

S T O N E H A M P U B L I C S C H O O L S  
S T O N E H A M , M A S S A C H U S E T T S

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING  
HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY  
NOVEMBER 13, 2008**

The regular meeting of the School Committee was held at 7:00 P.M. on Thursday, November 13, 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 7:00 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:**

October 23, 2008 Regular Meeting

**ACTION:** A motion was made by S. MacNeill and seconded by J. Viselli to approve the minutes of October 23, 2008. The motion was approved 4-0.

October 23, 2008 Executive Session

**ACTION:** A motion was made by S. MacNeill and seconded by D. Maurer to approve the minutes of October 23, 2008 to remain confidential. The motion was approved 3-0-1 with J. Viselli abstaining.

**C. Bill Schedule #7**

**ACTION:** A motion was made by J. Viselli and seconded by S. MacNeill to approve Bill Schedule #7 in the amount of \$413,620.89. The motion was approved 4-0.

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

Present at the meeting were Nick Ciarlante, Brandan Epstein, Daniela Colucci and Bikang Zhang who reported that Principal Russo has began producing a video tour of Stoneham High School, the French Club is planning an overnight field trip pending School Committee approval, the Math Team placed second in their last meet. Fall sports are coming to an end and National History Day projects are underway.

**II. New Business**

**A. PTO Reports – Colonial Park & Central School**

L. DiTullio Co-President of the Colonial Park School PTO, gave a summary of events for the 2008/2009 school year which included enrichment programs such as the Boston Ballet. Fundraisers for this year include the fall book fair and entertainment books. Events for the students include the Halloween party, pumpkin fair, read-a-thon, variety show, ice cream night. The PTO also sponsors teacher appreciation luncheons and a food drive.

***M. Grimaldi joined the meeting at 7:15 P.M.***

W. Pignone, President of the Central School PTO, gave a summary of student activity events for the 2008/2009 school year which included Roller World, Halloween Party, boo sticks, Square One art program, and a fall book fair.

The first fundraiser was the sale of T-shirts with the Spartan logo; proceeds will go towards enrichment programs

**B. New Scholarship - Acceptance**

Wendy Pignone requested acceptance of a scholarship from the Central Elementary School honoring past Principal Kathy Windisch. The \$1,000 scholarship will be awarded to one graduating senior who attended the Central Elementary school for at least two years and exemplifies the term “well-rounded student”, i.e. solid performances and participation in academics, extra-curricular activities, community service and work experience.

**ACTION:** A motion was made by S. MacNeill and seconded by J. Viselli to approve *The Central School PTO Scholarship Honoring Principal Kathy Windisch*. The motion was approved 5-0.

**C. Report on Standardized Testing Program & Guidance**

Mrs. Justine Croteau, Program Supervisor of Guidance, began her presentation with an overview of several programs offered by the Guidance Department for students, including the Naviance Program to aid in college selections and Mass CIS to aid in future planning. The following future plans for the Class of 2008 were reported:

Four Year Colleges.....	67%
Two Year Regionally Accredited Colleges .....	20%
Other Schools.....	8%
Service.....	0%
Employed .....	4%
Other Plans.....	1%

A brief discussion ensued regarding the various services that are available to students, including students who do not plan to continue on to a two or four year college.

Mrs. Croteau prepared a Standardized Test report to the Committee for their review which included:

- Grade 2 Iowa Basic Skills Reading & Language Arts – May 2008
- Grade 6 Iowa Battery – English & Math – October 2007 and September 2008
- Advanced Placement Tests – May 2008
- Scholastic Aptitude Test – Class of 2008

**D. MCAS Improvement and Restructuring Plans**

Assistant Superintendent Mrs. Patriquin reported on 2008 MCAS test results for grades three through twelve. Three schools, Middle School, Central School and Colonial Park were identified as a School in Need of Improvement in English Language Arts under the federal *No Child Left Behind Act*. The Middle school and Central School were also identified in need of improvement in Mathematics. Corrective Action teams were formed last year to address schools identified as not meeting AYP.

Principal Maureen Burke reviewed her addendum to the Colonial Park School Improvement Plan. The Colonial Park School Council feels that the primary reason why the school failed to meet Adequate Yearly Progress is the lack of reading support at the primary level. Colonial Park does not meet the criteria of a Title I school so that reading teachers and tutors that provide assistance to at risk students are not available at the Colonial Park School.

Principal Chris Banos reviewed his addendum to the Middle School Improvement Plan. Some of the goals include meeting with individual students to analyze their individual tests and discuss strategies to score in the proficient range, develop a test taking tip booklet for students and parents,

Principal Larry MacElhiney reviewed his addendum to the Central School Improvement Plan. The goal is to improve student answers to open response questions on the MCAS Mathematic test and the MCAS Reading/Language Arts tests.

**E. Financial Update #2**

Mr. DiCologero presented the second FY09 Financial Statement which predicted a \$26,000 year end balance due to a salary line item savings of \$200,000 which is offset by \$174,000 of expenses in sped tuitions, utilities and health insurance premiums.

