



EAST GREENWICH
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

East Greenwich School Committee

Tuesday, December 6, 2022

Hybrid Meeting: Cole Middle School & Via Zoom

Minutes

Those in attendance for Executive Session and Open Session

School Committee: Ms. Nicole Bucka, Ms. Clare Cecil-Karb, Mr. William Hangan, Mr. Tim Munoz, Ms. Alyson Powell, Dr. Eugene Quinn

Additional Attendees: Dr. Brian G. Ricca, Superintendent; Mrs. Maggie Baker, Director of Administration; Mrs. Amy Healey, Confidential Administrative Assistant; Attorney Aubrey Lombardo; Mr. Marcaccio, Director of Student Services, Dr. Patricia Page, Interim Principal EGHS

Absent: Mr. Kevin Murphy

6:00 pm - Open Session

I. Call to Order

Mrs. Healey called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Student Athlete Recognitions

Students and coaches from the EGHS Unified Volleyball Team, EGHS Girls Cross Country Team and Cole Boys Cross Country Team were recognized for their Fall 2022 State Championship wins. Coach Erin Terry, was recognized as the 2022 RI Coach of the Year for High School Girls Cross Country.

IV. School Committee Organization

A. Election of School Committee Chair

Mrs. Healey called for nominations for School Committee Chair.

On a motion by Ms. Bucka, seconded by Dr. Quinn, the Committee voted 6-0 to elect Ms. Powell as Chair.

B. Election of School Committee Vice Chair

Mrs. Healey called for nominations for School Committee Vice-Chair.

On a motion by Dr. Quinn, seconded by Mr. Munoz, the Committee voted 6-0 to elect Ms. Bucka as Vice-Chair.

V. Recess Open Session and Convene Executive Session pursuant to EIGL 42-46-4 and RIGL 42-46-5(a)(4) - Matters related to investigative proceedings.

On a motion by Mr. Munoz, seconded by Dr. Quinn, the Committee voted 6-0 to recess Open Session and convene Executive Session.

VII. Adjourn Executive Session and Reconvene Open Session

On a motion by Ms. Bucka, seconded by Dr. Quinn, the Committee voted 6-0 to adjourn Executive Session and reconvene Open Session at 7:18 pm.

VII. Seal Executive Session Minutes of December 6, 2022 and Disclosure of Executive Session Votes of December 6, 2022.

On a motion by Ms. Bucka, seconded by Dr. Quinn, the Committee voted 6-0 to Seal the Executive Session minutes of December 6, 2022.

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

VIII. Public Comment

IX. Special Education Advisory Committee Report

Mr. Matt Murray, SEAC Co-Chair, gave a report on behalf of the subcommittee. Mr. Murray recapped the recent SEAC meeting which was an IEP information meeting and included a presentation by Amy Peterson of the Progress Center.

The presentation focused on the parent and family side of the IEP process:

- how to prepare for IEP meetings
- critical terminology
- best practice preparation strategy
- questions from the community were fielded

Findings:

- Necessity of ongoing support for the parent community

- Creation of an ad-hoc workgroup to gather the feedback and suggestion discussions into recommendations for the School Committee, administration and SEAC
- Request for greater clarity into when and how to provide information regarding their child
- Need to use the information provided more during the development of a plan for their child
- Parents have observed a lack of continuity in IEP discussion and process
- Initial pre-meeting forms for families

Next steps:

- Document parent feedback
- Speak with Administration and School Committee members
- Formalize recommendations

Ms. Bucka spoke of the need to modify the EGHS program of studies for students with special needs, specifically the math program.

Mr. Marcaccio said that there needs to be a larger conversation about modifications to the general education curriculum. He discussed the development of easier procedural documents for parents and for the sharing of draft IEPs with the parents.

Ms. Bucka suggested sharing the District's communication protocol policy with families.

Mr. Munoz said that the District's new website can visualize the process. The website can provide access to user friendly documents to SEAC families.

There was discussion about including students' 1:1 paraprofessionals in IEP meetings. Additional discussion was held as to when an issue rises to the level of the School Committee involvement and when it needs to be handled by the Administration.

Dr. Ricca shared his perspective that the IEP process appears adversarial and shared the commitment to earning the trust of IEP parents. The process needs to be transparent and communication needs to be enhanced.

X. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings

- A. November 15, 2022 Executive Session Minutes
- B. November 15, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes

On a motion by Mr. Munoz, seconded by Dr. Quinn, the Committee voted 5-0-1 to approve the Executive Session Minutes and Regular Session Minutes of November 15, 2022. Ms. Cecil-Karb abstained from the vote.

XI. Action Items

A. Approval of Interim Middle School Principal Contract - Melissa Centracchio

Dr. Ricca expressed how confident he is in Ms. Centracchio's ability to step into this role. He added that there is a current search for an Interim Assistant Principal for the middle school.

Ms. Powell noted that the contract's signature line needs to be changed to the School Committee Chair.

Dr. Quinn made a motion to approve the contract, with a change to the signature line. Ms. Bucka seconded the motion which passed 6-0.

B. Approval of 2023 School Committee Meeting Calendar

On a motion by Ms. Bucka, seconded by Dr. Quinn, the Committee voted 6-0 to approve the 2023 School Committee meeting calendar.

C. Approval of HEPA Filter Vendor - Sunbelt

Ms. Baker said that these filters will be paid for from a State grant.

On a motion by Mr. Hangan, seconded by Dr. Quinn, the Committee voted 6-0 to approve the 3 year bid for HEPA filter replacements.

D. Approval of \$50,000 from Fund Balance for Student Services Audit

Ms. Bucka made a motion to approve \$50,000 from Fund Balance for the Student Services Audit. Dr. Quinn seconded the motion which passed 6-0.

E. Approval of Contract for Engagement of Claire Hall

On a motion by Mr. Munoz, seconded by Dr. Quinn, the Committee voted 6-0 to approve the contract for engagement of Clare Hall.

XII. Superintendent and Staff Reports

A. Superintendent's Report

i. Personnel Report

Dr. Ricca reported that the District was quickly able to hire a replacement for the Career and Readiness position. The newly hired school psychologist started last week. He shared that this is a stressful time of year for educators. The mental health of both students and staff is important. The District continues to work creatively to fill vacant positions.

B. School Level Presentations of RICAS Data

On a motion by Ms. Bucka, seconded by Dr. Quinn the Committee voted 6-0 to table the RICAS Data presentation to a future meeting.

IX. School Committee Suggestions for Future Agenda Items

Ms. Bucka - School Resource Officer Policy/MOU

Ms .Bucka - Math Program of Studies at EGHS for students with IEPs

X Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Hangan, seconded by Ms. Cecil-Karb, the Committee voted 6-0 to adjourn at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy J. Healey
School Committee Clerk

Approved 12-20-22