



East Greenwich School Committee Meeting

Tuesday, November 12, 2024

6:00 pm

Hybrid Meeting: Cole Middle School & Via Zoom

Minutes

Those in attendance

School Committee: Ms. Alyson Powell, Chair; Mr. William Hangan; Mr. Tim Munoz; Mr. Kevin Murphy; Dr. Eugene Quinn

Absent: Ms. Clare Cecil-Karb

Additional Attendees: Dr. Brian Ricca, 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. Retirement Recognition - Mr. Gary Cookson

Mr. Dom Giusti shared remarks congratulating Mr. Cookson on his retirement after 28 years of service to EGPS as Eldredge's custodian. Current and former Eldredge colleagues attended the meeting to celebrate Mr. Cookson's retirement

IV. Public Comment

V. Approval of School Committee Meeting Minutes

- A. Executive Session Minutes of October 22, 2024
- B. Regular Session Minutes of October 22, 2024
- C. Executive Session Minutes of October 24, 2024
- D. Special Meeting Minutes of October 24, 2024

On a motion by Dr. Quinn, seconded by Mr. Hangan, the Committee voted 5-0 to approve both sets of minutes of October 22, 2024.



On a motion by Mr. Murphy, seconded by Dr. Quinn, the Committee voted 4-0-1 to approve both sets of minutes of October 24, 2024. Mr. Hangan abstained from the vote.

VI. Discussion and Possible Action

A. School Construction Committee Update

1. School Committee Approval of the School Construction Committee's Recommendation for Hanaford's Master Plan

Kate Turner and Chris Spiegel (LeftField Project Management), Chris Kendall (Ai3 Architects), Cory Pinheiro (Consigli Construction) gave an overview of the status of the school construction project. The School Construction Committee made a recommendation at their meeting last Thursday to approve Scenario 1.

EGPS / Project Scope Overview

- EGHS
 - Item A: custodial storage and mechanical - \$5.3 million
 - Item B: auditorium update - \$2.9 million
 - Item C: locker rooms, health classrooms, upper gym, fitness Adaptive PE - \$5.9 million
 - Item D: Addition for Special Education/Life Skills Suite and Art Suite - \$13.9 million
- Frenchtown - New Construction (5 track) - \$77.1 million
- Hanaford - New Construction or Addition/Renovation (4 track)
 - Scenario 1, new build - \$67.6 million
 - Scenario 2, reno - \$63.9 million

A review of the building's mechanical system was conducted; mechanical/HVAC, electrical, plumbing, fire protection, exterior. It was determined that the condition of these systems make a renovation of the building extremely difficult. An evaluation matrix was developed to compare a renovation and a new construction. Various options for renovation were considered in addition to Option 3: New Construction.

Scenario 1 - EGHS \$28 million Frenchtown and Hanaford - both new \$144.7 million

Scenario 2 - EGHS \$28 million Frenchtown new and Hanaford reno \$141 million

Add/Alternate

- EGHS: misc projects
- Meadowbrook



New construction is less risky cost wise than renovations. There is more certainty of costs with scenario 1 vs scenario 2.

Mr. Munoz stated that a renovation of Hanaford makes no sense. Two new schools would be equitable and work best.

Mr. Hangan said that his support was for a new Hanaford. He asked questions about the cost of renovations. The representatives discussed additional costs that may arise during a renovation.

Dr. Quinn said that the difference to the cost of debt service is very low when the two scenarios are compared.

There was a discussion about reducing movement of students from building to building throughout the construction projects.

Ms. Powell clarified that the schedule of Scenario 1 would allow Frenchtown and Hanaford to be built simultaneously while students remain in the original buildings. However the proposed costs are above what was approved by the construction bond passed in 2023 for these projects.

In response, the representatives explained that the Town has available bonds to supplement the projects and there are more detailed estimates and opportunities for cost savings. These cost estimates are conceptual and conservative and will change as the designs are finalized.

Plans for Add/Alternate projects at Meadowbrook and EGHS will be drawn up and ready to go if funds are available.

Mr. Munoz made a motion to approve the School Construction Committee's recommendation for the scope of the master plan work; Scenario 1: Projects A, B, C, D; new construction of Frenchtown and Hanaford; Add/Alternate projects at EGHS and Meadowbrook. Dr. Quinn seconded the motion which passed 5-0.

VII. Action Items

Mr. Munoz asked if all of these contracts went out for bid. Ms. Powell replied that each followed the required procurement processes. Mrs. Baker said all either went out to bid, are from a collaborative list or the master price agreement.



A. School Committee Approval of Contract Addendum, Ameresco

There is an adjustment in the net metering credits.

On a motion by Mr. Murphy, seconded by Dr. Quinn, the Committee voted 5-0 to approve the contract addendum.

B. School Committee Approval of Elevator Repairs Bid Award, Otio Elevator

On a motion by Mr. Murphy, seconded by Mr. Hangan, the Committee voted 5-0 to approve the elevator repairs bid award to Otis Elevator for \$71,301.28.

C. School Committee Approval of Cafeteria Furniture Bid Award

Mrs. Baker explained the funding sources for these purchases.

On a motion by Dr. Quinn, seconded by Mr. Hangan, the Committee voted 5-0 to approve the cafeteria furniture bid award to Virco for \$90,419.13 and Indoff for \$60,233.55.

D. School Committee Approval of Professional Services Agreement, STRAXIS. LLC mobile app

Dr. Page explained that the program currently being used, *Group Me*, has separate chats for each academic and athletic group. The STRAXIS app allows for one unified platform that masks personal information and stores data for four years. Administrators will have access to the platform.

On a motion by Dr. Quinn, seconded by Mr. Munoz, the Committee voted 5-0 to approve the professional services agreement with STRAXIS for an app at a cost of \$3,999.

E. School Committee Approval of Change in 403(b) Plan, Omni

Mrs. Baker explained that this change permits employees to take loans out against their 403(b) plans which is already permitted by most other districts. This will not cause additional work for district personnel.

On a motion by Mr. Munoz, seconded by Dr. Quinn, the Committee voted 5-0 to approve the Omni 403(b) plan change.



F. School Committee Approval of purchase of Autonomous Cleaning Robot

Ms. Powell explained that the District already uses 2 of these autoscrubbers which have been proven to be highly effective. Dr. Ricca added that computer generated reports show that the cleanliness of all 6 buildings have markedly improved with the use of the autoscrubbers.

On a motion by Mr. Murphy, seconded by Mr. Hangan, the Committee voted 5-0 to approve the purchase of the Autonomous Cleaning Robot in the amount of \$44,600.

G. School Committee Approval of Homeschool Requests

Ms. Sarah Courtemanche-O'Brien said that these homeschool requests comply with the requirements and that she recommends approval.

Mr. Munoz asked questions regarding homeschool requests.

Attorney Lombardo explained that state statute requires that a homeschooling plan need to come in front of the School Committee. The review by the Assistant Superintendent makes certain that the homeschool plan is compliant with the law. RIDE has clarified that a student needs to be enrolled in the district prior to applying for homeschooling. The District does have the ability to check attendance records and potentially require testing.

On a motion by Mr. Murphy, seconded by Dr. Quinn, the Committee voted 5-0 to approve the 2 homeschool requests on the recommendation of Ms. Courtemanche-O'Brien.

H. School Committee Approval of EGHS Model UN Field Trip to New York City

In response to concerns raised, Dr. Page assured the Committee that the expectations of the participants have been clearly communicated to the students and their parents. The students are required to sign a specific student code of conduct.

On a motion by Mr. Murphy, seconded by Dr. Quinn, the Committee voted 5-0 to approve the field trip.

VIII. Superintendent and Staff Reports - For Discussion and Possible Action

A. Career & Technical Education (CTE) 2025 Categorical Distribution



Dr. Ricca explained that these distributions come at varying points in the school year and asked whether the School Committee would allow Dr. Ricca to approve the agreements with notice to the School Committee. The grants are generally not applied for but rather stem from a comprehensive needs assessment. There is no discretion with these funds. This allocation is \$11,966. Many of these come each year and it would be more effective for the Superintendent to sign the MOAs and provide notice to the School Committee.

Mr. Murphy made a motion to approve this MOA for CTE 2025 Categorical Distribution in the amount of \$11,966 and authorize the Superintendent to enter into any remaining MOAs regarding categorical distribution with notice to the School Committee. Dr. Quinn seconded the motion and the Committee voted 5-0 to approve.

IX. Superintendent and Staff Reports

A. Pillar 1 Reflection - Dr. Ricca and Dr. Page.

Priority 1: Excellence in Education

1. High-Quality Curriculum
2. Deeper Learning
3. College, Career and Technical Pathways
4. Special Populations and Achievement
5. Performance Assessment Systems
6. Standards-Based Grading

B. EGHS Program of Studies Preview - Dr. Page presented a preliminary summary of proposed changes.

- Change or Addition
 - Graduation Requirements
 - Minimum Credit
 - Course Placement
 - Waiver Process
 - Life Skills
- Form and Format Changes to be Completed
 - Pathway Options
 - Any misspellings, grammatical errors or other changes made prior to EGPS SC approval

C. Pillar 2 Report - MTSS - Leigh Oliver, MTSS Coordinator



EGPS MTSS Umbrella - All Means All

- RTI, High quality core curriculum and instruction, Universal screening and progress monitoring, UDL, professional development community based organizations, positive behavior, teamwork, professional learning community, data work, communities in school, Social and Emotional Learning, mental health support and awareness
- Multi-Tiered Systems of Support
 - Tier I: Universal Supports schools and classroom culture
 - Tier II: Focused Supports
 - Tier III: Intensive Supports
- MTSS Updates & Strategic Priorities
 - Priority 1: Learning
 - Priority 2: Teaching
 - Priority 3: Systems
 - Priority 4: Community

X. Discussion and Possible Action

- A. RICAS Data Presentation - Ms. Courtemache-O'Brien, *Demystifying State Data and Accountability Infrastructure*

Agency Priorities

RIDE's focus on improving outcomes for Rhode Island students

- Attendance
- Postsecondary Success
- High-Quality Teaching and Learning
- Equity Gaps

How do we evaluate school performance?

- To evaluate schools, we look at a range of factors, from traditional measures like test scores and graduation rates, to measures that tell us about a school's culture, like chronic absence and suspensions. All of these data are fed into our accountability system, which results in a star rating.
 - Academic Performance: Achievement, Growth, English Language Proficiency, Science
 - Student Success: Student absenteeism, Teacher absenteeism, Suspension rate, Exceeds expectations
 - College & Career Readiness: Graduation rate, Graduate proficiency, Post-secondary success



What are the contributing data indicators not on the “star chart”?

- 1 in 5 (19%) RI Children ages 6-17 has a diagnosable mental health condition
- 1 in 10 (10%) RI Children have a significant functional impairment
- In 2021, only about 1 in 5 (22%) of Rhode Island high school students reported receiving the help they needed when feeling anxious or depressed, down from 33% in 2019

Integrated Tiered Systems of Support “Holistic”

- Academic
- Behavior
- Social-Emotional

Why link the work? Integrated Support/Service Model & Strategic and School Level Plans

- Increased capacity for services to students and families

Why does this matter?

Equity: Turnaround leadership. Climate & Cultural Shift, High-Quality Materials & Instructional Transformation, Talent Development & Collaboration - Shared Responsibility

Expectation Ranges

- Not Meeting Expectations
- Partially Meeting Expectations
- Meeting Expectations
- Exceeding Expectations

RICAS ELA - District Comparison to State

RICAS Math - District Comparison to State

College Board

- PSAT ELA - District Comparison to State
- PSAT Math - District Comparison to State
- SAT ELA - District Comparison to State
- SAT Math - District Comparison to State

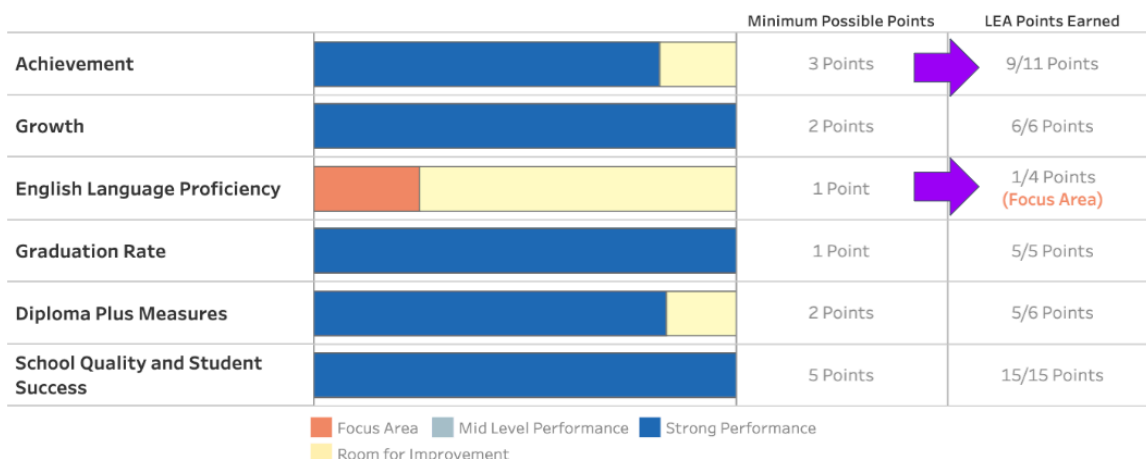
LEA Level Accountability Data



East Greenwich - LEA Accountability Performance

The chart below shows East Greenwich's overall performance in Rhode Island's statewide accountability system. For more information on each measure, explore the following tabs.

[View Individual Measures](#)



The following student subgroups performed at the lowest level on either Achievement and Growth or Graduation Rate. Plans to address the needs of these student groups, along with any measures above labeled "Focus Area" should be evident in the LEA's strategic plan and budget.

Accountability Determinations by School (2022-2023). This year's data has not yet been released.

- Frenchtown ★★★★★
- Hannaford ★★★★★
- Eldredge ★★★★★
- Meadowbrook ★★★★★
- Cole ★★★★★
- EGHS ★★★★★

Eldredge Targeted Support and Improvement: Students with Disabilities

PSAT/SAT exams, there are changes that have resulted in a new baseline

- Adaptive test (student response generates rigor of questions)
- New scoring mechanism: test theory vs. item response theory (can't compare scores)
- New baseline year due to test and scoring redesign

Significant changes that caused challenges with high quality curriculum implementation.

- Doing it during a pandemic
- State standards changes
- No third party partner / best practice processes consulted in roll out

Dr. Quinn asserted that the PSAT and SAT exams are more of an IQ test. These tests demonstrate the damage and carryover effect of the pandemic.



Ms. Powell said that while there is an expansion of learning, the assessments have not adapted to those changes. She advocated for a deeper understanding of the effectiveness of the high quality curriculum.

Dr. Page said that there are very few EGHS students sitting for the ACT exam. Students are focused on the SATs and AP exams.

XI. Subcommittee Reports

A. Facilities

Ms. Powell announced that tonight is Mr. Murphy's last School Committee meeting. She has worked closely with him these last four years and has served with him on several subcommittees. Ms. Powell called Mr. Murphy a true believer; in this Town and in the need for service.

Mr. Munoz shared his appreciation for the guidance and leadership of Mr. Murphy.

Mr. Hangan wished Mr. Murphy all the best in his future endeavors.

Dr. Quinn thanked Mr. Murphy for his service.

Mr. Murphy said that beginning on a Committee during a pandemic is challenging but it is important and good work. He thanked everyone for the ability to serve.

XII. Adjournment

At 8:22 pm, on a motion by Mr. Murphy, seconded by Mr. Hangan, the Committee voted 5-0 to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy J. Healey
School Committee Clerk

Approved 12-17-24