



DRACUT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
Minutes

DATE: August 23, 2010

LOCATION: Harmony Hall

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Matthew Sheehan, Chairman
Dr. Michael McNamara, 2nd Vice Chairperson
Mr. Ronald Mercier

ABSENT:

Mrs. Bonita Elie, 1st Vice Chairperson
Mr. Michael Miles

SCHOOL PERSONNEL AND OTHERS PRESENT:

Dr. Stacy Scott, Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Thomas Rose, School Business Administrator
Attorney Edward Morris
Cynthia Curtis, Recording Secretary

CALL TO ORDER:

The Regular Session Meeting of the School Committee was called to order by Chairman Matthew Sheehan at Harmony Hall at 6:00 p.m. for the purpose of entering into Executive Session.

Chairman Sheehan read into the record the purpose for entering into Executive Session was to conduct collective bargaining sessions with the following:

- Administrators Association
- Office Personnel Association
- Custodians Association
- Maintenance Association
- Paraprofessionals
- Cafeteria Association
- Dracut Teachers Association

1. Motion by Mr. Mercier, seconded by Dr. McNamara to enter into Executive Session for the reasons stated.

Roll Call Vote:

Dr. McNamara	Yes
Mr. Mercier	Yes
Mr. Sheehan	Yes

The regular session meeting was recessed at 6:02 p.m.

The regular session meeting was reconvened at 7:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND MOMENT OF SILENCE:

Chairman Sheehan called for the pledge of allegiance and a moment of silence for Gary Marsella, Chairman of the Dracut Town Finance Committee and for Brian Hiltz, grade 1 student at the Campbell Elementary School.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

2. Motion by Mr. Mercier, seconded by Dr. McNamara to approve the regular session minutes of July 26, 2010.

Vote: Unanimously approved

Chairman Sheehan read the recommendation of legal counsel to release the following Executive Session minutes:

- November 23, 2009 Not release at this time
- January 11, 2010 Release strategy session only
- January 25, 2010 Release strategy session only
- March 8, 2010 Not release at this time – matters are ongoing
- March 22, 2010 Not release at this time – matters are ongoing
- April 26, 2010 Not release at this time – matters are ongoing
- June 3, 2010 Release – matter is concluded
- June 9, 2010 Release – matter is concluded
- June 14, 2010 Release non-union personnel only
- June 22, 2010 Release – matter is concluded

3. Motion by Mr. Mercier, seconded by Dr. McNamara to release the Executive Session minutes as recommended by legal counsel.

Vote: Unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF BILLS AND PAYROLLS:

Bills and Payrolls were signed by Dr. McNamara and Mr. Mercier

COMMUNITY INPUT:

Colleen Garry, 55 Chapman Street, Dracut, MA

State Representative Colleen Garry was in attendance this evening to present a citation to Dr. Linda Trouville in recognition of her forty years of service with the Dracut Public Schools and commitment to the children of the community.

NEW BUSINESS:

Recognition of School Employee:

Dr. Linda Trouville was recognized and presented with a plaque, from the Committee, for her forty years of service with the Dracut Public Schools. Chairman Sheehan indicated that Dr. Trouville served as an elementary classroom teacher for eighteen years, a principal for three years, vice-principal for ten years and recently as a Coordinator of Elementary Curriculum and Professional Development (K-6) for the past nine years.

Dr. Trouville was congratulated for her years of service and dedication to the children of Dracut. Committee members thanked Dr. Trouville for her service and wished her well at her new position as Principal of St. Louis School. Dr. Trouville thanked the Committee along with her family and friends for their support.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

August 24th new teacher orientation
August 26th Englesby grade 5 scavenger hunt
August 31st Middies Mate orientation for new students
September 1st First day of school for teachers
September 2nd First day of school for students
September 3rd Kindergarten and Preschool orientation
September 6th Labor Day – No School
September 7th Campbell School PTO Meeting
September 8th Parker PTO Meeting and Campbell and Brookside Parent Orientation
September 9th Greenmont and Parker Parent Orientation
September 11th Dracut Old Home Day
September 13th School Committee Meeting

SUPERINTENDENT’S INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

Dr. Scott noted the staff announcements as indicated in the agenda. Dr. Scott was very pleased with the start of the new school year. Dr. Scott indicated that we will begin the year with full staffing and we will be on target and within the budget.

