

STONEHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS
STONEHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY
DECEMBER 10, 2009**

The regular meeting of the School Committee was held at 7:00 P.M. on Thursday, December 10, 2009 in the High School library with the following members present: J. Viselli, Chairman; S. MacNeill, Vice Chairman; M. Christie and D. Maurer. 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. The motion carried 4-0.

B. Action to Approve the Minutes of:

November 12, 2009 Regular Meeting

ACTION: A motion was made by D. Maurer and seconded by S. MacNeill to approve the minutes of November 12, 2009. The motion was approved 4-0.

December 10, 2009 Executive Session

ACTION: A motion was made by D. Maurer and seconded by S. MacNeill to approve the minutes of November 12, 2009 to remain confidential. The motion was approved 4-0

C. Bill Schedule #7

ACTION: A motion was made by S. MacNeill and seconded by D. Maurer to approve Bill Schedule #7 in the amount of \$777,867.90. The motion was approved 4-0.

D. Student Representatives to the School Committee

Present at the meeting were Brandan Epstein and Jamie McDermott who reported the winter sports season has begun and the winter concert is tonight

E. Acceptance of Donation

Principal Nick Leonardos introduced Dominic Mondri, store manager of Stop & Shop Corporation. The Stop & Shop has supported the South School Homework Club for the past seven years. The Homework Club serves Grades 3, 4 and 5 with afterschool homework help three days a week.

ACTION: A motion was made by M. Christie and seconded by S. MacNeill to accept a donation of \$4320 from Stop & Shop to the South School Homework Club. The motion was approved 4-0.

F. Athletic Camps & Clinics

David Pignone, Director of Athletics, appeared before the Committee to address concerns raised at the November 12, 2009 meeting regarding Athletic Department sponsored camps, clinics and conditioning programs that would run off season. The programs would use athletic facilities free of charge and be covered under the high school insurance umbrella. Mr. Pignone explained that there are very strict MIAA rules and regulations that prohibit mandatory attendance and he would make sure all guidelines are followed.

ACTION: A motion was made by M. Christie and seconded by S. MacNeill to approve Athletic Department sponsored camps, clinics and conditioning programs. The motion was approved 4-0.

G. 2010-2011 Budget Goals

Dr. Olson reviewed the following goals

2010-2011 BUDGET GOALS	
Elementary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure equitable distribution of Title I and reading services at the elementary schools. • Discuss and resolve half-time kindergarten session question
Middle School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add three Middle School teachers to allow for the restoration of Middle School teams • Restore Middle School technology staffing • Work with the MSBA on the feasibility study/capital planning process • Prepare for the new math curriculum in FY11 or FY12
High School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Address time and learning requirements at the High School
District Wide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide professional development support for the English Language Learner program to bring it into compliance with state and federal regulations • Maintain current programs and class size levels • Hold tuitions and fees at their current levels • Improve the focus on curriculum standards for special education students • Support textbook replacement and technology plan • Investigate conversion of oil to gas heating at High School, Middle School, Old Central and East • Explore options to facilitate staff use of email, web postings and other communication tools • Begin development of new Strategic Plan
LONG TERM GOALS NOT INCLUDED IN FY11 BUDGET GOALS	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restore full-year elementary art and music instruction • Restore reading support services to the upper elementary grades • Hire certified library media specialists for the elementary schools • Increase technology specialist time in the elementary schools

It is expected that the first draft of the budget will be completed within the next few weeks and budget discussions will begin the first of the year.

Dr. Olson also presented enrollment projections for 2010-2011. Two areas of concern include the Robin Hood grade one and Central grade three; however, if we follow this projection we would still be able to budget for a reduction of three elementary classroom

teachers which could fund – with no net increase in staffing – the three teachers needed to re-establish team teaching at Middle School.

Chairman Viselli presented to the Committee a series of goals and issues for future consideration.

Upon the recommendation of Dr. Olson and Chairman Viselli, the Committee agreed to add a meeting January 7, 2010 and to add a meeting in March.

Dr. Olson also recommended including the PTO's in the budget review process. A discussion followed regarding holding the meetings at the schools again, or holding informal discussion forums at each of the schools.

I. Grant Approval – DESE Office of Literacy

Dr. Olson announced that Patty Messina, Director of Elementary Education, authored a grant application that has received \$30,000 in funding for FY10 to support early literacy instruction in the elementary schools.

ACTION: A motion was made by D. Maurer and seconded by S. MacNeill to accept the DESE Office of Literacy grant in the amount of \$30,000. The motion was approved 4-0.

I. Kindergarten Planning

Dr. Olson recommended delaying for an additional year any change from the 2 ½ day, half time kindergarten program due to the uncertainty over the number of students and sections and the possibility that any change may require additional staffing.

A discussion followed regarding the phasing in of the five-day half time program to the other elementary schools. The program is currently running at Robin Hood combined with the full day program. The Committee requested that the kindergarten registration form be revised to include a phrase that the school department reserves the right to change the schedule from a 2 ½ day program to a five-day half day program and that the school department reserves the right to transfer students to another school outside their district.

J. Approval – Out of State Field Trip

Dr. Olson presented a request from Principal Ed Russo to approve an overnight field trip to the New York City Theater District. The trip would take place the weekend before February vacation and be chaperoned by Ed Grammer.

ACTION: A motion was made by M. Christie and seconded by S. MacNeill to approve the overnight field trip to New York City. The motion was approved 4-0.

K. FY10 Budget

The Committee reviewed the Superintendent's proposal to reduce the FY10 budget by \$155,889 as voted by the October Special Town Meeting.

ACTION: A motion was made by M. Christie and seconded by S. MacNeill to reduce the FY10 Budget as recommended by the Superintendent. The motion was approved 3-1-0 with J. Viselli voting against.

L. Middle School Facility - Update

Dr. Olson reported that the Initial Compliance Certification from the Massachusetts School Building Authority needs to be signed and returned as soon as legal clarification is received regarding the statement that we have not closed a school within the past ten years (old Central School was closed). This restriction was not included in the original statement of interest.

II. Discussion/Correspondence/New Items

M. Christie reported that she attended the MASS/MASC Conference last month and disseminated updated *The New Open Meeting Laws* and *Mandatory Education and Training Requirements*.

III. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Olson reported that he has been attending meetings regarding the *ARRA Race to the Top* grant. The deadline for a grant application is January 13, 2010.

IV. Executive Session

ACTION: A motion was made by M. Christie, seconded by S. MacNeill and voted unanimously by roll call at 8:15 PM to enter Executive Session under MGL Ch. 30A, § 11A ½ and not to return to open session. The meeting adjourned at 8:15 P.M.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED
LES E. OLSON, SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS