

STONEHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
STONEHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING  
HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY  
MARCH 27, 2008**

The regular meeting of the School Committee was held at 7:30 P.M. on Thursday, March 27, 2008 in the High School library with the following members present: M. Soley, Chairman; C. Walsh, Vice-Chairman; M. Christie, S. MacNeill and J. Viselli. Also present was L. Olson, Superintendent of Schools; A. Patriquin, Assistant Superintendent and Anthony DiCologero, Administrator of School Finance.

Chairman Soley called the open session of the School Committee to order at 7:30 P.M.

**I. Consent Agenda**

**A. Action to Approve the Agenda**

**ACTION:** A motion was made by J. Viselli and seconded by M. Christie to approve the agenda. The motion carried 5-0.

**B. Action to Approve the Minutes of:**

March 6, 2008 Regular Meeting

**ACTION:** A motion was made by S. MacNeill and seconded by J. Viselli to approve the minutes of March 6, 2008. The motion was approved 4-0-1, with C. Walsh abstaining.

March 6, 2008 Executive Session

**ACTION:** A motion was made by M. Christie and seconded by J. Viselli to approve the minutes of March 6, 2008 to remain confidential. The motion was approved 4-0-1, with C. Walsh abstaining.

**C. Bill Schedule #18**

**ACTION:** A motion was made by S. MacNeill and seconded by J. Viselli to approve Bill Schedule #18 in the amount of \$572,913.84. The motion was approved 5-0.

**D. Student Representatives to the School Committee**

Student Representatives reported that the recycling program has begun and is very successful; today was the last day of Grade 10 MCAS testing; spring sports began last week, and the annual *Pennies for Patients* campaign is underway to benefit community members diagnosed with leukemia.

The students also reported that the doors in the girls locker room are not aligned and do not close properly and a door is missing in the men's bathroom in the history wing of the building.

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## **II. New Business**

### **A. Member Recognition**

On behalf of Stoneham Public Schools and members of the School Committee, Marie Christie presented Maureen Soley and Cheryl Walsh with plaques honoring their years of service on the School Committee and thanked them for their dedication to the staff and students of Stoneham schools.

The Committee recessed for a brief reception.

### **B. School Committee Policy 2-13 Reorganization – Second Reading**

The committee reviewed the following revisions to Policy 2-13:

*In the event the chair and vice-chair are not reelected or do not seek reelection, reorganization will take place the meeting following the annual election.*

*Unless the School Committee votes otherwise, the Superintendent shall serve as secretary.*

**ACTION:** A motion was made by M. Christie and seconded by J. Viselli to approve Policy 2-13 as revised. The motion was approved 5-0.

### **C. Math Curriculum Committee**

Anne Patriquin reported on the progress of the Math Curriculum Committee. By the end of April, the committee will select two programs for piloting during the 2008-2009 school year. Piloting teachers will be selected by the end of May and attend an orientation workshop in August. Piloting teachers will meet monthly during the 2008-2009 school year and complete a common assessment in the spring of 2009 which will compare data from the two pilot programs and the current program.

### **D. After School Program – Late Fee**

Due to some parents being habitually late picking up their children from the After School Program, Dr. Olson recommended implementing a late fee of a \$1.00 per minute, which is a standard rate for many afterschool and private daycare programs.

After a brief discussion, it was agreed to impose a penalty for \$1.00 per minute after 6:00 P.M., effective after April vacation. All parents will be notified of this new policy.

**ACTION:** A motion was made by M. Christie and seconded by J. Viselli to approve the implementation of a \$1.00 per minute penalty for late pick-up from the After School Program. The motion was approved 5-0.

### **E. FY2009 Budget**

Dr. Olson reported the following list of reductions/additions to the school budget that would be necessary if the Town does not approve a trash fee.

