



## East Greenwich School Committee Meeting

Tuesday, March 18, 2025

6:00 pm

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

### Minutes

#### Those in attendance

**School Committee:** Ms. Alyson Powell, Chair; Dr. Eugene Quinn, Vice-Chair; Ms. Melissa Larsen; Mr. Tim Munoz; Mr. Kevin Wright

**Absent:** Ms. Clare Cecil-Karb, Mr. William Hangan

**Additional Attendees:** Mrs. Alexis Meyer, Interim Superintendent; Ms. Sarah Courtemanche-O'Brien, Assistant Superintendent; Attorney Aubrey Lombardo; Mrs. Amy Healey, School Committee Clerk; Mr. Neil Marcaccio, Director of Student Services

#### I. **Call to Order**

Ms. Powell called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm.

#### II. **Pledge of Allegiance**

#### III. **Public Comment**

*Chris Boie, Cole Middle School Teacher*

Mr. Boie asked that the School Committee keep in mind the need to maintain the community's trust. Budget cuts should be made to non essential expenses rather than teachers and programs.

*Ally Bryer, East Greenwich High School Teacher*

Ms. Bryer said that cuts to teacher positions are harmful to students and lead to higher class sizes. Cuts should be made to non instructional areas.

*Bethany Gorter, Hanaford Elementary School Teacher*

Ms. Gorter said that while the budget is worked on in the coming weeks, it should reflect a commitment to students first. Teachers, who have the most interaction with students, should be prioritized.

*Eileen Peduto, Eldredge Elementary School Teacher*

Ms. Peduto urged the school committee to focus on retaining essential student programs, extra curriculums, arts, music and specialized programs. She said that cuts

should be made to excessive administrative costs and not to programs that directly affect students.

*JoAnne Leach, EGPS Special Education Department Chair*

Ms. Leach said that our district has long been known for its excellence which is a result of teachers' willingness to go above and beyond. The school committee should prioritize preserving teaching positions and look for cost cutting elsewhere in the budget.

*Anne Marie Flaherty, EGPS Guidance Department Chair*

Ms. Flaherty said that students thrive from strong relationships with teachers. Cutting teaching and mental health positions will affect those relationships. Cuts should be made to administrative costs and other operational expenses that do not directly impact students.

*Melissa Fallow, East Greenwich High School Teacher*

Ms. Fallow asked for consideration of a responsible budget that reflects the community's values. Prioritizing academic excellence must continue even through times of financial strain. Non instructional expenditures should be looked at for cuts.

#### **IV. Approval of Minutes**

- A. Regular and Executive Session Minutes of March 4, 2025
- B. Regular Meeting Minutes of March 11, 2025

*On a motion by Dr. Quinn, seconded by Mr. Wright, the Committee voted 5-0 to approve all of the minutes.*

#### **V. Action Items**

- A. School Committee Approval of Out of State Field Trip - EGHS Track Team Members, Philadelphia, PA
- B. School Committee Approval of Homeschool Requests
- C. School Committee Approval of ProCare Therapy contract
- D. School Committee Approval of Bid Award for Annual Report
- E. School Committee Approval of Revised Curriculum Committee Charge

*On a motion by Dr Quinn seconded by Mr. Wright, the Committee voted 5-0 to approve Action Items A- E.*

- F. School Committee Approval of Community Member Appointments to Curriculum Subcommittee - Elizabeth Kenworthy, Abigail Mansfield Marcaccio, Dana Polikoff

*On a motion by Mr. Munoz, seconded by Dr. Quinn, the Committee voted 5-0 to approve the appointments to the Curriculum Subcommittee.*

G. School Committee Approval of Community Member Appointments to Personnel Subcommittee - Jessica Brough, Jean-Nicole Goudi

*On a motion by Dr. Quinn, seconded by Mr. Wright, the Committee voted 5-0 to approve the appointments to the Personnel Subcommittee.*

**VI. School Construction Update - Mr. Bob Wilmarth**

Mr. Wilmarth reported that we have reached a milestone point in the school construction process. The design development drawings have been submitted to RIDE

