

STONEHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS
STONEHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY
APRIL 10, 2008

The regular meeting of the School Committee was held at 7:00 P.M. on Thursday, April 10, 2008 in the High School library with the following members present: M. Christie, S. MacNeill, J. Viselli, M. Grimaldi and D. Maurer. Also present was L. Olson, Superintendent of Schools; A. Patriquin, Assistant Superintendent and Anthony DiCologero, Administrator of School Finance.

Dr. Olson called the open session of the School Committee to order at 7:00 P.M.

The Finance and Advisory Board was also in attendance at the meeting and called their meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

I. Reorganization

Dr. Olson acted as Chairman pro-tem for the purpose of selecting a Chairperson for the 2008-2009 school year.

Dr. Olson accepted nominations from the Committee for the position of Chair.

M. Grimaldi nominated Marie Christie for the position of Chairperson for the 2008-2009 school year. The nomination was seconded by J. Viselli.

Dr. Olson announced nominations for Chairperson closed.

ACTION: The committee voted unanimously to appoint M. Christie as Chairperson.

Dr. Olson passed the gavel to M. Christie.

M. Christie accepted nominations from the Committee for the position of Vice-Chair.

S. MacNeill nominated Joe Viselli for the position of Vice-Chairperson for the 2008-2009 school year. The nomination was seconded by M. Grimaldi.

M. Christie announced nominations for Vice-Chairperson closed.

ACTION: The committee voted unanimously to appoint J. Viselli as Vice-Chairperson.

II. Consent Agenda

A. Action to Approve the Agenda

ACTION: A motion was made by S. MacNeill and seconded by M. Grimaldi to approve the agenda. The motion carried 5-0.

B. Action to Approve the Minutes of:

March 27, 2008 Regular Meeting

ACTION: A motion was made by J. Viselli and seconded by S. MacNeill to approve the minutes of March 27, 2008. The motion was approved 3-0-2, with M. Grimaldi and D. Maurer abstaining.

March 27, 2008 Executive Session

ACTION: A motion was made by S. MacNeill and seconded by J. Viselli to approve the minutes of March 27, 2008 to remain confidential. The motion was approved 3-0-2, with M. Grimaldi and D. Maurer abstaining.

C. Bill Schedule #19

ACTION: A motion was made by M. Grimaldi and seconded by S. MacNeill to approve Bill Schedule #19 in the amount of \$226,979.59. The motion was approved 5-0.

D. Student Representatives to the School Committee/Student Recognitions

There were no Student Representatives in attendance at the meeting.

Athletic Director Dave Pignone recognized the following all scholastic award students: Tim Lee, Football; Alessandra Simeone, Cross-Country; Shaddi Ali, Indoor Track; Taylor See, Gymnastics; and Christina Izzicupo, Indoor Track;

III. New Business

A. Welcome

Chairman Christie congratulated Shelly MacNeill, Marc Grimaldi and David Maurer on their election and welcomed them to the Committee.

At 7:07 P.M. the Committee agreed to take agenda items out of order due to the Public Hearings for School Choice and School Budget being posted for 7:15 P.M.

B. Recommended Policy Changes

Dr. Olson requested approval of an AED Defibrillator Policy. A draft of the policy was included in the packet for review. This policy complies with all Department of Education, Department of Public Health and MGL regulations.

Due to time constraints to put the AED's in place, the Committee recommended waiving the second reading and approving the policy immediately.

ACTION: A motion was made by M. Grimaldi and seconded by S. MacNeill to waive the second reading of the AED policy and approve the policy with minor revisions. The motion was approved 5-0.

Dr. Olson also recommended revising Policy *8-9 Sexual Harassment* and *8-9.1 Non-Discrimination* to effectively deal with the possibilities of student-student or student-stall issues.

A final copy will be ready for review at the May 1, 2008 meeting.

Dr. Olson requested review and clarification of Policy *5-9 Distribution of Communications*. The School Department has historically taken a broad definition of "school related" and allowed for the distribution of "youth related" information from non-profit groups, i.e. Boys & Girls Club, YMCA, etc. If the School Committee prefers to continue to follow the broader definition, Dr. Olson recommended revising the policy.

The Committee preferred the broader use interpretation of the policy, at the discretion of the Superintendent. A second reading will be presented at the May 1, meeting.

At this time, Chairman Christie requested any important notices and all Connect Ed messages also go to each School Committee member.

C. Public Hearing: School Choice

Chairman Christie opened the Public Hearing on School Choice at 7:20 P.M.

Dr. Olson reviewed the Department of Education's Chapter 76 School Choice Education Reform Act of 1993. This law requires every school system in Massachusetts to conduct a public hearing on School Choice before the School Committee can officially take action whether or not to participate in School Choice. The School Committee must notify the Department of Education by June 1st if they decide not to participate in School Choice. Any school system that does not take an action not to participate automatically becomes a School Choice community.

A discussion ensued regarding the benefits and drawbacks of being a School Choice community.

Chairman Christie announced the Public Hearing on School Choice closed at 7:30 P.M.

D. Vote on School Choice

ACTION: A motion was made by M. Grimaldi and seconded by J. Viselli not to become a School Choice community due to budget constraints, insufficient staff and enrollment issues. The motion was approved 5-0.

E. Public Hearing: School Budget

Chairman Christie opened the Public Hearing on School Budget at 7:30 P.M.

Chairman Christie reported that Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 71, Section 38N, requires the School Committee to conduct a Public Hearing on their proposed budget prior to Town Meeting. The budget presented does not need to be the final budget, but only the best estimate at this point in time.

Dr. Olson presented an overview of the proposed Budget for 2008/2009 in the amount of \$24,869,742 which is an increase of \$1,230,580 or 5.2% due to anticipated salary increases, utilities, health insurance and special education expenses. This recommendation is still \$488,000 above the Town Administrator's "no trash fee" budget.

A brief discussion ensued regarding reductions in staff, utility costs, cafeteria receipts, and grant estimates.

Chairman Christie announced the Public Hearing on School Budget closed at 8:00 P.M.

F. Financial Update 2007/2008

A. DiCologero gave an update on the financial status of the FY2008 Budget.

G. FY09 School Budget Approval

ACTION: A motion was made by M. Grimaldi and seconded by D. Maurer to approve the FY09 Proposed School Budget in the amount of \$24,869,742 which includes \$17,434,198 in salaries and \$7,435,544 in expenses. The motion was approved 4-1 with J. Viselli opposed.

III. Old Business

None

IV. Discussion

J. Viselli recommended starting future meetings at 7:00. The Committee unanimously agreed.

V. Superintendent's Report/Announcements & Correspondence

Dr. Olson announced that the Department of Education granted a waiver of one day for the High School due to the fire on March 10. This will tentatively allow the last day of school for the High School to be Friday, June 20, 2008. Graduation will remain on June 6, 2008.

VI. Executive Session

ACTION: A motion was made by M. Grimaldi, seconded by J. Viselli, and voted unanimously by roll call at 8:05 PM to enter Executive Session under MGL Ch. 39, § 23B.

VII. Adjourn

ACTION: A motion was made by D. Maurer and seconded by S. MacNeill to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved 5-0.

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 P.M.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED
LES E. OLSON, SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS