

Minutes of the East Greenwich School Committee

Tuesday, October 18, 2016

Archie R. Cole Middle School Library

100 Cedar Avenue

East Greenwich, RI 02818

6:48 p.m. Executive Session, Mr. Plain 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. Mr. Fain seconded the motion, which passed 5-0.

Those in attendance were Ms. Carolyn Mark, Chair; Mrs. Mary Ellen Winters, Vice-Chair; Mr. Matt Plain; Mr. Michael Fain, and Dr. Yan Sun. Mr. Stuart Peterson was absent. Dr. Victor Mercurio, Superintendent; 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 7:03 p.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

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

III. Public Comments

Mr. Aaron Guckian, 125 One Circle, thanked the School Committee

for their hard work, time, and dedication.

IV. Approval of Minutes

a. Regular and executive for October 4, 2016

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

V. Superintendent's Report

The district safety team met on October 13, 2016 to discuss the RIDE building submission process and other topics related to safety. The group is planning to present to the School Committee during an executive session in December. The homework study committee met today to review the Charge and determine an action plan. Research will be done on a region/country basis and will be shared with the School Committee after November 15, 2016. The group is also crafting protocol for a parent/faculty forum. A survey may also be given to parents/students. Commissioner Wagner is scheduled to meet with the East Greenwich community on Tuesday, November 29, 2016 from 3:30-4:30 p.m. in the Cole Cafetorium. Further details will be given once the format of the meeting is known. EG AfterProm is hard at work planning the 2017 event. There are several opportunities to support this initiative including volunteering or fundraising. These opportunities will be made available to the public. The district is in the process of scheduling a screening for the documentary, "Screenagers." The film discusses the impact of screen time on teenagers. The movie runs about ninety minutes and will be shown in the Cole cafetorium. There is a plan to have a

baseline discussion following the film.

VI. School Committee Concerns

There were no concerns.

VII. Action Items

a. Appointments

1. Co-Advisor for the class of 2019 EGHS-Erin Woulfe

On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Dr. Sun, the Committee voted 5-0 to approve the appointment.

2. Asst Coach Boys' Soccer-EGHS-Pat McGuirl

On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Mr. Fain, the Committee voted 5-0 to approve the appointment.

3. Appointment of Transportation Subcommittee Member-Katherine Williams

On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Dr. Sun, the Committee voted 5-0 to approve the appointment.

b. Second Read/Adoption of revised Policy Committee Charge

Mr. Plain highlighted the proposed revisions, which were based on input from administration, School Committee, and the public. On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Mr. Fain, the Committee voted 5-0 to approve the revised Policy Committee Charge.

VIII. Advisory/Subcommittee Updates

a. Transportation Subcommittee Update

Dr. Mercurio introduced Ms. Nancy DuPont, a local Ocean State Transit manager. Mr. Fain summarized the meeting that took place

on October 14, 2016 with members of Ocean State Transit. The subcommittee has been analyzing data for the past 4-7 weeks. The SafeStop app was discussed and is live for parents to track buses. Parents can register, log in, and choose the routes to track. Mr. Fain said the app is accurate to within a couple minutes. There are questions whether Ocean State is optimizing the VersTrans software. Ms. Musella asked if Ocean State enters the number of buses when planning routes or lets the software determine the numbers. During the week of November 7th, the subcommittee will be working with the local depot to review data to get a holistic view of all routes to determine whether routes are optimized.

IX. Discussion

a. Transportation Update

Dr. Mercurio provided a list of advantages/disadvantages to return to a three-tiered bus system. Enrollment, scheduling, afternoon activities, etc. are all factors to be considered. Dr. Mercurio was asked to look at where the district is this year in terms of advantages/disadvantages in continuing a two-tiered system. Dr. Mercurio explained that returning to a three-tier system might not show savings due to enrollment, scheduling, and other factors. He also said advance notice is needed for families if the district returns to three tiers. Dr. Mercurio reported that 525 out of 1400 (plus) families filled out the bus ridership survey. Ms. Mark discussed the fact that 15.6% of respondents noted the bus is ineffective or inefficient as the reason for not using bus service. The subcommittee is analyzing survey results, which will be shared with the public.

There was discussion about the SafeStop app and how long the information is available for parents. Ms. Mark said bus drivers have been given a directive to stop at all scheduled routes (even opt-outs) and open the bus door. SafeStop is working to align the actual afternoon times with assigned times. Ms. Musella said the group is looking into the parameters for walkers. She said there appears to be stops for students who may not be eligible for transportation according to district policy. The safety of the walking route would need to be verified by the EGPD. Ms. Mark explained that only School Committee members could propose changing the two-tiered system back to three. Mrs. Woods asked how the health/wellness benefits (of the later start) are being monitored and how can the results be determined. Dr. Mercurio said a snapshot was taken of Cole and EGHS student in March. The snapshot was a survey conducted by Dr. Sharkey. Dr. Mercurio would like to survey students again after first quarter. Mrs. Moss asked about the accuracy of a follow-up survey since the survey was taken anonymously and many students took it because there were incentives (gift cards, etc.). Ms. Mark said the Committee would ask Dr. Sharkey for the results. It was asked that the survey be given to students and parents. Dr. Mercurio will prepare a brief survey for parents/students and present it at the next meeting. Mrs. Miranda discussed the high influx of parents (elementary) picking up their children due to 4:00 after school activities. Mr. Potorski asked for the total dollars spent on bussing, police, etc. (YTD and projected). The finance committee will be meeting to discuss the YTD costs and projected costs.

b. Teaching and Learning: PARCC Results

Dr. Mercurio presented results of the PARCC 2016 testing. Dr. Mercurio reviewed each school's results and participation rate. PARCC testing was given to students in grades 3- 12. All results will be published on the Supt's Field Memo with links to RIDE.

X. Adjournment

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

5-0 to adjourn at 8:20 p.m.

CHRISTINE DIMEGLIO

SECRETARY