Construction Schedule

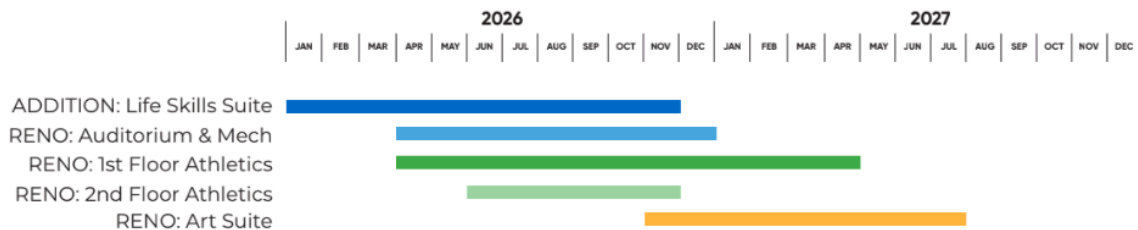
- Schematic design - completed
- Design Development - in progress, completion 4-30-25
- Construction Documents and Early Bid Packages, 8-15-25
- Construction Documents for CMP, 12-1-25
- Early Bid Package
- Construction - scheduled to begin January 2026
- Installation and move management

EGHS - Addition and Renovation

- Life Skills Suite Addition
- Renovated Art Suite
- Refreshed Auditorium
- Renovated Upper Gym & APE Fitness
- Mechanical/Custodial

- Phased Construction
- New Addition
- Light/Comprehensive Renovations

**EGPS | East Greenwich High School**  
Project Phasing Diagram **DRAFT**



Frenchtown & Hanaford - New Construction

Full Brick Building

Flat Roof Massings  
Efficient Site Plan  
Optimized Site Circulation  
Hybrid HVAC System  
Grade Reconfiguration

Simultaneous ES Construction  
Occupied Site

Ms. Larsen inquired about where outdoor activities will take place while the fields are developing. Mr. Wilmarth replied that Frenchtown has a back field. There are also black tops, playgrounds and concrete areas for play. It will take anywhere between 6-24 months to fully build the fields.

Mr. Wright asked about the overlap of fields at Hanaford. Mr. Wilmarth replied that the exact placement of the fields is still being considered.

*Marybeth Straut, Meadowbrook Teacher*

Ms. Straut asked if there were any plans for renovations at Meadowbrook. Mr. Wilmarth replied that once the other schools are built and re-configured, Meadowbrook will be a Pre-K - Kindergarten early learning center. Issues at that building such as compliance, bathrooms and security will be addressed.

*Leslie Lee, East Greenwich High School Teacher*

Ms. Lee asked whether the music area would be renovated. She described it as one room for two teachers with no windows. Mr. Wilmarth replied that the music room is not part of the renovation at the high school.

There will be a School Construction Business Meeting / Community Forum on Wednesday, March 26, 2025 at Swift Community Center.

## **VII. Policies (First Read)**

- A. Policy # 8425 Graduation Requirements (revision)
- B. Policy # 2200 Brand Asset Protection (new)

Attorney Lombardo raised a concern with one aspect of the revised graduation requirements which runs afoul of RIDE guidance. She has shared suggested revised language with Mr. Munoz.

## **VIII. Subcommittee Report**

- A. Policy (2.14.25)

**IX. 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)(8)(ii) - Student Agreement - Individuals have been notified, including their right to have any discussion held in open session
- B) RIGL 42-46-5(a)(2) - Legal Advice - Executive Orders

*At 6:38 pm, on a motion by Dr. Quinn, seconded by Mr. Wright, the Committee voted 5-0 to recess open session and convene executive session.*

**X. Adjourn Executive Session and Reconvene Open Session**

*At 7:38 pm, on a motion by Dr. Quinn, seconded by Mr. Munoz, the Committed voted 5-0 to adjourn executive session and reconvene open session.*

**XI. Seal Executive Session Minutes of March 18, 2025 and Disclosure of Executive Session votes of March 18, 2025**

*On a motion by Ms. Larsen, seconded by Mr. Wright, the Committee voted 4-0 to seal the executive session minutes of March 18, 2025. Mr. Munoz was not present for the vote.*

Ms. Powell disclosed that no votes were taken during executive session.

**XII. Action Items (For Discussion and Possible Action)**

- A. School Committee Approval of Settlement Agreement

*On a motion by Ms. Larsen, seconded by Dr. Quinn, the Committee voted 4-0 to approve the settlement agreement. Mr. Munoz was not present for the vote.*

**XIII. Adjournment**

*On a motion by Ms. Larsen, seconded by Dr. Quinn, the Committee voted 4-0 to adjourn the meeting at 7:41 pm. Mr. Munoz was not present for the vote.*

Respectfully submitted,

Amy J. Healey  
School Committee Clerk

*Approved 4-1-25*