



East Greenwich School Committee

Tuesday, January 24, 2023

Hybrid Meeting: Cole Middle School & Via Zoom

Minutes

Those in attendance for Executive Session and Open Session

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 (arrived at 6:04 pm)

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

6:00 pm Executive Session - Convene Open Session and Recess to Executive Session pursuant to RIGL 42-46-4 and

- 1) RIGL 42-46-5(a)(9) Grievance Hearing - EG Custodians/Maintenance Association NEARI/NEA
- 2) RIGL 42-46-4(a)(4) Investigations

Ms. Bucka made a motion to recess Open Session and 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)(9) Grievance Hearing - EG Custodians/Maintenance Association NEARI/NEA and RIGL 42-46-4(a)(4) Investigations. Ms. Cecil-Karb seconded the motion which passed 6-0. Dr. Quinn was not present for the vote.

I. Call to Order

Ms. Powell called the meeting to order at 7:28 pm.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Seal Executive Minutes of January 24, 2023 and Disclosure of Executive Session Votes of January 24, 2023

On a motion by Ms. Cecil-Karb, seconded by Mr. Murphy, the Committee voted 7-0 to seal the Executive Session minutes of January 24, 2023.

Ms. Powell reported that no votes were taken in the Executive Session.

IV. Public Comment

No public comment.

V. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings

- A. January 10, 2023 Executive Session Minutes
- B. January 10, 2023 Regular Session Minutes

On a motion by Mr. Murphy, seconded by Ms. Bucka, the Committee voted 7-0 to approve both sets of minutes from January 10, 2023.

VI. Action Items

- A. RIGL 42-46-5(a)(9) Grievance Hearing - EG Custodians/Maintenance Association NEARI/NEA

Ms. Bucka made a motion to deny the grievance. Mr. Murphy seconded the motion which passed with a vote of 7-0.

VII. Discussion Item

- A. EGHS 2023-2024 Program of Studies

Dr. Patricia Page, Interim Principal of EGHS and Ms. Anne-Marie Flaherty, Chair of School Counseling, gave a presentation of the Program of Studies. Graduation credits can be transferred from Cole to EGHS. The goal is to have students have taken or be taking Algebra II by the time they take the SATs.

EGHS Program of Studies: 2023-2024 Academic Year

Goals

- Provide clarity on the purpose and function of Program of Studies
- Experience the course selection process through lens of rising freshman
- Secure approval, contingency on form and format revisions

8th Grade Student / Rising Freshman

- Diagram of 5 credits
- Mathematics sequences
- Academic support classes

Scheduling: How it Works

- Load student requests into Aspen
- Set sections in consult with Dept Chairs and Principal
- Make adjustments align needs and requests

EGHS Credit Requirements: 24.5 credits

Primary Factors Influence the Final Schedule

- Impact on Class Size

- Required vs. Electives
- Waiver Process
- State Graduation Requirements
- Faculty Considerations
- Pathways / CTE Programs

Secondary Factors: Projected Enrollments & CTE

- Expected composition of grade levels in EGHS SY 23-24

The Program of Studies is a compendium of available courses. It is not designed nor could it fully account for the varied, student-centered implementation models.

Ms. Bucka asked whether the graduation requirements for the Class of 2028 are set by RIDE or still under consideration. Dr. Page required that the graduation requirements have been set by RIDE.

Ms. Bucka expressed her displeasure with teacher recommendations. She added that special education families are receiving information on class selection late in the process. The IEP team should be up to speed on the program offerings. Mr. Marcaccio replied that there are plans to include special educators in these programmatic discussions.

Mr. Munoz spoke again of the importance of three years of a language as a graduation requirement. Ms. Flaherty agreed that selective schools do require three or four years of foreign language study. Many students are exceeding the required credits in foreign languages. Mr. Podraza said that even without foreign language requirements, 72% of EGHS students are taking a foreign language.

Ms. Powell spoke of the importance of showing students the path to their graduation goals.

