

Minutes of the East Greenwich School Committee

Tuesday, January 19, 2016

Archie R. Cole Middle School Library

100 Cedar Avenue

East Greenwich, RI 02818

5:32 p.m. Executive Session-Cole Conference Room, Mrs. Winters 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) Teacher Negotiations; (a) (8) Student Appeal. Mr. Osborne seconded the motion, which passed 4-0.

Those in attendance were Ms. Carolyn Mark, Chair; Dr. Deidre Gifford, Vice-Chair; Mrs. Mary Ellen Winters; Mr. David Osborne; Mr. Matthew Plain; Mr. Michael Fain (arrived at 5:39 p.m.), and Dr. Yan Sun (arrived at 5:45 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 in attendance.

7:00 p.m. Regular Meeting

I. Call to Order

Ms. Mark called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

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

III. Swearing In Ceremony- Matthew R. Plain, School Committee

Judge Healy performed the swearing in ceremony for newly elected member Mr. Matthew Plain.

IV. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

V. Approval of Minutes

a. Regular and executive for January 5, 2016

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

VI. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Mercurio welcomed new School Committee member Matt Plain. The district is in the process of re-energizing the district safety team. Further information will be available at a later date. The R.I. Emergency Management Agency is pulling back from crisis management of schools. R.I.S.S.A. has reached out to R.I. E.M.A. asking them to become more involved in this process. The district is hosting Digital Learning Days February 10-12, 2016. This is in conjunction with the National Learning Day, which started in 2012. The district has received a follow-up from the Wellness Corporation regarding immunization rates for kindergarten. Both Meadowbrook and Frenchtown report immunization rates of 100%. The statewide average is about 93%. Mid-term exams are taking place at the high school this week.

VII. School Committee Concerns

Dr. Gifford announced that she has accepted a new job in

Washington, D.C. It is with regret that she is resigning as School Committee member. Dr. Gifford's final School Committee meeting is February 23, 2016. No details are available regarding filling the vacancy.

VIII. Action Items

a. Parental leave-Bethany Friel, Teacher, Cole

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

b. Parental leave-Dana Doucette, Teacher, Hanaford

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

c. Resignation-Mary Klein, Teacher, EGHS

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

d. Global Studies Field Trip-New York City-Cole

Mr. Plain discussed concerns regarding charging students to participate.

On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Mr. Fain, the Committee voted 6-1 to approve the trip. Mr. Plain voted no. The Committee directed Attorney Oliverio to review the regulations for field trips.

e. Personnel Committee Charge-Second Read/Possible Adoption

On a motion by Mr. Osborne, which was seconded by Dr. Gifford, the Committee voted 7-0 to adopt the Personnel Committee Charge.

f. EGHS Program of Studies-Second Read

Mr. Podraza presented an additional change to Algebra I, which is the

addition of #415A Algebra I - Part 1 and #415B Algebra I - Part 2. Content is addressed at a decelerated pace in each course to assist with remediation and intervention. On a motion by Mr. Fain, which was seconded by Mrs. Winters, the Committee voted 7-0 to adopt the EGHS Program of Studies for 2016-2017.

g. Safe Stop

The Committee asked Dr. Mercurio to survey the community to see if there is interest in this program. The Committee discussed the possibility of running it as a pilot program. Dr. Mercurio will report back at a future meeting in February. No action was taken.

IX. Budget Workshops

a. Facilities

Mr. Wilmarth presented the Facilities budget for 2016-2016, which is a 6.4% over last year. New budget items for FY2017 include restoration of the FY2016 capital improvement and architectural and engineering services funds, an electrician's van, and increases in custodial/maintenance repairs/supplies. Mr. Wilmarth discussed the major cuts made to the FY2016 facilities budget. The Committee asked for a list of the cuts. The Committee also discussed the painting program, which was cut last year and is not being proposed for FY2017 (cost \$30,000). Dr. Mercurio thanked Mr. Wilmarth for his efforts in working to conserve energy.

b. Technology

Mr. Babson presented the Technology budget for 2016-20176 noting the proposed increase of 0.2%. No new budget items are proposed, but 1:1 devices for Cole and funding to replace failing technology

hardware are listed as “wish items.” Mr. Babson also discussed the conversations with the town to share services when possible. At this point in time, Mr. Babson does not recommend moving the district’s website to the town’s website. He will continue to investigate options.

