

Minutes of the East Greenwich School Committee

Tuesday, October 4, 2016

Archie R. Cole Middle School Library

100 Cedar Avenue

East Greenwich, RI 02818

6:00 p.m. Executive Session, Mr. Peterson 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. Mrs. Winters seconded the motion, which passed 6-0.

Those in attendance were Ms. Carolyn Mark, Chair; Mrs. Mary Ellen Winters, Vice-Chair; Mr. Matt Plain; Mr. Michael Fain, Mr. Stuart Peterson and Dr. Yan Sun. 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 7:01 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 September 20, 2016

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

V. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Mercurio announced October is National Principals' Month. All principals' were thanked for their hard work in supporting teaching/learning. A survey was sent to parents to poll interest for a district-wide PARCC forum. Since less than a handful of parents replied, there will not be a public forum. Schools may choose to have individual meetings. Phyllis Humphrey, Library/Media Specialist at Cole will be recognized at the October 18th School Committee meeting for her nomination as the East Greenwich representative of "Teacher of the Year."

Flu clinics start this week. All clinics will be held at Cole. The district safety team meeting will take place on October 13th at 3:30 p.m. The homework committee is planning to meet on either October 17th or 18th. The Providence Journal has reached out for comment on the district's homework policy since Barrington has changed their policy.

VI. School Committee Concerns

There were no concerns.

VII. Action Items

a. Appointment

1. 1:1 Special Education Paraprofessional-Cole-Margery Ordog

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

b. Resignations

- 1. Richard Waddington, Head Custodian, Eldredge**
- 2. Mackenzie Marrow Owens, Paraprofessional, Cole**

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

c. Approval of additional position: 1:1 Special Educational Paraprofessional-Hanaford

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

d. Approval of additional position: 0.3 FTE Adaptive Physical Education Teacher-Cole

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

e. Approval of Charge: Transportation Subcommittee (a Subcommittee of the Finance Committee)

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

f. Appointment of Transportation Subcommittee Members

Community members Anne Musella and Mike Potorski expressed interest in the committee and have already met to discuss transportation. The composition of the Charge notes five (5) members of the public may participate. Another call for community members will be sent on this weeks' list serv. On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Mr. Fain, the Committee voted 6-0 to approve Ms. Musella and Mr. Potorski as Transportation Subcommittee members.

g. Adoption of Superintendent's Goals: 2016-2017

Dr. Mercurio provided an overview of Goal Five: Develop and implement formal vehicles and processes for communicating the progress of annual superintendent goals. This goal is based on Strategic Priority #5. On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Mr. Peterson, the Committee voted 6-0 to adopt the Superintendent's Goals for 2016-2017.

VIII. EG SEAC

Ms. Patty Hardwood stated that SEAC representatives attended all open houses to raise awareness for the group. One of the SEAC leaders wrote a grant proposal to Autism Speaks for music therapy (\$5,000). SEAC sent a survey to all candidates running for School Committee to garner input on addressing the achievement gap, priorities, impact on special needs students/families, and their experience with children with disabilities. Three social events also took place in September. A group of seven parents met last week with Dr. Mercurio, Mr. Wilson, and Ms. Mark to discuss the law regarding dyslexia and the current curriculum. Mr. Wilson has contacted West Bay Collaborative regarding a consultant to assist with a district wide process and screening. Funding is supposed to be forthcoming from RIDE for professional development.

X. Presentation: URI College of Pharmacy: RAMS Program

Dr. Matson and Dr. Bratberg, U.R.I. College of Pharmacy explained the RAMS survey that they would like to administer to ninth grade students. A three hour curriculum will be presented to students, which focuses on safe storage/use/disposal of medicines,

signs/symptoms/risk factors for opioid misuse/withdrawal, overdoes identification/response, and treatment/recovery resources.

This is a pilot program, which will start in the fall with an initial survey. \$1000 will be given to EGHS for compensation, along with an \$850 scholarship for two high students to attend the Youth to Youth International Eastern States Summer Conference in July 2017. A permission form and letter of explanation will be sent home to parents. Students may choose to opt out of any question or the survey at any time. U.R.I. will provide a letter of support for participation. BCI checks have been done for all pharmacy students taking part in the program. On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Dr. Sun, the Committee voted 6-0 to approve the RAMS program pending a letter from U.R.I. that clarifies all of the respective roles/responsibilities for the district and U.R.I.

XI. Advisory/Subcommittee Update

a. Policy Committee

The last meeting took place on September 26th. Almost every administrator was present to provide input on the proposed policies.

There was discussion surrounding revising the Policy Committee Charge to add another School Committee member, district administrator, and a member of the public. Policies discussed included the proposed Transgender Non-Discrimination Policy, Field Trip Policy, and Non-School Sponsored Field Trip Policy. The Field Trip Policy has gone for three reads; the Non-School Sponsored Field Trip Policy 1 read; and the Transgender Non-Discrimination Policy 1 read. There was discussion about the timeline of policy

adoption. Ms. Mark asked if previously approved trips could be grandfathered in. Mr. Plain said the Committee would have to discuss that issue.

XII. First read of revised Policy Committee Charge

Mr. Plain read the proposed revision to the Charge. Revisions include adding one additional School Committee member, one district/or building administrator, and a member of the public. Minor wording changes were made. A second read will take place at the next meeting.

XIII. Discussion

a. Substitute School Nurse: Discussion regarding daily pay rate

Dr. Mercurio gave an overview on the challenges in securing substitute nurses. Mrs. Brayton-Simmons discussed the district's pay rate and said the district is at the bottom of the pay scale for substitute nurses (\$150 per day). Mrs. Brayton-Simmons said agency nurses charge \$50-\$57 per hour and some districts pay substitutes \$250 per day. The nurses said two EG retirees are on the substitute list, but can only work ninety days per year. The nurses asked if a recruitment effort could be done to widen the pool. Ms. Mark asked that additional research be completed to determine the budget impact and to alleviate pressure in the buildings. Dr. Mercurio will look at the delta in the pay scales and will report back to the Committee.

b. Teaching and Learning: Gallup Student Survey grades 5-12

Mr. Podraza gave background details on the survey, which will be administered to students in grades 5-12. The survey covers four

broad categories: engagement, hope, entrepreneurial aspiration, and career/financial literacy. The survey will be taken on-line and parents may opt out. Information will be sent out via school list serves in the next few weeks.

c. Update on Senior Exhibition

Mr. Podraza gave an update on senior project. For the 2016-17 school year, the dominant pathways are learning a new skill (31%) and career exploration (76%). Academic research and community service are the least popular pathways.

d. RIDE submission for capital maintenance

Mr. Wilmarth provided a detailed draft of the district's Stage 1 Application for RIDE.

The draft included a statement of interest, summary of needs by school, revised 5-year capital improvement plan, and a list of all projects completed over the last decade. The second stage is a complicated phase as the projects need to be defined, designs determined, and the district needs to demonstrate the need.

e. Transportation Update

Dr. Mercurio and Mr. Peterson provided an update of the recent meeting with the bus company. There are still outliers with late arrivals and some buses are arriving significantly earlier (25-28 minutes). The bus company has been providing GPS data on arrivals/departures. SafeStop has been contacted and will be available for all EG residents to track their child's bus. Dr. Mercurio continues to go to bus stops. Some progress has been made, but struggles continue in the afternoon. Over the next three weeks, there

will be a significant change in ridership for athletes. It will appear the bus situation is resolved for athletic events, but ridership will be done due to night games. The opposite will happen in spring when there is an uptick in day games. Mr. Flahive will join the subcommittee to assist with the routes. His previous report was made available to the subcommittee. Mrs. Winters asked if the district could go back to a three-tier bus system and asked for a drop-dead date for resolution of the bus issues. She explained that many elementary parents are now picking up their children to get to 4:00 p.m. after school activities. She asked if a head count could be taken to determine ridership. Mrs. Winters said the bus cost may rise to \$500,000 next year and asked the other Committee members their comfort in moving back to three-tiers. Mr. Plain asked if the Committee was told the issues were not fixable. He said if that is the case, the Committee should contemplate an alternative. Ms. Musella asked about legal ramifications with Ocean State and if legal counsel is involved. Dr. Mercurio said legal counsel is involved and the bus contract has ramifications for performance. Mrs. Winters also stated she doesn't think students are getting the sleep that was the goal of the start time initiative. She added that students are stressed about getting to their clubs and athletic meets. Dr. Mercurio strongly recommended that sufficient lead-time be given to the community if the Committee wishes to go back to three-tiers. Ms. Mark said this issue could be on the table for next year. Ms. Mark said she would consult with Dr. Mercurio prior to making a public statement about changing the bus tiers. Mr. Potorski asked if the Finance Committee could provide the

cost to change two tiers back to three, provide police detail costs, and provide a projected year-end cost for three tiers. Several parents also asked if transportation updates could be listed earlier on the agenda.

XIV. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Fain, which was seconded by Mrs. Winters, the Committee voted 6-0 to adjourn at 10:25 p.m.

CHRISTINE DIMEGLIO

SECRETARY