



East Greenwich School Committee Meeting

Tuesday, July 16, 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; Ms. Clare Cecil-Karb; 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

Absent: Mr. William Hangan

I. Call to Order

Ms. Powell called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. 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)(2) - Collective Bargaining, EG Custodian/Maintenance Association/ NEARI/NEA

At 6:03 pm, on a motion by Ms. Cecil-Karb, seconded by Dr. Quinn, the Committee voted 6-0 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)(2) - Collective Bargaining, EG Custodian/Maintenance Association/ NEARI/NEA

IV. Recess Executive Session and Reconvene Open Session

On a motion by Ms. Bucka, seconded by Dr. Quinn, the Committee voted 6-0 to recess executive session and reconvene open session at 6:33 pm.

V. Public Comment

VI. Approval of Minutes

- A. Executive Session Minutes of June 11, 2024
- B. Regular Meeting Minutes of June 11, 2024
- C. Emergency Meeting Minutes of June 28, 2024
- D. Executive Session Minutes of July 9, 2024
- E. Special Meeting Minutes of July 9, 2024

On a motion by Ms. Cecil-Karb, seconded by Mr. Murphy, the Committee voted 6-0 to approve the minutes of June 11, June 28 and July 9, 2024.

- F. Executive Session Minutes of July 11, 2024
- G. Special Meeting Minutes of July 11, 2024

On a motion by Ms. Bucka, seconded by Dr. Quinn, the Committee voted 5-0-1 to approve the minutes of July 11, 2024. Mr. Munoz abstained from the vote.

VII. Action Items

- A. School Committee Approval of Assistant Superintendent Contract Template

On a motion by Ms. Bucka, seconded by Mr. Murphy, the Committee voted 6-0 to approve the Assistant Superintendent contract.

The Committee welcomed the new Assistant Superintendent, Sarah Courtemanche

Ms. Courtemanche expressed her gratitude and enthusiasm for the opportunity to work in East Greenwich Public Schools.

- B. School Committee Approval of Homeschool Requests

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

- C. School Committee Approval of Settlement Agreement

On a motion by Ms. Bucka, seconded by Mr. Murphy, the Committee voted 6-0 to approve the settlement agreement.

- D. School Committee Approval of Bid Award - Outdoor Classrooms, Yardworks

On a motion by Dr. Quinn, seconded by Mr. Murphy, the Committee voted 6-0 to approve the bid award for the outdoor classrooms to Yardworks.

Mr. Munoz asked how these projects will work with the schools' building plans. Ms. Powell explained that everything was planned around the upcoming construction projects.

E. School Committee Approval of "Get the Foam Out" MOA

On a motion by Ms. Cecil-Karb, seconded by Mr. Murphy, the Committee voted 6-0 to approve the Get the Foam Out MOA.

Ms. Cecil-Karb spoke enthusiastically about this program.

F. School Committee Approval of Employee Assistance Program - AllOne Health

On a motion by Dr. Quinn, seconded by Ms. Bucka, the Committee voted 6-0 to approve the AllOne Health agreement for EAP services.

G. School Committee Approval of Barton Gilman Engagement Letter

On a motion by Mr. Murphy, seconded by Dr. Quinn, the Committee voted 6-0 to approve the engagement agreement with Barton Gilman.

H. School Committee Approval of Collective Bargaining Agreement - East Greenwich Custodians/Maintenance Association NEARI/NEA

On a motion by Ms. Bucka, seconded by Mr. Murphy, the Committee voted 6-0 to approve the Collective Bargaining Agreement - East Greenwich Custodians / Maintenance Association NEARI/NEA

Mr. Munoz pointed out how hard people worked on this contract. Ms. Lombardo said that there were 5 extremely productive negotiations sessions. The custodians gained salary steps and the District was able to eliminate expungement language that was detrimental to the District. There is a good relationship between the District and the union leadership.

Dr. Quinn said that he was pleased to see the return of salary steps in the contract

I. School Committee Approval of Appointment of Tim Munoz to the School Construction Committee

Ms. Powell said that Mr. Murphy has co-chaired the building committee and served on the school construction committee and facilities subcommittee. With his decision to not

run for reelection, Mr. Murphy has suggested transitioning at this time to a new School Committee representative on the school construction committee. Mr. Munoz, having also served on the building committee, is well prepared to step into this position.

On a motion by Mr. Murphy, seconded by Dr. Quinn, the Committee voted 6-0 to approve the appointment of Mr. Munoz to the School Construction Committee.

Mr. Munoz said that Mr. Murphy, as a native son of East Greenwich, has done a terrific job. Ms. Powell offered her sincere thanks for Mr. Murphy's work on the facilities, building and construction committees. Other Committee members and Dr. Ricca echoed those comments.

Mr. Murphy reflected on the work he has done over the last three + years on these committees.

Ms. Powell explained that this appointment will now go to the Town Council for approval.

J. School Committee Approval of FY 25 Budget Changes

Dr. Ricca explained that the recommended budget for FY 25 is for \$49,981,716. The budget originally sent to the School Committee was for \$49,773,562 and there has been \$208,154 in additional state aid and the total is now \$49,981,716

Prioritized needs are:

1. Department Chair Fine Arts
2. Assistant Director of Student Services
3. .43 Social Worker (.57 is already funded with a grant)

Dr. Ricca will work between now and the August 6, 2024 meeting to try to find the funds for the Assistant Director of Student Services and the social worker positions. Another vote on the budget will be needed at that time.

There is \$1.3 million available from the 2019 \$5 million bond for facilities. Those projects have been identified.

Mr. Munoz asked why an administrator position is prioritized over a student facing position such as social worker.

Dr. Ricca responded that the work of student services is over the head of a single director. The department is overwhelmed by increased needs. The Assistant Director would act as the LEA representative at meetings; freeing up Mr. Marcaccio for other necessary work.

Ms. Bucca said that if you have social workers and other student support staff without a leadership system, it is setting things up for failure. The job is too big for one person as seen by the turnover of the position over the years.

Ms. Powell suggested using reserve funds for these positions. Mrs. Baker and Dr. Ricca expressed their concern with using reserve funds.

Dr. Quinn asked what percentage of his time does Mr. Marcaccio spend on IEP meetings. Dr. Ricca said that he would get that information to the School Committee.

There was a discussion about whether the vote should be tabled until Dr. Ricca determines whether the .43 of the social worker position and Assistant Special Education Director position can be funded.

Tonight's vote on the budget includes the department chair fine arts position.

On a motion by Ms. Cecil-Karb, seconded by Dr. Quinn, the Committee voted 6-0 to approve the FY 25 budget in the amount of \$49,981,716.

VIII. Presentation

A. "Attendance Matters" - Mrs. Melissa Centracchio, Cole Middle School Principal

Mrs. Centracchio's Presentation

Successes

- SY 2022-2023 Chronically Absent Rate was 16.7%, SY 2023-2024 Chronically Absent Rate was 10%

The importance of attendance is continually communicated to students and families.

- Cole Middle School was recognized by the Governor's Office for being the RI's middle school with the most improved average attendance rate in June.

Attendance matters was promoted by leadership throughout the District

What are we doing? Building relationships!

- Weekly Student Support Team (SST) meetings
- Parent phone calls/meetings
- Tracking student attendance
- Bi-weekly analysis of RIDE portal and bi-weekly parent communication
- Attendance data included in weekly newsletters
- Home visits - Support Staff/Truancy Officer/SRO
- Focus on Social-Emotional Learning (SEL)

Attendance Expectations

- Instructional time is a limited, valuable resource
- Students who miss 18 days or more of a school year are considered chronically absent
- Tardies - a slippery slope

What Happens Next?

- Continue work to close the gap of chronically absent students vs not chronically absent students
- School Improvement Teams
 - SEL/Attendance Goals
 - PBIS celebrations
- Align with EGHS
- District Attendance Policy: Excused vs. Unexcused
- Strengthen SEL in MTSS plans

Mrs. Centracchio and Mrs. Cauley spoke highly of the assistance provided by Truancy Officer Colby Anderson and the relationships he has developed with students and families.

Ms. Bucka asked to hear more about interventions vs. nudges and advocated for the assistance from social workers and psychologists.

Mr. Munoz congratulated Mrs. Centracchio and Mrs. Cauley on the attendance improvement at Cole and asked what they attribute the improvement to. Mrs. Centracchio said that working with the team, focusing on SEL and not leaving any child behind, all make a difference. It also starts with the teacher in the classroom. The sharing of information is critical to making improvements.

Attorney Lombardo suggested looking into a diversion program which would provide additional services to students. EGHS Assistant Principal, Molly Sylvia, is working to bring this to EGPS.

Dr. Ricca said that the leadership and work of Mrs. Centracchio and Mrs. Cauley is making a significant difference for Cole students.

IX. Subcommittees

A. Facilities

X. *At 7:55 pm, on a motion by Dr. Quinn, seconded by Mr. Murphy, the Committee voted 6-0 to **Recess Open Session and Reconvene Executive Session for discussion and/or action regarding those items of business exempt from open meetings under RIGL 42-46-4 and RIGL 42-46-5(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

XI. Adjourn Executive Session and Reconvene Open Session

At 10:22 pm, on a motion by Mr. Murphy, seconded by Ms. Bucka, the Committee voted 6-0 to adjourn executive session and reconvene open session.

XII. Seal Executive Session minutes of July 16, 2024 and disclosure of Executive Session votes of July 16, 2024

On a motion by Mr. Munoz, seconded by Mr. Murphy, the Committee voted 6-0 to seal the Executive Session minutes of July 16, 2024

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

XIII. Adjournment

At 10:23 pm, on a motion by Dr. Quinn, seconded by Mr. Murphy, the Committee voted 6-0 to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy J. Healey
School Committee Clerk

Some votes recorded by Ms. Powell

Approved 8-6-24