



EAST GREENWICH
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

East Greenwich School Committee

Tuesday, December 20, 2022

Hybrid Meeting: Cole Middle School & Via Zoom

Minutes

Those in attendance

School Committee: Ms. Alyson Powell, Chair; Ms. Nicole Bucka, Vice-Chair; Ms. Clare Cecil-Karb; Mr. Tim Munoz, Mr. Kevin Murphy

Additional Attendees: Dr. Brian G. Ricca, Superintendent; Mr. Michael Podraza, Assistant Superintendent; Mrs. Maggie Baker, Director of Administration; Mrs. Amy Healey, Confidential Administrative Assistant; Attorney Aubrey Lombardo; Mr. Neil Marcaccio, Director of Student Services (arrived at 11:24 am)

Absent: Mr. William Hangan; Dr. Eugene Quinn

11:00 am - Open Session

I. Call to Order

Ms. Powell called the meeting to order at 11:00 am.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Public Comment

IV. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings

- A. Executive Session Minutes of December 6, 2022
- B. Regular Meeting Minutes of December 6, 2022

On a motion by Ms. Bucka, seconded by Ms. Cecil-Karb, the Committee voted 4-0-1 to approve both sets of minutes. Mr. Murphy abstained from the vote.

V. Action Item

- A. Overnight Field Trip - EGHS Model UN

Model UN Advisor Jody Mangiaratti explained the details of the field trip. Fundraising has taken place, there have been student meetings, a letter has gone out to parents, suggested donations amounts were made and no student was denied inclusion.

Ms. Powell explained that this field trip is school sponsored, necessitating the need for School Committee approval since it is an overnight trip.

Ms. Bucka expressed appreciation that the field trip form includes adult notification of the conduct policy and an area to address needed student modifications. Ms. Bucka asked why students needing accommodations are not taking field trips.

Ms. Mangiaratti replied that there is a student needing modifications going on this trip and those accommodations are being made.

Ms. Bucka said that it appears that only upper escalation, academic field trips are being planned and that there are no opportunities for special needs students to go on field trips.

On a motion by Mr. Murphy, seconded by Mr. Munoz, the Committee voted 5-0 to approve the field trip.

B. Establish School Committee By-laws Working Group

Ms. Powell suggested the establishment of a 3 member working group to review the by-laws and bring recommendations back to the Committee. Ms. Powell suggested that it be comprised of herself, Ms. Bucka and Mr. Munoz.

On a motion by Ms. Bucka, seconded by Mr. Murphy, the committee voted 5-0 to establish a by-laws working group consisting of Ms. Powell, Ms. Bucka and Mr. Munoz.

Ms. Bucka inquired about the timeline of the by-laws working group.

Ms. Powell said that the group would begin meeting in the new year. She anticipates that there will be several reads of by-laws changes which will determine the timeline.

Mr. Murphy asked how he should submit his suggestions.

Ms. Powell indicated that there will be an opportunity for members to submit comments

VI. School Committee Organization

A. Subcommittee Assignments

Based on the preferences submitted by the members, Ms. Powell drafted a list of subcommittee staffing.

Standing Committees

Committee	Chair	Membership
Health & Wellness	Clare Cecil-Karb	Kevin Murphy
Facilities	Will Hangan	Alyson Powell
Finance & Revenue	Gene Quinn	
Personnel	Nicole Bucka	Will Hangan
Policy	Tim Munoz	Nicole Bucka
Special Education Advisory Committee	Nicole Bucka	Clare Cecil-Karb

Ad-hoc Committees

Committee	Chair	Membership
Town Council Liaison	-	Gene Quinn
Building	Kevin Murphy & Alyson Powell	Tim Munoz
Negotiations	TBD	TBD

Dr. Ricca asked that the negotiations subcommittee be established in anticipation of the upcoming negotiations with the paraprofessionals union. Ms. Powell said that the negotiations subcommittee will be included on a future agenda as an ad hoc committee. She foresaw a rolling membership for the subcommittee as each contract comes up for renewal.

Ms. Bucka noted that she is precluded from participating in the negotiations of the teachers' contract due to a personal conflict of interest.

Ms. Powell said that Dr. Quinn expressed an interest in serving as the liaison to the Town Council. That role will be developed during the by-laws discussions.

Ms. Powell explained that some subcommittees will have a new Chair. After the holiday break, an organization meeting should be scheduled, the charge should be reviewed, modifications should be sent to the Committee for approval and a meeting calendar should be set.

Mr. Munoz inquired whether the membership should be standard amongst all the subcommittees, i.e. a set # of community members, School Committee members and staff members. . He indicated that it can be challenging to get community participation at times.

The by-laws discussion should include how frequent subcommittees should meet. Mr. Munoz noted that it can be challenging to find meeting times that work for School Committee members,

Staff members and community members. Ms. Bucka said that as Chair of the Personnel Subcommittee, she would seek out members from the community. She shared her surprise that subcommittee meetings are held during the work day and posed that this can present an accessibility issue.

Ms. Powell suggested that subcommittee members be polled on meeting times. She said that she hoped that the State's Open Meetings Act would be changed to allow for remote participation from committee members.

Ms. Cecil-Karb asked whether these meetings are all hybrid. Ms. Powell responded the Chair determines whether a meeting will be hybrid. It is necessary that a quorum be attained with members being in person.

Mr. Munoz noted that it is difficult to Chair a meeting and run the Zoom simultaneously. He asked whether the conference room in the Admin Building could be set up to run IT for a hybrid meeting.

Dr. Ricca suggested that using the "Owl" or "Google Meets" would aid in making a meeting hybrid.

On a motion by Ms. Bucka, seconded by Mr. Murphy, the Committee voted 5-0 to approve the subcommittee staffing as presented.

VII. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Murphy seconded by Mr. Munoz, the Committee voted 5-0 to adjourn at 11:33 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy J. Healey
School Committee Clerk

Approved 1-10-23