

STONEHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS
STONEHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY
MAY 14, 2009

The regular meeting of the School Committee was held at 7:00 P.M. on Thursday, May 14, 2009 in the High School library with the following members present: M. Christie, Chairman; J. Viselli, Vice Chairman; S. MacNeill, D. Maurer and S. McCarthy. Also present was L. Olson, Superintendent of Schools; A. Patriquin, Assistant Superintendent; and A. DiCologero, Administrator of School Finance.

Chairman M. Christie called the open session of the School Committee to order at 7:00 P.M. and passed the gavel to Dr. Olson.

I. Reorganization

Dr. Olson acted as Chairman pro-tem for the purpose of selecting a Chairperson for the 2009-2010 school year.

Dr. Olson accepted nominations from the Committee for the position of Chair.

D. Maurer nominated Joe Viselli for the position of Chairperson for the 2009-2010 school year. The nomination was seconded by M. Christie.

As there were no additional nominations, Dr. Olson announced nominations for Chairperson closed.

ACTION: The committee voted unanimously by roll call to appoint Joe Viselli as Chairperson.

Dr. Olson passed the gavel to J. Viselli.

J. Viselli accepted nominations from the Committee for the position of Vice-Chair.

D. Maurer nominated Shelly MacNeill for the position of Vice-Chairperson for the 2009-2010 school year. The nomination was seconded by M. Christie.

As there were no additional nominations, J. Viselli announced nominations for Vice-Chairperson closed.

ACTION: The committee voted unanimously to appoint Shelly MacNeill as Vice-Chairperson.

II. Agenda

A. Action to Approve the Agenda

M. Christie requested amending the agenda to include STA Contract after Item M.

ACTION: A motion was made by S. MacNeill and seconded by M. Christie to approve the agenda as revised. The motion carried 5-0.

B. Student Representatives to the School Committee

Present at the meeting were Nicole Willard, Brandon Epstein and Daniela Colucci who reported on the French Club's trip to Quebec; students collected over \$2000 for "Pennies for Patients"; the Drama Club's production of *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* will be tonight, Friday and Saturday. The student representatives also reported on attending Day on the Hill.

C. MASS Superintendent's Academic Excellence Award Lindsey L. Mahoney, Recipient

Dr. Olson presented this year's Superintendent's Academic Excellence Award to Lindsey L. Mahoney. Lindsey was ranked #1 academically in her class at the end of junior year. Dr. Olson congratulated Lindsey and her parents.

D. Recognition of Retirees 2009

The School Committee presented retirement gifts to the following staff:

Donna Brine, Special Education, High School – 35 Years
Jean Cappuccio, Paraprofessional, Robin Hood – 25 Years
Sandra Corson, Grade 2, South School – 38 Years
Cynthia Hart, Physical Education, High School – 34 Years
Susan McClory, Science, Middle School – 37 Years
Larry MacElhiney, Principal, Central School – 4 Years
Marlene McArdle, Grade 4, Central School – 19 Years
Linda O'Brien, Kindergarten, South School – 35 Years
Anne Patriquin, Assistant Superintendent – 3 Years
William Porter, Social Studies, Middle School – 41 Years
Nancy Rolli-Healy, Grade 4, South School – 34 Years
Isabel Szczawinski, Science, Middle School – 36 Years
Rosemarie Vecchio, Program Supervisor, English – 38 Years
Mary Velluto, Grade 5, Robin Hood – 38 Years

Unable to attend were the following:

Robert Brennan, Cafeteria – 7 Years
Robert Hogan, Program Supervisor, Technology – 24 Years
Elizabeth Martinez, Reading, Middle School – 31 Years
Diane Muollo, Mathematics, Middle School – 27 Years
Kathleen Plati, Librarian, Middle School – 35 Years

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

E. Recognition of Staff – 25+ Years of Service

The School Committee recognized the following staff for twenty-five plus years of service to the Stoneham Public Schools. Books have been donated to their school library in honor of their dedicated service:

