



East Greenwich School Committee

Joint East Greenwich School Committee and Town Council Meeting
Tuesday, December 12, 2023

Hybrid Meeting: Swift Community Center & Via Zoom

Minutes

Those in attendance for School Committee & Joint Meeting

School Committee: Ms. Alyson Powell, Chair; Ms. Clare Cecil-Karb; Mr. Tim Munoz; Mr. Kevin Murphy; Dr. Eugene Quinn

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

Absent: Ms. Nicole Bucka; Mr. William Hangan

Those in attendance for Joint Meeting

Town Council: Mr. Mark Schwager, Chair; Ms. Caryn Corenthal; Ms. Renu Englehart; Mr. Michael Zarella

Additional Attendees: Mr. Andrew Nota, Town Manager; Ms. Leigh Carney, Town Clerk; Ms. Trish Sunderland, Town Finance Director

Absent: Mr. Michael Donegan, Vice Chair

I. Call to Order - Joint School Committee-Town Council Meeting 5:30 pm

Mr. Schwager called the Town Council meeting to order at 5:40 pm. Ms. Powell called the School Committee meeting to order at 5:40 pm.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

II. Student Recognitions

- EGHS Girls Field Hockey Team
- EGHS Unified Volleyball Team
- Cole Middle School Girls Soccer Team
- Cole Middle School Boys Soccer Team

EGPS Athletic Director Casie Rhodes introduced the District's Fall 2023 Championship teams and their coaches.

IV. Statutory pre-budget consultation between East Greenwich School Committee and East Greenwich Town Council for review of revenue and expenditure projections and discussion on issues affecting preparation of the school budget per RIGL 16-2-21.2 (d).

Mr. Nota gave the Town Presentation of the 2024-2025 Budget.

- Budget Calendar
- What is a budget forecast? Why Forecast?
- Taxes: Where do your taxes go: FY 2025; Tax Levy Cap: FY2025
- Town and School Budget to include Debt Service: Town Budget & School Budget
- FY 2024 Projections: Revenues, Expenditures, Est. Surplus, 2023 Pre-Audit
- FY 2024 Estimated Revenues: Revenues projected budgetary surplus; Investment Income; GAAP surplus
- FY 2024 Estimated Expenditures: Expenditures surplus
- Intergovernmental Aid - 2025: State Aid to Education; Municipal State Aid, School Construction Aid
- Assumptions & Facts - Expenditures FY 2025: Personnel Increases
- Tax Levy vs Tax Rate: Understanding the Difference: Tax Levy, Tax Rate, Determining the Tax Levy, Determining the Tax Rate
- Funding Status of OPEB: Net OPEB Liability as of June 30, 2023 (audited)
- 2023 Capital Reserve Funding
- School Capital Reserve Fund
- Capital Improvement Plan: Major projects that generally do not recur on an annual basis
- Debt: Outstanding Debt Level
- Fund Balances: FY22 Town & School
- Financial Management
- Our Weaknesses and Challenges
- Our Strengths and Opportunities
- Cost Unpredictability and Sustainability
- Upcoming Capital Improvements: Municipal Capital Projects, School Capital Improvements
- Charges for Shared Services: FY 2025 Change, Future Transfers in from school, Modified in recent years to reflect school cost in School Operating Program
- 2023 Full Revaluation Project Timeline

Town Council and School Committee members asked questions regarding the Town's budget presentation.

Dr. Ricca and Mrs. Baker gave the School presentation.

- Purpose
- Agenda
- EGPS Budget Process
- Key Variables in the Development of FY 25 EGPS Budget
- EGPS FY 24 Budget Projections
- EGPS Strategic Plan
 - Priority 1 Learning, Priority 2 Teaching, Priority 3 Systems, Priority 4 Community
- The Story of the FY 25 Budget
 - Academic Excellence, Community Health & Wellness, Infrastructure, Collaboration
- The Story of the FY 25 Budget, Related to the Strategic Plan
 - Excellence in Learning, Distinguished Teaching & Talented Staff, Efficient & Innovative Systems, Engaged Community
- Appendix
 - Federal Grants to Supplement Our Educational Programs in FY 24
 - Title I, Title II, Title IV, IDEA Part B, IDEA Pre-School, Career Technical Education - Secondary
 - Federal COVID Funds
 - CRRSA ESSER II, ARP ESSER III, ARP IDEA Part B, ARP IDEA PK, CARES Rethink K-12 Education Models: School Counselor

Ms. Englehart asked some qualifying questions about the District's presentation.

