

Minutes of the East Greenwich School Committee

Tuesday, September 15, 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) (1) Administrative Contract (a) (2) Litigation: EGSC vs. EG Education Association KM2015-0717. Mrs. Winters seconded the motion, which passed 5-0.

Those in attendance were Ms. Carolyn Mark, Chair; Dr. Deidre Gifford, Vice-Chair (arrived at 6:06 p.m.); Mrs. Mary Ellen Winters; Mr. Clark Smith; Dr. Yan Sun; Mr. David Osborne; and Mr. Michael Fain (arrived at 5:40 p.m.). Dr. Victor Mercurio, Superintendent; Mrs. Gail Wilcox, Director of Administration; Mr. Bradley Wilson, Director of Student Services; and Attorney Matthew Oliverio 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 in executive session to approve an administrative contract. The vote was 6-0 to accept the recommendation. Another

vote will be announced at the October 6, 2015 meeting.

II. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

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

III. Public Comments

Ms. Renu Englehart, 2005 Division Road, discussed issues with Aspen and the lack of notification for failing grades at EGHS. Ms. Englehart asked the Committee to look into updating Aspen on a daily/weekly basis. Ms. Lexi Budlong-Springer, 3 Cartier Court, asked the Committee if they could introduce themselves at the start of the meeting and expressed concerns regarding extreme heat in the schools and the lack of an official policy.

IV. Recognitions

a. Cole Tennis Club (2014-2015)

Members of the Cole Tennis Club were recognized for their performance last season.

b. Zachary Johnson-EGHS-State Singles Boys' Champion

Zachary Johnson was congratulated for being named the State Singles Boys' Champion.

c. East Greenwich Education Foundation 2015 Grant Recipients

- 1. Veronica Munroe-Hanaford**
- 2. Sharon Foley-District**
- 3. Nicholas Rath-EGHS**
- 4. Frank Lenox and Nicholas Rath-EGHS**
- 5. Roberta Serby, Michele Rinn, Donna Hayes-Frenchtown**
- 6. Patricia Garrahy-Eldredge**
- 7. Kathleen Lynch-Meadowbrook**

EGEF awarded seven grants to the educators listed above. Each teacher was recognized and congratulated.

d. Mr. Clark Smith, School Committee Member (2012-2015)

Mr. Smith was recognized and thanked for his three years of service as a member of the School Committee. His official last day on the Committee is September 23, 2015. Mr. Smith has accepted a job in Ohio and will be moving out of state.

V. Approval of Minutes

a. Regular and Executive for September 1, 2015 Dr. Sun

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

6-0 to approve the minutes. Dr. Sun abstained.

VI. Superintendent's Report

The Hanaford open house is scheduled for September 16th and Cole's open house (grades 7&8) is scheduled for September 17th. Ms. Beth Gorter, Hanaford School, will be recognized as East Greenwich's teacher representative for teacher of the year (2015-16) at the Providence water fire on September 26th. She will also be recognized at the October 6th School Committee meeting. Mr. Tim Duffy, RISSA, sent out information regarding a PARCC rollout workshop, which is scheduled for October 3rd at the Hassenfeld Institute at Bryant University. A survey will be sent to administrators/staff to assess the opening of the school year, which took place on a Monday, rather than a Wednesday. The National School Board conference will take place in Boston April 9-11, 2016. Keynote speakers include Dan Rather, Tony Wagner, and Robin

Roberts. Dr. Mercurio and Mrs. Meyer will attend the Blue Ribbon recognition November 8-10 in Washington, D.C. The Blue Ribbon School of Excellence Award will be presented by the U.S. Department of Education.

VII. School Committee Concerns

Dr. Gifford asked for an update on bus concerns raised at the previous meeting. Dr. Mercurio has spoken with the parent and is scheduling a meeting. Dr. Sun asked what the typical response time is for a parent. Dr. Mercurio said he reaches out immediately if parental information is known (not anonymous).

VIII. Action Items

a. Appointments

- 1. Head Coach Girls' Cross Country-Cole-Kelley Boisse**
- 2. Drama Club Co-Advisor-Cole-Barbara Brusini**
- 3. Dram Club Co-Advisor-Cole-Danielle Salisbury**
- 4. Half-Year National Jr. Honor Society-Cole-Katie Cohen**
- 5. Half-Year Performing Arts Coordinator-District-wide-Brandon**

Levesque

On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Mr. Osborne, the Committee voted 7-0 to approve appointments #1-5.

b. Resignations

- 1. Co-Advisor Class of 2017-EGHS-Katherine Thoreson**
- 2. ELA Teacher-EGHS- Katherine Thoreson**
- 3. ELA Teacher-EGHS-Cynthia Skelton**

On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Dr. Gifford, the Committee voted 7-0 to accept resignations #1-3.

c. School Committee Subcommittee Membership-Finance Committee

With Mr. Smith's departure, an additional School Committee member/chair is needed to serve on the Finance Committee. Ms. Mark asked Mr. Osborne if he would assume the role. On a motion by Mr. Smith, which was seconded by Mrs. Winters, the Committee voted 7-0 to appoint Mr. Osborne as the new Finance Committee member and chair.

d. Policy-Third Read/Adoption #8720 Dual Enrollment Policy

Mr. Osborne discussed new revisions made after his conversation with RIDE and Mr. Podraza. In section 5.2. (c), "grade 8 and up" will be added. Dr. Gifford asked if additional language could be added to 5.4. regarding eligibility criteria using 5.2 as a baseline. New language will contain "the guidance department will exercise reasonable and consistent judgment in determining whether a student may enroll." Mr. Podraza would like the student's current year of graduation and required number of classes added to 5.2. The policy will include links to various resources such as the RIDE website, R.I. General Law, and ILPs. Mr. Podraza explained his preference for option #2 in 2.9. After a lengthy discussion, it was decided that courses (listed in the Program of Studies) that are not running, would be weighted the same way as virtual courses. It was noted this policy might need additional review/revisions in a year. Mr. Osborne will clarify the policy for the fourth read/possible adoption on October 6th.

e. Superintendent's Goals 2015-2016

Dr. Mercurio explained the new language (in green) added to goal #5. He explained the ongoing work that continues to take place with various stakeholders. Dr. Mercurio expressed the need for a director of teaching and learning. He would also like to explore the reinstatement of subject area coordinators in K-5. Dr. Mercurio discussed concerns regarding the timetable. On a motion by Mr. Osborne, which was seconded by Mr. Fain, the Committee voted 7-0 to adopt the goals for 2015-2016.

IX. Discussion

a. Strategic Planning-First Draft of Strategic Plan

Dr. Mercurio presented the first draft of the Strategic Plan. The plan is available on the website and will be sent out on this week's list serv. Comments/feedback from the public and the School Committee should be emailed to Dr. Mercurio or Ms. Mark. A second read is scheduled for the October 6th School Committee meeting.

b. All Day Kindergarten Update

Dr. Mercurio would like to survey the full-day kindergarten teachers regarding the first week of school. Since school began on Monday, the first week was long for all-day kindergarten students. The start time for all-day kindergarteners may need to be revisited. Mr. Wilmarth will work with existing contractors regarding tweaks needed at Frenchtown. The district has not received funding updates from RIDE regarding all-day kindergarten.

c. School Start Time Update

Dr. Mercurio has been reviewing possible route changes with Deb Murphy of Ocean State Transit. A report will be presented at the next

meeting. A third party review will be conducted to ensure optimal utilization of resources.

X. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Osborne, which was seconded by Mr. Fain, the Committee voted 7-0 to adjourn at 9:08 p.m.

CHRISTINE DIMEGLIO

SECRETARY