



East Greenwich School Committee Meeting

Tuesday, September 17, 2024
6:00 pm

Hybrid Meeting: Cole Middle School & Via Zoom

Minutes

Those in attendance

School Committee: Ms. Alyson Powell, Chair; Ms. Clare Cecil-Karb; Mr. Tim Munoz; Mr. Kevin Murphy (arrived at 6:02 pm); Dr. Eugene Quinn

Absent: Mr. William Hangan

Additional Attendees: Dr. Brian Ricca, Superintendent; Ms. Sarah Courtemanche-O'Brien, Assistant Superintendent; Mrs. Maggie Baker, Director of Administration; Mr. Neil Marcaccio, Director of Student Services; Mrs. Amy Healey, School Committee Clerk; Attorney Aubrey Lombardo

I. Call to Order

Ms. Powell called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Public Comment

IV. Approval of School Committee Meeting Minutes

- A. Executive Session Minutes of September 3, 2024
- B. Regular Session Minutes of September 3, 2024

On a motion by Ms. Cecil-Karb, seconded by Dr. Quinn, the Committee voted 4-0-1 to approve both sets of minutes from September 3, 2024. Mr. Murphy abstained from the vote.

- C. Executive Session Minutes of September 10, 2024
- D. Special Session Minutes of September 10, 2024

On a motion by Dr. Quinn, seconded by Ms. Cecil-Karb, the Committee voted 5-0 to approve both sets of minutes from September 10, 2024.



V. Action Items

A. School Committee Approval of RIDE Grant Extension, *Learning Inside Out Initiative*

On a motion by Mr. Murphy, seconded by Mr. Munoz, the Committee voted 5-0 to approve the grant extension.

Dr. Ricca thanked Keila Kentor, RIDE employee and EG resident, for being a partner in this grant extension

B. School Committee Approval of Homeschool Requests

On a motion by Ms. Cecil-Karb, seconded by Dr. Quinn, the Committee voted 5-0 to approve the two (2) homeschool requests.

C. School Committee Approval of Facility Usage Fee Waiver, Passaretti Memorial Field Committee

Sherry Fonseca, representing the Passaretti Memorial Field Committee, made a request that facilities fees be waived for the organization's upcoming fundraiser. She spoke about the loss of Olivia from a drunk driving accident and the honor of the high school softball field being named in her memory. The fundraiser aims to raise funds to provide improvements and signage for the field.

Ms. Powell explained that there is a fee schedule for outside groups who wish to use the district's facilities. Normally a school group is not charged and Ms. Powell said that this group should be considered a school group

Ms. Cecil-Karb spoke in support of the fee waiver and the organization's work to remember Olivia.

On a motion by Ms. Cecil-Karb, seconded by Dr. Quinn, the Committee voted 5-0 to approve the field waiver for the Passaretti Memorial Field Committee's fundraiser next week.

D. School Committee Approval of Appointment to Finance Subcommittee



Dr. Quinn said that Eric Anastacio, EGHS Student, will be an excellent addition to the Finance Subcommittee.

Mr. Munoz added that Eric is very impressive and already has a record of achievement.

On a motion by Dr. Quinn, seconded by Mr. Murphy, the Committee voted 5-0 to appoint Eric Anastacio as a student representative on the Finance Subcommittee.

E. School Committee Approval of Development of an Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy

Ms. Powell explained that as part of the School Committee's process, when there is consideration of a new policy, the Committee votes to have the Policy Subcommittee develop a policy.

Mr. Munoz said since Chat GPT came out in 2023, many districts around the country have adopted an AI policy. AI is now circumventing fraud detectors. He recommended the book "Brave New Words" on the subject.

Ms. Lombardo said that RIDE is developing guidance around AI. There is an opportunity to collaborate with other school committees.

The Committee members discussed the importance of developing a policy to address AI and how AI could be used as a tool for student learning.

On a motion by Ms. Cecil-Karb, seconded by Mr. Murphy, the Committee voted 5-0 to have the Policy Subcommittee develop an AI policy.

VI. School Construction Updates and Questions

Ms. Powell said that due to a scheduling conflict, no one is here to provide an update. However, there have been several visioning sessions with our educators and architect, AI3, which have gone well in the development of Stage III.

On Thursday, September 19, 2024 there will be a community listening session at Swift Community Center.

VII. Superintendent and Staff Reports

A. Extracurricular Activities Audit



Attorney Lombardo explained that each building administrator did an audit of any extracurriculars running out of their building; whether they are or are not school sponsored. There are still a number of outstanding questions. Attorney Lombardo and Asst. Superintendent Courtemanche-O'Brien will visit each school to review each of these entities. Specifically:

- 1) Confirm list of activities
- 2) Obtain a list of volunteers
- 3) Obtain BCIs for every volunteers
- 4) Obtain a copy of the sponsoring organization's insurance

After these questions have been answered, the next step will be to develop a policy to codify these practices related to outside non school sponsored entities. There will be a recommendation to incorporate parameters from these groups into policy.

- 1) Annual list of volunteers and BCIs.
- 2) Annual proof of insurance
- 3) Protocol for communications

Ms. Powell asked whether new policies would be necessary or revision of existing policies. Attorney Lombardo anticipated that it would be a revision of current policies.

B. Finance Report

Mrs. Baker reviewed the memo that she provided.

