



East Greenwich School Committee Meeting

Tuesday, July 18, 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

Additional Attendees: Dr. Brian Ricca, Superintendent; 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

Absent: Dr. Eugene Quinn

I. Call to Order

Ms. Powell called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Retiree Recognitions

Katherine Alexander Hall: Dr. Ricca shared remarks prepared by Cole Principal Melissa Centracchio. Ms. Alexander-Hall retired in February as a Paraprofessional at Cole after 17 years with the District.

Claudia Sammartino Smith: Hanaford Principal Mrs. Cauley recognized Claudia Sammartino-Smith. Mrs. Smith retired in February as a Paraprofessional at Hanaford after more than 20 years with the District

Margaret Ucci: Dr. Ricca recognized Margaret Ucci with remarks prepared by former Superintendent Alexis Meyer. Mrs. Ucci retired in March as Secretary to the Assistant Superintendent having served in many different roles in many different buildings during her 36 years with the District.

On a motion by Ms. Bucka, seconded by Mr. Murphy, the Committee voted 6-0 to bring Action Item 7A up for immediate consideration.

- A. Approval of Administrative Contract - Beth Cauley, Assistant Principal, Cole Middle School

On a motion by Ms. Cecil-Karb, seconded by Mr. Murphy, the Committee voted 5-0-1 to approve Mrs. Cauley's contract. Mr. Munoz abstained from the vote and said that while he supports the appointment, needed changes to the Administrator Contract policy precludes him from voting.

Ms. Cecil-Karb shared her appreciation for the hiring process and congratulated Mrs. Cauley. Ms. Powell offered her best wishes to Mrs. Cauley.

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

1. RIGL 42-46-5(a)(4) - Investigations
2. RIGL 42-46-5(a)(2) - Potential Litigation/Legal Advice
3. RIGL 42-46-5(a)(2) - Collective Bargaining, EGEA-ESP

At 6:15pm, Ms. Bucka made a motion to Recess Open Session and Convene Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Mr. Murphy and approved 6-0.

Adjourn Executive Session and Reconvene Open Session

At 8:10 pm Ms. Cecil-Karb made a motion, seconded by Ms. Bucka, to adjourn the Executive Session and Reconvene the Open Session. The Committee voted 6-0 to approve the motion.

IV. Seal Executive Session Minutes of July 18, 2023 and disclosure of Executive Session votes.

On a motion by Ms. Bucka, seconded by Mr. Murphy, the Committee voted 6-0 to Seal the Executive Session minutes of July 18, 2023.

Ms. Powell disclosed a vote made in Executive Session.

Mr. Murphy made a motion to file a complaint for damages and demand for a jury trial against Meta Platforms, Inc: Facebook Holdings, LLC: Facebook Operations, LLC: Instagram, LLC; Snap Inc.; TikTok, Inc.: Bytedance, Inc.; Alphabet Inc; XXVI Holdings, Inc; Google LLC; and YouTube LLC., contingent upon any awarded damages or settlements going towards student mental health services. Mr. Munoz seconded the motion which was approved 5-1. Mrs. Bucka voted against the motion.

V. Public Comment

VI. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings

- A. June 20, 2023 - Executive Session Minutes
- B. June 20, 2023 - Regular Meeting Minutes
- C. June 26, 2023 - Regular Meeting Minutes

On a motion by Mr. Murphy, seconded by Ms. Bucka, the Committee voted 5-0-1 to approve both sets of minutes of June 20, 2023. Mr. Hangan abstained from the vote.

On a motion by Mr. Hangan, seconded by Ms. Cecil-Karb, the Committee voted 4-0-2 to approve the minutes of June 26, 2023. Ms. Bucka and Mr. Murphy abstained from the vote.

VII. Action Items

- A. Approval of Administrative Contract - Beth Cauley, Assistant Principal, Cole Middle School - *brought up for immediate consideration*
- B. Approval of Contract for COBRA Services - London Health Administrators
- C. Approval of Contract for Employee Assistance Programs (EAP) - AllOne Health
- D. Approval of Contract for Food Services - Aramark
- E. Homeschool Requests, SY 2023-2024

On a motion by Mr. Hangan, seconded by Mr. Murphy, the Committee voted 6-0 to approve Action Items B, C and D.

On a motion by Mr. Munoz, seconded by Ms. Bucka, the Committee voted 6-0 to approve the homeschool requests.

VIII. Superintendent & Staff Report

- A. Discussion of Personnel Report Reporting

Dr. Ricca explained that additional information has been added to the personnel reports provided to the School Committee in his weekly memo to them. Detailed information was shared about people who have left the District and themes from exit interviews.

Mr. Munoz inquired about the number of resignations from Frenchtown Elementary. He made suggestions for gathering more responses to the offer of exit interviews.

IX. Discussion

- A. School Committee Self-Evaluation

Mrs. Bucka reviewed the packet documents “Eight Characteristics of Effective School Committee”. She asked that the members complete the 8 question survey as a reflection of how the School Committee is operating. It was suggested that Dr. Ricca and some staff members be asked to also complete the survey.

X. Policies - First Read

A. Policy # 5310 Administrator Contracts

Ms. Powell explained that this policy change would address gaps in the process of administrator contract approval by the School Committee. Attorney Lombardo said that the changes capture the spirit of the accountability act and demonstrates the School Committee’s faith in its Superintendent.

XI. Subcommittee Reports

A. EG Building Committee

Ms. Powell explained that the Building Committee had a thorough meeting earlier in the day. The Town Council is working out the language and dollar amounts for the proposed bond. A joint meeting between the Building Committee and Town Council will be scheduled for Wednesday, July 26. If there is a quorum available, it will be scheduled also as a School Committee meeting.

The Committee discussed the extension of the Stage 2 submission deadline.

IX. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Munoz, seconded by Mr. Murphy, the Committee voted 6-0 to adjourn the meeting at 8:52 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy J. Healey
School Committee Clerk

Approved 8-22-23