

STONEHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS
STONEHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY
FEBRUARY 12, 2009

The regular meeting of the School Committee was held at 7:00 P.M. on Thursday, February 12, 2009 in the High School library with the following members present: J. Viselli, Vice-Chairman; S. MacNeill, and D. Maurer. Also present was L. Olson, Superintendent of Schools; A. Patriquin, Assistant Superintendent; and A. DiCologero, Administrator of School Finance.

Vice Chairman J. Viselli called the open session of the School Committee to order at 7:05 P.M. and announced that Marc Grimaldi has resigned his seat on the School Committee. The vacancy will be filled with the Town elections in April.

I. Consent Agenda

A. Action to Approve the Agenda

ACTION: A motion was made by S. MacNeill and seconded by D. Maurer to approve the agenda. The motion carried 3-0.

B. Action to Approve the Minutes of:

January 22, 2009 Regular Meeting

ACTION: A motion was made by S. MacNeill and seconded by D. Maurer to approve the minutes of January 22, 2009. The motion was approved 3-0.

January 22, 2009 Executive Session

ACTION: A motion was made by D. Maurer and seconded by S. MacNeill to approve the minutes of January 22, 2009 to remain confidential. The motion was approved 3-0.

February 6, 2009 Special Meeting

ACTION: A motion was made by S. MacNeill and seconded by D. Maurer to approve the minutes of February 6, 2009. The motion was approved 3-0.

February 6, 2009 Executive Session

ACTION: A motion was made by D. Maurer and seconded by S. MacNeill to approve the minutes of February 6, 2009 to remain confidential. The motion was approved 3-0.

C. Bill Schedule #11

ACTION: A motion was made by S. MacNeill and seconded by D. Maurer to approve Bill Schedule #11 in the amount of \$516,098.28. The motion was approved 3-0.

D. Student Representatives to the School Committee

Present at the meeting were Nicole Willard, Daniella Colucci, Nick Ciarlante and Brandon Epstein who reported that this past Monday 27 Juniors and 1 Senior were inducted into the National Honor Society; Peer Leaders held a book drive and exceeded their goal of 10,000 books by collecting over 11,600 books; Course selections took place on Tuesday; the next round of National History Day is March 7th in Winchester.

II. New Business

A. Acceptance of Donation – Avid Technologies

Dr. Olson recognized the great relationship between Avid Technologies and the Stoneham Public Schools and recommended acceptance of three Mitsubishi 42” monitors and stands.

ACTION: A motion was made by S. MacNeill and seconded by D. Maurer to approve the donation of three Mitsubishi 42” Megaview Pro display monitors and wheel stands from Avid Technologies, valued at approximately \$3,000 each. The motion was approved 3-0.

B. Policy Revision: Surplus Property 7.2

Dr. Olson recommended adapting Policy 7.2 *Retirement of Facilities* to a policy on surplus property by making the following modifications:

Line 1 – change “When a school building” to “When a building currently used as a regular school facility”

Add the following second and third paragraph:

When a school building not currently used as a regular school facility is deemed inadequate or no longer necessary for school purposes, it may be released by the School Committee back to the Town without a comprehensive closing study. Factors that will be considered to determine if a facility is no longer necessary for school purposes will include the following:

- the actual or potential rental income from the building or site;
- the potential reuse or redevelopment of the site for school purposes

If a school facility or site through common usage no longer retains its primary educational purpose, it should be considered for release by the School Committee so that control may be transferred to a more appropriate Town department, such as Recreation.

The School Committee agreed to consider revising Policy 7.2 and discuss at the next School Committee meeting.

J. Warren asked the Committee if they would consider forming their own subcommittee to address school property since the Board of Selectmen has dissolved the Building Study Committee. The School Committee agreed to take it under advisement.

C. May 2009 Annual Town Meeting

Dr. Olson reminded the Committee that Monday, February 23, 209 at 4:00 P.M. will be the final date on which articles may be submitted to the Office of the Board of Selectmen for insertion in the Warrant for the Annual Town Meeting. No articles are recommended by the School Committee at this time.

D. FY10 Budget Discussions

Dr. Olson reported that there are ongoing discussions with the Town Administrator regarding the definition of a level funded budget and the Town’s desire to consolidate all health insurance premiums into a central budget.

The FY10 Budget is increased by 3.4% (\$846,711) and includes the restoration of Middle School programs, preservation of elementary class size and programs, funding for a new elementary math curriculum and maintaining technology and other programs.

To level fund the FY10 Budget, insurance costs would need to be transferred to Town budget. The approach the administration has taken is to seek to reduce existing programs and staff rather than target selected programs for elimination. The restoration of Middle School programs would need to be postponed, once again. Possible areas and impact of budget reductions include:

BUDGET	AMOUNT	IMPACT
Eliminate 5 proposed new teachers	\$222,033	Eliminate goal to restore Middle School Programs
Eliminate 3 current teachers	\$103,667	Possible impact on elementary class sizes, reduction in program offerings and class sizes at the High School
Eliminate Health Insurance	\$0	
Unemployment offset: 3 proposed MS teachers 2 proposed elem. teachers 1 current elem. teacher 2 current H.S. teachers	\$0	None - Proposed or by attrition – eliminating any unemployment costs.
Eliminate 2.2 admin/support staff	\$96,856	Reduction in support services for students and staff
Eliminate 1 custodian	\$40,000	Reduction in maintenance of facilities
Reduce Special Ed tuition & transportation due to Circuit Breaker and contract	\$57,000	None – if enrollments are stable
Reallocation of Seem Budget	\$40,000	Seem Board voted to reduce and distribute reserves
Reduce utility costs	\$20,000	Fuel oil cost for next year locked in at \$2.00 per gallon
Additional retirement savings	\$17,086	Anticipated retirements
Correction of budget spreadsheet error	\$52,700	-
Other: Central Office \$17,500 Schools \$60,000 Software \$20,000	\$97,500	Loss of support services for Central Office Reduction in school supplies Reduction in student/staff curriculum materials
TOTAL REDUCTIONS	\$747,542	

The School Committee clarified that the elimination of 5 proposed new teachers would mean the elimination of their goal priority to restore Middle School programs. A discussion ensued regarding the impact of eliminating teachers at the High School and how it affects programs and class sizes with regards to accreditation. To preserve teaching positions and save the Middle School programs, the Committee stressed that they would first look at programs such as the school lunch program, which is operating at a deficit, and suggest limiting menu items and staff; and also investigate the impact of reorganizing and/or eliminating Central Office positions, including the Assistant Superintendent and secretary. Also discussed was the possibility of reducing athletic fees to \$250 because of the impact the higher fee had on winter sport participation.

The School Committee will meet with the Finance Board on Monday, March 15, 2009.

III. Old Business

None

IV. Discussion

D. Maurer reported on the Robin Hood PTO meeting this past Tuesday and announced that the Stoneham Public Schools Foundation will sponsor a comedy show benefit February 27, 2009 at the Montvale Plaza. Tickets are \$35.00.

V. Superintendent's Report/Announcements & Correspondence

Dr. Olson announced that Central School hosted three outstanding candidates for Principal and is looking forward to the completion of the search process. The district is close to hiring a Program Supervisor of Mathematics and Krista Stevens has accepted the position of Program Supervisor of English.

VI. Executive Session

ACTION: A motion was made by S. MacNeill, seconded by D. Maurer, and voted unanimously by roll call at 8:00 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 3-0.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 P.M.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED
LES E. OLSON, SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS