



East Greenwich School Committee Meeting

Thursday, July 11, 2024
11:30 am

Minutes

Those in attendance

School Committee: Ms. Alyson Powell, Chair; Ms. Nicole Bucka, Vice-Chair; Ms. Clare Cecil-Karb (arrived at 11:53 am); Mr. Kevin Murphy; Dr. Eugene Quinn

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

Absent: Mr. William Hangan, Mr. Tim Munoz

I. Call to Order

Ms. Powell called the meeting to order at 11:37 am.

II. Discussion / Action

A. Additional State Aid Funding & B. FY 24 Financial Report

Dr. Ricca explained that in anticipation of \$208,000 in additional state aid, the district leadership was asked to prioritize how the monies should be spent. However, a previously unknown increase in pension expense rates uses up the additional funds. Two teachers were laid off due to enrollment. Dr. Ricca said that at next Tuesday's meeting, the School Committee will be asked to vote on how to spend the available money.

Reallocation of Budgeted Funds FY 25			
2 Teacher positions (layoff)	Salary	Benefits	
Teacher Step 5	\$ 63,446.00	\$ 12,645.00	\$ 76,091.00
Teacher Step 5	\$ 63,446.00	\$ 32,143.00	<u>\$ 95,589.00</u>
Total Budget Available			\$ 171,680.00
Additional Staff Requested			
Social Worker (share with Title 1 57%/43%)	\$ 38,969.00	\$ 16,540.00	\$ 55,509.00
Assistant Special Ed Director (School Yr)	\$ 95,000.00	\$ 38,358.00	\$ 133,358.00
Department Head Arts	\$ 6,500.00	\$ 1,345.00	<u>\$ 7,845.00</u>
Total Requested			\$ 196,712.00
Difference in Position Changes			\$ 25,032.00
State Aid Increase			\$ 208,154.00
Increase of Pension Expense rates *			\$ (266,800.00)
Pension Expense to be absorb by FY 25 budget			\$ (58,646.00)
Total Budget available from positions, net pension exp to state aid			\$ 113,034.00
Increases to budget sent to Town Manager \$ 551, 404			
Capital Improvements			\$ 398,399.00
1.0 Social Worker			\$ 127,784.00
Furniture			<u>\$ 25,221.00</u>
			\$ 551,404.00
* Original pension numbers ERS 14.44% to 15.54% MERS 4.49 % to 4.90%			

Mrs. Baker gave an overview of funding available for facilities. The District is waiting for the Town to determine how much of the \$5 million bond is still available. Additionally

there is a housing aid review being conducted. If money budgeted for facilities is moved to capital projects, it will be eligible for additional state reimbursement.

Attorney Lombardo discussed the implications of not spending bond money within the three year window.

Mrs. Baker will follow up with the Town on the final amount and also reach out to the State to find out what the deadline is for spending the bond money.

The additional staff requested needs to be prioritized.

- Social Worker
- Department Head Arts
- Assistant Special Education Director

Ms. Bucka suggested laying off paraprofessionals who the audit determined the District has an over allocation of. Suggested spending priorities:

- 1) Department Head - Fine Arts
- 2) Social Worker
- 3) Assistant Special Education Director

Ms. Bucka suggested that this be a part-time position; someone with experience and skills. She also suggested using reserve funds to fund the position.

The Committee members agreed with the recommended prioritizations.

At 12:07 pm, on a motion by Dr. Quinn, seconded by Mr. Murphy, the Committee voted 5-0 to 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 RIGL 42-26-5(a)(1) Employee Job Performance - Superintendent's Job Performance and Contract, Individual has been notified, including their right to have any discussion held in open session.

III. Adjourn Executive Session and Reconvene Open Session

On a motion by Dr. Quinn, seconded by Ms. Bucka, the Committee voted 4-0 to adjourn executive session and reconvene open session at 1:30 pm. Mr. Murphy was not present for the vote.

IV. Seal Executive Session Minutes of July 11, 2024 and disclosure of Executive Session votes of July 11, 2024

On a motion by Dr. Quinn, seconded by Ms. Bucka, the Committee voted 4-0 to Seal the Executive Session minutes of July 11, 2024. Mr. Murphy was not present for the vote.

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

V. Adjournment

At 1:40 pm, on a motion by Ms. Cecil-Karb, seconded by Dr. Quinn, the Committee voted 4-0 to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy J. Healey
School Committee Clerk

Minutes taken by Mrs. Healey and Ms. Powell

Approved 7-16-24