

STONEHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
STONEHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING  
HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY  
APRIL 16, 2009**

The regular meeting of the School Committee was held at 7:00 P.M. on Thursday, April 16, 2009 in the High School library with the following members present: M. Christie, Chairman; J. Viselli, Vice Chairman; S. MacNeill, D. Maurer and S. McCarthy. Also present was L. Olson, Superintendent of Schools; A. Patriquin, Assistant Superintendent; and A. DiCologero, Administrator of School Finance.

Chairman M. Christie called the open session of the School Committee to order at 7:00 P.M. and welcomed new member Shawn McCarthy of 2 Felspa Road.

**I. Consent Agenda**

**A. Action to Approve the Agenda**

J. Viselli requested revising the agenda to include Roof Bid Results and Recommendation under New Business, Item E.

**ACTION:** A motion was made by J. Viselli and seconded by S. MacNeill to approve the agenda as revised. The motion carried 5-0.

**B. Action to Approve the Minutes of:**

March 26, 2009 Regular Meeting

**ACTION:** A motion was made by D. Maurer and seconded by S. MacNeill to approve the minutes of March 26, 2009. The motion was approved 3-0-2 with J. Viselli and S. McCarthy abstaining.

March 26, 2009 Executive Session

**ACTION:** A motion was made by D. Maurer and seconded by S. MacNeill to approve the minutes of March 26, 2009 to remain confidential. The motion was approved 3-0-2 with J. Viselli and S. McCarthy abstaining.

April 1, 2009 Special Meeting

**ACTION:** A motion was made by J. Viselli and seconded by S. MacNeill to approve the minutes of April 1, 2009. The motion was approved 4-0-1 with S. McCarthy abstaining.

April 1, 2009 Executive Session

**ACTION:** A motion was made by J. Viselli and seconded by S. MacNeill to approve the minutes of April 1, 2009 to remain confidential. The motion was approved 4-0-1 with S. McCarthy abstaining.

**C. Bill Schedule #14**

**ACTION:** A motion was made by S. MacNeill and seconded by D. Maurer to approve Bill Schedule #14 in the amount of \$292,778.46. The motion was approved 5-0.

## **D. Student Representatives to the School Committee**

Student Representatives were attending a spring concert at the High School.

## **II. New Business**

### **A. Kindergarten Program**

Due to feedback from many parents, Dr. Olson recommended that the School Committee reconsider their vote at the April 1 meeting to allow for a combined full day/2½ day kindergarten program at Colonial Park.

A discussion ensued regarding the educational benefits of both the 2 ½ day program and the five 1/2-day program. Due to revenue or enrollment issues, the School Committee agreed to revisit the possibility of returning to a five ½ day program and felt that a five ½ day program is more educationally beneficial.

M. Christie passed the gavel to J. Viselli.

**ACTION:** A motion was made by M. Christie and seconded by S. MacNeill to reconsider their vote at the April 1<sup>st</sup> meeting to combine the full day kindergarten program with the 2 ½ day program. The motion was approved 3-1-1 with J. Viselli opposed and S. MacCarthy abstaining.

Chairman Christie opened the floor for discussion.

Colonial Park parents of incoming kindergarten students spoke in favor of reinstated the separate full day and separate 2 ½ day program at Colonial Park due to family impact, neighborhood school, the possibility of children in different schools, and credibility of parents who have prepared their children for entering kindergarten based on the 2 ½ day program. Parents stated that they had discussed it with the full time kindergarten teacher and she felt she could make it work. Parents also requested that the School Committee commit to an evaluated study of the two programs before making any changes for next year.

**ACTION:** A motion was made by D. Maurer and seconded by M. Christie to change the kindergarten program at Colonial Park to a full day kindergarten program and a 2 ½ day program. The motion was approved 3-0-2 with S. MacNeill and J. Viselli abstaining.

D. Maurer excused himself from the meeting at 7:35 P.M.

### **B. Elementary Math Program – Adoption**

Anne Patriquin reported that the Mathematics Curriculum Committee met on March 31, 2009 and recommended the School Committee adopt *Everyday Mathematics* as the new mathematics program for K-5 beginning in September 2009. Reasons for the recommendation are as follows:

- The program reflects the learning standards in the Massachusetts Mathematics Curriculum Framework.
- Students are actively engaged in learning. The instructional approaches are hands-on and student-centered.
- *Everyday Mathematics* is based on research that suggests that children rarely learn new skill or concepts the first time they are exposed to that skill or concept. True understanding comes with repeated experience.

- The program incorporates mathematics into other subject areas. *Everyday Mathematics* is the core curriculum during classroom math time, however, mathematical ideas are incorporated into routines throughout the day and the program encourages children to continue their learning at home.
- The program is adaptable for ALL learners. Teachers reported it challenged top students while providing support to children who struggle with math.
- *Everyday Mathematics* allows students to develop a deep conceptual understanding of math. It develops real-life problem solving skills and enables students to become accountable for their own learning.
- Other distinguishing features of *Everyday Mathematics* are its focus on student communication of mathematical thinking and the appropriate use of technology.

Funding for the new program is as follows:

<b>Funding Source</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Amount</b>
2008-2009 Budget	Purchase of Teacher's Resource Packet so that teachers have these in hand over the summer	\$20,000
Stimulus Funds	Purchase of a full set of manipulatives/classroom enrichment activities	\$55,000
2009-2010 Budget	Purchase of Student Material sets	\$35,000

**ACTION:** A motion was made by S. MacNeill and seconded by J. Viselli to adopt the Everyday Mathematics program for grades K-5. The motion was approved 4-0.

### **C. FY09 Budget Report**

Mr. DiCologero presented a report on the 2008-2009 year-to-date expenditures which projected a \$1,741 year end balance.

### **D. Out of State Field Trip Approval**

Dr. Olson reported that five students from Stoneham High School won first or second place medals at the Massachusetts History Day contest and have earned the honor of representing Massachusetts at the National History Day contest held at the University of Maryland from June 14-18, 2009. Paula Sampson, Program Supervisor of Social Studies, is requesting School Committee approval for this out of state field trip. Ms. Sampson will travel with the students by private coach and will reside in the residence halls at the University of Maryland, College Park. The week will also include educational activities in Washington D.C.

**ACTION:** A motion was made by S. MacNeill and seconded by J. Viselli to approve the out of state field trip to the University of Maryland for the purpose of entering their projects in the National History Day competition. The motion was approved 4-0.

### **E. Roof Bid Results and Awarding of Contract**

Dr. Olson reported that bids for the final phase of the High School roofing project were opened yesterday. Capital funds for this project, totaling \$420,000, were approved at Town Meeting last fall. Fifteen bids were received and ranged from \$303,000 to \$494,000. All insurance and bonding eligibility has been verified by the architect and Dr. Olson recommended the School Committee vote to award the contract to Gibson Roofs, Inc. of Hanover, Massachusetts as the low bidder.

**ACTION:** A motion was made by S. MacNeill and seconded by J. Viselli to award the final phase of the High School roofing project to Gibson Roofs, Inc., who submitted a low bid offer in the amount of \$303,000. The motion was approved 4-0.

### **III. Old Business**

None

### **IV. Discussion**

J. Viselli questioned the mandate from the Department of Public Health that approved BMI reporting to parents – this would replace the previously required height and weigh reporting to parents.

J. Viselli also reported that he received an announcement through Middle School that Melrose will be sponsoring a substance abuse prevention program on April 16, April 30 and May 7. A brief discussion followed regarding family violence programs being offered in Melrose and the Stoneham Police Department looking into offering similar programs.

### **V. Superintendent's Report/Announcements & Correspondence**

Dr. Olson announced that the Chamber of Commerce, together with the School Department will be putting together a *Stoneham Goes Green* day on May 2.

Reminder: Town Meeting – Monday, May 4 at 7:00 P.M.

### **VI. Executive Session**

**ACTION:** A motion was made by S. MacNeill, seconded by J. Viselli, and voted unanimously by roll call at 8:30 to enter Executive Session under MGL Ch. 39, § 23B.

### **VII. Adjourn**

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 P.M.

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED**  
**LES E. OLSON, SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**