Revenues: Received \$828,919 State aid makes up most of the revenues for this period with some smaller amounts of facilities rentals, tuition and trust fund income.

Expenditures: Spent \$4,996,552 and encumbrances of \$977,824. Salaries and benefits are 75% of the total expense. We have only processed two school year payrolls and five year-round payrolls.

There are two expenditures that are over budget. The ESY summer program's salaries, benefits, and contract agencies (\$35,772) and settlement expenses (\$7,375). This is currently offset by being in those two expense categories.

Summary: These are early projections but will set a baseline for future reports. At this point, the district is trending under budget for FY 25.

Dr. Quinn asked for additional information on the fund balance. Mrs. Baker replied that it is about \$400,000 and she would be more comfortable if it were closer to \$750,000-\$1



million dollars. There has been a steady depletion of the fund balance over the last several years..

C. Functional Report - Central Office / Art Department Collaboration

Dr. Ricca has long been looking at the artwork outside and inside of Central Office and inside his office. He reached out to EGHS teachers Ms. Deanna Agresti and Mr. Brendan Carniaux to see if there are any students interested in improving these spaces. He has also asked the Town what the steps are necessary to replace the outside sign. Dr. Ricca would like to start featuring a rotation of student artwork in his office.

Dr. Ricca said that IT Director Chris Scheib initiated having all of the buildings' lobby tv screens activated with a slideshow. The building's webmasters will be asked to keep the slideshow current.

VIII. Discussion and Possible Action

A. School Committee 2025 Meeting Calendar

Dr. Ricca asked whether there is value in the principals presenting budgets when there is so little money in their control. Dr. Quinn asked whether the principals were comfortable letting go of that opportunity. Dr. Ricca replied that their voices are heard in the leadership meetings. If there is a principal who would like to continue presenting at the budget hearings, he will bring that back to the School Committee. Dr. Page added that if there are substantive changes being suggested in programs, that would be a good opportunity for the principals to speak at a School Committee meeting.

The Committee discussed alternate ways of presenting and viewing the budget along with forecasting.

Ms. Powell asked that the Committee members review the draft calendar and submit their suggested changes to her and Mrs. Healey. She said that she would like a vote on the meeting calendar at the next school committee meeting.

B. EGPS Dashboard

Ms. Courtemanche-O'Brien made a presentation on available data that can be included in a dashboard. She will work with IT Director Chris Scheib to have these items on the website dashboard by mid-October.

Phase 1 - EGPS Dashboard: Indicators for Accountability



State / National Academic Performance (Growth/Proficiency)

- Lagging Indicators
 - RICAS ELA - Growth/Proficiency
 - RICAS Math - Growth/Proficiency
 - NGSA Science
 - PSAT
 - SAT
 - % AP Pass
 - English Language Proficiencies
- Progress Indicators
 - Beginning of Year Diagnostics
 - Middle of Year Diagnostics
 - End of Year Diagnostics
 - Chronic Absenteeism
 - Usage Reports - Programmatic Resources: % Content Recovery % Credit Recovery
- Graduation Rates
 - Historical / Trend Indicators % graduating on time with entry class

Ms. Powell commented that this looks like a great first step.

Mr. Munoz thanked Ms. Courtemanche-O'Brien for jumping on this project and for specifying a launch in October. He asked where we would see investments in SEL and support professionals. Ms. Courtemanche-O'Brien said that *Survey Works* data can be added in the later phase of the project. She said that she did not want to duplicate what exists on RIDE's dashboard. She suggested that it may be best to link to RIDE's dashboard for these indicators. Mr. Munoz asked that the dashboard be more East Greenwich specific than just a lot of links.

Mr. Munoz inquired about out of state national benchmarks. Ms. Courtemanche-O'Brien cautioned against including these assessments in the initial phase of data and suggested that time should be taken to contemplate how to visualize the comparisons.

Dr. Ricca praised Mr. Scheib and the IT department for their collaboration on the dashboard, including the realisticness of what can be included.

C. Job Performance / Character - Tennis Coach

On a motion by Mr. Murphy, seconded by Mr. Munoz, the Committee voted 5-0 to table Job Performance / Character - Tennis Coach action item.



IX. 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

- A. RIGL 42-46-5(a)(4) Legal Advice
- B. RIGL 42-46-5(a)(1) Job Performance / Character - *The individual has been notified, including their right to have any discussion held in open session*
- C. RIGL 42-46-5(a)(4) Investigation

At 7:10 pm, on a motion by Dr. Quinn, seconded by Mr. Murphy, the Committee voted 5-0 to recess open session and convene executive session.

X. Adjourn Executive Session and Reconvene Open Session

On a motion by Ms. Cecil-Karb, seconded by Mr. Murphy, the Committee voted 5-0 to adjourn executive session and reconvene open session at 8:46 pm.

XI. Seal Executive Session Minutes of September 17, 2024 and Disclosure of Executive Session Votes of September 17, 2024.

On a motion by Dr. Quinn, seconded by Mr. Murphy, the Committee voted 5-0 to Seal the Executive Session minutes of September 17, 2024.

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

XII. Adjournment

At 8:47 pm, on a motion by Dr. Quinn, seconded by Mr. Murphy, the Committee voted 5-0 to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy J. Healey
School Committee Clerk

Approved 10-1-24