



DRACUT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING Minutes

DATE: January 24, 2011

LOCATION: Harmony Hall

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Matthew Sheehan, Chairman
Mrs. Bonita Elie, 1st Vice Chairperson
Dr. Michael McNamara, 2nd Vice Chairperson
Mr. Ronald Mercier
Mr. Michael Miles

SCHOOL PERSONNEL AND OTHERS PRESENT:

Dr. Stacy Scott, Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Thomas Rose, School Business Administrator
Attorney Kevin Murphy
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 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 George Kouloheras former School Committee Member for Lowell Public Schools and Greater Lowell Technical High School.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. Motion by Mr. Mercier, seconded by Mrs. Elie to approve the regular session minutes of January 10, 2011
Vote: Unanimously approved

2. Motion by Mr. Mercier, seconded by Dr. McNamara to approve the executive session minutes of January 10, 2011
Vote: Unanimously approved

Mr. Sheehan asked Attorney Murphy if the executive session minutes could be released. Attorney Murphy stated that no items could be released at this time.

3. Motion by Mrs. Elie, seconded by Mr. Miles approve the executive session minutes of December 13, 2010
Vote: Unanimously approved

Mr. Sheehan asked Attorney Murphy if the executive session minutes could be released. Attorney Murphy stated that no items could be released at this time.

APPROVAL OF BILLS AND PAYROLLS:

Bills and Payrolls were signed by Mr. Sheehan, Mr. Miles and Mr. Mercier

PRESENTATION OF SENIOR HIGH STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Jasmine Abreau gave an update on the current and upcoming events at Dracut High including an update on athletics.

COMMUNITY INPUT:

No Community Input

NEW BUSINESS:

Recognition of Dracut High School Violinist:

Mr. Leon Grande and Robin Mallory were present to recognize Yoobin Kim, a sophomore student at Dracut High. Yoobin Kim is being recognized for her talent as a violinist. Miss Kim studies in Boston at the New England Conservatory. Miss Kim will be performing at Carnegie Hall on Saturday, February 19th. Miss Kim was recognized by the School Committee and Superintendent for her accomplishments and was presented with a certificate. Dr. Scott recognized Ms. Mallory for her commitment to the strings program.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Finance Sub-Committee Updates:

Dr. McNamara updated the committee on the finance sub-committee meeting that was held on Monday, January 24, 2011. The Finance Sub-Committee reviewed a deficit report. Areas of concern are transportation and special education tuition. Mr. Sheehan stated that the budget workshop meeting was well perceived which was held with School Committee, Principals, Superintendent and Mr. Rose.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

January 25th Junior High PTO
January 27th Greenmont Avenue Playground Committee Spaghetti Supper
January 28th Junior High PTO Dance
January 29th Englesby Pats Peak Trip
February 1st Dracut Scholarship Meeting
February 2nd ½ day of school
February 3rd Elementary and Intermediate Report Cards Issued
February 3rd Junior High Variety Show
February 4th Snow Date Junior High Variety Show
February 8th Campbell School PTO Meeting
February 9th Englesby PTO Meeting
February 11th Campbell School Mother/Son dance
February 11th Junior High Music Boosters Dance
February 12th Englesby Pats Peak Trip
February 14th School Committee Meeting

SUPERINTENDENT'S INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

Monthly Attendance Profile:

Dr. Scott indicated that the attendance is going well.

Staffing Announcements:

Dr. Scott referenced staff announcements as indicated in the agenda. Listed is the hiring of a regular paraprofessional and two special education paraprofessionals.

Introduction of Executive Director of Student Services:

Janet Barry was introduced to the Committee and gave a brief background on her experience and her entry plan. Ms. Barry will begin on February 1st. Ms. Barry has already met with staff and administrative team and has also visited some schools. Ms. Barry indicated that an outreach to parents and overseeing budget funding is important. Ms. Barry thanked the Committee for the opportunity to meet the Committee. The Committee acknowledged and thanked Ms. Barry for meeting, working and becoming familiar with the position prior to February 1st. Ms. Barry thanked the Committee and wanted to thank Ed Orenstein for the terrific hiring process and the assistance he offered with her transition.

Introduction of Elementary Curriculum Coordinator:

Sonia Diaz was introduced to the Committee and gave a brief background on some of the topics that she has addressed since being in Dracut. Ms. Diaz has visited all the schools, classrooms, has met with parents, students, and staff. Ms. Diaz continuously works with principals and the Superintendent as well as teachers. Ms. Diaz has focused on the leadership as well as curriculum and indicated that everything is a team effort. Ms. Diaz addressed professional development, instruction, scope and sequence, and assessment and student growth model. Ms. Diaz thanked the Committee for the opportunity to address the Committee.

