals' will take place prior to the**

**September 15th meeting. Human capital, instruction, and facility conversations have been taking place at administrative council. Since the state will only fund a fraction of the cost for full-day kindergarten. the district will have to fund the balance.**

**d. 2015-2016 Enrollment Update**

**Enrollment is up especially in grades 5, 6, 7 & 8. The highest numbers are in grades 5 and 7. If the numbers remain constant, the high school could see 800 plus students in future years.**

**e. School Start Time Update**

**The Providence Journal ran an article on the district's start time initiative. Dr. Mercurio is on track to report to the Committee.**

**f. Transportation Policy**

**Dr. Mercurio discussed ridership for students who opt to remain at their non-home school. The practice has been for those parents to transport their students. Dr. Mercurio would like to offer transportation to those students when it is fiscally neutral and space available. Dr. Mercurio asked that a statement noting such be incorporated into the transportation policy. Mr. Osborne will draft a revision for the bus policy, which will state "whenever possible and when fiscally neutral."**

**IX. Advisory/Subcommittee Updates**

**a. Building Committee**

**A meeting took place with Community Green Energy on August 20th to discuss the possibility of installing solar panels and the potential revenue.**

**b. Finance Committee**

**The Finance Committee (FC) and the administrative council met last week for a budget process discussion. A follow-up meeting will be scheduled in a few weeks to pair FC members with administrative council members and set up individual meetings. The Town Council is scheduled to have a joint meeting with the School Committee on September 28th.**

**X. Adjournment**

**On a motion by Mr. Osborne, which was seconded by Mr. Fain, the Committee voted 6-0 to adjourn at 9:39 p.m.**

**CHRISTINE DIMEGLIO**

**SECRETARY**