



DRACUT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING Minutes

DATE: November 22, 2010

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 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 discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the Committee.

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

Roll Call Vote:

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

The regular session meeting was recessed at 6:00 p.m.
The regular session meeting was reconvened at 7:05 p.m.

ADDITIONAL SCHOOL PERSONNEL AND OTHERS PRESENT:

Attorney Kevin Murphy

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND MOMENT OF SILENCE:

Chairman Sheehan called for the pledge of allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

2. Motion by Mr. Mercier, seconded by Dr. McNamara approve the regular session minutes of November 8, 2010.

Vote: Unanimously approved

3. Motion by Mr. Mercier, seconded by Mr. Miles to approve the executive session minutes of November 8, 2010.

Vote: Unanimously approved

Chairman Sheehan asked legal counsel if any items could be released. Attorney Murphy stated that no items are to be released at this time.

APPROVAL OF BILLS AND PAYROLLS:

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

PRESENTATION OF SENIOR HIGH STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

No presentation.

COMMUNITY INPUT:

Diane Machado, 66 Jacob Street wanted to introduce students who recently held a benefit concert called “*Katy is a Rockstar*” which was held for a young girl in need of a heart transplant. The students were able to raise over \$1,200 for this cause. Present at the meeting were Zachary Machado, Brian Nguon, Dalton McGinness, Shane Fulford, Maggie Regan, Courtney Fitzgerald, Neil Morrissey and Justin Literall. Also recognized but not at the meeting is Emily Desmond. The Committee thanked the group and recognized them for their efforts. A letter will be forwarded to each student for their initiative for this community service. Dr. Scott attended the concert and also thanked the students.

Chairman Sheehan reviewed the policy for Community Input. Speakers will be asked to limit their comments to 5-10 minutes, the Committee will hear but not discuss or act on an item, and speakers are asked to conduct themselves in an orderly manner.

Michael Carleton, 31 Sparks Street addressed the Committee with a concern that he had regarding an incident that involved his daughter at the Lakeview Junior High School. Mr. Carleton briefed the Committee explaining what he believes is harassment and bullying issues that have been ongoing. Mr. Carleton has a meeting scheduled with Dr. Scott. Attorney Murphy suggested that the Superintendent, himself and the school Principal meet to review this issue.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Suspension of by-laws:

4. Motion by Mr. Mercier, seconded by Mrs. Elie to suspend the School Committee By-Laws in order to cancel the December 27th School Committee Meeting.

Roll Call Vote:

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

- 5. Motion by Mr. Mercier, seconded by Mr. Miles to cancel the December 27th School Committee Meeting due to the holiday break.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Finance Sub-Committee Update:

Dr. McNamara updated the Committee regarding the November 18th Finance Sub-Committee Meeting. The transportation deficit was reviewed by the sub-committee. A recommendation was made to have MASBO conduct an audit on transportation and the possibility of additional audits in other areas.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

November 24th ½ day of school
 November 25th and 27th no school
 December 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th Dracut High Dramatic Show
 December 8th ½ day of school for professional development
 December 9th Englesby winter concert
 December 12th Campbell School PTO Breakfast with Santa
 December 13th School Committee Meeting and Executive Session

SUPERINTENDENT’S INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

Dr. Scott noted the attendance report in the agenda.

Dr. Scott introduced the Interim Executive Director of Special Education, Mr. Edward Orenstein. Mr. Orenstein addressed the Committee to give a brief background on the search for the Executive Director of Student Services. The position has been advertised and a job description has been developed. Twenty-six applications were received and an interview committee has been established. Semi-finalist and finalist interviews will be in December and the Superintendent’s recommendation will be in January for a start date of February. Dr. Scott commended Mr. Orenstein and the Special Education department for their work.

Discussion was held regarding the Interim position and if the Interim Executive Director of Special Education was presently working fulltime. Mr. Orenstein and Dr. Scott indicated fulltime coverage is being provided.

Mr. Miles asked Mr. Orenstein how he sees the Special Education Department. Mr. Orenstein commented on the strengths of the department and the hard work of the staff. There are some areas of improvement that will be discussed with the Superintendent.

A Special Education PAC meeting has been scheduled for November 30th. Notification will be sent out via connect-ed, through the PTO, notice at the schools, the Dracut High marquee, and on the school website.

Request for new positions:

Dr. Scott addressed the Committee with a request for new positions. Dr. Scott is requesting stipend positions for the addition of two IEP Team Chairs with additional responsibilities. In addition, there is a request for additional Paraprofessionals at the high school. Dr. Scott is also requesting an increase of the supervisor positions from 7-12 to K-12 and the department chairs from 9-12 to 7-12 with funding from the Race to the Top grant. Another position request is that of a Math Curriculum Coach for K-6 with funding from the Race to the Top grant.

Dr. Scott requested a motion for approval of the recommended positions.

Mr. Mercier asked Attorney Murphy if by changing the name of the Executive Director of Special Education to Executive Director of Student Services would take away from the School Committee appointment of this position. Attorney Murphy indicated that with the title change this position would still need to come before the School Committee for appointment.

The Committee requested that they would have liked to see these requests in advance. The Committee is getting this detailed proposal for the first time even though discussion on some of the positions may have come up at previous meetings. It was understood that there is a requirement to fill the Special Education Paraprofessional positions that are mandated. Discussion was held regarding placement of these positions in the Dracut Teacher's contract and the increase to the salary, as per contract, and the budget impact.

Dr. Scott stated that the Race to the Top grant is a \$210,000 four year grant and the Stabilization Grant is \$95,000.

Chairman Sheehan asked that these requests be tabled until the December 13th meeting and be placed under Old Business as approval of recommendations.

OLD BUSINESS

The MASC 2010 Resolutions report was available to the Committee for review.

NEW BUSINESS:

Campbell School:

Mr. Sheehan thanked Principal Koniowka, Jane Labrie and Cherie Hutchinson who organized a drive for the military during the week of Veteran's Day. Collected items were personal care items, stationary, puzzle books, movies, and snacks in addition to thank you cards that the students wrote and sent to troops.

Mr. Sheehan noted that Mrs. Rebecca Duda and members of the Junior National Honor Society will perform a community service project by wringing a bell for the Salvation Army at Market Basket on Bridge Street on December 4th.

In addition, Junior High Student Alex Corcoran is holding a blanket drive. Donations can be brought to the junior high and information can be obtained from Mrs. Duda at the junior high.

Chairman Sheehan asked that the Dracut High School addition/renovation project be placed on Old Business on the agenda until the completion of the project.

Mr. Sheehan announced that the Dracut Food Pantry is seeking donations for non perishable items. Items could be dropped off at the central fire station or the food pantry. Monetary donations are also accepted. More information can be obtained by calling 978-957-8600.

Mr. Mercier thanked the Greenmont Avenue for inviting the Committee to read at their school.

ADJOURNMENT:

6. Motion by Mr. Mercier, seconded by Mr. Miles 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 7:58 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cynthia Curtis
Recording Secretary

List of documents and exhibits:

1. School Committee agenda packet