

**SCITUATE SCHOOL COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 6, 2009
TOWN CHAMBERS HALL**

CALL TO ORDER

42-1

The Regular School Committee Meeting was called to order by Chair Archambault at 7:00 PM.

Present were Patricia Archambault, Ernie Marcure, Brian LaPlante Marylou Umbriano, and June Guglielmi. Also present were Paul Lescault, Superintendent of Schools, and Kristen Stringfellow, Assistant Superintendent.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

42-2

Led by Chair Archambault, the Committee and audience participated in a pledge of allegiance to the flag.

REORGANIZATION OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE

42-3

Dr. Lescault asked for nominations for the position of Chair of the School Committee.

Chair Archambault nominated Mr. Marcure for the position of Chair. Mr. LaPlante seconded the nomination and the Committee unanimously agreed.

Chair Marcure thanked Mrs. Archambault for serving 14 years on the School Committee, 6 of which were as Chair of the Committee. Chair Marcure wanted to recognize Mrs. Archambault's dedication, leadership and tenacity. As Chair, Mrs. Archambault led the Committee through some challenging times and did so with compassion and dedication.

Chair Marcure asked for nominations for the position of Clerk of the School Committee.

Mrs. Archambault nominated Mrs. Umbriano for the position of Clerk. Mrs. Guglielmi seconded the nomination and the Committee unanimously agreed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

42-4

Mrs. Umbriano moved, seconded by Mrs. Guglielmi, to approve the minutes of the Regular School Committee Session of Tuesday, December 2 2008. The Committee unanimously agreed.

Mrs. Umbriano moved, seconded by Mrs. Guglielmi, to approve the minutes of the Special School Committee Meeting of Tuesday, December 16, 2008. The Committee unanimously agreed.

Mrs. Umbriano moved, seconded by Mrs. Archambault, to approve the minutes of the Executive Session of Tuesday, December 16, 2008. The Committee unanimously agreed.

MONTHLY PAYABLES NEW BUDGET

42-5

Mrs. Umbriano moved, seconded by Mrs. Archambault, that the Committee approve the New Budget Bills 2009 for the month of January in the amount of \$498,945.85. The Committee unanimously approved the motion.

BOND BILLS

42-6

Mrs. Umbriano moved, seconded by Mrs. Archambault, to approve the Bond Fund Building Improvements Bill for the month of January in the amount of \$7398.18. The Committee unanimously approved the motion.

GRANT BILLS

42-7

Mrs. Umbriano moved, seconded by Mrs. Archambault, that the Committee approve the Grant Bills for the month of January in the amount of \$60,238.52. The Committee unanimously approved the motion.

CORRESPONDENCE

42-8

There was no correspondence for the month of January 2009.

42-9

REPORT OF COMMITTEE LIAISONS

BUDGET

Mrs. Archambault stated Dr. Lescault will discuss the budget in the Superintendent's Report.

CURRICULUM

Chair Marcure and Dr. Stringfellow have reviewed course curriculum changes and Chair Marcure will offer suggestions with the department chairs when the changes are discussed in the Assistant Superintendent's Report.

Chair Marcure stated the experience of the students needs to be maximized, especially in light of the state changes/mandates. The curriculum needs to be viable, current and cutting edge.

FOOD SERVICES

Mrs. Umbriano stated the Point-of-Sale (POS) system is up and running and in addition to working well, the students seem to be enjoying the new system.

Mrs. Archambault asked if sales have gone up because students are paying or if was due to menu changes.

Mrs. Umbriano stated for the last two months high selling items were sold on different days versus on same day. Mrs. Umbriano added that RIDE establishes the menu as part of the state contract.

SPACE NEEDS

Chair Marcure stated nothing to report.

**HEALTH/
WELLNESS**

Mrs. Guglielmi stated Dr. Stringfellow will address in the Assistant Superintendent's Report.

NEGOTIATIONS

Chair Marcure stated some of the language of the teachers' contract is being fine tuned.

Mrs. Archambault stated the teachers' contract has already been signed.

Mrs. Umbriano stated the language of four items needs to be clarified. A committee was formed to complete this task.

POLICY

Mr. LaPlante stated nothing to report.

RIASC

Mrs. Archambault stated one of the upcoming workshops on collective bargaining is scheduled for January 24th from 9-11 am at RIC. Attorney Benjamin Scungio will be leading the workshop. The meeting is open to anyone on the School Committee.

Mrs. Archambault stated it is part of the RIASC educational program where credit is given toward certification for those members who need it.

**SAFETY AND
TRANSPORTATION**

Mrs. Umbriano was previously told she was appointed to the Scituate Traffic Safety Committee however the position needs to be publicly advertised and then the position needs to be discussed at a Town Council meeting after which a nominee is selected for appointment to the Committee. The Scituate Traffic Safety Committee meets four times per year and the next meeting is in March.

Mrs. Guglielmi believed a School Committee member was required to sit on the Committee.

Mrs. Umbriano replied the by-laws were reviewed and there is nothing which indicates a School Committee member must be on Committee however, Mrs. Umbriano will continue to attend the meetings, either as a Committee member or as an attendee.

Mrs. Umbriano stated at last meeting an issue where a bus driver made a U-turn on Route 6 was addressed by Chief Prendergast. The issue was discussed and resolved quickly.

