

STONEHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS
STONEHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY
MAY 15, 2008**

The regular meeting of the School Committee was held at 7:00 P.M. on Thursday, May 15, 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; and A. Patriquin, Assistant Superintendent.

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

Chairman Christie requested amending the agenda to add, under New Business, the acceptance of a donation.

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

B. Action to Approve the Minutes of:

May 1, 2008 Regular Meeting

ACTION: A motion was made by J. Viselli and seconded by S. MacNeill to approve the minutes of May 1, 2008. The motion was approved 4-0-1 with M. Grimaldi abstaining.

May 1, 2008 Executive Session

ACTION: A motion was made by S. MacNeill and seconded by J. Viselli to approve the minutes of May 1, 2008 to remain confidential. The motion was approved 4-0-1 with M. Grimaldi abstaining.

May 5 & 8, 2008 Special Meeting

ACTION: A motion was made by J. Viselli and seconded by S. MacNeill to approve the minutes of May 5, 2008 and May 8, 2008. The motion was approved 5-0.

C. Bill Schedule #21

ACTION: A motion was made by S. MacNeill and seconded by J. Viselli to approve Bill Schedule #21 in the amount of \$412,550.87. The motion was approved 5-0.

D. Student Representatives to the School Committee

Alicia Farina, Zachary Pinto and Mary Neil were present at the meeting and reported on their meeting with Principal Russo regarding cafeteria services.

II. New Business

A. Overnight Field Trip Approval

Every other year, for the past few years, Stoneham High School Band and Chorale have been accepted to perform at Disney World. The process involves sending a video of the groups in performance. Dr. Olson requested approval from the School Committee to approve an overnight field trip to Orlando in April 2009. Approximate cost will be \$1,100 which they hope to offset with donations and fundraising.

ACTION: A motion was made by S. MacNeill and seconded by J. Viselli to approve the Music Department trip to Orlando in April of 2009. The motion was approved 5-0.

B. Policy Revisions

Dr. Olson presented the following policy revisions for School Committee consideration:

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 brief discussion ensued requesting changing the 15 day retention period to a longer period, sending it to the insurance company for review, and comparing it to any existing MASC policy.

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.

The School Committee will have a second reading of above policy revisions at the next regularly scheduled meeting June 5, 2008.

C. FY09 Budget

Dr. Olson presented the Draft 3 Budget for 2008-2009 that was approved at Town Meeting on May 8, 2008 and recommended the adoption of the revised budget in the amount of \$22,639,162; which reflects the \$88,000 reduction in the utility account and the \$10,604 additional funds to the Athletic Budget for field maintenance.

ACTION: A motion was made by M. Grimaldi and seconded by S. MacNeill to adopt a revised budget for 2008-2009, as approved at Town Meeting, with a notation that the Board of Selectmen strongly encouraged the School Committee to return to fall town meeting supplemental funds are needed in the utility line item. The motion carried 4-1-0 with J. Viselli opposed.

For the record, Chairman Christie stated that the School Committee never agreed to a budget without a trash fee, contrary to rumors circulating around Town.

Dr. Olson also announced that Teacher Placements/Postings were disseminated today. Projected enrollment numbers for 2008-2009 were reviewed and all out-of-district requests received to date were approved.

D. Acceptance of Donation

ACTION: Upon the recommendation of Dr. Olson, a motion was made by M. Grimaldi and seconded by J. Viselli to accept the donation of 40 HP computers from Multiplan of Waltham. The motion carried 5-0.

III. Old Business

None

IV. Discussion

Dr. Olson congratulated the students and staff in their spring musical production of *How to Succeed in Business Without Even Trying*.

V. Superintendent's Report/Announcements & Correspondence

Dr. Olson thanked everyone who attended Town Meeting in support of the schools.

A. Patriquin reported on ongoing MCAS testing that will continue through the week of May 26th. AP Testing was administered this week and Iowa Tests were completed and returned for scoring.

VI. Executive Session

ACTION: A motion was made by S. MacNeill, seconded by J. Viselli, and voted unanimously by roll call at 7:44 PM to enter Executive Session under MGL Ch. 39, § 23B.

The Committee returned to Open Session at 8:45 P.M.

The School Committee requested the Superintendent draft a letter to respond to the issues that arose during and after Town Meeting.

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 8:50 P.M.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED
LES E. OLSON, SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS