

STONEHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
STONEHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING  
HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY  
OCTOBER 15, 2009**

The regular meeting of the School Committee was held at 7:00 P.M. on Thursday, October 15, 2009 in the High School library with the following members present: J. Viselli, Chairman; M. Christie, D. Maurer and S. McCarthy. Also present was L. Olson, Superintendent of Schools and A. DiCologero, Administrator of School Finance.

Chairman J. Viselli called the open session of the School Committee to order at 7:00 P.M.

**I. Agenda**

**A. Action to Approve the Agenda**

**ACTION:** A motion was made by D. Maurer and seconded by M. Christie to approve the agenda. The motion carried 4-0.

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

September 24, 2009 Regular Meeting

**ACTION:** A motion was made by D. Maurer and seconded by M. Christie to approve the minutes of September 24, 2009. The motion was approved 3-0-1 with S. McCarthy abstaining.

September 24, 2009 Executive Session

**ACTION:** A motion was made by D. Maurer and seconded by M. Christie to approve the minutes of September 24, 2009 to remain confidential. The motion was approved 3-0-1 with S. McCarthy abstaining.

October 1, 2009 Special Meeting

**ACTION:** A motion was made by D. Maurer and seconded by M. Christie to approve the minutes of October 1, 2009. The motion was approved 4-0.

October 1, 2009 Executive Session

**ACTION:** A motion was made by D. Maurer and seconded by M. Christie to approve the minutes of October 1, 2009 to remain confidential. The motion was approved 4-0.

**C. Bill Schedule #5**

**ACTION:** A motion was made by M. Christie and seconded by D. Maurer to approve Bill Schedule #5 in the amount of \$384,855.78. The motion was approved 4-0.

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

Chairman Viselli welcomed the Student Representatives to the School Committee for the 2009/2010 school year and asked them to introduce themselves:

<b>NAME</b>	<b>CLASS</b>
Nicole Willard (Returning)	2010
Daniela Colucci (Returning)	2010
Brandon Epstein (Returning)	2010
Tiffany Lopinsky	2012
Jamie McDermott	2012
Sucharita Mukherjee	2013

### **E. Department Report – Foreign Language**

Due to a conflict, Deb Cronin, Program Supervisor of Foreign Language, was unable to attend and this item was tabled to the November 12, 2009 meeting.

### **F. Special Education Report**

Frank Scott, Director of Pupil Personnel, presented a Special Education report for 2009-2010 that included:

- Orientation of new staff
- Summer School program
- Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and federal reporting requirements.
- Out of district placements: the trend has been slightly lower for the last couple of years.
- PAC (Parent Advisory Council).

Dr. Scott reported that regulations are constantly evolving and require ongoing staff training and restructuring of children's behavioral health services.

A brief discussion followed regarding MCAS results of Special Education students and their performance compared to state average.

### **G. FY10 Budget**

Dr. Olson welcomed the Finance Board to the meeting.

Dr. Olson updated the Committee on the status of the FY10 Budget and the recommendation from the Town Administrator and Board of Selectmen to reduce the school expense budget by \$156,000 due to reductions in state aid. In addition, there are two additional deficits:

- \$28,000 shortfall in the special education summer school account, and
- \$40,000 shortfall in the unemployment account

This brings the total shortfall to \$224,000. \$94,000 can be covered by recent grants, special education tuition and final summer hiring savings balances – leaving a deficit of \$130,000. Of this amount, \$50,000 can be reduced from materials and supplies and have a relatively small impact on school programs. The remaining \$80,000 would have a significant impact and could include the following reductions:

- freeze additional professional development support for the Everyday Math initiative
- freeze additional materials for Middle School health curriculum initiative
- freeze most consumable supply budgets for High School electives (science labs, family and consumer science courses, etc.)
- reduce funds for winter and spring athletic programs

The Committee agreed not to take any actions on reductions until after the October 26 Town Meeting.

#### **H. Middle School Facility**

Dr. Olson reported that he had received a letter from the Massachusetts School Building Authority identifying the Stoneham Middle School as a facility that might be eligible for state money. Once the state identifies you as a candidate for the process, there is a strict set of guidelines that requires that the Town confer with the state entity through virtually every aspect of the process; therefore, Dr. Olson recommended to indefinitely postpone the \$100,000 request for the Middle School portion of the capital funding article at Town Meeting.

**ACTION:** A motion was made by D. Maurer and seconded by M. Christie to postpone the Middle School portion of the Town capital plan. The motion was approved 4-0.

The Committee also agreed to postpone the open house scheduled for October 26 at the Middle School.

#### **I. Acceptance of Scholarships**

Dr. Olson recommended approval to establish the following scholarships:

A request from Pat Hardacker, paraprofessional at the South School, to initiate a scholarship in memory of Maureen Welch. Maureen passed away suddenly on September 24, 2009. She retired from the Stoneham Public Schools in June, 2005, after teaching for 39 years. It is anticipated the scholarship would be \$500 and be awarded annually to a student who attended the South Elementary School and was planning on pursuing a teaching career.

**ACTION:** A motion was made by M. Christie and seconded by D. Maurer to approve a scholarship in memory of Maureen Welch. The motion was approved 4-0.

A request from Carol Bowdidge, paraprofessional at the South School, to initiate a scholarship in memory of her brother Neil Trotta. Neil passed away on March 20, 2009 at the age of 54. He attended Stoneham High School and played on the baseball team. The scholarship would be named "The Neil J. Trotta Memorial Scholarship."

**ACTION:** A motion was made by M. Christie and seconded by D. Maurer to approve the Neil J. Trotta Memorial Scholarship. The motion was approved 4-0.

#### **II. Discussion/Correspondence/New Items**

Joe Viselli announced that Boston Cares was scheduled to do work at the Middle School this Saturday but it has been postponed due to the weather forecast.

D. Maurer reported that he received complaints from parents on how students are notified prior to the start of the school year as to who their teachers are – this information has been posted on the windows at the schools for the past several years.

#### **III. Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Olson announced that parent letters were sent from Central School, Colonial Park and the Middle School regarding 2009 AYP status.

Dr. Olson requested the Committee establish a time frame on budget planning for next year and to consider a process for updating the current Strategic Plan. The Mission Statement and Core Values should be based upon a full public analysis of Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) which has not been done in Stoneham in 15 years. Because it is time for a full review and not just an administrative update, it was recommended that an outside consultant/facilitator be hired to coordinate the process.

After discussion, the Committee felt that it did have the funds to commit to an update of the Strategic Plan either this year or next. The Committee will rely on one-to-three budget goals to set direction for the district. The Superintendent will have a first draft of the 2010-2011 budget goals for the November 12 meeting.

#### **IV. Executive Session**

**ACTION:** A motion was made by D. Maurer, seconded by M. Christie and voted unanimously by roll call at 8:15 PM to enter Executive Session under MGL Ch. 30A, § 11A ½ and not to return to open session.

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