<b>ITEM</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
Reduce Health Insurance Budget to Reflect Actual Bids	-\$172,500
Reduce Special Education Transportation Budget	-\$50,000
Increase Health Insurance For Future Enrollments	\$30,000
Eliminate Middle School Locker Renovations	-\$15,000
Eliminate High School Track Repairs	-\$25,000
Eliminate Computer Technology Capital Improvements	-\$45,000
Reduce High School Fuel Oil Budget to \$25,000 for Anticipated Bid	-\$25,000
Increase Special Education Services for Medicaid Billing	\$15,000
Eliminate One Proposed Custodian	-\$40,000
Eliminate Associated Health Insurance	-\$14,900
Reduce Central School General Supplies	-\$3,000
Reduce Colonial Park School General Supplies	-\$3,000
Reduce Robin Hood School General Supplies	-\$3,000
Reduce South School General Supplies	-\$3,000
Reduce Middle School General Supplies	-\$10,000
Reduce High School General Supplies	\$20,000
Eliminate District Payment of AP Exam Fees	\$15,000
Reduce District Wide Substitute Teacher Account	-\$20,000
Reduce Planned Instructional Software Purchases	-\$5,000
Reduce Planned Maintenance Supply Purchases	-\$5,000
Reduce Planned Professional Development Expenses	-\$5,000
Reduce Anticipated Special education Legal Expense	-\$5,000
Reduce Athletic Budget – Transportation, Supplies, Officials	-\$25,000
Reduce Athletic Budget By Increasing Fees to \$300	-\$30,000
Do Not Fill Vacant Unified Arts Program Supervisor	-\$40,000
Eliminate Proposed Insurance for U.A. Program Supervisor	-\$14,928
Eliminate .6 Preschool at South School (due to enrollment)	-\$30,000
Eliminate .5 Kindergarten at Colonial Park (due to enrollment)	-\$20,000
Eliminate 1.5 Preschool Paras at South	-\$25,000
Transfer Robin Hood Kindergarten Teacher To Fee-Based Budget	-\$60,000
Transfer .5 K. Teacher From Central to Robin Hood (enrollment)	0
Transfer South 5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Inclusion to Middle School	0
Savings From Projected Math Program Supervisor Hire	-\$6,000
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>-\$690,328</b>
Eliminate Three or Four Athletic Sports Teams	-\$40,000
Change Athletic Director to Program Supervisor Status	-\$35,000
Add Teaching Component of Athletic Director Position	\$35,000
Reduce Secretarial Stipends	-\$6,000
Do Not Fill Vacant Central Office Secretary Position/Insurance (Town)	0
Eliminate Vacant Elementary Special Needs Team Chair	-\$50,000
Eliminate One Middle School Teacher (TBD)	-\$39,000
Savings From Mid-Year Retirement of H.S. Team Chair	-\$25,000
Do Not Fill H.S. Health/Science Vacancy	-\$70,146
Eliminate One H.S. Teacher (Dependent on Course Selection)	-\$39,000
Eliminate One H.S. Teacher (Dependent on Course Selection)	-\$39,000
Eliminate .1 FTE Elementary Fine Arts	-\$6,000
Eliminate Health Insurance Savings	-\$62,000
Estimated Unemployment for Above Reductions	\$48,200
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>-\$1,018,274</b>
Eliminate Balance of Sports Programs	-\$235,546
Eliminate Athletic Director and Secretary	-\$114,245
Teacher #1 Middle School (TBD)	-\$39,000
Teacher #2 Elementary (Perhaps Special Needs)	-\$39,000
Teacher #3 High School? (TBD)	-\$39,000
Teacher #4 High School? (TBD)	-\$39,000
Teacher #5 High School? (TBD)	-\$39,000
Health Insurance Savings on Above	-\$36,000
Unemployment for Above Positions	\$77,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>-\$1,522,065</b>

The impact of reductions to “No Trash Fee” budget would include the elimination of 11.6 teachers, 2 secretaries, 1.6 administrators and 1.5 paraprofessionals which would

result in the possible probation or loss of accreditation for the High School due to higher class sizes and the loss of curriculum offerings, the creation of Middle School study halls and possible closing of the library; the loss of support/supervision for elementary Special Education programs; the elimination of High School athletics; and a 10% reduction in funds available for classroom supplies and textbooks.

The impact of a higher budget with “Trash Fee” would restore four High School and Middle School teachers and possibly remove High School accreditation issues. It would also restore most High School athletics but the fee would still increase to \$300 per sport with a \$1200 family cap.

A discussion ensued regarding enrollment numbers at the elementary levels and restoration priorities. The Committee would like to further consider the recommended restoration of 2/3 of High School athletics before the restoration of five additional High School and Special Education teachers.

### **G. Superintendent’s Evaluation**

Chairman Soley explained the process of the evaluation of the Superintendent which has taken place over the past couple of weeks. The evaluation included: Relationship with the Committee, Communications and Public Relations, Personnel Management, Educational Leadership, General Management, Facilities Management, Budget Management, Personal Qualities and Characteristics, and School Committee District Goals.

The Committee reported that the superintendent had a very successful year and exceeded all of their expectations. Dr. Olson was commended for his accomplishment in the hiring of two principals, two vice-principals, an athletic director, a special education direction and over fifty teachers – all prior to the start of the school year. Dr. Olson was also able to settle contract negotiations with all unions and non-union personnel. The Committee also acknowledged Dr. Olson’s clear understanding of the budget process and his change in the budget format that utilizes the budget-verses-actual approach to understanding and reviewing expenditures to date in comparison with projections.

The Committee looks forward to working with Dr. Olson in the upcoming year.

### **III. Old Business**

None

### **IV. Discussion**

Spelling Bee will take place tomorrow night at Robin Hood School. The Athletic Hall of Fame Inductions will be held April 5, 2008.

The Warrant for the Special Town Meeting on May 5, 2008 will open on Monday, March 31, 2008 and close on Tuesday, April 8, 2008.

The annual public hearing on School Budget and School Choice will take place at the April 10<sup>th</sup> School Committee meeting.

A request for a waiver has been submitted to the D.O.E. for the three and one half days that were lost when the High School experienced a fire on Monday, March 10<sup>th</sup> due to a transformer exploding in the electrical vault. Dr. Olson thanked the fire department, police department and the board of health for their assistance and support during this time.

**V. Superintendent's Report/Announcements & Correspondence**

None

**VI. Executive Session**

**ACTION:** A motion was made by M. Christie, seconded by J. Viselli, and voted unanimously by roll call at 9:05 PM to enter Executive Session under MGL Ch. 39, § 23B.

**VII. Adjourn**

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 P.M.

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED**  
**LES E. OLSON, SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**