

STONEHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS
STONEHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY
AUGUST 27, 2009

The regular meeting of the School Committee was held at 7:00 P.M. on Thursday, August 27, 2009 in the High School library with the following members present: J. Viselli, Chairman; S. MacNeill, Vice Chairman; M. Christie, D. Maurer and Shawn McCarthy. Also present was L. Olson, Superintendent of Schools and A. DiCologero, Administrator of School Finance.

Chairman J. Viselli called the open session of the School Committee to order at 7:00 P.M.

I. Agenda

A. Action to Approve the Agenda

ACTION: A motion was made by M. Christie and seconded by S. MacNeill to approve the agenda as revised. The motion carried 4-0.

B. Action to Approve the Minutes of:

July 23, 2009 Regular Meeting

ACTION: A motion was made by M. Christie and seconded by S. MacNeill to approve the minutes of July 23, 2009. The motion was approved 4-0.

July 23, 2009 Executive Session

ACTION: A motion was made by S. MacNeill and seconded by M. Christie to approve the minutes of July 23, 2009 to remain confidential. The motion was approved 4-0.

C. Bill Schedule #2

ACTION: A motion was made by S. MacNeill and seconded by M. Christie to approve Bill Schedule #2 in the amount of \$786,832.52. The motion was approved 4-0.

D. Middle School Beautification Donations

Chairman Viselli gave an update on the progress of the Middle School Beautification Project and thanked the many volunteers who sanded, primed and painted several areas in the Middle School. Chairman Viselli introduced Cheryl Gearin, Middle School parent, who was instrumental in arranging donations of paint and supplies; and David Nyhof from Sherwin Williams who donated paint and supplies. Other volunteers will be recognized at the September meeting.

D. Maurer arrived at the meeting at 7:05 PM.

E. School Readiness Report

Dr. Olson reported that the schools are ready for all teachers to return on Monday, August 31, 2009. All positions have been filled. A new teacher orientation and luncheon was held today.

In meeting with the police, fire and public works the parking issue at South School is still a problem but an idea to take some of the playground area for parking is being investigated. The Fire Department will also be moving beyond standard fire alarm drills and holding evacuation drills, moving students from one building to another. Parents will be notified prior to any evacuation drills. Dr. Olson has also been in contact with the Board of Health regarding the H1N1 flu.

A brief discussion followed regarding the South School traffic and parking issues. The School Committee requested that an email blast be sent from the elementary schools regarding drop off and pick up of students. The Committee also requested that Dr. Olson check on the schedule for painting the crosswalks.

Dr. Olson introduced Patty Messina, Director of Elementary Education, who reported on the Everyday Math training program and the workshops that were held this summer.

F. Food in Schools Policy – Second Reading and Adoption

Dr. Olson presented a revised Food in Schools Policy, incorporating suggested changes. The Committee requested revising Item 5 to include . . . *immediately* after the school day.

ACTION: A motion was made by D. Maurer and seconded by S. MacNeill to adopt School Committee Policy 6-23A “Food in Schools” as revised. The motion was approved 5-0.

G. Capital Plan/Middle School

Dr. Olson suggested the School Committee put aside the idea of building a new Middle School and move ahead with critical repairs/renovations to the facility and recommended preparing for the October Special Town Meeting by discussing the idea of contracting with an architectural/engineering firm for an “Existing Conditions Study” of the Middle School. The purposes of the study would include the following:

1. to prioritize the need to repair/replace various mechanical systems and architectural components in the building;
2. to provide cost estimates for repairs
3. to discuss how these repairs could be completed in an occupied facility

Estimated cost is \$50,000 to \$75,000. Funds for this study are available from the balance of Article 12 of the October 2008 Special Town Meeting which provided for the replacement of the High School roof and “other capital projects.”

A discussion followed regarding the condition of the school. The Committee suggested hosting an open house for the public to tour the school to see the condition of the Middle School, or to video tape a tour. Dr. Olson suggested opening the school on Town Day and will discuss with Principal Banos. Dr. Olson also stated that the school is structurally sound so renovations would be beneficial.

ACTION: A motion was made by M. Christie and seconded by S. MacNeill to move funds for Middle School planning from 2011 to 2010 and directed Dr. Olson to work with Capital Planning Committee to present at the October Special Town Meeting.

H. Hours: Early Release Days

As discussed last year, Dr. Olson presented a recommendation by the administrators to not serve lunch on early release days and change the hours on early release days as follows:

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Colonial Park, Robin Hood, South..... | 8:20 AM – 12:15 PM |
| Central School | 8:10 AM – 12:05 PM |
| Middle School | 7:58 AM – 12:00 PM |
| High School..... | 7:50 AM – 12:00 PM |

The change would increase instructional time and allow extended professional development activities.

ACTION: A motion was made by M. Christie and seconded by D. Maurer to approve not serving lunch on early release days and adjusting the hours as recommended. The motion was approved 5-0.

I. District Goals

Dr. Olson presented the following goals that were suggested by the administrative team for School Committee consideration for the 2009-2010 school year:

- Revise the strategic planning process and the timing for the adoption of goals. Adopting goals after the budget has been adopted and staffing set leaves little room for flexibility in adjusting priorities.
- Continue the work started last year of documenting the PK-5 curriculum
- Support the implementation of the Everyday Math program.
- Develop a plan for the renovation of the Middle School.

ACTION: A motion was made by D. Maurer and seconded by S. McCarthy to adopt the four school goals as presented. The motion was approved 5-0.

II. Discussion/Correspondence/New Items

The Committee requested that teachers be notified to avoid suggesting brand name products on their school shopping supply list.

The MASC/MASS Joint Conference will be held November 18-21. Early bird registration is prior to September 4.

III. Superintendent's Report

IV. Executive Session

ACTION: A motion was made by S. MacNeill, seconded by D. Maurer and voted unanimously by roll call at 8:15 PM to enter Executive Session under MGL Ch. 30A, § 11A ½ .

V. Adjourn

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

The meeting adjourned at 10:07 P.M.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED
LES E. OLSON, SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS