



## East Greenwich School Committee Meeting

Tuesday, August 6, 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; 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 Michael Polak

**Absent:** Ms. Clare Cecil-Karb

#### I. Call to Order

Ms. Powell called the meeting to order at 6:05 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 42-46-5(a)(1) Employee Job Performance - Individuals have been notified, including their right to have any discussion held in open session

*At 6:05 pm, on a motion by Ms. Bucka, seconded by Mr. Murphy, 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 42-46-5(a)(1) Employee Job Performance - Individuals have been notified, including their right to have any discussion held in open session*

#### IV. Adjourn Executive Session and Reconvene Open Session

*On a motion by Mr. Murphy, seconded by Mr. Munoz, the Committee voted 6-0 to adjourn executive session and reconvene open session at 6:26 pm.*

**V. Seal Executive Session Minutes of August 6, 2024 and Disclosure of Executive Session Votes of August 6, 2024.**



*On a motion by Dr. Quinn, seconded by Mr. Murphy, the Committee voted 6-0 to Seal the Executive Session minutes of August 6, 2024.*

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

## **VI. Public Comment**

## **VII. Approval of Minutes**

- A. Executive Session Minutes of July 16, 2024
- B. Regular Session Minutes of July 16, 2024

*On a motion by Ms. Bucka, seconded by Dr. Quinn, the Committee voted 5-0-1 to approve both sets of minutes. Mr. Hangan abstained from the vote.*

## **VIII. Action Items**

- A. School Committee Approval of Administrators' raises

*On a motion by Dr. Quinn, seconded by Mr. Murphy, the Committee voted 5-0-1 to approve the administrators' raises. Ms. Bucka abstained from the vote.*

- B. School Committee Approval of Amendments to Administrative Contract - Dr. Patricia Page, EGHS Principal

*On a motion by Mr. Munoz, seconded by Mr. Hangan, the Committee voted 6-0 to approve the amendments to Dr. Page's contract.*

- C. School Committee Approval of EGHS Assistant Principal Contract - Ms. Molly Sylvia

*On a motion by Dr. Quinn, seconded by Ms. Bucka, the Committee voted 6-0 to approve Ms. Sylvia's contract.*

- D. School Committee Approval of Director of Technology Contract - Mr. Christopher Scheib

*On a motion by Mr. Murphy, seconded by Dr. Quinn, the Committee voted 6-0 to approve Mr. Scheib's contract.*

Dr. Ricca spoke highly of Mr. Scheib's work over this last year as interim director and congratulated him on his appointment as director



E. School Committee Approval of Contract MOA - Mrs. Amy Healey

*On a motion by Mr. Murphy, seconded by Dr. Quinn, the Committee voted 6-0 to approve the MOA for Mrs. Healey.*

F. School Committee Approval of Teacher Leader MOA - EGEA

*On a motion by Ms. Bucka, seconded by Dr. Quinn, the Committee voted 6-0 to approve the Teacher Leader MOA .*

G. School Committee Approval of MTSS MOA - EGEA

*On a motion by Mr. Munoz, seconded by Dr. Quinn, the Committee voted 6-0 to approve the MTSS MOA.*

Dr. Ricca said that both of these MOAs with the teachers union demonstrate a relationship that is working collaboratively to manage and resolve stumbling blocks that are not specified in the contract

H. School Committee Approval of Mindful Journey Contract - James Research Institute LLC

*On a motion by Ms. Bucka, seconded by Dr. Quinn, the Committee voted 6-0 to approve the contract.*

Dr. Ricca explained that a focus this year is to offer Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) programming for both staff and students. Absent is SEL for people who do not work in the schools. The *Mindful Journey* program will be offered to those adults who may be having difficulties and in need of social emotional growth. Materials will be sent out through email and the employees can decide if and how much to engage.

I. School Committee Approval of Out of State Field Trip: EGHS Cross Country Team, Manchester, NH

*On a motion by Dr. Quinn, seconded by Mr. Murphy, the Committee voted 6-0 to approve the field trip.*

J. Transfer from Operating Budget to Capital Reserve Account

*On a motion by Mr. Munoz, seconded by Mr. Hangan, the Committee voted 6-0 to approve the transfer.*



Mrs. Baker explained that these are maintenance expenditures in the local budget that are being moved to the capital reserve account in order to receive housing aid reimbursement

#### K. School Committee Approval of FY 25 Budget Changes

*On a motion by Ms. Bucka, seconded by Mr. Hangan, the Committee voted 6-0 to approve the FY 25 Budget Changes.*

Ms. Bucka expressed how happy she was that the social worker and Assistant Special Education Director needs were being addressed.

Dr. Ricca said that it was a team effort that made it so these positions could be funded.

Ms. Powell said that the School Committee's approval of over 4% was unconventional and that we were fortunate enough to receive 4%. The School Committee's priorities are being met in this budget. With this vote, the FY 25 is finalized.

#### Reallocation of Budgeted Funds FY 25

<b>Budget FY 25</b>	<b>Salary</b>	<b>Benefits</b>	<b>Total</b>
Teachers lay off (2)	\$ 126,892.00	\$ 44,788.00	\$ 171,680.00
IT Director	\$ 121,409.00	\$ 17,015.00	138,424.00
Network Administrator	\$ 80,370.00	\$ 18,535.00	98,905.00
Total budgeted positions			409,009.00

#### Requested change to FY 25 budget

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	\$ 7,845.00
IT Director	\$ 97,500.00	\$ 13,413.00	\$ 110,913.00
Pension Increase			\$ 58,646.00
Total change to budget			\$ 366,271.00

**Difference between budgeted and changes** \$ 42,738.00

### IX. Superintendent and Staff Reports

#### A. Discussion of School Improvement Plans

Dr. Ricca welcomed feedback and questions about the plans. He noted that Ms. Bucka has already provided feedback. The plans are posted on the website.



Mr. Munoz requested that there be a continuation of the discussion of these plans at a future meeting. He has been looking at the six plans and looking for pattern recognition. The Superintendent and School Committee should look at all the plans together as a whole and have it packaged differently with a district-wide look. It is important to have the data dashboard on the website by school.

Mr. Hangan asked when there will be an update on the plans. Ms. Powell said that there will be a calendar that maps out when updates are coming.

Ms. Bucka applauded the fact that these plans have been given to the School Committee and they are up on the district website. She suggested using the graphic organizer. TMs. Bucka said that there is no alignment between the buildings' plans and the District's Strategic Plan.

## **X. Discussion and Possible Action**

### **A. School Committee Membership - Nicole Bucka Resignation**

Ms. Powell spoke of Ms. Bucka's dedication to telling the stories of children with disabilities having difficulty managing everyday tasks. Ms. Bucka has worked tirelessly for these students to have the same opportunities as other students.

Ms. Bucka explained that some personal challenges make it necessary for her to focus on her family and step down from the School Committee. She thanked the community for having faith in her. Ms. Bucka said that it has been an honor to serve with her other members.

Mr. Hangan said that while she will be missed, he looks forward to seeing her via Zoom.

Mr. Munoz said of Ms. Bucka that nobody else has worked harder or cared more. He said that he looks forward to continuing to work with her.

Dr. Ricca said that he is better in many ways due to what he has learned from Ms. Bucka and that he has seen the importance of seeing that students learn differently.

Mr. Murphy echoed the remarks of the others and said that Ms. Bucka has the ability to articulate complex educational concepts.

Dr. Quinn also echoed what has been said and said that Ms. Bucka will still have a voice.

## **XI. Subcommittees**



- A. Personnel
- B. Policy

Ms. Bucka asked when the work on the graduation policy will be complete. Mr. Munoz said that it is expected to be complete at the next policy meeting in September. The policy committee is looking to incorporate Ms. Bucka's suggestions.

## **XII. Adjournment**

*At 7:14 pm, on a motion by Ms. Bucka, seconded by Mr. Munoz, the Committee voted 6-0 to adjourn.*

Respectfully submitted,

Amy J. Healey  
School Committee Clerk

*Approved 9-3-24*