

Minutes of the East Greenwich School Committee

Tuesday, October 6, 2015

Archie R. Cole Middle School Cafetorium and Library

100 Cedar Avenue

East Greenwich, RI 02818

6:07 p.m. Executive Session-Cole Conference Room, 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) Legal Services Contract, (a) (2) Litigation: EGSC vs. EG Education Association KM2015-0717, (a) (2) Custodial Negotiations. Mrs. Winters seconded the motion, which passed 6-0.

Those in attendance were Ms. Carolyn Mark, Chair; Dr. Deidre Gifford, Vice-Chair; Mrs. Mary Ellen Winters; Dr. Yan Sun; Mr. Michael Fain, and Mr. David Osborne. 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 in executive session during the September 15, 2015 meeting. The Committee voted 7-0 to reject the settlement proposal by the teachers' union to resolve a class size dispute. The district

will move forward to Superior Court.

II. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

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

III. Public Comments

There were no public comments

IV. Welcome: Commissioner Wagner, Rhode Island Department of Education

Dr. Mercurio welcomed Commissioner Wagner to East Greenwich. Commissioner Wagner made opening remarks and took questions from the audience.

V. Recognitions

**a. Archie R. Cole Middle School-2015 National Blue Ribbon School
Mrs. Meyer, Mr. Seger, and the entire Cole community were congratulated on Cole being named a 2015 National Blue Ribbon School. Dr. Mercurio presented Mrs. Meyer and Mr. Seger with prints of the National Blue Ribbon School banners that have been ordered for Cole.**

**b. Cole Drama Club-MET Musical Award Winners and Nominations
Cole award winners and nominees were recognized and congratulated for their performances.**

c. Beth Gorter, Hanaford, East Greenwich Representative-Teacher of the Year 2015-16

Mrs. Gorter was congratulated for being named East Greenwich's Teacher of the Year for 2015-16.

VI. Approval of Minutes

a. Regular and Executive for September 15, 2015

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

VII. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Mercurio plans to meet with Ocean State to discuss communication protocols. These protocols will be posted on the Superintendent's Field Memo and on the district website under the transportation tab. Dr. Mercurio announced October is National Principals' Month. All principals' were acknowledged and thanked for their work throughout the district. The high school community was thanked for a great "spirit week" which included a football victory. A survey was sent to faculty/staff to assess the start of the school year. Fifty-six employees responded. When asked if the district should make it a practice to start school on a Monday, 36 employees (64.3%) said no and 20 (35.7%) said yes. Positives of a five-day week included adjustment time, ability to cover materials, etc. Some challenges included transition issues, long week for younger students, and the heat.

VIII. School Committee Concerns

There were no concerns.

IX. Action Items

a. Appointments

- 1. Co-Class Advisor-Class of 2019-EGHS-Krista Harvey**
- 2. Co-Class Advisor-Class of 2019-EGHS-Michael Florio**
- 3. Co-Class Advisor-Class of 2017-EGHS-Anne-Marie Flaherty**

On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Dr. Sun, The Committee voted 6-0 to approve appointments #1-3.

4. English Teacher-EGHS-One Year Only-Allison Bryer

5. English Teacher-EGHS-One Year Only-Nicole Buckless

On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Dr. Gifford, the Committee voted 6-0 to approve appointments #4-5.

6. Assistant Coach-Football-EGHS-George “Lee” Anderson

7. Assistant Coach-Girls’ Soccer-EGHS-Jessica Ferris

On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Dr. Gifford, the Committee voted 6-0 to approve appointments #6-7.

b. Field Trip-EGHS-Peru April 2017

Mrs. Munzert said thirty-five students have signed up for the trip. Students’ will leave on the Friday before April vacation and return on the following Sunday. Fundraising will continue to assist with the cost. Dr. Mercurio expressed thanks and appreciation to Mrs. Munzert for continuing to offer educational trips to EGHS students. On a motion by Mr. Osborne, which was seconded by Mr. Fain, the Committee voted 6-0 to approve the trip.

c. Policy-Fourth Read/Adoption #8720 Dual Enrollment Policy

Mr. Osborne reviewed the revisions since the last read. Additional language will be added to 2.9 “courses that are included in the EGHS Program of Studies, but are not offered may be taken as dual or concurrent enrollment and count towards credit and GPA.” The month of June will also be changed to April and a link to the EGHS Program of Studies will also be inserted. The Committee discussed the language in 5.2c regarding the state-requirement assessments and agreed to add “if relevant.” The Committee did not want to limit the opportunity of students who attended schools in jurisdictions that

did not require students to take mandated (state/national) assessments. If a student previously attended a school that mandates the assessment, the criteria would apply.

On a motion by Mr. Fain, which was seconded by Dr. Sun, the Committee voted 6-0 to adopt #8720 Dual and Concurrent Enrollment Policy as amended.

X. Advisory/Subcommittee Updates

a. Finance Committee

The Finance Committee met a few weeks ago and paired committee members with district budget owners. Budget partners will schedule individual meetings.

b. Health and Wellness Committee and Mental Health Subcommittee

Both committees met the last week in September. Both groups conducted assessments at the end of the 2015 school year, which will be used to inform the work of the committee. Both committees have started to brainstorm goals for the coming year. Once the goals are finalized, a detailed report will be available.

c. EG Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)

Ms. Patty Harwood, SEAC, provided a summary of the SEAC meeting that took place on September 22, 2015. The meeting had a great turnout, with twenty plus attendees. With the increased enrollment in special education, space needs are being examined at the high school. A new transportation form (for mini bus riders) was developed over the summer, which will be completed by the parent and IEP team. This form will detail vital information about individual students to assist the mini bus driver and aide. SEAC plans to

develop a list serv to share information with parents. An on-line survey will be developed asking parents to rank priorities/needs. One concern discussed was regarding training for paraprofessionals who work with students with specific needs (i.e. technology needs)

XI. Discussion

a. Strategic Planning Update

The first read of the Strategic Plan took place on September 15th. The ad hoc committee reviewed the feedback received after the first read. The administrative council reviewed the plan, but asked for additional time prior to the second read. The second read/adoption is scheduled for October 20, 2015. The second draft will be circulated to the community prior to the second read.

b. All Day Kindergarten Update

Dr. Mercurio spoke with Kristen Cole at RIDE regarding grant dollars for all-day kindergarten start-up. Funding is no longer available, which will have major budget implications. Dr. Mercurio will share this information with local state representatives and invite them to the joint budget meeting with the town. Principals' will be reviewing staffing needs to support all-day kindergarten. Administrators' were told the two budget initiatives for next year are all-day kindergarten and the school start time change. Dr. Gifford asked if a different staffing model (for itinerants) could be used for all-day kindergarten.

c. School Start Time Update

Dr. Mercurio and Mr. Babson met with Dr. Kate Sharkey regarding the school start time survey for middle school students. The technology department is reviewing the best way to administer the survey while

preserving student confidentiality. The survey release is scheduled for February 2016 with follow-up in February 2017.

XII. Adjournment

On a motion by Dr. Gifford, which was seconded by Mrs. Winters, the Committee voted 6-0 to adjourn at 8:33 p.m.

CHRISTINE DIMEGLIO

SECRETARY