

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

**Tuesday, June 21, 2016**

**Archie R. Cole Middle School Library**

**100 Cedar Avenue**

**East Greenwich, RI 02818**

**Those in attendance were Ms. Carolyn Mark, Chair; Mrs. Mary Ellen Winters, Vice-Chair; Mr. David Osborne; Mr. Matt Plain; Mr. Michael Fain, and Mr. Stuart Peterson. 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 in attendance.**

## **7:00 p.m. Regular Meeting**

### **I. Call to Order**

**Ms. Mark called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.**

### **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. Approval of Minutes**

#### **a. Regular and executive for June 7, 2016**

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

**6-0 to approve the regular and executive minutes.**

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

**Dr. Mercurio thanked all administrators and the East Greenwich Police for their efforts with the moving on ceremonies. Faculty and staff were thanked for their work throughout the year. The PTG was thanked for their support. Highlights of the PTG's initiatives will be reviewed at the next meeting. Dr. Mercurio plans to serve on the RISSA panel to discuss ESSA (Every Student Succeeds Act). Most of the work will be done remotely.**

## **VI. School Committee Concerns**

**Mr. Peterson shared a spreadsheet that compared state aid across eight districts.**

**The Committee discussed East Greenwich's share (7%) as compared to other districts.**

**Mr. Osborne announced that he would submit his official resignation from the School Committee by the end of the week or early next week.**

## **VII. Action Items**

**a. Approval of new position: Teacher-Severe/Profound –Meadowbrook**

**On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Mr. Fain, the Committee voted 6-0 to approve the new position. Dr. Mercurio gave details on the position, which was not part of the FY2017 budget.**

**b. Cross Country Invitational-Cole 9/30-10/1/16**

**On a motion by Mr. Peterson, which was seconded by Mr. Fain, the Committee voted 5-1 (Mr. Plain voted no) to approve the trip. Mr. Plain stated he supports the trip, but does not believe the district**

should charge students. He also offered to sponsor a student. Ms. Mark said she would continue to support trips (with a fee) until the policy changes.

**c. Approval of SEAC co-leaders-Nicole Bucka and Patty Harwood**

On a motion by Mr. Osborne, which was seconded by Mrs. Winters, the Committee voted 6-0 to approve the SEAC co-leaders.

**d. OPEB Trust Participation**

Mr. Peterson and Mrs. Wilcox reviewed the OPEB document that was supplied by The Angell Pension Group, Inc. Mr. Peterson and Mrs. Wilcox discussed the difference between a main account and a sub account (with the town). Mr. Peterson discussed cash flow projections (from 2015-2019). He pointed out the differences in liability for the town and the school. Mrs. Wilcox explained the district's procedure for retirement benefits for teachers (two years' paid), which is "pay as you go." The school builds retiree benefits into the yearly budget. Mr. Peterson discussed the police/fire health benefits, which are paid for life. After a lengthy discussion, the Committee questioned the need to join The Trust. Ms. Mark and Dr. Mercurio said they would review the OPEB with the town before a final decision is made.

**e. Second Read/Third Read-Possible Adoption of Policies**

**1. #2725 Advertising and Acknowledgements of Donations (new policy)**

Mr. Osborne reviewed the changes based on the last meeting. On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Mr. Fain, the Committee voted 6-0 to adopt the policy. Dr. Mercurio will draft the

regulations for the July meeting.

## **2. #2196 Field Trips**

The Field Trip Policy received a third read. Mr. Plain explained The Trust does not provide ratios for field trips, as they are not a requirement for the insurance policy. Field trip ratios listed were vetted with the administrative council. There was a lengthy conversation about charging for field trips and whether trips could continue without fees. Mr. Plain discussed the district's need to comply with all applicable laws/regulations related to charging fees for school programs. Ms. Mark would like an opinion from the Commissioner noting specific types of field trips. There was also discussion regarding Barrington's policy for non-sponsored (SC) trips. Dr. Mercurio stated concerns about non-sponsored trips because they may not have to adhere to school policy. Mr.

Fain made a motion to approve the Field Trip Policy. Mrs. Winters seconded the motion and then withdrew her motion. Motion failed. This policy will be discussed at a future meeting.

**VIII. School Start Times-Ocean State Transit: discussion regarding bus stop changes and pick up times due to the new start times for 2016-2017**

Deb Murphy and Cindy Shoemaker from Ocean State Transit were present to discuss drafts of the bus runs for the new school start times. Deb Murphy discussed drafts previously shared with the School Committee in December. The bus runs show a comparison of the previous bus run with the projected run. There are numerous instances where stops were combined and buses eliminated. Ms.

**Murphy explained the possible fluctuation in times based on enrollment, which continues throughout the summer. Start times for all elementary students are 8:50-3:10 p.m. and Cole/EGHS are 8:00-2:25 p.m. The report times for teachers were discussed with union leadership today. All stops have been reviewed by the East Greenwich Police Department. No safety concerns were noted. Ms. Murphy plans to schedule dry runs for the stops in early August. The plan is to post bus lists in early August. There are some runs at the elementary level that run thirty-seven minutes. Ms. Murphy is working to reduce the times. Dr. Mercurio will provide an update and a FAQ page for parents on July 12th.**

#### **IX. Advisory/Subcommittee Update**

##### **a. Health and Wellness Committee**

**Ms. Mark summarized the year's activity. Since the school meal forum generated interest, another will be planned for the upcoming year. Ms. Mark will meet with Aramark staff to discuss revamping the school lunch program on the website. The indoor recess kit is scheduled for rollout in the fall. The Health and Wellness Committee is planning to launch an implementation guide for the Health and Wellness Policy. Grant opportunities are being investigated for shade structures for recess. Staff members are being surveyed on CPR certification. A student at the high school is collecting information on heart health accreditation for the district.**

##### **b. Policy Committee**

**The next meeting is scheduled for July 7th at 8:00 a.m. The Facility Policy and the Student Non-Discrimination Policy will be revisited.**

**c. District Safety Committee**

The Committee met last week. The next meeting is scheduled for August 30th at 3:30 p.m. Mr. Wilmarth and first responders will attend. Volunteers at the lower elementary level are still needed.

**X. Discussion**

**a. Teaching and Learning: EGHS Accreditation Update**

Dr. Mercurio provided a synopsis of commendations/ongoing recommendations from NEASC. Dr. Mercurio discussed the possibility of district accreditation, which may be reviewed in the fall.

**b. FY2017 budget**

An additional \$60,000 was added to the budget tonight with the approved position at Meadowbrook.

**c. All Day Kindergarten**

Enrollment is being monitored and numbers are increasing at Meadowbrook. An additional teacher may be needed at Meadowbrook. This will be revisited in July. Construction at Frenchtown starts tomorrow.

**d. Strategic Plan Update 2015-2016**

Dr. Mercurio provided a strategic plan update as of June 21, 2016. A breakdown of notable work for 2015-16 was listed. Dr. Mercurio discussed the book that faculty will review next year, Grading From the Inside Out. An update will be provided in August.

**XI. Adjournment**

On a motion by Mr. Fain, which was seconded by Mr. Osborne, the Committee voted 6-0 to adjourn at 9:24 p.m.

**CHRISTINE DIMEGLIO**  
**SECRETARY**