



## East Greenwich School Committee Meeting

Tuesday, May 14, 2024  
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 (arrived at 6:17 pm) ; Ms. Clare Cecil-Karb (arrived at 6:09 pm); Mr. William Hangan; Mr. Tim Munoz; Mr. Kevin Murphy; Dr. Eugene Quinn

**Additional Attendees:** Dr. Brian Ricca, Superintendent; Mrs. Maggie Baker, Director of Administration; Mrs. Amy Healey, School Committee Clerk; Attorney Aubrey Lombardo

#### I. Call to Order

Ms. Powell called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm

#### II. Pledge of Allegiance

#### III. Public Comment

#### IV. Approval of Minutes

- A. April 30, 2024 Executive Session Minutes
- B. April 30, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes

*On a motion by Dr. Quinn, seconded by Mr. Murphy, the Committee voted 5-0 to approve both sets of minutes from April 30, 2024. Ms. Cecil-Karb and Ms. Bucka were not present for the vote.*

#### V. Action Items

- A. School Committee Resolution on Unfunded Mandates

Mr. Munoz inquired about the rationale of a resolution. He asked whether there had been any discussion with our legislators. Mr. Munoz asserted that this is not an effective means of communicating to legislators and does not contain specifics.

Ms. Powell replied that resolutions make a point to the legislature that there are things within their control that can be changed. Well meaning legislators pass laws that do not

take into account revenue sources for programs. The Committee has been examining the history of how the district is funded, where there are problems and where there are opportunities. A major problem is these well meaning mandates. Future struggles are inevitable if something does not change. Our legislators have suggested the passage of a resolution which is something they can take back to their legislative colleagues.

A discussion was held on the resolution and possible changes.

Mr. Hangan inquired what happens once the resolution is passed and whether a cover letter could accompany the resolution.

Ms. Powell replied that the resolution would be distributed to various legislative bodies.

Mr. Munoz suggested adding specifics on the direct costs of these mandates.

*On a motion by Dr. Quinn, seconded by Mr. Murphy, the Committee voted 7-0 to approve the resolution with an accompanying detailed letter.*

- B. School Committee Approval of non-renewal of one year only non-certified employees

*On a motion by Ms. Bucka, seconded by Dr. Quinn, the Committee voted 7-0 to approve the Superintendent's recommendation to non-renew the one year only non-certified employees.*

- C. School Committee Approval of Out of State Field Trips
  - a. EGHS Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA), National Conference and Competition - Orlando, FL
  - b. EGHS Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA), International Leadership Conference- Houston, TX

*On a motion by Ms. Cecil-Karb, seconded by Dr. Quinn, the Committee voted 7-0 to approve both field trips.*

## VI. Discussion and Possible Action

### A. Professional Learning on School Improvement Teams - RIDE

Kristen Denusis and Amanda Turcotte from RIDE presented "Education Accountability Act".

## Overview of the Rhode Island Education Accountability Act (EAA). 2019

- Main Components of Education Accountability Act
  - Site Based Management: School Improvement Teams; Hiring; Budgeting

- Strategic Plan: 3 year LEA Strategic Plan; School Improvement Plan; Ongoing Updates
- Data Reporting: DAS; MLL, Programs & Procedures; Monitoring
- Purpose
- Goals of EAA Implementation
- Improvement Begins With Data
  - Data Collection & Reporting → District & School Accountability → Planning & Improvement
- Site-Based Management
  - Intent
  - Theory of Action
  - Purpose
- SITs Should Include the Following Members:
  - Principal, Teachers & Education Support Employees, Students & Families, Department Heads, Business & Community Members

School Committees: Establish policy for selection of SIT members, ensure SITs meet requirements of the Act and may establish a LEA level SIT.

Principals: Select members for their SIT through fair and equitable process

- Shifts in Governance Structure (Site-Based Management)
  - LEA Level
  - School Level
- Policies
  - With input from SIT, Principal develops policies using participatory decision making
  - Superintendent recommends and implements policies
  - School Committee approves policies
- School Improvement Plans
  - With input from SIT, principal develops annual School Improvement Plan (SIP) and submits SIP to Superintendent for approval
  - Superintendent reviews, provides feedback and approves SIP. Approved plans shared with School Committee and posted publicly
- Budget Planning
  - With input from SIT, Principal prepares the annual budget for the Superintendent