OLD BUSINESS:

Contract Revision for S.P. & R. Transportation:

Thomas Rose gave an explanation as to why this is a contract revision. He explained that when S.P. & R. Transportation returned the contract they had made a revision to the number of school buses. He indicated the contract will remain at \$454,500; however, the new contract is more definitive.

4. Motion by Mr. Mercier, seconded by Dr. McNamara to allow the Chairman to sign the revised contract for S.P. & R. Transportation.

Dr. McNamara asked Attorney Morris if this was reviewed by legal counsel and asked more specifically if this if this was just a typographical error. Mr. Rose reviewed the specifics of the contract with clarity on the number of vans as compared to the number of passengers.

Roll Call Vote:

Dr. McNamara	Yes
Mr. Mercier	Yes
Mr. Sheehan	Yes

Website Update:

Dr. McNamara indicated that there was a meeting held the previous week to review the status of the redesign of the website. The representative from the Tyngsboro firm was also in attendance at that meeting. Dr. McNamara indicated that everyone was in agreement with the template and the website will be easier to follow. The new design should be in place the first month or two into the new school year.

2010-2011 Projected Enrollments:

The committee reviewed the projected enrollment data. Mr. Mercier questioned the number of full-day Kindergarten classrooms at the Campbell School as opposed to the Brookside School. Dr. Scott indicated that this is a budgetary matter and that this will continue to be monitored by an assigned task force. There were also concerns regarding the number of students enrolled in the

Kindergarten classrooms at Greenmont. Dr. Scott stated that he has reviewed the enrollment and at this time it is still too early to determine the class size as we are still receiving registrations. More specific enrollment information could be provided as we approach the opening of school. Dr. McNamara indicated that 66% of the students are enrolled in full-day Kindergarten. Committee members agreed that the district should move one step at a time and that great progress has been made with this program and the district will continue to move forward in the hope of having full-day kindergarten throughout the district.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Finance Sub-Committee Update:

Dr. McNamara, as Finance Sub-Committee Chair, gave a report from the Finance Sub-Committee meeting from August 19th. He indicated that the following items were discussed at that meeting:

- Status of the end of the year report
- The close out and roll over into the new year was a smooth transition
- Status of staff resignations, new hires and enrollments with impact on budget
- Review of school choice funds and revolving funds
- Update on transportation fee collections and pre-school tuition collections

Approval for transfer of funds:

5. Motion by Dr. McNamara, seconded by Mr. Mercier, to transfer the amount of \$2,000 out of the Superintendent's salary line and transfer to the Superintendent's all other expense line for the purpose of reimbursement to Dr. Scott for moving expenses as per the contract agreement.

Dr. McNamara indicated this was a contractual item and documentation had been provided by Dr. Scott.

Roll Call Vote:

Dr. McNamara	Yes
Mr. Mercier	Yes
Mr. Sheehan	Yes

NEW BUSINESS:

Summer Offerings:

Dr. McNamara asked Dr. Scott to address some of the summer offerings within the schools. Dr. Scott indicated that he attended some of the summer programs including the band camp and the Title I summer program. He also stated that summer school and MCAS summer programs have been productive.

Discussion was held regarding the funding for the summer programs. Dr. McNamara would like to see more summer programs related to academic enrichment programs. Dr. Scott stated that he has had conversations with local colleges and there is more that could be done in the areas of science and math. Dr. Scott will continue to explore these options to expand these offerings.

Personal Privilege:

Chairman Sheehan, on behalf of the Committee, congratulated Mr. Vogel, Vice-Principal at Dracut High, along with his wife, on the birth of a new baby boy.

Dr. Scott wanted to recognize Mr. Rose, Ms. Banacos and Ms. Gavin for their bookkeeping work on closing out the year.

Dr. McNamara wished Dr. Scott a successful school opening along with Joyce Desjardins, President of the Dracut Teachers Association and her colleagues. Dr. Scott thanked the Committee and stated the buildings are ready and he is excited to get started.

ADJOURNMENT:

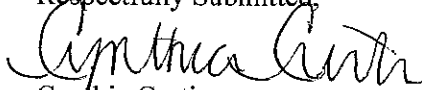
6. Motion by Mr. Mercier, seconded by Dr. McNamara to adjourn the regular session meeting of the Dracut School Committee.

Roll Call Vote:

Dr. McNamara	Yes
Mr. Mercier	Yes
Mr. Sheehan	Yes

The regular session meeting of the Dracut School Committee meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Cynthia Curtis
Recording Secretary

List of documents and exhibits:

1. School Committee agenda packet