25+ Yrs. of Service	School	Name	Book Title
	Central	Sara Dodd	<i>Marley, A Dog Like No Other</i>
	Central	Ann Marie Gallis	<i>The Story of Ruby Bridges</i>
30	Central	MaryJo Stanton	<i>Amanda Pig, First Grader</i>
	CP	Joanne Anselmi	<i>The Great Book of Italy</i>
	CP	Geraldine Cassidy	<i>Hip Hop Speaks to Children</i>
30	CP	Marlene Cohen	<i>The Edible Schoolyard</i>
	HS	John Strangi	<i>"A Long Time Coming": The Inspiring, Combative 2008 Campaign and the Historic Election of Barack Obama</i>
	HS	Charlie Freeman	<i>Hot, Flat & Crowded: Why We Need a Green Revolution - and How It Can Renew America</i>
	HS	Marjorie Correnti	<i>Street Gang: The Complete History of Sesame Street b</i>
	HS	Jim Carino	<i>The Given Day</i>
30	HS	Mary Appleyard	<i>The Guernsey Literary and Potato Pie Society</i>
	HS	Sandra Granese	<i>Saved: Rescued Animals and the Lives They Transform</i>
	HS	Lydia Breen	<i>The Way We Work: Getting to Know the Amazing Human Body</i>
30	HS	Paul Cerrone	<i>No Limits: The Will to Succeed</i>
	HS	Jane Gagnon	<i>Hungry Planet: What the World Eats</i>
	MS	Lucille Dunn	<i>The Last Olympian (Percy Jackson and the Olympians Series #5)</i>
30	MS	Elizabeth Martinez	<i>Brisingr (Inheritance Cycle #3)</i>
	MS	Diane Muollo	<i>A Great and Terrible Beauty</i>
	RH	Jean Cappuccio	<i>Little Swan</i>
	RH	Patricia Ellegood	<i>Aunt Chip and the Great Triple Creek Dam Affair</i>
30	RH	William Berglund	<i>Johnny Tremain</i>
30	RH	Michele Cahill	<i>Amazing Peace</i>
30	SO	Ellen Swanson	<i>The Edible Schoolyard</i>

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

Chairman Viselli called for a brief recess to honor all recipients with a reception.

F. Acceptance of Donation: Stoneham Public Schools Foundation

Mr. Chris Willard of the Stoneham Public Schools Foundation gave an update on donations and fundraising that the Foundation has made to the schools this school year, and presented a check for \$3,600 to fund spring intramurals at the Middle School. Mr. Willard also reported that they are working with a company on a donation of new computer equipment.

ACTION: A motion was made by M. Christie and seconded by D. Maurer to accept the donation of \$3,600 from the Stoneham Public Schools Foundation to be used to fund spring intramurals at the Middle School. The motion was approved 5-0.

G. Action to Approve the Minutes of:

April 16, 2009 Regular Meeting

ACTION: A motion was made by M. Christie and seconded by D. Maurer to approve the minutes of April 16, 2009. The motion was approved 5-0.

April 16, 2009 Executive Session

ACTION: A motion was made by D. Maurer and seconded by S. MacNeill to approve the minutes of April 16, 2009 to remain confidential. The motion was approved 5-0.

May 4, 2009 Special Meeting

ACTION: A motion was made by D. Maurer and seconded by S. MacNeill to approve the minutes of May 4, 2009. The motion was approved 5-0.

May 4, 2009 Executive Session

ACTION: A motion was made by M. Christie and seconded by S. MacNeill to approve the minutes of May 4, 2009 to remain confidential. The motion was approved 5-0.

H. Bill Schedule #15

A motion was made by S. MacNeill and seconded by M. Christie to approve Bill Schedule #15 in the amount of \$794,241.37. The motion was approved 5-0.

I. 2008-2009 School Calendar – Approval of Last Day of School

During the past year, school was cancelled three times due to inclement weather: December 22, January 28 and March 2. Dr. Olson recommended the School Committee officially approve June 22, 2009 as the last day of school.

ACTION: A motion was made by S. MacNeill and seconded by M. Christie to approve June 22, 2009 as the last day of school. The motion was approved 5-0.

J. Crystal Apple Award Criteria

Chairman Viselli reviewed the criteria and guidelines for the Crystal Apple Awards and proposed that the number of recipients be changed from a maximum of three to a guideline of five. The Committee also agreed to delete the word “equitably” from Item 6 and to post a nomination form on the school website. Chairman Viselli requested that members submit nominations to him by June 4. The awards will be presented at the June 25th School Committee meeting.

ACTION: A motion was made by D. Maurer and seconded by S. MacNeill to approve the revisions to the Crystal Apple Award Criteria. The motion was approved 5-0.

K. ARRA Grants

Dr. Olson recommended approval to post the following positions contingent upon receipt of stimulus funds:

Title One Stimulus Funds - \$64,022:

Request approval to post Elementary Reading Teacher/Literacy Coach

IDEA Stimulus Funds - \$383,104

Request approval to post two Resource Room Teachers and one Elementary Team Chair.

ACTION: A motion was made by M. Christie and seconded by D. Maurer to approve the postings of the above positions contingent upon receipt of grant monies. The motion was approved 5-0.

Dr. Olson also updated the Committee on the decrease in kindergarten enrollment and increase in preschool enrollment and requested consideration to hire an additional preschool teacher with funding coming from tuition payments. Dr. Olson will put this item on the May 28th agenda.

L. Subcommittee Assignments

The Committee agreed to the following member assignments for the 09/10 school year:

School Committee Organization 2009/2010		
Chairperson	elect	J. Viselli
Vice Chairperson	elect	S. MacNeill
Secretary	appoint	Superintendent
Committees		
Local Education Foundation	appoint	M. Christie
<u>Collective Bargaining</u>	appoint	
Teachers	appoint	All
Teaching Assistants	appoint	S. McCarthy
Secretaries	appoint	D. Maurer
Custodians/Maint.Craftsmen	appoint	S. MacNeill
Cafeteria	appoint	J. Viselli
Administrators	appoint	M. Christie
Summit Committee	appoint	Chair/Vice-Chair
Policy Committee	appoint	S. MacNeill, S. McCarthy
Strategic Planning Committee	appoint	All
Alumni Committee	appoint	M. Christie
Hall of Fame Committee	appoint	M. Christie
Warrant Review	appoint	S. McCarthy
United Council	appoint	D. Maurer
Health and Safety/IPM Committee	appoint	J. Viselli, S. MacNeill
Crystal Apple Award Committee	appoint	Chair
Web Page Coordinator	appoint	L. Olson
<u>PTO Liaisons</u>		
High School	appoint	S. MacNeill
Middle School		J. Viselli
Colonial Park		S. MacNeill
Central School		S. McCarthy
Robin Hood		D. Maurer
South School		M. Christie
Superintendent's Evaluation Committee	Appoint	Chair Vice-Chair
<u>Other:</u>		
Stoneham Business Roundtable	appoint	Superintendent
Middlesex Partnership for Youth	appoint	S. MacNeill
Budget Assignments		
Area	Administration	New 09-10
Staffing Levels and Salaries	L. Olson	M. Christie
Elementary Schools	Elementary Principals	S. McCarthy
Middle School	C. Banos, Program Supervisors	J. Viselli
High School	E. Russo, Program Supervisors	S. MacNeill
Athletics	D. Pignone	M. Christie
Special Education	F. Scott	D. Maurer
Technology	D. Armstrong, J. DiMarco	D. Maurer
Maintenance & Utilities	M. French	S. McCarthy
District-wide Instruction	L. Olson	D. Maurer

It was requested that the assignment list be reviewed again at the May 28th meeting.

M. Italian Textbook Adoption

At the recommendation of the Foreign Language Department, A. Patriquin requested adoption of the new Italian Textbook *Ciao!* Funding will come from the Casit Grant.

ACTION: A motion was made by M. Christie and seconded by S. McCarthy to approve the adoption of the new Italian Textbook *Ciao!* The motion was approved 5-0.

N. STA Contract

ACTION: A motion was made by S. MacNeill and seconded by M. Christie to approve the Memorandum of Agreement with the Stoneham Teachers Association. The motion was approved 5-0.

J. Viselli read the following statement for press release:

May 14, 2009

School Committee Chair Joe Viselli announced today that the School Committee has reached a tentative contract settlement with the Stoneham Teachers Association for a new contract with the teachers for a period of July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2012.

The contract follows and builds upon the settlement that the Town of Stoneham reached last summer with the Public Employees Committee to join the Group Insurance Commission, effective July 2009. As detailed by the Board of Selectmen and Finance and Advisory Board at the last two Annual Town Meetings, joining the GIC will provide an immediate savings to the Town of about \$700,000 for FY10, provide increasing savings into the millions of dollars in future years, and make available funds to restore critical services.

The insurance savings are being realized this year, as the School Department proposed budget reflected a savings in excess of \$500,000. Because of these savings, the School Committee was able to begin the process of restoring programs to the Middle School that were eliminated in the 2004-2005 school year.

In addition, the contract calls for the extension of the student instructional year by 45 hours at the elementary level – an increase in learning time of 5%. The parties have also agreed to negotiate a review and change of the High School schedule for the 2010-2011 school year.

Financially, the contract will provide a wage increase of 2.5% in fy1-, 2.5% in FY11, and 3.0% in FY12. This settlement provides the lowest annual wage increase that the Committee has negotiated in the last 6 contracts, stretching back to 1995. Chairperson Viselli noted: “Despite the economic climate, this modest wage increase at the same time as a significant health insurance savings and an increase in learning time for students is a major step forward for the Stoneham Public Schools.”

N. Superintendent’s Evaluation

Chairman Viselli 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.

Chairman Viselli made the following comment:

It is the overall opinion of the School Committee that Dr. Olson continues to do a good job. He has worked diligently throughout the year and has experienced a number of successes. There are still some areas that have been highlighted throughout this evaluation that still require Dr. Olson’s attention in the upcoming year. We look forward to working with Dr. Olson in the upcoming year as together we will tackle continued budgetary constraints, curriculum, accreditation and embarking on next steps for the possible funding of a new middle school. Dr. Olson, thank you for a good year. Your overall efforts and work ethic are much appreciated.

D. Maurer recommended reviewing the evaluation process, stating that some of the content of the evaluation form is irrelevant and recommended a subcommittee to review the form. D. Maurer agreed to review it and compare it to the MASC guidelines.

III. Discussion/Correspondence/New Items

Chairman Viselli announced the following upcoming key dates:

May 28 – Senior Academic Awards
June 4 – Senior Banquet
June 5 - Graduation

Chairman Viselli requested an update from Dr. Olson on the timeline for the Middle School Statement of Interest application to the Massachusetts School Building Authority. Dr. Olson said that the state has announced May 27 as the goal to review all Statements of Interest. If favorable action were received for a feasibility study, it would still need Town Meeting approval and the entire process could take approximately 5 years.

Chairman Viselli reviewed a list of low cost updates/renovations that he received from Principal Banos and Vice Principal Fulmer. The requests included painting doors, replacing carpets, painting cafeteria and gymnasium. The Committee agreed to move forward on some of the improvement requests and will prioritize the list at the next meeting.

IV. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Olson announced conflicts with the next two upcoming School Committee meetings: May 28 conflicts with Senior Academic Awards and suggested a quick meeting prior to the awards and at 6:00 P.M. June 11 conflicts with the High School retirement party – the Committee agreed to check their calendars and try to reschedule the meeting.

V. Executive Session

ACTION: A motion was made by M. Christie, seconded by S. MacNeill, and voted unanimously by roll call at 8:53 to enter Executive Session under MGL Ch. 39, § 23B.

VI. Adjourn

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

The meeting adjourned at 10:25 P.M.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED
LES E. OLSON, SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS