



East Greenwich School Committee

Tuesday, November 15, 2022

Hybrid Meeting: Cole Middle School & Via Zoom

Minutes

Those in attendance for Executive Session and Open Session

School Committee: Ms. Anne Musella, Chair; Ms. Alyson Powell, Vice Chair; Ms. Nicole Bucka; Mr. William Hangan (arrived at 6:03 pm); Mr. Tim Munoz; Dr. Eugene Quinn

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 (Open Session Only); Mr. Marcaccio (Open Session Only)

Absent: Mr. Kevin Murphy

6:00 pm - Executive Session - Ms. Powell made a motion to recess Open Session and vote to go into Executive Session for discussion and/or action regarding those items of business exempt from open meetings pursuant to RIGL 42-46-4 and RIGL 42-46-5(a)(1) Scope of Legal Services, Engagement, Performance, and Evaluation of current legal services. Ms. Bucka seconded the motion which passed 5-0. Mr. Hangan was not present for the vote.

I. Call to Order

Ms. Musella called the meeting to order at 6:31 pm.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Seal Executive Session Minutes of November 15, 2022 and Disclosure of Executive Session Votes of November 15, 2022.

On a motion by Ms. Powell, seconded by Ms. Bucka, the Committee voted 6-0 to Seal the Executive Session minutes of November 15, 2022.

Ms. Musella reported that no action was taken during the Executive Session.

IV. Public Comment

V. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings

A. October 25, 2022 Executive Session Minutes

On a motion by Ms. Bucka, seconded by Ms. Powell, the Committee voted 5-0-1 to approve the Executive Session Minutes of October 25, 2022. Dr. Quinn abstained from the vote.

B. October 25, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes

On a motion by Ms. Powell, seconded by Dr. Quinn, the Committee voted 6-0 to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of October 25, 2022.

C. November 7, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes

On a motion by Ms. Powell, seconded by Ms. Bucka, the Committee voted 4-0-2 to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of November 7, 2022. Mr. Munoz and Mr. Hangan abstained from the vote.

VI. Action Items

A. Approval of Legal Services Contract - Henneous Carroll Lombardo (HCL)

Ms. Musella explained that HCL has been the District's legal counsel for the past year. Approval of this agreement would extend the contract for three additional years.

On a motion by Ms. Powell, seconded by Ms. Bucka, the Committee voted 6-0 to approve the contract with Henneous Carroll Lombardo for a period of three years.

B. Approval of Special Education Audit Contract - Place, LLC

Dr. Ricca explained that this contract stems from the RFP that went out for a Student Services Audit. Questions that were raised through the RFP process have been addressed. Dr. Ricca asked who from the District should sign the contract.

Attorney Lombardo replied that the contract should be signed by either Dr. Ricca or Chair Musella.

Ms. Bucka made a motion to approve the contract with Place, LLC for a Student Services Audit, with the signatory being changed from Ms. Baker to either Dr. Ricca or Ms. Musella. Ms. Powell seconded the motion which passed 6-0.

C. EGHS Overnight Field Trip - Ski Club

EGHS student Julia Musiak, representing the EGHS Ski Club, explained that the club is planning a weekend trip to Waterville Valley Ski Resort February 10-12, 2023. 40 students have signed up for the trip and 8 chaperones have been secured. The club's advisor is Mr. Keith Doucette. The final price of the trip will range from \$420 - \$450 depending on the number of people attending. The trip is capped at 48.

The School Committee members asked a number of questions:

- Methods of contact between students and chaperones during the trip
- How was information relayed to students and families about the trip
- How often does the ski club meet
- How will the trip be paid for for students who are unable to afford the trip
- What happens if more people who are unable to pay want to attend than money available
- How was the trip advertised
- How was the cost of the trip messaged
- Does the ski club meet for any reason other than to plan trips

Julia and Interim Principal Pat Page addressed the Committee's questions:

- There is \$1300 in a student activities fund that can be used to cover the trip's cost for those students who are unable to pay.
- The club has several meetings planned to discuss the trip
- Sign up for the trip is first come, first serve
- The trip was advertised during the club fair and a google classroom was set up
- The advertising for the trip did include its cost
- At this time, the only purpose of the club has been to plan trips

Attorney Lombardo raised concern about the message about the trip. Was the cost advertised as a suggested donation? What happens if there are people who can not afford to attend and that costs exceed available funds?

Mr. Podraza explained that if there are not enough funds collected through donations and fundraisers, then the trip will not run.

Ms. Musella expressed concern that the ski trip was advertised as a fee based activity. Her determination is that this activity falls under "other trips" under the field trip policy. The club only seems to exist for the purpose of going on a trip and is therefore not a school trip. Ms. Musella said that it was not within the purview of the School Committee to approve this trip.

Attorney Lombardo clarified that if the ski club were to take the trip as a non-school club, monies from the student activities account could not be used.

School clubs should meet the following criteria:

- Have a mission, aside from trip planning
- Hold regular meetings
- Not be fee based

On a motion by Ms. Powell, seconded by Dr. Quinn, the Committee voted 6-0 to table approval of the ski club trip.

