

STONEHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS
STONEHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY
JUNE 5, 2008**

The regular meeting of the School Committee was held at 7:30 P.M. on Thursday, June 5, 2008 in the High School library with the following members present: M. Christie, Chairman; J. Viselli, Vice-Chairman; S. MacNeill, M. Grimaldi 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 7:45 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:

May 15, 2008 Regular Meeting

ACTION: A motion was made by J. Viselli and seconded by S. MacNeill to approve the minutes of May 15, 2008. The motion was approved 4-0.

May 15, 2008 Executive Session

ACTION: A motion was made by S. MacNeill and seconded by J. Viselli to approve the minutes of May 15, 2008 to remain confidential. The motion was approved 4-0.

C. Bill Schedule #22

ACTION: A motion was made by S. MacNeill and seconded by J. Viselli to approve Bill Schedule #22 in the amount of \$455,573.04. The motion was approved 4-0.

D. Student Representatives to the School Committee

Nick Ciarlante, Nicole Willard, Daniela Colucci and Brandon Epstein were present at the June 5, 2007 meeting and reported on senior activities taking place this week, graduation, SAT's, and finals. The student representatives thanked the administration and School Committee for the opportunity to serve this year.

Marc Grimaldi joined the meeting at 7:50 P.M.

II. New Business

A. Student Representatives – Book Presentation

The School Committee presented each Student Representative with a book entitled *Just Who Will You Be?* by Maria Shriver and thanked them for their valued participation this past school year.

B. Recognition of Retirees

The School Committee presented retirement gifts to the following staff:

Stephen Jackson, Program Supervisor of Science, 38 Years
Robert Lague, Program Supervisor of Fine Arts, 8 Years
Linda Peterson, Kindergarten Teacher, 34 Years
Deborah Pavelle, Speech & Language Pathologist, 19 Years
Barbara Lambropoulos, Elementary Teacher, 34 Years

Unable to attend were the following:

Bill Mucica, English Teacher, 33 Years
Nancy Kaftan, Elementary Teacher, 35 Years

The Committee congratulated all retirees and thanked them for their years of service to the students of Stoneham.

Chairman Christie called for a ten minute recess.

C. S.T.A. Donation – Books In Memory of Karen Berg

Chairman Christie announced a donation from the Stoneham Teachers Association in memory of Karen Berg, former elementary teacher who passed away this year. The Association received donations and purchased books that will be placed in the school libraries in her memory.

ACTION: A motion was made by M. Grimaldi and seconded by J. Viselli to accept the donation of books to the school libraries in memory of Karen Berg. The motion was approved 5-0.

D. Policy Revisions

The School Committee had a second reading of the following policy revisions:

Policy 4-36 Security of Buildings and Grounds: Upon the recommendation of Counsel, change Section B Security Devices “*The use of security devices to protect school property from vandalism, theft and fire shall be used where needed*” to read:

Practice: The objective of Stoneham Public schools’ video surveillance is to monitor and improve student safety, at the Schools, and to protect school property. Accordingly, Stoneham Public Schools deploys surveillance cameras which stores images on digital media. In accordance with FERPA Guidelines, such videos are not

considered education records. The Stoneham School Committee sets forth the following guidelines for the Stoneham Public Schools Surveillance Cameras.

Public Notice of Video Policy: *Signs shall be posted on district buildings and in district vehicles, including school buses, to notify students, staff, and visitors that video or digital cameras may be in use in school buildings and buses. Parents and students shall also be notified through the student handbook that cameras may be in use in school buildings, on school grounds and in school vehicles. Students will be held responsible for any violations of school discipline rules recorded by the cameras.*

Retention Period: *Archived Surveillance Videos that have not been requested by Law Enforcement or School Administration for review will be retained for no more than 15 days. Video that has not been requested for review within 15 days will be overwritten. Video that has been requested for review will be retained in accordance with law.*

Requests for Review: *Requests for reviewing archived video will be honored only if such requests are made by law enforcement officials within the 15 day retention period. Requests made by other parties, within the 15 day retention period, may be honored at the sole discretion of the School Department. Such requests may be honored if the request serves to satisfy an objective of the camera deployment.*

Use of Video: *Videos may be used by the School Department and shown to law enforcement officials, as well as parents of a student that has been recorded, at sole discretion of the School Department.*

Release of Video Required by Law: *The School Department will release any video that has been retained where the law requires such release*

A discussion ensued regarding placement of video cameras, the review of tapes, and the notification of the policy to students and parents through student handbooks. The committee questioned whether this policy referred to students only or included staff and visitors to the schools. Dr. Olson said he would look into this and report back.

