



## East Greenwich School Committee Meeting

Tuesday, May 2, 2023

6:00 pm

Hybrid Meeting: Cole Middle School & Via Zoom

### Minutes

#### Those in attendance

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

**Additional Attendees:** Dr. Brian G. Ricca, Superintendent; Dr. Steven Arnoff, Director of Technology; Mrs. Maggie Baker, Director of Administration; Mr. Neil Marcaccio, Director of Student Services; Mrs. Amy Healey, Confidential Administrative Assistant; Attorney Aubrey Lombardo

**Absent:** Ms. Alyson Powell, Chair, Dr. Eugene Quinn

Convene Open Session and Recess to Executive Session for discussion and/or action regarding those items of business exempt from open meetings under RIGL 42-46-4 and RIGL 42-46-5(a)(2) - Potential Litigation.

#### I. Call to Order

Ms. Bucka called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm. She announced that the posted Executive Session would not be held this evening.

#### II. Pledge of Allegiance

#### III. Seal Executive Session Minutes of May 2, 2023 and Disclosure of Executive Session Votes of May 2, 2023

No Executive Session was held.

#### IV. Public Comment

#### V. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings

A. April 18, 2023 Regular Session Minutes

*On a motion by Mr. Munoz, seconded by Ms. Cecil-Karb, the Committee voted 3-0-2 to approve the minutes of April 18, 2023. Mr. Hangan and Mr. Murphy abstained from the vote.*

## **VI. Discussion**

### **A. Discussion of Formation of Fact Finding Working Group - School Resource Officers (SROs)**

Ms. Bucka explained that the group's work would have 2 phases:

- 1) Gathering of information
- 2) Visioning

Ms. Cecil-Karb, Mr. Hangan and Ms. Powell have expressed an interest in participating in this working group.

## **VII. Action Items**

### **A. School Committee Approval of Data Center Implementation Project**

*On a motion by Mr. Murphy, seconded by Mr. Hangan, the Committee voted 5-0 to approve the data center implementation project with Nutanix hardware and software solution at a cost of \$126,421.80 from the 2018 Technology Bond.*

Ms. Lombardo clarified that this motion approves the expenditure and if there is a contract it will need to come before the Committee for approval.

### **B. School Committee Approval of Designated Funding Source for Colliers Project Leaders**

Mrs. Baker explained that this action will tidy up the funding sources to pay Colliers. The Town will pay \$200,000 in impact fees.

*On a motion by Mr. Murphy, seconded by Mr. Hangan, the Committee voted 5-0 to approve expensing Collier's Project Leader contract from capital reserve fund in the amount of \$82,960.00.*

## **VIII. Superintendent & Staff Report**

### **A. Personnel Report**

Dr. Ricca shared two recent resignations. Mr. Munoz asked that an explanation of the personnel changes be included in the report.

### **B. EGPS Website Update and Timeline - Dr. Steven Arnoff, Director of Technology**

1. Development of the website - Dr. Arnoff gave a preview of the home landing page, the school landing pages and the cell phone view.

2. Training - Self guided training of representatives from each school and central office will take place over the course of 7 weeks.
3. Content development - Content is being developed and moved from the District website into the sandbox (testing website). Content in the sandbox will be copied onto the new website. Mr. Chris Scheib showed how content would be developed on the school pages. Teachers will be able to replicate their content from the current site onto the new site.

The site will go live on August 7, 2023. Content will be able to be added in early July.

Ms. Bucka asked whether family and user feedback is being sought and said that should be gathered before training begins.

Dr. Arnoff explained that there has been feedback throughout the process. The website committee included district staff, teachers, students, a School Committee member and family members.

Mr. Munoz gave context for the branding of the school logos and colors.

Dr. Arnoff explained that content will sit on the District website rather than just be links. The website has a style guide.

Mr. Munoz suggested a beta test be done by families prior to the live launch of the new site.

Ms. Cecil-Karb asked questions about the functionality of the site, teacher content and the search functionality. She asked that families of ELL students test the site.

#### C. RIDE Site Support Visit Report - Mr. Neil Marcaccio, Director of Student Services

Ms. Bucka explained that the RIDE Site Support Visit is a compliance service obligation and is intended to be a support for schools. Areas needing improvement are isolated and identified.

Mr. Marcaccio gave a presentation of findings to the East Greenwich School Committee.

#### EGPS Student Services

- 338 students with IEPs
- 2603 students under the MTSS umbrella: 200+ students with Tier 2 or Tier 3 MTSS plans
- 38 Multi-Language Learners (MLL) (ELL)
- 313 504 Plans

IEP - Individualized Education Plan for students who have an identified disability

## 504 Plan - A list of accommodations for students who have identified disabilities

### RIDE School Support System

- Visits every 5 years
- Rotation of Tier 1 and Tier 2 visits
- Tier 1 - records review and data analysis
- Tier 2 - records review and data analysis, surveys, classroom observations and interviews
- Target schools also rotate

### Compliance vs. Functionality, Best Practice, Growth and Gap Closure

- Dysregulation ↔ Compliance ↔ Engagement ↔ Empowerment

### Purpose of Tier II Visit

Component 1 - Records Review

Component 1 - Records Review Findings

Component 2 - Data Analysis

Component 2 - Data Analysis Findings

Component 3 - Survey

Component 3 - Survey Findings

Component 4 - Classroom Observation

Component 4 - Classroom Observation Findings

Component 5 - Interview

Component 5 - Interview Findings

Outcomes

Mr. Murphy inquired about the Meadowbrook preschool playground and its non compliance for ADA and pre-schoolers. He asked whether it is a safety hazard and should be closed.

Attorney Lombardo and Mr. Marcaccio said that it is an access, liability and equity issue.

Mr. Munoz inquired about engagement and empowerment. He also asked whether kids place-out of IEPs. Mr. Marcaccio said that a handful of students are released each year.

Ms. Bucka asked about the math curriculum. She asked whether information from this report is going to be shared with the general education leadership and whether the leadership will be given a "Special Education 101".

Mr. Munoz spoke of the reorganization of the District's policy manual. He asked whether parents of IEP students receive documents related to what their child is entitled to under state and federal guidelines.

Mr. Marcaccio replied that documents explaining each step of the IEP process are being developed for families.

Ms. Lombardo explained that there is a complex compilation of documents.

Dr. Ricca offered that the new website will have this information in a searchable format.

## **IX. Adjournment**

*On a motion by Mr. Murphy, seconded by Ms. Cecil-Karb, the Committee voted 5-0 to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 pm.*

Respectfully submitted,

Amy J. Healey  
School Committee Clerk

*Approved 6-6-23*