



**DRACUT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
Minutes**

DATE: June 27, 2011

LOCATION: Harmony Hall

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mrs. Bonita Elie, Chairperson
Mr. Matthew Sheehan, 1st Chairman
Mr. Michael Miles, 2nd Vice Chairperson
Mr. Ronald Mercier (Mr. Mercier entered the meeting at 6:20 p.m.)
Dr. Michael McNamara

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 Mrs. Elie at Harmony Hall at 6:00 p.m. for the purpose of entering into Executive Session.

Mrs. Elie read into the record the purpose for entering into Executive Session was for an update on negotiations and arbitration that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect.

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

Roll Call Vote:

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

The regular session meeting was recessed at 6:00 p.m.
The regular session meeting was reconvened at 7:00 p.m.

ADDITIONAL SCHOOL PERSONNEL AND OTHERS PRESENT:

Attorney Kevin Murphy

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND MOMENT OF SILENCE:

Chairperson Elie called for the pledge of allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

2. Motion by Mr. Mercier, seconded by Mr. Sheehan to approve the June 13, 2011 regular session meeting minutes.

Vote: Unanimously Approved

3. Motion by Mr. Sheehan, seconded by Mr. Miles to approve the June 13, 2011 budget workshop meeting minutes.

Vote: Unanimously Approved

NEW BUSINESS:

Student Recognition: Claypit Cemetery

Meghan Fawcett was present to receive recognition for her work for the Claypit Cemetery and her primary research project. Mrs. Rebecca Duda, Junior High School Teacher was also present to recognize Ms. Fawcett for her work. Ms. Fawcett received citations from the State Senate and the House of Representatives.

APPROVAL OF BILLS AND PAYROLLS:

Bills and payrolls were signed as follows:

Warrant No. 20110045 signed by Mr. Sheehan, Mrs. Elie, Dr. McNamara and Mr. Miles

Warrant no. 20110046 signed by Mr. Sheehan, Mrs. Elie and Dr. McNamara

COMMUNITY INPUT

No Community Input

SUPERINTENDENT'S INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Introduction of School Principals

Three newly hired principals were introduced to the Committee. Each principal gave a brief background on their work history and education. The three new principals who will begin July 1st are Mr. Richard Manley, Dracut High School Principal; Dr. Robert Fitzgerald, Junior High School Principal; and Ms. Dawn Smith, Brookside Elementary Principal. The Committee welcomed each Principal to the district.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Mr. Mercier indicated that he will review with Dr. McNamara about scheduling a Policy Sub-Committee. A proposed policy was forwarded by the Executive Director of Student Services.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

No items to report

SUPERINTENDENT'S INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Dr. Scott informed the Committee that he had implemented an iPad Pilot program at the Campbell Elementary School this past school year. Dr. Scott read comments from the teachers regarding the program. Dr. Scott will bring a technology proposal to the School Committee at a future meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

Dracut High Renovation Project Update:

Dr. Scott noted that meetings are being held and the project is moving forward. MSBA will be releasing the final agreement. Meeting with architects will continue throughout the process.

Dr. McNamara inquired about any lapse in service in the library during the construction phase. Dr. Scott indicated that the modulars could be used temporarily as swing space and as the new library is being built there will be a delay in moving the old library to minimize the amount of down time so it will not have an affect with the overlap.

OLD BUSINESS:

Superintendent's Evaluation:

Mr. Sheehan has supplied the Board with an evaluation instrument that was provided by MASC.

4. Motion by Mr. Sheehan, seconded by Mr. Miles to accept the evaluation instrument for the evaluation of the Superintendent.

The evaluation instrument will be provided to the Committee in electronic form allowing for more space for commentary. Dr. McNamara inquired about adding a narrative summary page. Dr. Scott had no objection.

Mrs. Elie and Mr. Sheehan are on the Superintendent's Evaluation Committee. Both Mrs. Elie and Mr. Sheehan will meet with the Superintendent once the evaluations are completed. The evaluation review will be held at an open meeting.

Vote: Unanimously Approved

NEW BUSINESS:

Contract Signing:

5. Motion by Mr. Miles, seconded by Mr. Mercier to allow the Chairperson to sign the agreement with the Office Personnel Association on behalf of the Committee.

Roll Call Vote:

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

6. Motion by Mr. Sheehan, seconded by Mr. Mercier to allow the Chairperson to sign the agreement with the Maintenance Association on behalf of the Committee.

Roll Call Vote:

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

7. Motion by Mr. Mercier, seconded by Mr. Sheehan to allow the Chairperson to sign the agreement with the Custodian Association on behalf of the Committee.

Mr. Mercier wanted it noted that these three associations have received zero percent for the last two years. The agreements being signed are housekeeping items. Each group will be receiving \$400 not added to their base pay which is a minimal increase.

Roll Call Vote:

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

8. Motion by Mr. Miles, seconded by Mr. Sheehan to allow the Chairperson to sign the agreement with the Paraprofessional Association on behalf of the Committee.

Mr. Mercier indicated for clarification he will abstain from voting as his mother is a Paraprofessional.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Vote: 4 yes, 1 abstention

School Physician Contract Signing:

9. Motion by Mr. Miles, seconded by Mr. Sheehan to allow the Chairperson to sign the School Physician Contract on behalf of the Committee.

The contract is a three year agreement with an increase of \$500.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Special Education Transportation:

10. Motion by Mr. Sheehan, seconded by Mr. Miles to approve the Special Education Transportation Services Bids for Individual Special Education Students as presented.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Suspension of By-Laws:

11. Motion by Mr. Sheehan, seconded by Mr. Mercier to suspend the by-laws of the School Committee in order to set up a summer meeting schedule.

Roll Call Vote:

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

12. Motion by Mr. Sheehan, seconded by Mr. Mercier to cancel the July meetings and August 22nd meeting with the understanding that if a meeting is needed the Chairperson could call a meeting.

August 8th will be the next regularly scheduled meeting. Mr. Mercier asked that if bills and payrolls need to be signed that all School Committee members receive notification.

The Superintendent's evaluation will be on the agenda for the August 8th meeting.

Vote: Unanimously Approved

Mr. Miles left the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Merrimack Education Center Discussion:

Dr. Scott began to give an overview of the relationship with Merrimack Education Center and Merrimack Special Education Collaborative. Attorney Murphy indicated that this recent issue is still under investigation and the Committee and Superintendent should reserve comments. Once a final report is complete then recommendations will be made by the district.

Other:

Mr. Sheehan requested that a new Table of Organization be formulated and presented to the Committee. Dr. Scott indicated that this will be accomplished in addition to a Five Year Strategic Plan and an Annual Report. Dr. Scott indicated that any new positions will be presented to the Board before placement on the Table of Organization.

Mr. Mercier inquired about the recent leadership retreat held at Endicott College. Mr. Mercier asked that we connect with UMASS Lowell to obtain a closer location.

Dr. McNamara inquired about the status of the MASBO reports for transportation and business. The final reports will be forwarded to the Committee and will be placed on the following meeting for discussion.

Dr. McNamara had previously requested a list of the bus drivers from North Reading who are residents of Dracut. Dr. McNamara wanted it noted that he was pleased with the quick response to this request and appreciative to North Reading with the majority of the drivers from Dracut.

ADJOURNMENT:

13. Motion by Mr. Sheehan, seconded by Mr. Miles to adjourn the regular session meeting of the Dracut School Committee.

Roll Call Vote:

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

The regular session meeting of the Dracut School Committee meeting was adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cynthia Curtis
Recording Secretary

List of documents and exhibits:

1. School Committee agenda packet