



East Greenwich School Committee Meeting

Tuesday, January 14, 2025

5:00 pm

Archie R. Cole Middle School, 100 Cedar Avenue, EG

Minutes

Those in attendance

School Committee: Ms. Clare Cecil-Karb; Mr. William Hangan; Ms. Melissa Larsen (arrived at 5:50 pm); Mr. Tim Munoz; Ms. Alyson Powell; Dr. Eugene Quinn; Mr. Kevin Wright

Additional Attendees: Dr. Brian Ricca, Superintendent, Attorney Aubrey Lombardo, Mrs. Amy Healey, School Committee Clerk

I. Call to Order

Ms. Powell called the meeting to order at 5:05 pm.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Recess Open Session and Convene Executive Session

Dr. Quinn made a motion 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

A) RIGL 42-46-5(a)(1) Employee Job Performance - Non Certified Employee Hearing, Individual has been notified, including their right to have any discussion held in open session

B) RIGL 42-46-5(a)(2) Potential Litigation

Ms. Cecil-Karb seconded the motion which was approved by the Committee with a 6-0 vote. Ms. Larsen was not present for the vote.

IV. Adjourn Executive Session and Reconvene Open Session

On a motion by Dr. Quinn, seconded by Mr. Hangan, the Committee voted 7-0 to adjourn executive session and reconvene open session at 6:34 pm.

V. Seal Executive Session Minutes of January 14, 2025 and disclosure of Executive Session votes of January 14, 2025.

On a motion by Ms. Larsen, seconded by Dr. Quinn, the Committee voted 7-0 to Seal the Executive Session Minutes of January 14, 2025.

V. Disclosure of Executive Session votes of October 22, 2024 and December 4, 2024.

On a motion by Dr. Quinn, seconded by Ms. Cecil-Karb, the Committee voted 7-0 to table Item V.

VI. Public Comment

VII. Approval of Minutes

A. Executive & Regular Session Minutes of December 17, 2024

On a motion by Dr. Quinn, seconded by Mr. Munoz, the Committee voted 7-0 to approve both sets of minutes of December 17, 2024

B. Executive & Special Meeting Minutes of December 8, 2025

On a motion by Mr. Hangan, seconded by Dr. Quinn, the Committee voted 7-0 to table Item VII. B.

VIII. School Construction Update Presentation (Discussion and Possible Action)

A. School Committee Approval of School Construction Committee Recommendation of Schematic Design Submission to RIDE

Kris Kendall (Ai3), Chris Speigel (LeftField), Corey Pinheiro (Consigli)

- Accomplishments since the last School Committee Meeting
- Update on Design and Pre-Construction Process
- Goal of Today's School Committee Meeting
- Next steps

Project Scope Overview

- EGHS
 - Item A Mechanical & Custodial
 - Item B Auditorium
 - Item C Athletics
 - Item D Life Skills & Art

- Frenchtown New Construction - 5 Track
- Hanaford New Construction - 4 Track

Additional Capital Projects to be considered as potential alternates

- Meadowbrook Upgrades and Plumbing Requirements
- EGHS Item E Misc

Preliminary Design and Construction Schedule

Stage III: Schematic Design

Total Project Budget

- Targeting \$15.5M in reduction
- Additional reductions needed to meet \$150M budget
 - Redistribution/reduction of tracks for grades 1-5
 - RIDE reimbursement vulnerability
 - Significant schedule impact
 - Additional program reductions to elementary schools

It was explained that the target budget is \$160 million. Many steps will need to be taken in order to increase from the original \$150 million budget. Those steps include changes to the MOA with RIDE which would shift money from the high school projects to the elementary schools. It has been determined that savings can be found in the high school projects without programmatic changes.

Mr. Munoz asked when the final budget decisions are made. He added that the messaging from the Town indicates a budget up to \$165 million.

Representatives replied that the deadline is not yet know. The final target of the project's budget is \$160-165 million. Programmatic changes will be necessary to reduce the costs by \$15.5 million. They will go back to the education professionals to refine the plans. A programmatic change is an adjustment to defined space, allotted footage of rooms. There are educational programmatic spaces, functional programmatic spaces and occupiable space. Reduction of square footage, landscaping, materials are all being reviewed.

The presentation specified Tier 1, 2 and 3 reductions.