**F. Enrollment Projections**

Dr. Olson presented enrollment projections for 2009/2010 to guide in the development of the FY10 budget. Although K-5 enrollments are projected to decrease from 1222 to 1214, current inefficiencies in the elementary school boundaries project the need for additional classroom sections in order to maintain class sizes – grade one at South and grade one at Robin Hood. It is possible, however, that the annual cross-district registrations will level off some class sizes and reduce the need for an additional teaching position.

Dr. Olson also reported on class sizes at the Middle School and High School. Historically, High School class sizes have decreased over the past couple of years; however, class sizes at the Middle School show that 52% of the Science classes are above 26 students and 60% of the Social Studies classes are above 26 students. This is a concern that will need to be discussed and address in the FY10 budget process.

**G. Capital Plan**

Dr. Olson requested final review of the Capital Plan to be submitted to the Town Capital Committee. The High School Roof Replacement will be funded at 25% for this year, with 25% being shifted to FY10. As requested by the School Committee, the budget for Building Security Systems has been shifted from FY11 to FY10.

**H. Overnight Field Trip Approval**

Dr. Olson presented a request from Karen Lee, French Club Advisor, to approve an overnight field trip to Quebec City from Friday April 17 to Sunday April 19, 2009. A complete itinerary was submitted for review.

**ACTION:** A motion was made by M. Grimaldi and seconded by S. MacNeill to approve the French Club overnight field trip to Quebec City. The motion was approved 5-0.

**I. Revenue Projections – Board of Selectmen**

Richard Gregorio of the Board of Selectmen presented a report on revenue projections that included local receipts, state aid, trash fee contract and health insurance. It is estimated that total revenues for FY09 will total \$62,826,496 and \$62,619,862 for FY10 which is a decrease in revenue of \$206,634.

**III. Old Business**

The Committee read the following letter from Daniel W. Hogan, Chairman of the Stoneham Elementary School Building Committee notifying the Board of Selectmen that the committee has completed all of the work it was chartered to perform for the Town of Stoneham regarding the construction/renovation of the four elementary schools and that the Building Committee has voted to notify the Board of Selectmen that all business has been completed and the Committee should be officially dissolved by the Board of Selectmen. The Committee thanked the Building Committee

Stoneham Elementary School Building Committee  
149 Franklin Street Stoneham, MA 02180

September 30, 2008

Mr. John DePinto, Chairman  
Board of Selectmen  
35 Central Street  
Stoneham, MA 02180

Dear Chairman DePinto,

At their September 17, 2008 meeting, the Stoneham Elementary School Building Committee completed all of the work it was chartered to perform for the Town of Stoneham regarding the construction/renovation of four elementary schools. The final vote of the Stoneham School Building Committee was to notify the Board of Selectmen that all business has been completed, and the Committee should be officially dissolved by the Board of Selectmen.

- A brief history of some significant accomplishments of the Committee is summarized below:
- The first meeting of the Stoneham School Building Committee was in July 2, 1997, and the final meeting was on September 17, 2008, representing a span of 11+ years and a total of 241 meeting.
- The four elementary school building dedication dates were:
  - South School..... October 21, 2000
  - Central School ..... January 26, 2002
  - Robin Hood School..... October 4, 2003
  - Colonial Park School ..... October 18, 2003
- When originally appointed, the Committee consisted of 11 individuals. Over the past eleven years, for personal reasons, a few members of the original committee resigned, and in 2001, committee member Albert Prior passed away. However, it is very noteworthy that five of the original committee members served the entire 11+ years, four other members served 10+ years, and one member served 9+ years. The average attendance at all meetings of the Stoneham School Building Committee was approximately eight members which is a testament to the Committee's commitment to this project.
- The total appropriation by Town Meeting and the debt exclusion vote was \$45, 850,000. The expenditure of these funds which was authorized by the Committee was distributed by the Town Accountant. Enclosed with this letter is a brief summary by school of the estimated costs expended.
- The Committee served in cooperation with a number of different members of the School Committee, one interim Superintendent of School and three Superintendents.

As Chairman of the Stoneham Elementary School Building Committee, I wish to offer congratulations to the members for their dedication and fulfillment of their responsibilities to the community. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as Chairman of this Committee.

Most sincerely,

Daniel W. Hogan, Jr.  
Chairman

cc: Stoneham School Committee  
Stoneham Elementary School Building Committee



**IV. Discussion**

None

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

Dr. Olson announced receipt of a \$5,000 grant to enhance school health services. One of the requirements of this grant is to reactivate the Health & Safety Committee. Chairman Christie requested that any member interested in serving on this board should contact her as soon as possible.

**VI. Executive Session**

**ACTION:** A motion was made by M. Grimaldi, seconded by J. Viselli, and voted unanimously by roll call at 9:00 PM 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 5-0.

The meeting adjourned at 10:40 P.M.

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