Summary of Proposed Changes

- Alternative and/or multi-age English, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies
- GPA Calculation
- 2D Studio Art I and 2D Studio Art II
- Personal Finance I
- Proposed Courses
 - Sculpture
 - Fashion and Interior Design
 - Marketing Design
 - Entrepreneurship in Art and Design - Honors / Concurrent Enrollment Options

* Website Design to Website Builder

* Mathematics Sequence

*Advanced Pre-Calculus Honors AP Pre-Calculus

*Earth and Space Science Honors

*Chemistry for Life Renamed Conceptual Chemistry

*Renewal Energy Technology Renamed Climate Change and Clean Energy Technology

*French 6: Honors French 6: AP

Form and Format Changes to be Completed

- Pathway Options
- Vision of Graduate
- Any misspellings, grammatical errors, or other changes made up to EG SC approval

Dr. Page requested approval of the Program of Studies with the understanding that there will be some formula or formative changes made.

Ms. Bucka stated that the Program of Studies does not take into account students other than college bound, high achieving students. There lacks student centered options for special education students. Without clarity in ELA and Math, Ms. Bucka stated that she is unable to approve the Program of Studies. She asserted that SEAC parents are wanting meaningful classes for their children. Ms. Bucka asked for a clear, sequential pathway for special education students spearheaded by special educators.

Ms. Bucka asked about the return to multi age classes. Mr. Marcacio said the elimination of those classes was from a previous high school administrator and not the recommendation of special education teachers. He spoke of the way these classes would work well. Ms. Bucka asked if parents were aware of these changes. Mr. Marcaccio said that there are plans in early February to speak with parents of rising freshmen with special needs. Mr. Marcaccio described classes that will be co-taught by both a special educator and a subject matter teacher.

Dr. Quinn spoke of multi age classes meeting the level of the students.

Public Comment

Mr. Justin Cahir

Mr. Cahir asked how 8th grade parents are involved in the freshman class placements. He also expressed a bias of teacher recommendations and asked whether there was an appeal process.

Mrs. Flaherty explained that parents of rising 8th graders are contacted by guidance and the course selections are made available via ASPEN. The teachers have an opportunity to revisit recommendations which are made from a set criteria. There is also a waiver process.

Ms. Powell stated that the Committee would like some additional clarity on progression in the Program of Studies and asked when the approval of the document is needed. Mrs.

Flaherty said that the process is already a bit late and approval is requested as soon as possible.

Mr. Munoz said that the Committee will also be looking at programming for students K-5 and 6-8.

Dr. Ricca asked for clarification of the request of the School Committee so that the matter can be brought back for a vote on February 7th.

Ms. Lombardo suggested that School Committee members send their specific suggestions to Dr. Ricca for reconsideration at the February 7th meeting.

Dr. Ricca suggested the Committee approve the Program of Studies tonight while the administration continues to work on the sequencing of pathways.

Mr. Munoz made a motion to approve the EGHS 2023-2024 Program of Studies, contingent upon a clear articulation of a pathway for complex learners being brought back to the Committee. Dr. Quinn seconded the motion which was approved 6-1. Ms. Bucka opposed the motion.

VIII. Superintendent & Staff Report

A. Financial Update

Mrs. Baker presented the FY 23 fiscal report to date.

Local Fund

- Revenue
- Expenditures

Grants

Capital Reserve Fund

\$5M Bond

Dr. Ricca asked whether this report is helpful to the Committee. Ms. Bucka asked that the memo accompanying the report be more detailed. Dr. Quinn said that this report is helpful. Mr. Munoz asked for language changes to “assigned” and “unassigned”.

IX. Subcommittee Reports

- A. EG Building Committee
- B. Health & Wellness Committee

Ms. Bucka asked when building matters would be brought to the Committee. Ms. Powell said that information will be provided through frequent updates. The timeline necessitates that plans be developed in a couple of months time.

Mr. Murphy noted that the building committee will be meeting more frequently and narrowing the visions down from 5 to 3.

X. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Murphy, seconded by Ms. Bucka, the Committee voted 7-0 to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 pm..

Respectfully submitted,

Amy J. Healey
School Committee Clerk

Approved 3-20-23