- Superintendent prepares district budget, authorizes purchases, and provides updates to the School Committee, who updates and maintains the district budget
- Hiring School Personnel
  - School Committee approves policies for employment of personnel
  - With input from SIT, Principal recommends school-level personnel for hiring
  - Superintendent appoints personnel
- Discipline
  - School Committee establishes policy for the discipline of school department personnel
  - Principal oversees the school level disciplinary system
  - Superintendent oversees the district-wide disciplinary system

### Current Resources and Supports from RIDE

- Alignment of Plans
  - RIDE Strategic Plan; LEA 3-Year Strategic Plan; Annual: School Improvement Plan
- Streamlining Requirements
  - LEA Strategic Plan + Annual Action Plan + State Assessment Success Plan = One Strategic Plan meeting all requirements
- Supports for Shifts in Governance
  - Information sessions; Online modules & written guidance; Workshop series; Presentation, Tailored professional development
- Supports for LEA Strategic Planning
  - LEA Strategic Plan Template & Example; LEA Strategic Plan FAQs; Online Modules to Support Process; In-person Support Series; Individualized Sessions Based on LEA Needs; Multiple Engagements with RI Superintendents Association; Development of the SPS Platform w/ Resources and Supports; Review and Feedback on All strategic plans
- Support for School Improvement Planning
  - School Improvement Plan Template & Example; School Improvement Plan FAQs; Online Modules to Support Process; Four-part Support Series; Individualized Sessions Based on School Needs; Multiple Engagements with RI Principals Association; Development of the SPS Resources & Support; SIP Review & Feedback Tool

## Ongoing Support in SY 23-24

- Monthly half-day sessions to support school improvement
- Multiple session to support improving attendance
- Statewide campaign to promote student attendance and reduce chronic absenteeism
- Multiple sessions to support differently-abled students
- Support of multilingual learners
- 1:1 meetings on accountability data

Ms. Bucka questioned the capacity of SIT to create policy. Ms. Denusis suggested a SIT subcommittee to address policy.

Mr. Munoz asked what a good term is for SIT members. Ms. Denusis suggested 1 - 3 years.

Committee members asked questions about the community/business membership on SITs. Principal Page shared her perspective on the high value of community partners to high school students.

Mr. Munoz asked how the role of principal is affected by these responsibilities. Dr. Page shared her experiences.

### B. School Committee Office Hours

Ms. Bucka explained that school committee office hours can provide important input from faculty and staff members. She spoke highly of her recent office hours at Eldredge. This is a pilot program and members are encouraged to schedule office hours at one of the schools before the end of the school year.

## VII. Superintendent and Staff Reports

### A. Summer Algebra 1 Readiness Grant

Dr. Page shared that a \$100,000 grant was received from RIDE. The District started with a defined need. The two-week summer program is in collaboration with West Warwick schools. The East Greenwich Foundation has partnered with local businesses to provide lunch for the students.

### B. State of the District Report

Dr. Ricca shared that the report is expected to be completed with an electronic copy by mid-June. A small number of printed copies will be spread throughout Town. Ms. Agresti and her students will visit each school and capture the visions of each school's report.

### C. Finance Report

Ms. Baker reviewed the budget projections.

Revenue:

- Earnings on Investment
- Medicaid Reimbursement

Expenditures:

- Trending along previous years
- High volume of staff leaves: reduces salaries and benefits while increasing substitute costs
- Transportation, settlement costs, Hanaford portable classroom

Surplus:

\$13,000 surplus expected

Ms. Powell asked how much fund balance will be used. Ms. Baker said that all of the budget from fund balance is expected to be used, except for \$13,000

Dr. Quinn shared that the Town Manager was asked at a Town Council meeting about school department fund balances. In any given year, there is a high probability of some surplus, or less spending from fund balance.

### VIII. Discussion and Possible Action

#### Policies (Second Read)

- A. Policy 3410, Fund Balance (formerly Spending Policy and Fund Balance) - Revised
- B. Policy 7210, Curriculum - Revised
- C. Policy 9230, Guide to Decommissioning of School Buildings( formerly Guide for Abandonment of School Buildings) - Revised

#### Policies (Third Read)

- A. Policy 2180, Student Residency - Revised

*On a motion by Ms. Bucka, seconded by Mr. Murphy, the Committee voted 7-0 to approve policies 3410; 7210; 9230 and 2180.*

Dr. Quinn noted the timeliness of the fund balance policy.

### IX. Subcommittees

- A. Personnel

### X. Adjournment

*At 8:05 pm, on a motion by Ms. Bucka, seconded by Dr. Quinn, the Committee voted 7-0 to adjourn.*

Respectfully submitted,

Amy J. Healey  
School Committee Clerk

*Approved 5-28-24*