VII. Superintendent and Staff Reports

- A. Superintendent's Report
 - i. Personnel Report

Dr. Ricca reported on the hiring of a Paraprofessional and Help Desk Technician. The tech department is once again fully staffed with 4 individuals.

- B. SY 21-22 RICAS & PSAT/SAT Overview

Mr. Podraza gave a presentation on the test scores.

Presentation Organization

1. Public Data
2. Grade to Grade Comparison
3. Longitudinal Achievement

Student Groups

SWO - Students Without Disabilities

SES - Socioeconomic Status/Economically Disadvantaged

SWD - Students with Disabilities

Considerations when interpreting results

1. Pandemic Years
2. Danger in Year to Year Comparisons
3. Further Analysis is Ongoing

RICAS: data presented for:

- Class of 2031, SY 21-22 3rd Grade, Current 4th - Outliner YOG, no longitudinal data
- Class of 2030, SY 21-22 4th Grade, Current 5th - Math & ELA
- Class of 2029, SY 21-22 5th Grade, Current 6th - Math & ELA
- Class of 2028, SY 21-22 6th Grade, Current 7th - Math & ELA
- Class of 2027, SY 21-22 7th Grade, Current 8th - Math & ELA
- Class of 2026, SY 21-22 8th Grade, Current 9th - Math & ELA

PSAT: data presented for:

- Class of 2024, SY 21-22 10th Grade, Current 11th - Math and ELA

SAT: data presented for:

- Class of 2023, SY 21-22 11th Grade, Current 12th - Math and ELA

Actions Connected to EGPS Strategic Plan:

1. Priority 1 - High Quality Curriculum
 - Insure implementation w/ fidelity across schools in Gr. K-5, monitor and adjust year 1 & 2 in Math & ELA 6-12
2. Priority 2 - Professional Development
 - SY 22-23 Right to Read - Proficiency for all elementary, Awareness for all secondary & K-12
 - SY 23-24: Right to Read - EGSD complete by June
3. Priority 3 - Informed Decision Making
 - Curriculum: Selecting Priority Standards REAL-V, target setting and evaluation of scope and sequencing
 - MTSS & PD: Data points - achievement & growth
 - Budget: Local, ESSER & Title funds

Ms. Bucka inquired about testing variabilities for students with IEPs. Mr. Podraza replied that he would need to further look at that data.

Dr. Quinn discussed the setting of proficiency standards.

Ms. Musella asked whether these scores are shared with families with an explanation. Mr. Podraza responded that the schools have just received the paper scores. Each set of scores will be given to parents with a QR code to a video which will explain the individualized scores.

C. Update - New EGSD Website

Dr. Arnoff explained the process to date of developing a new website for the District. New school logos and colors were developed by EGHS teacher Deanna Agresti and her students. Dr. Arnoff presented a video introducing the preliminary version of the new website and explained that this is a first draft of the home page. The go live date for the website is May 9, 2023. Content on the website will be rolled out in phases.

Dr. Ricca explained that principals and/or their designee are meeting weekly with the website committee. It is expected that 1-3 pages of content per school will be ready for the live date. A lot of work will be needed to front load the content and then to maintain the pages. A “train the trainer” model will be used to develop and maintain content.

Dr. Quinn inquired whether the “train the trainer” model is so that everyone will be able to upload their own content. Dr. Arnoff replied that a point person at each school will review content before it is put on the website.

Ms. Bucka asked about the accessibility on the website.

Dr. Arnoff replied that all companies vying for the District’s contract went to great lengths to show their products’ accessibility.

VIII. Policies (Second Read)

A. Policy # 4216 Suicide Prevention (New)

Ms. Musella noted the changes that were made since the first read of the policy.

On a motion by Ms. Powell, seconded by Dr. Quinn, the Committee voted 6-0 to approve Policy # 4216 Suicide Prevention.

B. Policy # 8210 Releasing students to the custody of persons other than their parents or legal guardians

Ms. Musella stated that there were no changes since the first read and asked that the policy be approved by its revised title, “Releasing Students to Non Custodial Individuals”.

On a motion by Ms. Powell, seconded by Dr. Quinn, the Committee voted 6-0 to approve Policy # 8210 Releasing Students to Non Custodial Individuals.

C. Policy # 8140 Academic Eligibility for Student Participation in Extracurricular Activities (Repeal)

Ms. Musella explained that this language is contained in the Athletic Handbook which puts it under the authority of the Superintendent.

On a motion by Ms. Powell, seconded by Ms. Bucka, the Committee voted 6-0 to repeal Policy # 8140 Academic Eligibility for Student Participation in Extracurricular Activities

D. Policy # 8215 Unsafe School Choice Option (Repeal)

Ms. Musella explained that this policy is no longer legally relevant.

On a motion by Ms. Powell, seconded by Ms. Bucka, the Committee voted 6-0 to repeal Policy # 8215 Unsafe School Choice

Ms. Musella spoke of all of the policy changes that have come about during her 4 years on the School Committee.

IX. School Committee Suggestions for Future Agenda Items

Ms. Bucka - A policy regarding an MOU for School Resource Officers and training

X Adjournment

On a motion by Ms. Powell, seconded by Ms. Bucka, the Committee voted 6-0 to adjourn at 8:28 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy J. Healey
School Committee Clerk

Approved 12-6-22