

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
SEPTEMBER 25, 2008**

The regular meeting of the School Committee was held at 7:00 P.M. on Thursday, September 25, 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 M. Grimaldi and seconded by J. Viselli to approve the agenda. The motion carried 5-0.

B. Action to Approve the Minutes of:

September 11, 2008 Regular Meeting

ACTION: A motion was made by S. MacNeill and seconded by J. Viselli to approve the minutes of September 11, 2008. The motion was approved 4-0-1 with M. Grimaldi abstaining.

September 11, 2008 Executive Session

ACTION: A motion was made by J. Viselli and seconded by S. MacNeill to approve the minutes of September 11, 2008 to remain confidential. The motion was approved 4-0-1 with M. Grimaldi abstaining.

C. Bill Schedule #4

ACTION: A motion was made by S. MacNeill and seconded by J. Viselli to approve Bill Schedule #4 in the amount of \$191,190.36. The motion was approved 5-0.

II. New Business

A. Student Representatives to the School Committee 2008-2009 - Introductions

Chairman Christie welcomed the following Student Representatives to the School Committee for the 2008/2009 school year:

Name	Class
Nick Ciarlante (Returning)	2010
Nicole Willard (Returning)	2010
Daniela Colucci (Returning)	2010
Brandon Epstein (Returning)	2010
Bikang Zhang	2009

Chairman Christie reviewed their role and asked that they be prepared to give a brief update report at each meeting.

B. Financial Report #1 – Review Revolving Funds & Grants

Mr. DiCologero reported a projected savings in the salary line item of \$200,000 which is offset by an increase of \$200,000 in Special Education, utilities and health insurance. The major financial impacts that could affect a balanced budget include the increase in the cost of natural gas and projected increases, set by the state, in the rates of Special Education tuitions.

C. Policy Revisions

Dr. Olson recommended that Policies 9-4, 9-26, 9-27 and 9-32 be revised to include the following phrase:

“The School Committee shall not hear appeals that pertain to matters specified in MGL Chapter 71, Sections 37H and 37H ½ .”

A brief discussion followed. The Committee requested that MGL Chapter 71, Sections 37H and 37H ½ be attached to the policy.

ACTION: A motion was made by D. Maurer and seconded by J. Viselli to revise policies 9-4, 9-26, 9-27 and 9-32 to include the phrase “The School Committee shall not hear appeals that pertain to matters specified in MGL Chapter 71, Sections 37H and 37H ½ .” The motion was approved 4-0-1 with M. Grimaldi abstaining.

D. Adequate Yearly Progress

Dr. Olson outlined the 2008 Adequate Yearly Progress status from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. The Middle School has been identified as in need of restructuring in mathematics. The Middle School, Central School and Colonial Park School are all in need of improvement in English/Language Arts and the Central School is in need of improvement in mathematics.

Dr. Olson noted that academic performance remains moderate to high at most schools in most subject areas, but no improvement has been made and remaining at a satisfactory level is not acceptable.

A major change that will be incorporated in this year’s Action Plan will focus on how the students learn and whether they understand the concepts as opposed to how the teachers teach. More detailed information will be presented at the October meeting.

E. Donation

ACTION: A motion was made by D. Maurer and seconded by J. Viselli to accept a donation from Astaro Corporation, Burlington, MA of 28 256MB memory sticks to the Central School computer lab. The motion was approved 5-0.

III. Old Business

None

IV. Discussion

S. MacNeill reported that she attended the High School freshman orientation last week.

Chairman Christie announced that several MASC sponsored meetings with Education Commissioner Mitchell Chester will take place in October and asked any members interested in attending to please let her know.

Chairman Christie also announced that the SBCEF will have a pumpkin festival on the common on October 25th.

V. Superintendent's Report/Announcements & Correspondence

Dr. Olson informed the School Committee that a committee is being formed to look at the bike path going through town. This committee will be approaching the School Committee to request a change in the right-of-way. Dr. Olson stated that he will keep the School Committee informed as more information becomes available.

The Board of Selectmen, at their meeting on Tuesday night, invited the School Committee to attend their October 14th meeting to discuss the East School, North School and old Central School properties.

VI. Executive Session

ACTION: A motion was made by S. MacNeill, seconded by J. Viselli, and voted unanimously by roll call at 7:40 PM to enter Executive Session under MGL Ch. 39, § 23B.

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 8:10 P.M.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED
LES E. OLSON, SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS