

DRACUT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Harmony Hall

November 9, 2009

PRESENT: Mr. Matthew Sheehan, Chairperson, Mr. Michael Miles, Dr. Michael McNamara, Ms. Bonnie Elie, Mr. Ron Mercier, Dr. Spencer Mullin, Superintendent of Schools, Attorney Kevin Murphy, Ms. Lynne LaFerriere, Recording Secretary

CALL TO ORDER:

The Regular Session of the School Committee was called to order by Mr. Sheehan at Harmony Hall at 7:00 p.m.

REGULAR SESSION:

I. Moment of Silence and Pledge of Allegiance:

Mr. Sheehan called for the pledge of allegiance, and a moment of silence.

II. Approval of Minutes:

1. Motion by Ms. Elie, seconded by Dr. McNamara to approve the October 26, 2009 regular session minutes.

Vote: Unanimously approved

2. Motion by Ms. Elie, seconded by Mr. Miles to approve the October 26, 2009 executive session minutes.

Vote: Unanimously approved

3. Motion by Ms. Elie, seconded by Dr. McNamara to approve the November 2, 2009 regular session minutes.

Vote: Unanimously approved

4. Motion by Mr. Mercier, seconded by Mr. Miles to release past executive session minutes of 2/9, 2/23, 3/23, 4/13, 5/11, 6/8, 6/22, 8/24, 10/26.

Vote: Unanimously approved

III. Approval of Bills and Payrolls:

Mr. Rose reported the bills and payrolls were approved by Mr. Mercier and Mr. Miles.

IV. Community Input:

Linda Trouville, 866 Methuen Street, Dracut, MA – would like to step up to the plate to be the interim superintendent.

Cynthia Pelletier, 41 Psoinos Avenue, Dracut, MA – requested update on .4 kindergarten teacher for Greenmont. Mr. Hill, Principal of Greenmont School presented the plan for to hire a .4 kindergarten teach and a .4 paraprofessional to split the students in half with a timeline of November 30th for the official switch. Discussions took place regarding organizing busing and class sizes for a.m. and p.m. kindergarten classes.

V. Committee Reports:

Dr. McNamara gave an update on the permanent building committee, they meet each Wednesday afternoon with RF Walsh. Last Friday did a walk through of DHS. Major part – department heads and

other school leaders pointed out some deficiencies. He then read a report from MSBA with provided a timeline for the project.

VI. Community Calendar of Events:

Mr. Sheehan read the community calendar of events.

VII. Superintendent's Informational Items:

Dr. Mullin asked Mrs. Rogers to come up and report on the safety action item. On October 26th there was a school safety summit and she went with Mr. Vogel and three teachers. She talked about a SEAL program and 7 step program that was introduced to faculty and staff.

December 2nd at 7:00 pm a meeting has been set in the DHS library for the sub-committee to look at closing the Parker School.

Dr. Trouville gave a summary on the growth model and MCAS results. Dr. McNamara asked if parents are receiving the growth model for this year or next. Dr. Trouville reported next year they will receive it.

Capital Planning Submission:

Received a letter from Mr. Quealy the submission is on pages 3 and 4 of packet. Mr. Graham presented the projects for this year and last year, most important is DHS and feasibility study.

5. Motion by Mr. Mercier, seconded by Mr. Miles to approve the five year capital projects.

Vote: Unanimously approved

Legislative Letter for School Committee Consideration:

Mr. Stone explained a letter in packet regarding bills – accepting or rejecting. Mr. Miles thanked him for his efforts.

6. Motion by Dr. McNamara, seconded by Ms. Elie to approve the legislative letter for school committee consideration.

Roll Call Vote: Dr. McNamara – yes, Ms. Elie – yes, Mr. Mercier – yes, Mr. Miles-yes, Mr. Sheehan – yes

Appointment of Englesby Intermediate Principal:

Dr. Mullin introduce Ms. Jackie Perrin as the new principal for Englesby Intermediate school.

VIII. Old Business:

Dr. McNamara revisited the MASC Resolutions – 1 item, school funding for resolution number 1. Did vote not to support, since then in general received e-mails from superintendents around the state – may amend to remove piece. Asked committee to use judgment in collaboration to remove casino gambling. Committee agreed if it was removed it would be ok.

7. Motion by Ms. Elie, seconded by Mr. Mercier to approve Dr. McNamara to use judgment and remove wording from resolution number 1.

Vote: Unanimously approved

Budget Update:

Mr. Rose handed three documents to the committee:

1. breakdown of accounts
2. revolving accounts
3. grants

He described the stimulus grant and hoping to receive approval on \$1,650,418.

Mr. Miles thanked Mr. Stone for the handouts and asked as a result of town meeting it answered where money came from. Year almost over. Has administration looked at next years budget?

Mr. Stone – the money is budgeted in each account.

Dr. McNamara asked about salaries and \$587,127 asked if we can get a list of positions supported with funds. Feels positions would be at risk if stimulus funds dry up.

Ms. Elie - \$250K from special education, are we expecting a reduction in special education?

Mr. Rose –no

Dr. McNamara – this Thursday the finance sub-committee meeting will meet at 11:00 to discuss.

IX. New Business:

Wednesday – Veteran’s Day event at 8:00 A.M. at Dracut Veteran’s Monument on Broadway, support veterans.

8. Motion by Ms. Elie, seconded by Mr. Miles to direct the superintendent to meet with attorneys to incorporate a full time athletic director.

Under discussion: Ms. Elie would like current A.D. to be made full time A.D. and administrator.

Mr. Miles – biggest position in any school and have great success under Mr. Woods.

Discussion took place regarding the position and the understanding it would have to be posted and it is not a good time to be creating an administrative position.

Ms. Elie explained a memo. she received for Dracut School Committee. The rest of the committee did not get a copy and requested a copy. Committee did not agree with taking a teacher out of the classroom to create an administrative position.

Mr. Sheehan asked the attorney to make a recommendation to the board.

Attorney Murphy replied reorganization is up the school committee and could further amend motion.

Dr. McNamara asked to amend the motion to include any and all school committee members and in a public session.

9. Motion by Ms. Elie, seconded by Mr. Miles to direct the superintendent to meet with attorneys to incorporate a full time athletic director and include any and all school committee members and in a public session.

Vote: Unanimous

Mr. Miles referred to the article asked Dr. Mullin if he plans on staying 120 days.

Dr. Mullin – yes, but you can speak with his attorney

10. Motion by Mr. Miles, seconded by Ms. Elie to authorize our attorney to speak with Dr. Mullin’s attorney to stay 60 days.

Dr. McNamara under discussion – planning on fulfilling obligation for 120 days, could not support the motion.

Mr. Mercier – have superintendent under contract – cost effective to keep him here for 120 days. Enough time to do proves and bring in interim person.

Mr. Miles just put it out there not to get ride of, maybe he would want to opt. out, announcement was so abrupt.

Vote: Dr. McNamara – no, Ms. Elie – no, Mr. Mercier – no, Mr. Miles – yes, Mr. Sheehan – yes

Mr. Sheehan requested we rent musical equipment from a business in town not in Newton.

Dr. McNamara – process for short term and long term replacement of Dr. Mullin.

Mr. Sheehan is in contact with NE School of Development Council and MASC – NE School of Development is \$16,565 and MASC is \$19,000, waiting on third company. Will have at next meeting. Dr. McNamara – should be looking at professional guidance, list of short term superintendent replacements, long term should look at professional consulting group, suggest look at school choice funds, not operational budget.

Mr. Sheehan understands, can't see spending \$20K, we can do this. Personal opinion, as board will make a decision.

Mr. Mercier – do we plan to have motion at next meeting to set up screening committee?

Mr. Sheehan – if we get the information by the end of the week, get it to board to go with professional committee or screening committee in town.

11. Motion to ask chair to set-up sub-committee specifically reviewing interview process, screening process used at last appointed position.

Ms. Elie under discussion – screening committee put in a lot effort, if input ignored, will find it difficult if ignored.

Mr. Mercier – people apply and put work into it, getting into micromanagement, will support for now but not micromanaging.

Mr. Miles – not support – elected officials would like Dr. Mullin's assessment of the process for hiring Ms. Perrin.

Vote: 4 – yes, Mr. Miles - no

XI. Adjournment:

12. Motion by Mr. Mercier, seconded by Ms. Elie to adjourn the Regular Session Meeting.

Roll Call Vote: Dr. McNamara – yes, Ms. Elie – yes, Mr. Mercier – yes, Mr. Miles – yes, Mr. Sheehan – yes

Mr. Sheehan adjourned the Regular Session at 9:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynne LaFerriere, Recording Secretary