V. Public comments on joint budget session

No public comment.

VI. Adjourn Joint Meeting and Convene School Committee Meeting

The Town Council adjourned their meeting at 6:53 pm.

On a motion by Ms. Cecil-Karb, seconded by Mr. Murphy, the Committee voted 5-0 to adjourn the joint session and convene the School Committee meeting at 6:53 pm.

VII. Public Comment

No public comment

VIII. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings

- A. November 14, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes

On a motion by Dr. Quinn, seconded by Mr. Munoz, the Committee voted 4-0-1 to approve the minutes of November 14, 2023. Ms. Cecil-Karb abstained from the vote.

- B. December 6, 2023 Executive Session Minutes
- C. December 6, 2023 Regular Session Minutes

On a motion by Mr. Murphy, seconded by Dr. Quinn, the Committee voted 5-0 to approve the Executive Session and Regular Session minutes of December 6, 2023.

IX. Action Items

- A. School Committee Approval of Homeschool requests

On a motion by Mr. Munoz, seconded by Mr. Murphy, the Committee voted 5-0 to deny the homeschool request of student C. Doe.

On a motion by Ms. Cecil-Karb, seconded by Mr. Murphy, the Committee voted 5-0 to approve the homeschool request of student B. Doe.

X. Discussion

- A. SY 24-25 Program of Studies

EGHS Principal Dr. Pat Page and School Counseling Chair Anne-Marie Flaherty presented the proposed SY 24-25 Program of Studies.

- Goals
- 8th Grade Student / Rising Freshman
- EGHS Credit Requirements
- 2028 Graduation Requirement Changes and Implications
- Mathematics: Frequent Course Progressions 2025, 2026, 2027
- Mathematics Class of 2028: Anticipated Course Progressions
- ELA Sequence
- Science Sequence and Science Electives
- Social Studies Sequence
- Unified Academic Classes
- Academic Support Classes
- Scheduling: How it works
- Primary Factors Influencing the Final Schedule
- Secondary Factors: Projected Enrollments & CTE

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.

- Supplemental Student Profiles

Changes are proposed to:

- Graduation Requirements
- Early Graduation

- Guidelines for Awarding Credit
- Course Placement
- Waiver Process
- Unified
- Unified Mentor Capstone

Form and Format Changes to be Completed

- Pathway Options
- Correction of any misspellings or grammatical errors

Ms. Powell, Dr. Quinn and Ms. Cecil-Karb all complimented the presentation. Ms. Cecil-Karb asked for clarification on the changes to the foreign language requirements.

Ms. Powell highlighted the inclusion of the Unified classes and the pathway options. She asked about teacher recommendations. Ms. Flaherty said recommendations are made on assessment data and students' mental readiness so that students are positioned for success. Ms. Powell pointed out that some of these changes are dictated by State regulations.

Mr. Munoz inquired about the evolution of the curriculum. What is the process of deciding to offer new classes? Dr. Page replied that there is a formal process where a teacher can make a proposal for a new course offering.

Mr. Podraza elaborated on the process. Topics for exploration start with a formal proposal that is made to the department chair. There needs to be consideration of what classes would come out of the offerings if new ones are added. The proposal would need to hit all of the Vision of a Graduate competencies. Student interest is reviewed.

Mr. Munoz asked whether the District is open to programs from outside educational sources. He also inquired about educating students on neurodivergent manners of learning.

XI. Superintendent & Staff Report

A. EGHS Update

Director of Facilities Bob Wilmarth provided an update to the facility problems last week at the high school. Over the weekend a final repair was made to the building's heating system. Preparations are being made for electrical repairs that need to be made.

The School Committee shared their appreciation of Mr. Wilmarth's work on addressing the problems. Ms. Powell said that everyone greatly appreciated the comprehensive communication throughout the facility problems.

XII. Sub-Committee Reports

A. Building

- B. Facilities
- C. Personnel
- D. SEAC

XIII. Adjournment

On a motion by Dr. Quinn, seconded by Mr. Munoz, the School Committee voted 5-0 to adjourn at 7:54 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy J. Healey
School Committee Clerk

Approved 1-9-24