

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT #19
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES
FOR TUESDAY, MAY 3, 2011
EDWIN O. SMITH HIGH SCHOOL
LIBRARY MEDIA CENTER
1235 STORRS ROAD
STORRS, CONNECTICUT 06268

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Chairman Fran Archambault.

PRESENT: Fran Archambault, Herb Arico, Janice Chamberlain, Bob Jellen, Frank Krasicki, Bob Kremer, Jim Mark, Elizabeth McCosh-Lilie, Elizabeth Peczuh, Mike Sibiga, Nick Colangelo (student rep.), Cherie Trahan (business manager) and Superintendent Bruce Silva

ABSENT: John Meyers, Tim Nolan

OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO SPEAK:

Mansfield resident, David Garvey, presented a letter to board members regarding G level courses.

REPORTS:

The personnel committee will be meeting on May 24th

The finance committee met prior to this meeting. Business Manager, Cherie Trahan, spoke about bonding rates for the athletic fields renovation project.

The curriculum committee will meet on May 10th at 5:30 p.m. in the library media center.

Herb Arico updated board members on the activities of the EASTCONN Board of Directors.

Board members are invited to their annual meeting on May 24th.

Nick Colangelo, student representative, updated board members on the activities of the student congress.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Mr. Silva briefly reviewed his report with board members. He noted that the athletic renovation project is underway.

Fran Archambault thanked all building committee members for their long and hard work in getting this project off the ground. He also thanked George Kraus for his expertise that he provided the committee on this project.

CONSENT AGENDA:

MOTION: by Bob Jellen, seconded by Elizabeth McCosh-Lilie, that the following items for the Board of Education meeting of May 3, 2011 be approved or received for the record:

That the Regional School District #19 Board of Education approve the minutes of April 5, 2011.

That the Regional School District #19 Board of Education approve the appointment of Blum, Shapiro and Company, P.C. for auditors for the district as recommended by the Finance Committee

That the Regional School District 19 Board of Education approve overnight trip, July 18-21, 2011, submitted by Heather McKinley, dance team coach.

That the Regional School District #19 Board of Education approve the following curricula: Engineering, Video Production 1 & 2, Plyometrics, German 4A and Spanish 2B as recommended by the Curriculum Committee.

That the following department heads be reappointed for the 2011-12 school year, as recommended by the principal and superintendent:

Sue Biren	-	Careers and Tech. Ed.
Kevin Ericson	-	Physical Education
Brad Martin	-	Depot Campus Director
Linda Mathes	-	Library Media
Doug Melody	-	Guidance
Tony Mingrone	-	English
Karen Paruolo	-	Social Studies
Jim Pomeroy	-	Agriculture Education
Julia Sherman	-	Science
Debbie Veronneau	-	Mathematics

End of Consent Agenda

VOTE: Unanimous in Favor

SPECIAL REPORT: Technology Education

Jaime Russell and Jan Poland reviewed the technology program for this past year – this included online learning, purchasing of equipment and working with UCONN on several different technology issues. Senior Nicholas Briere spoke to board members about the MoxMe Program he has been working on with the technology department and members of the staff.

DISCUSSION ITEM: Strategic School Profile

Superintendent Silva and Principal DeLoreto reviewed and answered questions about the Strategic School Profiles.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynda Breault, Board Clerk

May 3, 2011

To the E.O. Smith Board of Education

I have strong praises for E. O. Smith and the decisions of the administration on so many levels. E.O. Smith is a wonderful school. However, with respect, I have a strong problems with what was described in Doug Melody's April 13 blog post of "...demolishing G level classes in English and Social Studies...and to continue dismantling G level courses in subsequent years as the Class of 2015 (and other classes that follow) moves through EOSHS."

This blog post is the only notification I have received as a parent by the administration of this dramatic academic policy change. At a minimum the elimination of G Level courses should be preceded by explanation of evidence of why, and substantial parent comment and inquiry. This policy change was presented to the community as a *done deal*.

Concerns that I have, which may be remedied by explanation, but now remain strong concerns based on Doug Melody's blog, are:

1. We are not presented as a community with the referenced research of Mr. Deloreto, upon which the decision was made.
2. Mixing B and G academic levels does a disservice to the students who need additional academic support (G level students) and will have an impact of lowering the rigor of learning for the B level student. No matter how you slice it the curriculum will need to lowered and slowed to meet the needs of the traditionally placed G level student.
3. The assumption that traditional B students will mentor traditional G students is an assumption without data or history to back it up, and puts added stress on the students.
4. A recent study by the E.O. Smith guidance department found that the highest concern for students was stress (70%). It is assumed this stress is academic achievement related. Diluting the B level learning option will only add to that stress. Students who normally would consider the B level option will feel the added stress to move up to A level, due to the change in academic status of the B level.
5. Students who normally would choose the G level option will now lose the academic support they will need to thrive at E.O. Smith. Instead of investing in them, we regrouping them.

6. This move will lead to the lowering of the academic standing of E.O. Smith as a top achieving high school by colleges and universities that consider our graduates for admittance. In turn, that lowering will add to the stress level for our college bound student body.

We need to invest in and support the academic needs of the traditionally placed G level student. But, not at the expense of the traditionally placed B level student.

I strongly oppose this move, and other parents *who are just learning* about this policy change have equal concern.

My best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Garvey", with a large, stylized flourish extending from the end of the name.

David Garvey

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