



East Greenwich School Committee Meeting

Tuesday, September 19, 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; Dr. Eugene Quinn

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

Absent: Ms. Alyson Powell, Chair

Recess Open Session and Convene Executive Session for discussion and/or action regarding those items of business exempt from open meetings under RIGL 42-26-4 and

1. RIGL 42-46-5(a)(2) - Collective Bargaining, EGEA-ESP
2. RIGL 42-46-5(a)(1) - Employee Job Performance - Superintendent's SY 23-24 Goals - Individual has been notified, including his right to have any discussion held in open session

At 6:02 pm, Mr. Murphy made a motion to Recess Open Session and Convene Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Dr. Quinn and approved 6-0.

At 6:22 pm, on a motion by Mr. Murphy, seconded by Dr. Quinn, the Committee voted 6-0 to adjourn Executive Session and reconvene Open Session.

I. Call to Order

Ms. Bucka called the meeting to order at 6:24 pm.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Seal Executive Session Minutes of September 19, 2023 and disclosure of Executive Session votes.

On a motion by Dr. Quinn seconded by Mr. Hangan, the Committee voted 6-0 to Seal the Executive Session minutes of September 19, 2023.

Ms. Bucka disclosed that no votes were taken in Executive Session.

IV. Public Comment

V. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings

- A. September 5, 2023 - Executive Session Minutes
- B. September 5, 2023 - Regular Meeting Minutes

On a motion by Ms. Cecil-Karb, seconded by Mr. Murphy, the Committee voted 5-0-1 to approve both sets of minutes from September 5, 2023. Mr. Hangan abstained from the vote.

VI. Action Items

- A. SC Approval of Homeschool Requests

On a motion by Mr. Murphy, seconded by Dr. Quinn, the Committee voted 6-0 to approve the homeschool requests.

- A. SC Approval of EGEA MOA: SY 23-24 School Calendar - Instructional Minutes

On a motion by Dr. Quinn, seconded by Mr. Murphy, the Committee voted 6-0 to approve the EGEA MOA - Instructional Minutes.

Dr. Ricca explained that instructional minutes at the elementary level will be extended by 6 minutes a day. This will bank a total of 3 additional instructional days. If we have 3 snow days, the school year will end on Tuesday, June 18, 2024. If we have less than 3 snow days, we will end earlier than that date. If we have more than 4 snow days, the last day will be extended to June 20, 2024 and beyond. The last day of school will be determined after the April vacation. It is more valuable to have instructional minutes added now rather than in June.

No changes at Cole or EGHS are needed in order to align with this calendar. A CLASS block has been added to Monday mornings at EGHS to allow for common planning time for teachers.

- B. SC Approval of EGEA MOA: Cole Minutes

On a motion by Dr. Quinn, seconded by Mr. Hangan, the Committee voted 6-0 to approve the EGEA MOA - Cole Minutes.

C. SC Approval of EGEA MOA: Appendix B, Website Coordinator

On a motion by Mr. Murphy, seconded by Dr. Quinn, the Committee voted 6-0 to approve the EGEA MOA - Appendix B, Website Coordinator.

D. SC Approval of Copy Machine Leases, CBS-Xerox - Modified Contract

Mr. Murphy asked what was modified in the contract. Mrs. Baker explained that this is a \$400/month addition to the contract approved by the School Committee in June. The additions were necessary to fulfill the copy machine needs of the District.

On a motion by Dr. Quinn, seconded by Mr. Hangan, the Committee voted 6-0 to approve the Copy Machine Leases, CBS Xerox, Modified Contract.

VII. Discussion

A. Master Plan Community Tax Impact Data Analysis and Discussion

Mrs. Baker asked whether the Committee had any questions about the memo and analysis that was in the agenda packet. Ms. Bucka asked what will be done with this information. Mrs. Baker explained that this information will allow taxpayers to have more understanding about how the bond will affect them.

Dr. Quinn said that assumptions made by the Town were used to develop this analysis.

Mr. Munoz asked if this information will be available as a calculator. Dr. Ricca replied that it will be on the website.

VIII. Policies

Mr. Munoz explained that there are 3 categories of policies tonight - all first reads. New Policies, Revised Policies, Repeal of Policies. Each policy includes an explanation of the changes.

A. New Policies (First Read)

a. Policy # 5430 Arrest Disclosure

Ms. Bucka complimented the format of the policies which show the changes and provide an explanation.

Mr. Hangan inquired about sexually related crimes in the policy. Attorney Lombardo explained that it is addressed in the "moral turpitude" language.

b. Policy # 3120 Pricing Schedules

B. Revised Policies (First Read)

a. Policy # 8315 Alcohol / Breathalyzer Use

Ms. Bucka explained that SEAC will review Policy #8315 and #2115. She shared that some special education students would need prior information about a possible breathalyzer test.

Dr. Ricca pointed out the perspective of the District is outlined in the second sentence of the revised policy; "EGPS has a responsibility to ensure the safety and well-being of all students while they are under the care and supervision of the school."

Mr. Munoz explained that randomization and privacy were carefully considered in the policy revision.

Ms. Cecil-Karb asked what steps take place after an incident involving alcohol. Dr. Ricca pointed out that section #6 and #9 addresses actions that will be taken.

Ms. Bucka inquired whether there are therapeutic responses to violations of this policy. Dr. Ricca replied that each case will be reviewed individually and that type of response is contemplated in section #9.

b. Policy # 2115 Fire Safety Drills

c. Policy # 1150 School Improvement Teams

C. Repeal of Policies (First Read)

a. Policy # 1130 Guide to RI Laws on MOA

b. Policy # 1140 Selection of Ad Hoc Committees

c. Policy # 8710 Early Admission to College

Mr. Munoz explained that these policies are already contained in other policies.

Attorney Lombardo explained that there is a typo in Policy #1130 Guide to RI Laws of MOA that should read OMA. The policy will need to be put on the next agenda again for a first read.

IX. Subcommittee Report

A. EG Building Committee Update

Mr. Murphy relayed that today's meeting was quite productive with a single agenda item - update and discussion of Master Plan PR Campaign. Derek Osterman of Colliers gave a great presentation. The PR firm provided three documents for review.

Dr. Ricca said that a 1 pager will be available at each school's open house, beginning tomorrow at Hanaford. There will be social media presence, brochures and a website that include information on the Master Plan. The sharing of this information will create an informed electorate. There will be a community forum in October, similar to a candidate forum. The Community Forum tentatively scheduled for October 18, 2023 at New England Tech.

Mr. Munoz said that there is an opportunity for outreach to many community groups and associations throughout East Greenwich. He encouraged attendance at community meetings by the School Committee and Building Committee members. Mr. Munoz said that he is unaware of strong pushback of the Master Plan.

X. Adjournment

At 7:38 pm, on a motion by Dr. Quinn, seconded by Mr. Munoz, the Committee voted 6-0 to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy J. Healey
School Committee Clerk

Approved 10-3-23