Value Engineering

Accepted Reductions

- Square footage
- Alternate roof options - savings \$3,218,652

- Reduce floor-to-floor height - savings \$227,200

Accepted Non-Programmatic Reductions

- Non-programmatic space reduction 4,100 sf, savings \$1,479,303
- Communicating stair - savings \$90,000
- Tier 1 programmatic reduction 3,500 sf, savings \$1,727,000
- Casework reduction (built in cabinetry), savings \$209,800
- Glulam pier/soffit removal, savings \$93,500
- Replace timber at CW & SF headers and sills, savings \$100,800

Pending Reductions

- Timber framing at canopies, savings \$348,800
- Fiber cement to brick, savings \$265,140
- Fluid applied gymnasium floor, fluid applied savings \$28,948, vinyl savings \$60,000

School Building Authority / RIDE Process

- Stage III: Design Reviews - WHERE WE ARE NOW
 - Schematic Design Review: Stage III must include the project's major components, including engineering
 - Design Development Review: Provide greater detail, including an updated project budget
 - Construction Documents Review: Finalize the development of the project
 - SBA Approvals: The SBA must review and approve each of these components: schematic design, design development and construction documents
- Stage IV: Construction
 - LEA Bids: LEA goes out to bid and shares responses with SBA
 - Progress Reports: On the 12th of every month, OPMs provide a project progress report
 - Project Complete: For that year's cycle, projects must complete by June 30
- Projection Completion
 - Housing Aid: LEAs submit Housing Aid forms by July 15
 - September 15 and March 15: RIDE makes Housing Aid payments twice annually for projects completed by June 30

On a motion by Mr. Munoz, seconded by Mr. Hangan, the Committee voted 7-0 to approve the School Construction Committee recommendation of schematic design submission to RIDE.

IX. Action Item (Discussion and Possible Action)

- A. Appeal of Employee Termination

On a motion by Dr. Quinn, seconded by Ms. Cecil-Karb, the Committee voted 7-0 to table Item IX. A.

B. School Committee Approval of emergency repair, EGHS - Royal Flush Plumbing for \$44,850

On a motion by Dr. Quinn, seconded by Ms. Cecil-Karb, the Committee voted 7-0 to approve the payment of \$44,850 to Royal Flush for emergency repairs at the high school.

Ms. Powell added that the funds will be coming from the \$5 million bond.

Dr. Ricca explained that this expense is not the result of any deficiency, poor upkeep or the building's age. It is the result of poor student behavior. The leadership at the high school is addressing the matter and will be engaging the high school community on steps that will be taken. Many people have met to discuss plans to address this problem. Dr. Ricca added that there will be additional bills to pay for this repair.

X. Superintendent and Staff Reports (Discussion and Possible Action)

A. Finance Report - Mrs. Margaret Baker

Mrs. Baker presented the finance report. Mr. Munoz asked if student services expenses could be separated out. Ms. Baker said that a separate report could be run. She announced that there was an extension on the audit and it should be completed this week.

Dr. Ricca thanked Mrs. Baker and the administrators who handled transportation delays during weather on Friday, December 20th.

B. Special Education Report - Mr. Neil Marcaccio

Mr. Marcaccio explained the success of the recent co-teaching pilot program.

Student Services Updates and Strategic Priorities

- Priority 1: Learning
 - Co-teaching
 - High Quality Curriculum Materials
- Priority 2: Teaching
 - Co-teaching
 - High Quality Curriculum Materials
- Priority 3: Systems
 - Timelines

- Referrals
- Staffing allocations
- Priority 4: Community
 - SEAC mini survey
 - SEAC co-teaching letter

Let's Define Co-Teaching

- Collaborative - two teachers (typically a general and special education) share responsibility for planning, instructing and assessing learning

+

- Teaching - students receive instructions in one of six different co-teaching models. Each model serves a different purpose

Co-Teaching is Not

- Simple
- The only way
- Just dividing tasks among two people
- An extra set of hands in the classroom
- A substitute for ineffective teaching

Legal Framework

Legal Obligations for Equal Access

Student Benefits

- Access to HQCM
- Increased rigor
- Increased differentiation
- Increased peer boost
- Good for one, good for all
- Exposure to teaching styles
- Social & behavioral modeling
- Fight or flight
- Sense of community

Educator Benefits

- Increased retention
- Increased job satisfaction
- Classroom management
- Mutual learning
- Support system
- Creativity-collective capacity
- staffing/budget

Call to Action: EGSD “Baseline”

Six Co-Teaching Models

- Parallel Teaching
- **Station Teaching**
- Alternate Teaching
- One Teacher, One Assist
- One Teacher, One Observe
- Team Teaching

Co-Teaching Roles & Responsibilities

- Co-Planning
- Co-Instructing
- Co-Assessing

What did you see in action?

Station Teaching Look-Fors

Timeline for the IEP Process

SEAC mini-survey, December 2024

- 48/358 families or 13.4% response
- Focus # 1 budget priorities
- Focus # 2 SEAC presentations/workshops
- Sentiment

SEAC letter in support of co teaching

The Committee discussed co-teaching and its benefits.

C. Community Engagement at James H. Eldredge Elementary School - Strategic Plan Priority 4

D. High Quality Curriculum Adoption and Implementation Update - Strategic Plan Priority 3 - Ms. Sarah Courtemanche-O'Brien

Priority 3 Systems: High Quality Curriculum - The first of many presentations on the District's curriculum

Overview

- ...Back to the Future - The Why
- Framing the Future - The What

- Tools and Support - The How
- Innovating Implementation - The When and Who

Back to the Future

Curriculum Implementation & Instructional Design

- RIDE Priorities
 - Equity
 - Excellence in learning
 - Engaged communities
 - World class talent
 - Governance structures
- Rhode Island Legislation
 - All students have equitable access to strong, effective core instruction using high-quality curriculum and differential instructional practices
 - LEAs to select identified high-quality curriculum materials (HQCM) no later than June 20, 2023 in ELA and math and science in 2025
- RI Secondary Regulations
 - HCQM: Guaranteed & Viable
 - Ensuring grade level ELA and Math proficiency for all secondary RI students

Framing the Future: Innovating Implementation

- Key changes to curriculum terminology
 - Written curriculum
 - Lived curriculum
 - Learned curriculum
- Tier 1 Core HQCM: In Action
 - *Savvas enVision* - K-12 Mathematics Ecosystem
 - *Amplify* - 6-8 Science
 - *Expeditionary Learning* - K-5 English Language Arts
 - *studysync* - 6-12 English Language Arts Ecosystem
- Tier 1 Core HQCM: On the Horizon
 - K-5 & 9-12 Science: current legislation
 - K-12 RI customized social studies: updated standards

Framing: Collaborative Planning Vision

The EGPS community will deliberately engage in a standards based collaborative planning process using HQCM to plan instructional delivery through:

- Unit unpacking
- Lesson internalization
- Student work/data analysis

Protocols for the purpose of strong delivery of standards based instruction in Tier-1

Why: Structure and Protocol

- Ensure horizontal and vertical consistency
- Better support educators
- Enhance Tier-1 instructional delivery and support HQCM implementation
- Build a stronger data culture for thoughtful instructional decision making
- Assist in gathering data an feedback
- Move forward with non-evaluative instructional learning walks during the 24-25 year

Consider....Implementation a reflection of the HQCM scope and sequence

HQ curriculum sequenced units - Texts and standards

HQ instructional design sequenced units - w/ autonomy of task design, assessment and instructional strategies

There was a discussion on the District's implementation of the high quality curriculum, the relationship and support of the publishers and RIDE to optimize the investment.

Mr. Munoz suggested there may be an opportunity for someone from RIDE to share the District's educational requirements to the Town Council.

XI. Subcommittee Reports

- A. Health and Wellness
- B. Finance
- C. SEAC

Dr. Quinn explained that the finance committee report includes ways to achieve affordability and accountability.

Reconsideration

V. Disclosure of Executive Session votes of October 22, 2024 and December 4, 2024.

Attorney Lombardo explained that these votes were not disclosed immediately after the executive session which is allowable when voting on strategic or negotiating matters.

Ms. Powell disclosed the following Executive Session votes.

October 22, 2024 - The Committee voted 5-1 to authorize Attorney Lombardo to present a proposed contract to Dr. Ricca. Ms. Powell, Dr. Quinn, Mr. Murphy and Ms. Cecil-Karb voted in favor; Mr. Munoz voted against.

December 5, 2024 - The Committee voted 3-2 to authorize Attorney Lombardo to present a counter offer to the proposed contract to Dr. Ricca. Ms. Powell, Dr. Quinn, and Ms. Cecil-Karb voted in favor; Mr. Munoz and Mr. Murphy voted against.

XII. Adjournment

On a motion by Ms. Larsen, seconded by Dr. Quinn, the Committee voted 7-0, to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy J. Healey
School Committee Clerk

Approved 1-28-25