

DRACUT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Harmony Hall

March 8, 2010

PRESENT: Mr. Matthew Sheehan, Chairperson, Mr. Michael Miles, Dr. Michael McNamara, Ms. Bonnie Elie, Mr. Ron Mercier, Mrs. Elaine Espindle, Interim 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 6:08 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 Mr. Mercier, seconded by Ms. Elie to approve the February 22, 2010 regular session minutes.

Vote: Unanimously approved

III. Approval of Bills:

The bills were being signed by Mr. Sheehan and Mr. Miles at the end of the meeting.

IV. Presentation of Senior High Student Representative, *Jasmine Abreu*:

Ms. Jasmine Abreu gave a presentation of current events occurring at the Senior High School.

V. Community Input:

Nobody signed up

VI. Committee Reports:

None to report

VII. Community Calendar of Events:

Mr. Sheehan reviewed the community calendar.

Taken out of order:

VIII. Old Business:

Superintendent Search Update – MASC:

Mr. Gilbert gave an update on the selection of the next superintendent. Received close to 300 surveys and went over percentages, top issues, surveys and results. He also gave his recommendations along with background data and comments. March 17th the ad will be placed.

2. Motion by Ms. Elie, seconded by Mr. Miles to approve recommended criteria brought by MASC.

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

VIII. Superintendent's Informational Items:

School committee welcomed Mrs. Espindle back and thanked her for stepping in. After only 3 days in position Mrs. Espindle reported the following:

- MCAS – ELA and Reading week of 3/21 – 3/31 – schedule posted on website
- May – Math testing
- March 9th – principals' meeting
- Had 2 meetings with staff and administration – visited some schools
- Drop out rate at 2.4%, below the state average of 2.9%
- Shoes being collected at schools for Haiti
- Dracut High School acceptances to colleges
- DECA competition – 4 students did very well
- Mock Trial has a 2 and 1 record
- Congratulated all teams and DI had a competition on Saturday, March 6th
- Athletics – Matt Dehney – New England wrestling champ – 4th high school wrestler to claim title
- Boys basketball – MVC Division 2, not been done since 1955
- Mike Paquette – MVC Division 2 boys basketball coach of the year
- Girls basketball – MVC Division 2
- LJHS History Club – National History Club Journal
- Representative from fire department will speak on safety from 3/29 – 3/31
- Professional development on Wednesday, March 10 for NEASC at DHS, LJHS – formative assessment, Special Education – nurses – diabetes update workshop
- Been working on budget the last 3 days

IX. New Business:

Final Vote on the 2010-2011 School Budget:

\$28,610,389 – per town charter

3. Motion by Mr. Miles, seconded by Mr. Mercier to approve the 2010-2011 school budget.

Mr. Mercier left the table.

4. Motion by Mr. Miles, seconded by Dr. McNamara to remove line 233028-04-01-3201.

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

Mr. Mercier returned to the table

5. Motion by Mr. Mercier, seconded by Ms. Elie to approve the budget in total.

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

Mr. Mercier asked if Mrs. Espindle had reviewed the budget and was acceptable and any recommendations.

Mr. Miles asked Mrs. Espindle if \$1.6M for stimulus was the total amount. Mrs. Espindle reported that this is a first draft and we needed to be flexible because of state receipts and with the Greater Lowell High School percentage increase. The level funding is looking dim and we are hoping to receive the coordinated figures by March 18th.

Dr. McNamara asked Attorney Murphy if the vote on 3/18 is a joint vote on local aid and Chapter 70 money.

Mrs. Espindle went over enrollments and will continue to watch enrollments.

6. Motion by Ms. Elie, seconded by Dr. McNamara to transfer funds from salaries to contracted services.

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

Vote needed on salary discussions – Dr. Mullin being transferred into line item.

Mr. Sheehan requested the boys and girls basketball coaches and Matt Dehney attend the March 22nd meeting for recognition.

Ms. Elie thanked the kids that read in the Reading Across America celebration. Also saw Willy Wonka Jr. at the LJHS – wonderful

Mr. Mercier asked Mr. Graham for an update on the recent wind storm and if there was any damage.

Mr. Graham reported there was water damage to LJHS roof and flashing and on gym roof – took pictures and sent them to the building committee – still under warranty and keeping an eye on it.

Mr. Sheehan was invited to DHS’ PTO meeting and it was very informative – will send a thank you letter to Mrs. Rouine.

Dr. McNamara had items on the district website – need to look at it and make it more usable and functional.

Attorney Murphy reported the basketball travel team also did very well.

Mr. Mercier has been getting phone calls regarding kindergarten – maybe have superintendent or Dr. Trouville look into have it all day.

Mrs. Espindle – as of today, Dr. Trouville has 253 registered, down from 285, will keep an eye on it.

Mr. Mercier asked if possible fees could offset cost.

Mrs. Espindle – Dracut is the only town that has no payment for full day kindergarten, will do a survey

Mr. Miles – if we can offer the lottery system – would be beneficial.

North Reading Transportation Review:

Mr. Rose, Dr. Trouville and Ms. Marion met on Monday. Looking to cut \$100K in 2011. Mr. McCarthy, President of North Reading Transportation came up and shared ideas to cut back on expenses. Would like to present to superintendent and have her come back to school committee.

There is a meeting scheduled for Friday, March 12th. Would like on March 22nd agenda if time allows.

Recognition of Boston Globe Scholastic Art Award Recipients:

Mr. Grande came up and introduced students in Fine Arts. He presented 2 students for Boston Globe School Art Festival – Nghia Nguyen got 3rd place for a self portrait. Mrs. Espindle presented him with a certificate of recognition. Next was Alicia Galevi, she received the Silver Key for self-portrait on display at the Transportation Building in Boston.

Mr. Sheehan recapped the DSF Telethon – March 16 – March 19 at DHS.

Mr. Mercier reported the Attorneys’ contracts are up on 6/30.

7. Motion by Mr. Mercier, seconded by Mr. Miles to extend the contract for one year at the current rate of \$25,000 a year for Attorney Murphy and Attorney Morris.

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

XI. Adjournment:

8. 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 7:15 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynne LaFerriere, Recording Secretary