ACTION: A motion was made by S. MacNeill and seconded by J. Viselli to approve Policy 4-36 Security of Buildings and Grounds, as revised. The motion was approved 5-0.

Policy 5-8 Raising and Soliciting Funds: Add the following new paragraph to the end of Section B.1:

Students shall not be asked to provide personal, demographic information to any third party for a survey or fundraising activity that has not been approved by the school administration for a legitimate educational reason.

A discussion ensued regarding A.2: *The United Fund shall be the sole charitable organization permitted by the School Committee to have a drive for the solicitation of funds from students and employees.* The Committee agreed to approve the addition to B.1 and to ratify with the intention of revising A.2 at the July meeting.

ACTION: A motion was made by J. Viselli and seconded by S. MacNeill to approve Policy 5-8 Raising and Soliciting Funds, as revised. The motion was approved 5-0.

Policy 9-26 Suspension: Following a discussion with school administrators, Dr. Olson recommended the following addition:

K. In-School Suspension

In appropriate situations, the principal may recommend an in-school rather than out-of-school suspension. The goal of an in-school suspension shall be to keep the student in school in order to bring about a desired change in student attendance, discipline, or behavior-related issue before it requires an out-of-school suspension. Appropriate hearing and parental notification procedures shall apply to both in-school and out-of-school suspensions. Students in an in-school suspension shall be marked "Present" and will have the right to participate in special education and other appropriate services; participation in after school activities shall be at the discretion of the administration. Students in an in-school suspension are expected to complete appropriate academic assignments in a structured environment.

A brief discussion ensued regarding how many times the student could be placed in in-school suspension before being suspended and how the student would be monitored during the day. Dr. Olson stated that the student would be placed in a separate classroom and monitored by a teacher or aide.

The School Committee will hold a second reading on Policy 9-26 *Suspension* at the regularly scheduled meeting on June 19, 2008.

E. Summer Meeting Schedule/Agenda Calendar 2008-2009

The School Committee accepted the Preliminary Agenda Calendar, as presented, and set the following summer meeting schedule:

July 24, 2008 – High School Library – 7:00 P.M.

August 28, 2008 – High School Library – 7:00 P.M.

F. FY08 Financial and Cafeteria Update

A. DiCologero presented a financial update on the FY08 Budget, showing any projected deficit being offset by salary savings due to special education costs, health insurance, and an increase in utility costs. An update on revolving funds was also reported.

A. DiCologero also presented an update on the School Lunch Program and reported a deficit balance of \$4,887 for April, which totals an overall deficit of \$6,863, mainly due to April being a short month because of school vacation.

G. Rental Fee for Out of Town Groups

Dr. Olson informed the Committee that several non-Stoneham groups have been looking to rent school facilities since we are one of the few towns that still has a low price gym rental fee - \$25.00/hour – and recommended the Committee review this policy and institute a non-local fee of \$100-\$150 per hour.

A discussion ensued regarding hourly rental rates. The Committee directed the Superintendent to increase the non-local fee to \$100 per hour, effectively immediately.

III. Old Business

None

IV. Discussion

On behalf of parent Carrie Young, J. Viselli advocated for the restoration of health education at the Middle School and disseminated a DVD documentary regarding current cultural issues in school relations.

V. Superintendent's Report/Announcements & Correspondence

Dr. Olson commented on the many end-of-year activities taking place.

VI. Executive Session

ACTION: A motion was made by S. MacNeill, seconded by J. Viselli, and voted unanimously by roll call at 9:20 PM to enter Executive Session under MGL Ch. 39, § 23B.

VII. Adjourn

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

The meeting adjourned at 10:15 P.M.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED
LES E. OLSON, SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS