



## DRACUT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING Minutes

**DATE:** May 23, 2011

**LOCATION:** Harmony Hall

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:**

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

**SCHOOL PERSONNEL AND OTHERS PRESENT:**

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

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The Regular Session Meeting of the School Committee was called to order by Chairperson Bonita Elie at Harmony Hall at 6:03 p.m. for the purpose of entering into Executive Session.

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

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

**Roll Call Vote:**

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

The regular session meeting was recessed at 6:03 p.m.  
The regular session meeting was reconvened at 7:04 p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND MOMENT OF SILENCE:**

Chairperson Elie called for the pledge of allegiance and a moment of silence for Marie Morris, mother of Attorney Edward Morris.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

***Bid Approval: School Lunch Program***

Michael Maguire, Food Service Director, was present to address the Committee regarding the bid proposals for the 2011-2012 school year. Mr. Maguire explained that most of the increases are due to an increase in fuel costs.

2. Motion by Mr. Sheehan, seconded by Mr. Miles to accept the foodservice bids as presented and recommended by Mr. Maguire.

**Roll Call Vote:**

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

**SUPERINTENDENT'S INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

***Healthy Hunger Free Kids***

Mr. Maguire updated the Committee on the new Healthy Hunger Free Kids Act bill. This new bill will improve nutritional standards, improve optional choices, and strengthen finances. This will also allow the food service department to operate all food programs within their district. Mr. Maguire explained that there will be gradual increases to the school lunches and the increase to the lunch program will be taken out of the hands of school committees. Mr. Maguire will be attending more meetings with State and information from these meetings will be made available to all school principals.

Discussion was held regarding the free and reduced lunch program. Information regarding students eligible for this program is strictly confidential and the privacy of students is respected. The free and reduced lunch program is at 20% while ten years ago it was at 7.8%. The students on this program at the high school and junior high can also purchase alternate lunches as well as the salad bar.

Mr. Maguire will continue to monitor the program to ensure compliance. Mr. Maguire is recommending an increase in the school lunches with a three year phase-in at the elementary schools to \$2.10 in September 2011; \$2.20 in September 2012 and \$2.30 in September 2013. The Parker Avenue will be capped at \$2.25. At the secondary level a recommendation of a two year phase-in at \$2.35 in September 2011 and \$2.50 in September 2012.

Mr. Maguire will meet with people that run the snack shack and with the Athletic Director regarding snacks that can and cannot be sold during sporting events.

Mr. Maguire will continue to update the Committee regarding this new law as more information is released.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

3. Motion by Mr. Miles, seconded by Mr. Sheehan to accept the April 11, 2011 Finance Committee Meeting minutes.

**Vote: Unanimously Approved**

4. Motion by Mr. Sheehan, seconded by Mr. Miles to approve the May 3, 2011 Reorganization Meeting minutes.

**Vote: Unanimously Approved**

5. Motion by Mr. Miles, seconded by Mr. Sheehan to approve the May 9, 2011 School Committee Meeting minutes.

**Vote: Unanimously Approved**

6. Motion by Mr. Sheehan, seconded by Mr. Miles to approve the May 9, 2011 Executive Session Meeting minutes.

**Vote: Unanimously Approved**

Mrs. Elie noted that no items are to be released at this time.

**APPROVAL OF BILLS AND PAYROLLS:**

Bills and Payrolls were signed as follows:

Warrant 20110037 by Mr. Mercier, Mr. Miles, and Dr. McNamara

Warrant 20110038 by Mr. Sheehan, Mr. Mercier, and Mr. Miles

**PRESENTATION OF SENIOR HIGH STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE**

No presentation.

**COMMUNITY INPUT:**

No community input

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

***Ratification of School Committee By-Laws:***

School Committee By-Laws were presented for ratification.

7. Motion by Mr. Sheehan, seconded by Dr. McNamara to accept the school committee by-laws as presented with no changes.

**Roll Call Vote:**

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

***Appointment of Sub-Committee Groups:***

Chairperson Elie read the appointments of the sub-committee groups.

Finance Sub-Committee: Mr. Sheehan and Dr. McNamara

Selectmen Collaborative: Mr. Sheehan and Mr. Mercier

Permanent Building: Dr. McNamara and Mrs. Elie

Capital Planning: Mr. Miles and Dr. McNamara

Policy Review: Mr. Mercier and Dr. McNamara

Ad-Hoc Special Education: Mr. Mercier and Mr. Miles

Superintendent Evaluation: Mrs. Elie and Mr. Sheehan  
Health and Safety: Mr. Miles and Mrs. Elie

***Finance sub-Committee Update:***

Mr. Sheehan gave an update on the Finance Sub-Committee meeting that was held on May 17<sup>th</sup>. The sub-committee received an update on the revolving accounts and it was noted that there is a decrease in the transportation deficit. The draft results of the two audit reports from MASBO will be presented at the next school committee meeting.

**COMMUNITY CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

May 24<sup>th</sup> Strings Concert and Foster Grandparent Luncheon  
May 26<sup>th</sup> Pre-Prom and Prom  
May 27<sup>th</sup> Memorial Day Programs  
May 30<sup>th</sup> Memorial Day Parade  
June 1<sup>st</sup> Pride Night  
June 2<sup>nd</sup> Junior High Spring Concert  
June 3<sup>rd</sup> High School Graduation  
June 6<sup>th</sup> School Committee Meeting and Town Meeting  
June 6<sup>th</sup> Junior High Junior National Honor Society  
June 7<sup>th</sup> Campbell School and Brookside PTO  
June 8<sup>th</sup> Spring Sports Awards  
June 12<sup>th</sup> Brookside Beach Party  
July 18<sup>th</sup> Junior High PTO Golf Tournament

**SUPERINTENDENT'S INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

Dr. Scott noted the attendance profile in the agenda. Dr. Scott noted that the interview process has started for the position of Brookside Principal. The process for the high school principal position will be within the next few weeks. Two music positions are being filled to replace Mr. Leon Grande and Mrs. Andrea Grande.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

***Dracut High Renovation Project Update:***

Dr. Scott noted that a productive meeting was held with town officials and engineers. A meeting with the department heads and architects will also be scheduled. Dr. McNamara indicated that he spoke with Mr. Wilkie and asked that his group be kept informed of the high school process. Mr. Miles noted that he had already requested that this be accomplished at the previous school committee meeting. Dr. Scott noted that he has remained in contact with Mr. Wilkie.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

***Lumber Bid:***

8. Motion by Mr. Mercier, seconded by Mr. Sheehan to accept the Lumber Bid as presented and recommended.

Mr. Rose noted that there is no significant change from the previous school year. Merrimack Education Center is used to help keep the costs down.

**Roll Call Vote:**

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

Dr. McNamara requested that all bid items be brought before the school committee. Mr. Rose indicated that the school supply bids will be presented at a meeting in June.

***MASC Delegate Appointment:***

9. Motion by Mr. Sheehan, seconded by Mr. Miles to appoint Mrs. Elie as the MASC Delegate.

Mrs. Elie expressed concern regarding the financial aspect of this conference. Dr. Scott noted that he will be able to find funds to accommodate the attendance of school committee at the conference. Mr. Miles indicated that he would volunteer to be the alternate and would pay his own way for the conference. Dr. Scott noted that this conference is very effective and valuable for the Superintendent and School Committee.

**Vote: Unanimously Approved**

10. Motion Mrs. Elie, seconded by Mr. Sheehan to appoint Mr. Miles as the alternate delegate for MASC.

**Vote: Unanimously Approved**

***Old Home Day Discussion:***

Mr. Sheehan requested that this be on the agenda for discussion to allow the Old Home Day committee to have access to the entire school complex and that no other groups be allowed permits during this event. Dr. Scott had sent a letter to the Old Home Day Committee that their request will be approved.

Dr. McNamara inquired about students doing community service during this event. Discussion was held regarding purchasing t-shirts or arm bands for the students for identification.

***Other:***

Mr. Sheehan requested that the CPA tax discussion be placed on the June 6<sup>th</sup> meeting agenda. Discussion was held and this topic will be referred to the attorney.

Dr. McNamara requested a list of the bus drivers from North Reading who are residents of Dracut and a comparison from this school year to the school year at which we started with North Reading.

Mr. Miles asked for a personal point of privilege and congratulated Mrs. Elie for being appointed as Chairperson of the School Committee.

Mr. Elie asked for a personal point of privilege and thanked everyone for the cards and flowers with the passing of her father.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

10. 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
Mr. Miles	Yes
Dr. McNamara	Yes
Mr. Sheehan	Yes
Mrs. Elie	Yes

The regular session meeting of the Dracut School Committee meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cynthia Curtis  
Recording Secretary

**List of documents and exhibits:**

1. School Committee agenda packet