

Approved January 11, 2010

**DRACUT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**Harmony Hall**  
**December 21, 2009**

**PRESENT:** Mr. Matthew Sheehan, Chairperson, Mr. Michael Miles, Dr. Michael McNamara, Ms. Bonnie Elie, Mr. Ron Mercier, Mr. Tom Rose, Attorney Ed Morris, 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 6:00 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 Bills:**

The bills will be signed after the meeting.

**III. Community Input:**

Nobody signed up

**IV. Community Reports:**

Mr. Mercier had met with three teachers regarding review of the search committee policy. The teachers came with concerns. Mr. Mercier and Dr. McNamara sat down to revamp the policy and make sure it is followed. The Out-of-State Field Trip request was also reviewed but will meet again to discuss.

**V. Community Calendar:**

Mr. Sheehan reviewed the community calendar.

**VI. Superintendent's Informational Items:**

None to report

**VII. Old Business:**

Interim Superintendent Discussion:

All school committee members had received resumes for review. The list of 11 candidates was handed out – Betsey Cox-Buteau, Elaine Espindle, Sue Ellen Hogan, Donald Johnson, Robert Koenig, Edward Malvey, Joseph Mastrocola, Thomas McDonald, Maxine Minkoff, Albert St. Cyr, Steven Stone. Two other names were submitted but didn't want made public. Each member reduced the list to 3-4 candidates, but did not give names.

1. Motion by Mr. Miles, seconded by Ms. Elie to hire Mrs. Elaine Espindle as the interim superintendent for Dracut Public Schools.

Mr. Mercier did not want to support the motion due to spending close to \$5,000 on advertising and feels there are good candidates to interview. Dr. McNamara would like the process to be followed as

well. Mr. Miles feels we are in crisis mode and need somebody immediately. Discussions took place regarding the start date of the interim superintendent to be March 3, 2010.

2. Motion by Mr. Mercier, seconded by Dr. McNamara to vote on three candidates to bring in for interviews after the holidays.

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

The committee discussed the motion to enter into negotiations with a particular candidate rather than to hire a particular candidate.

3. Motion by Mr. Mercier, seconded by Dr. McNamara to have all negotiations done in open session.

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

#### Superintendent Search Discussion:

Mr. Sheehan passed the gavel to Mr. Miles

4. Motion by Mr. Sheehan, seconded by Ms. Elie to retain services from MASC in order to find a permanent superintendent.

Discussions took place regarding the services to be provided along with the cost of the services and where the funds will come from.

5. Friendly amendment by Mr. Mercier to pay fees out of school choice funds.

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

Mr. Miles passed the gavel back to Mr. Sheehan

#### **VIII. New Business:**

##### Snow removal after storms:

The committee discussed the students that walk to school with snow on the sidewalks after storms. Mr. Mercier spoke with the town manager to discuss the best way to have it removed and also asked Mr. Rose if he could look into the bus company contract to have the buses pick up the walkers. Mr. Rose agreed to look into negotiating the contract with North Reading Transportation. Negotiations will have to be as a committee.

Mr. Mercier asked Attorney Morris if he had spoken with Attorney Murphy regarding the superintendent leaving early as motioned in the last meeting. He had not yet.

Dr. McNamara requested thank you letters to be sent by Mr. Sheehan to all the applicants.

The committee discussed Dr. Mullin not being at the meeting and asked Mr. Sheehan to contact Attorney Murphy to speak with Dr. Mullin regarding his contract and being at meetings.

The committee asked Mr. Sheehan to contact Dr. Mullin and have him send all members his weekly schedule.

#### **XI. Adjournment:**

6. 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 7:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynne LaFerriere, Recording Secretary