X. Advisory/Subcommittee Update

a. Health and Wellness and Mental Health Subcommittee

The group has an active student member leading the heart health initiative at the high school. She is working with Mr. Downey to meet the requirement for Heart Health Accreditation. Representatives from Farm Fresh discussed collaboration with Aramark to provide farm to table offerings on Fridays starting the end of January. The Committee is developing a toolkit for staff to use during indoor recess to promote movement during inclement weather. The Committee is creating a Wellness Policy Summary and Implementation Guide to be shared with Administrative Council in March. Dr. Sun is working with Hanaford and Eldredge to develop a wellness video to inform best practices. The Mental Health Subcommittee is working on student lead initiatives, opportunities for increased visibility of mental health professionals in the building, and

data collection/universal screening. Staff members reported on the Suicide Prevention Training Workshop hosted by R.I. Student Assistance Services and some possible resources. Dr. Gifford asked if the school physician, Dr. Silverstein, could be contacted regarding screening tools for students.

b. Building Committee

The Committee received an update on National Grid and the application that is due January 22, 2016. The town, not the district, will spearhead a program for solar panels. Members of the Committee, Dr. Mercurio, and Mr. Wilmarth met with RIDE last week regarding stage 1 and 2 of the application process. Part of the application process is to update/fresh the asset protection plan. Members did a walk through at EGHS, Hanaford, and central office to view areas that are part of the capital improvement plan.

XI. Discussion

a. Curriculum Update-Elementary ELA and Math

Dr. Naspo, Mrs. Vaughn, Mrs. Cauley, Mr. Giusti, and Mr. Marcaccio provided an update on the elementary ELA and Math curriculum. All elementary schools have the Common Core State Standards Curriculum for ELA and Math on their websites. Both subjects list “year at a glance” for each grade level. Evaluation of programs, curriculum resources, and shifts in instruction were discussed. The principals’ invited School Committee members to their schools to view a lesson or to meet with the principal for further details on the curriculum. It was noted that teachers’ are asking for standards-based report cards. Mr. Osborne asked if “year at a glance” documents could be handed out at parent events. All principals’ noted they have used their school list servs and newsletters to circulate the curriculum.

b. All Day Kindergarten Update

Dr. Mercurio provided an all day kindergarten update which detailed

the Nine Domains of Early Learning and Development Standards, Current Assessment List for Kindergarten, Sample Schedules of Full Day K in Other Districts, Tentative Schedule for East Greenwich, and Full Day Staffing costs. Dr. Mercurio discussed Barrington's model of using building interns instead of paraprofessionals. These employees are not bargaining unit members. Dr. Mercurio said the culture is different and if the district uses that model, continuous support may be compromised. Dr. Gifford asked if full day kindergarten needs to include specials. She also asked if paraprofessionals could cover the class during the teacher's planning period.

c. School Start Time Update

Dr. Sharkey is moving forward with the school start time survey for Cole and EGHS. A robo call and list serv message will be used to announce the survey to parents. The Flahive Consulting Group conducted a third party review of the proposed bus routes, riding times, and proposed stops for FY2017. After reviewing and comparing the current/proposed bus routes of a two-tier system, Mr. Flahive is in agreement with the proposed routes formulated by Deb Murphy, Ocean State Transit. Officer Montalban and other EG officers reviewed the proposed routes and do not see any safety issues. Dr. Mercurio would like to circulate the bus schedules to parents ahead of time for planning purposes.

XII. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Osborne, which was seconded by Mrs. Winters, the Committee voted 7-0 to adjourn regular session and resume

executive session at 10:06 p.m.

CHRISTINE DIMEGLIO

SECRETARY