OLD BUSINESS

MASBO Presentation by John Crafton

Dr. McNamara and Mrs. Elie had spoken with Mr. Crafton at the MASC Conference about review of the financial operations and transportation. Mr. Crafton is the Executive Director of the Massachusetts Association of School Business Officials and gave a brief background on the services that will be offered. Mr. Crafton spent twenty-five years in Dracut and is familiar with the school system.

The financial operations review program consists of three people and gave a brief background on the team members. The three members are Jack Sheehan, Joel Lovering, and John Crafton. The process begins with a self assessment to the Superintendent and School Business Administrator which will identify weaknesses. Two days are then spent interviewing areas such as departments with budget, business office staff, payroll department, principals, special education office, and athletic director. Student Activity accounts are also reviewed. This is to identify the existing conditions of the district. These conditions are then reviewed if they are efficient and areas are reviewed to see if money can be saved and if state statutes are followed. The cost is \$4,850 for this service which is set to be affordable for all districts.

The transportation review has three members. Mr. Crafton is a member as well as two people from the Massachusetts Association for Pupil Transportation, Michelle Loglisci, Transportations Coordinator for the Monson School District and Colleen Cavanaugh. Both have experience with transportation services for school districts. Bus companies will also be interviewed. Transportation program is reviewed such as bus counts, observe pick up and drop off at schools, bid documents, contracts, and a review of where money can be saved such as consolidating routes. The cost is \$4,850.

Both reviews take about a month. At the end of the process a draft of the report is sent to the Superintendent. An exit interview is done with the Superintendent and School Business Administrator. Recommendations for the district will be included in the report. Mr. Crafton will meet with Dr. Scott and Mr. Rose to coordinate the site visits.

Dracut High School Addition/ Renovation Project

Mr. Sheehan indicated that the Renovation Advisory Committee had met a second time this past Thursday. Mr. Sheehan, Dr. McNamara and Dr. Scott were guest speakers at the Englesby PTO meeting. Mr. Sheehan indicated that Mr. Wilkie, Friends of Dracut High School, will be at a meeting in February. Dr. Scott stated that information will be made available for public review and various meetings will be held to offer information to the community.

Mr. Sheehan indicated that Dr. Scott was invited to speak at the Board of Selectmen meeting on January 25th. On February 8th the Committee has been invited as well to address the Board of Selectmen. Architects will be invited as well to this meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

School Committee Items:

Mr. Sheehan inquired about a letter that was sent in November to the town engineer regarding the lights on Lakeview Avenue. Mr. Sheehan asked that Dr. Scott look into this request.

Mr. Miles inquired about the Alternative Education program. He reminded Dr. Scott that he would like a report to the committee for the February meeting. Dr. Scott indicated that he can possibly give a brief assessment and a full report at a later time.

Dr. McNamara complimented the Dracut Department of Public works for their work on the roads due to the inclement weather. Dr. McNamara complimented Mr. Buxton and his staff.

Dr. McNamara recognized Maria Hadley for her recent essay contest regarding her being a food pantry volunteer. She received an honorable mention for an essay she submitted which spoke of her experience with volunteering in a food kitchen in Lawrence.

Dr. McNamara also recognized Alex Corcoran for meeting his goal on the blanket drive he held through the Lakeview Junior High School Junior National Honor Society.

Mr. Sheehan requested that both students be asked to attend a February meeting.

Mr. Miles wanted to recognize the Campbell School for the coat drive they recently held and for meeting their goals.

Mr. Miles also indicated that he received a positive call from a parent of a special education student and was pleased with the quick response from the Superintendent.

Mrs. Elie also wanted to thank the Department of Public works for their work on clearing the streets and the sidewalks.

Dr. Scott recognized Mr. Andrew Graham, Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds for the work of the maintenance and custodial staff in getting the school cleared of snow.

ADJOURNMENT:

4. Motion by Mr. Miles, seconded by Mrs. Elie to adjourn the regular session meeting of the Dracut School Committee.

Roll Call Vote:

Mrs. Elie	Yes
Dr. McNamara	Yes
Mr. Mercier	Yes
Mr. Miles	Yes
Mr. Sheehan	Yes

The regular session meeting of the Dracut School Committee meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cynthia Curtis
Recording Secretary

List of documents and exhibits:

1. School Committee agenda packet