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The regular meeting of the School Committee was held at 7:00 P.M. on Thursday, January 8, 2009 in the High School library with the following members present: M. Christie, Chairman; 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.

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

I. Consent Agenda

A. Action to Approve the Agenda

ACTION: A motion was made by J. Viselli and seconded by S. MacNeill to approve the agenda. The motion carried 4-0.

B. Action to Approve the Minutes of:

December 9, 2008 Regular Meeting

ACTION: A motion was made by J. Viselli and seconded by S. MacNeill to approve the minutes of December 9, 2008. The motion was approved 4-0.

December 9, 2008 Executive Session

ACTION: A motion was made by S. MacNeill and seconded by J. Viselli to approve the minutes of December 9, 2008 to remain confidential. The motion was approved 4-0.

C. Bill Schedule #9

ACTION: A motion was made by J. Viselli and seconded by S. MacNeill to approve Bill Schedule #9 in the amount of \$432,439.37. The motion was approved 4-0.

D. Student Representatives to the School Committee

Present at the meeting were Nicole Willard, Brandon Epstein and Daniela Colucci who reported that National History Day is January 15, 2009. These four month projects will count as the History midterm. National History night is January 20, 2009.

II. New Business

A. PTO Reports – Robin Hood School and Middle School

Lisa Gallagher and Marisa Raczkowski, Co-Presidents of the Middle School PTO gave a summary of events for the 2008/2009 school year which included:

- Fundraisers: Cookie dough, dances, “Are You Smarter Than A Sixth Grader.”
- Enrichments Programs
- Community Outreach: local food pantry, holiday helpers, packages to soldiers overseas
- Hospitality: teacher appreciation
- Stoneham Pride Day

Cheryl Gearin, President of the Robin Hood School PTO, gave a summary of events for the 2008/2009 school year which included:

- Enrichment Programs and Field Trips
 - Community Service Events: Coats for Kids, Thanksgiving Baskets and Giving Tree
- School Activities: Halloween Fun Night, Back to School Picnic, bingo night, der. Sues birthday party
- Upcoming Events: Family Game Night, Family Reading Night and Family Dinner Night
- Fundraising: cookie dough, raffle baskets, gift card sale, walkathon
- Annual five week Read-a-thon begins tomorrow

B. Scholarship – Name Change Acceptance

Dr. Olson recommended approval of a request from the Rotondi family to officially change the name of the Arthur J. Rotondi Memorial Scholarship.

ACTION: A motion was made by D. Maurer and seconded by S. MacNeill to change the name of “The Arthur J. Rotondi Memorial Scholarship” to “The Arthur J. and F. Helen Rotondi Memorial Scholarship.” The motion was approved 4-0.

C. Foreign Language Department – Program Review

Deb Cronin, Program Supervisor of Foreign Language, gave an overview of the Foreign Language Department programs that included:

- Italian program offered in the elementary schools, funded by the C.A.S.I.T. grant from the Italian government.
- Middle School exploratory program for 6th grade students to assist them in choosing their foreign language in 7th grade.
- The High School continues to offer Spanish, Italian, Latin, and American Sign Language. In March, Foreign Language Week will celebrate all cultures, and in April French students will visit Quebec.
- Technology in the classroom

D. Annual Report 2007-2008 - Draft

The School Committee was given the school department’s section of the Town’s 2008 Annual Report for review. The final report will be presented for approval at the January 22, 2009 School Committee meeting.

E. Review/Approve Tuitions: Preschool, Full Day Kindergarten, After School Child Care

Upon the recommendation of Dr. Olson, the School Committee agreed to maintain the current tuition fees for the PreSchool, Full Day Kindergarten Program and After School Child Care Program for the 2009-2010 school year. The athletic fees and school lunch cost will be reviewed later in the spring.

F. Disposal of Surplus Equipment

Dr. Olson proposed the school department trade in as surplus equipment the following school vehicles:

1. 2001 GMC/Thomas Built 20 passenger school bus
2. A quarter ton pickup
3. Two box trucks
4. Two unused (not-repairable) grounds tractors

The value of the bus is approximately \$7500 and there is a similar amount of cash that was received last year following the theft of a truck two years ago. The bus is no longer of value since there are no licensed employees interested in driving the bus. Dr. Olson recommended going out to bid for the following vehicles:

1. Two used three-quarter ton pickups with snow plows
2. One used mini/cargo van (used primarily to delivery food to schools)

Dr. Olson also noted that the schools have reported the following equipment as surplus and proposed selling or donating the following items:

1. Two old pianos from the elementary schools
2. Six small sets of choral risers
3. Original High School TV studio equipment

According to law, the School Committee and Board of Selectmen must declare these items surplus.

ACTION: A motion was made by S. MacNeill and seconded by D. Maurer to declare the above equipment and vehicles as surplus and to dispose of in accordance with state law. The motion was approved 4-0.

G. FY10- Budget – Overview

Dr. Olson presented the FY2010 budget in the amount of \$25,726,057, which is a 3.4% increase from last year and exceeds the town's recommended level funded budget. The School Committee will review this budget and discuss it further at the January 22, 2009 meeting.

A discussion ensued regarding the economic crisis throughout the country and the need to examine the sharing of resources between schools and the town, changes in administration, and changes at the High School that would not effect accreditation. The Committee would like feedback from principals in terms of what they are lacking and their priorities are and what can be done to support teachers in the classroom.

III. Old Business

None

IV. Discussion

D. Maurer reported on the United Council meeting on Tuesday, January 6th. Discussions included fundraising activities and superintendent advisory meetings. The next meeting is scheduled in March.

V. Superintendent's Report/Announcements & Correspondence

Dr. Olson reported that approximately 20 applications have been received for the Central School principal position and that he hoped the search process would wrap up by early March.

VI. Executive Session

ACTION: A motion was made by S. MacNeill, seconded by J. Viselli, and voted unanimously by roll call at 8:40 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 4-0.

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 P.M.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED
LES E. OLSON, SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS