



## East Greenwich School Committee Meeting

Tuesday, June 6, 2023

6:00 pm

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. William Hangan; Mr. Kevin Murphy; Mr. Tim Munoz; Dr. Eugene Quinn

**Additional Attendees:** Mr. Michael Podraza, Assistant Superintendent; Mrs. Maggie Baker, Director of Administration; Mr. Neil Marcaccio, Director of Student Services; Mrs. Amy Healey, Confidential Administrative Assistant; Attorney Aubrey Lombardo

#### I. Call to Order

Ms. Powell called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm. Ms. Powell requested that the Executive Session be moved to the end of the agenda.

*On a motion by Ms. Cecil-Karb, seconded by Mr. Murphy, the Committee voted 7-0 to move the Executive Session to the end of the agenda.*

#### II. Pledge of Allegiance

#### III. Seal Executive Session Minutes of June 6, 2023 and Disclosure of Executive Session Votes of June 6, 2023

*Moved to end of the agenda*

#### IV. Public Comment

#### VI. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings

##### A. May 2, 2023 Regular Session Minutes

*On a motion by Ms. Bucka, seconded by Mr. Murphy, the Committee voted 5-0-2 to approve the minutes of May 2, 2023. Ms. Powell and Dr. Quinn abstained from the vote.*

#### VII. Action Items

A. School Committee Approval of Administrator Contracts

*On a motion by Ms. Cecil-Karb, seconded by Mr. Murphy, the Committee voted 6-0-1 to approve the contracts for Ms. Melissa Centracchio (Principal, Cole Middle School) and Dr. Patricia Page (Principal, East Greenwich High School). Mr Munoz abstained from the vote.*

Ms. Powell thanked Ms. Centracchio and Dr. Page for stepping into the Interim Principal positions this past year and for their admirable performance in these roles.

B. School Committee Approval of Non-Union Contracts

*On a motion by Mr. Murphy, seconded by Dr. Quinn, the Committee voted 6-0-1 to approve the contracts for Ms. Cheryl Augaitis (Staff Accountant), Mr. Robert Black (Maintenance Supervisor), Ms. Rosette Figueiredo (Confidential Administrative Assistant to the Director of Student Services), Ms. Brianna Moody (Human Resources Coordinator and Ms. Tamara Walsh (Staff Accountant). Mr. Munoz abstained from the vote.*

C. SC Approval of Out of State Field Trip, Dallas, TX: EGHS Future Health Occupation Students of America

*On a motion by Dr. Quinn, seconded by Mr. Murphy, the Committee voted 7-0 to approve the field trip upon the conditions set with Mr. Podraza's approval.*

D. School Committee Approval of Virtual Net Metering Credit Agreement - Ameresco

Ms. Powell explained that this agreement will save the District over \$100,000. It will allow the District to take advantage of solar credits and move towards a greener district.

*On a motion by Ms. Bucka, seconded by Dr. Quinn, the Committee voted 7-0 to approve the Virtual Net Metering Credit Purchase Agreement with Ameresco.*

E. School Committee Approval of Copy Machine Leases - Xerox

Ms. Powell stated that the Town has a contract with Xerox for similar copier equipment and services.

*On a motion by Dr. Quinn, seconded by Mr. Murphy, the Committee voted 7-0 to approve the lease agreement with Xerox Corporation.*

F. School Committee Approval of Services Contract for Security Upgrades

Ms. Powell explained that this is the final piece of the security upgrades. Ms. Lombardo shared that her colleague identified a 2% discount which will save the District \$10,000.

*On a motion by Mr. Hangan, seconded by Mr. Murphy, the Committee voted 7-0 to approve the services contract with Cybercon, Inc for security upgrades in the amount of \$282,788.15 from the 2018 bond and fund balance.*

**V. Discussion**

A. EG Building Update from Project Manager

Project Manager, Mr. Derek Osterman, explained that the Town Council received a recent update on the project. The EG Building Committee will meet again at the end of June. Option C1 - approved by the School Committee, was shared with the Town Council.

Option C1

Hanaford ES	\$57 million	new build	1-5
Frenchtown ES	\$57 million	new build	1-5
Meadowbrook ES	\$16 million	reno	PK-K
EG High School	\$20 million	add/reno	

The Town Council meeting included lots of discussion about ensuring that meaningful improvements are made at all four school campuses.

Colliers is currently in the process of working on securing a PR Consultant and developing a Communication Soft Launch to message the project to the public. Mr. Osterman reviewed the Capital Improvement Program - Draft Communications Schedule.

I. Enabling Work

a. RFP for PR Consultant	May 2023
b. PR Consultant Begins to Develop Content	June 2023
c. Legislative Impacts	June 2023
d. Finalize A/E Contract for Revised Stage II Scope	May 2023
e. Schematic Design- First Look	June 2023

II. Communication Soft Launch

f. PR Consultant Begins to Organize Targeted Messaging	July 2023
g. Design Continues to Develop	July 2023
h. Legislative Impact to Housing Aid in Known	July 2023

III. 90 Day Countdown	August 2023
IV. 60 Day Countdown	September 2023
V. 30 Day Countdown	October 2023
VI. Referendum	November 2023

Ms. Powell said that the Building Committee needs to prioritize the elements of plan C-1 while the Town considers the final bond amount. The Town Council needs to understand what happens to the plan if funding levels change.

Mr. Osterman said that there is some movement on the building bonuses being considered by the General Assembly. There's support of sustainable and high performance design and net zero bonus. There may be an extension on the deadline for hiring the contractor to the end of the fiscal year.

Ms. Powell explained that there is hope that construction costs, having skyrocketed in recent years, will come down while districts are given additional time to begin construction.

Mr. Munoz shared information provided by the Town:

Of the State's 36 public school districts: 20 have a base reimbursement rate of 35%; 5 have over 40%, 2 have over 50%, 5 have over 60% and 1 has over 90%.

## **VIII. Policies - Second Read**

### **A. Policy 1125: School Committee By-laws**

*On a motion by Ms. Bucka, seconded by Mr. Munoz, the Committee voted 7-0 to approve the revised policy.*

Ms. Bucka explained that the Committee is operating action step tracking for the Committee and sub-committees. Hyper links have been added to the key areas of the bylaws.

### **B. Policy 7415: Loan of Textbooks to Students in Non-Public Schools**

*On a motion by Mr. Munoz, seconded by Ms. Bucka, the Committee voted 7-0 to approve the revised policy.*

## **IX. Subcommittee Reports**

### **A. Health & Wellness**

Ms. Bucka said that the grant discussed in the Health & Wellness meeting will be sent to the School Committee.

[Comment on Action Item SC Approval of Out of State Field Trip, Dallas, TX: EGHS Future Health Occupation Students of America](#)

Mr. Mire, advisor for HOSA, asked why this event needs to be approved by the School Committee if the trip is being funded 100% by families.

Mr. Podraza replied that since this is a school sanctioned event representing EGHS, parents attending are acting as chaperones and need to have a BCI and follow policy on conduct with students

Attorney Lombardo concurred and stated that there are State laws and District policies that oversee field trips.

Mr. Mire asked whether the same standards are in effect for parents attending out of town school sports events.

Mr. Podraza explained that if a coach is the official chaperone for an event, parents in attendance are spectators, not chaperones, and do not need to have a BCI.

Ms. Powell explained that with school sanctioned events, where students are representing EGPS, policy requires School Committee approval of overnight or non-contiguous state trips.

*At 6:50 pm, On a motion by Ms. Bucka, seconded by Dr. Quinn, the Committee voted 7-0 to Recess Open Session and Convene 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)(1) - Job Performance - Superintendent - Individual has been notified, including his right to have any discussion held in open session.*

*At 8:38 pm Ms. Bucka made a motion, seconded by Mr. Murphy, to adjourn the Executive Session and Reconvene the Open Session. The Committee voted 7-0 to approve the motion.*

### **III. Seal Executive Session Minutes of June 6, 2023 and Disclosure of Executive Session Votes of June 6, 2023**

*On a motion by Mr. Murphy, seconded by Dr. Quinn, the Committee voted 7-0 to Seal the Executive Session Minutes of June 6, 2023.*

*Ms. Powell reported that no votes were taken during Executive Session.*

### **IX. Adjournment**

*On a motion by Dr. Quinn, seconded by Mr. Hangan, the Committee voted 7-0 to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 pm.*

Respectfully submitted,

Amy J. Healey  
School Committee Clerk

*Approved 6-20-23*