Mrs. Umbriano stated due to students being moved to the bottom lot (at the High School), there was a concern about the students driving up and down the hill. However, the hill was very well sanded on the two icy days.

Chair Marcure stated when parents are dropping students off in the morning there could be a dangerous situation as parents are pulling up near Caito Field and others are exiting onto Rockland.

Mrs. Umbriano drops own son off at the Middle School each morning and stated when driving around the school and down the hill, there is plenty of room for two cars to travel in each direction.

**SCITUATE
ADVOCATES FOR
EVERYONE (SAFE)**

Chair Marcure stated at last meeting the mission of SAFE was revised to coincide with the state direction to a more broad-based intervention within town rather than geared toward a specific group or event. Erin McCormack, one of the SAD coordinators has been in contact with a national presenter to make presentations to coaches (and anyone else in district interested) concerning potential problems with drug and/or alcohol abuse among student athletes. This is a nationally recognized presentation with greatest number of attendees being coaches and administrators.

Nationally, there are problems with alcohol abuse among student athletes with team captains and leaders sometimes initiating behavior. The goal is to target these leaders in hopes of making better choices and setting a positive example for the team. The plan would be to continue this program at the Middle School level. Students today are exposed to TV, movies, CDs, and the web and face greater challenges.

Chair Marcure stated an exit interview for seniors is being planned. Chair Marcure has done this in the past with another district where an anonymous written survey was distributed to students (questions included textbooks, teachers, facility, etc.). Chair Marcure performed an informal exit interview with some seniors last year in Scituate in which seniors provided feedback on what they would like to see improved.

Chair Marcure stated there is a plan to make SAFE programs more family-focused rather specifically designed for students only.

Chair Marcure stated SAFE will also investigate BCI (Bureau of Criminal Investigation) checks as Sgt. Prendergast stated these checks are very shallow and does not go back over a period of years nor does it include all crimes. In essence, there is a specific list of crimes and/or misdemeanors which would make a potential job candidate ineligible to work with children.

Dr. Stringfellow stated there are also issues with out-of-state BCI checks. Also, if a crime was committed twenty years ago it may not be included.

Dr. Lescault stated BCI checks used to pick up everything; however, based on privacy, schools are no longer allowed to see the full report. What is received now is a letter which identified whether a potential employee is acceptable or unacceptable.

Chair Marcure stated the list of site concerns addressed at an earlier meeting has been categorized based on priority (some have been completed). Dr. Stringfellow distributed a spreadsheet with the breakdown to the Committee members. The Committee will continue to review site concerns annually.

Chair Marcure stated some items were equipment for the staff which the PTOs hope to provide.

**SPECIAL
EDUCATION**

Chair Marcure stated Scituate regionalizes with Foster, Gloucester and Foster-Glocester. After speaking with Mr. Magner and Ms. Brierley, there are presently 240 students with special needs, with 16 out-of-district. The state grant is approximately \$390,000; Scituate's local contribution is \$43,000(for the 224 students receiving services). The NWR office is based in Foster.

Chair Marcure stated Scituate is now saving \$158,000 by regionalizing. The number above does not include resources Scituate must provide such as Occupational and Physical Therapists etc. as those professionals also serve other students in the district as well.

**TOWNWIDE
FINANCE
COMMITTEE
BOND**

Chair Marcure stated nothing to report.

Chair Marcure expressed deep appreciation for all of those who voted for the bond. Chair Marcure stated the goal is to maximize every dollar of the bond and every square foot. Chair Marcure expressed the importance of obtaining feedback from those 'in the trenches' so discussions are planned with Principals Sollitto and Sweet to help identify ways to best utilize space. Chair Marcure spoke with Mr. Magner regarding how the Special Education rooms should be designed (for example, one larger room and a smaller room, the need for a sink, etc.)

Chair Marcure stated a committee was formed which includes state statute of who must serve on the committee. A construction manager and electrical engineer are required and Chair Marcure stated two men who worked on the school exploratory committee volunteered to serve on this committee. Dianne Scacco, President North Scituate PTO and a member of SAFE, will also serve on the Committee to represent the schools.

**STRATEGIC
PLANNING**

Mrs. Guglielmi stated nothing to report.

**42-10
UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

1. NWR COLLABORATIVE AGREEMENT

See Superintendent's Report for detail on this item.

Recommendation: Take whatever action the committee deems appropriate.

Chair Marcure stated the report provided to the Committee includes a detailed breakdown of the grant and how monies are allocated. The report is available for anyone who wishes to review it.

Mrs. Archambault does not question the value of the program but stated difficulty understanding the transition from the grant money into the budget. Mr. Magner's salary, for instance, is not Scituate's sole responsibility but it seems everything is filtering through Scituate and it's having an impact on the budget. Mrs. Archambault asked Dr. Lescault to review the process with her at a later date to which Dr. Lescault agreed and asked Mrs. Archambault to let Dr. Lescault know when she would like to do that.

Chair Marcure stated the special needs grant is difficult as it is but to then work with additional districts, it becomes more involved. The percentage of special needs students is 14% which is about true for most schools.

Mrs. Archambault asked if other districts have collaboratives as well.

Chair Marcure replied Exeter-West Greenwich, Bristol-Warren, and Chariho and

possibly Block Island.

Mr. LaPlante asked as Scituate being the fiscal agent, how is revenue from other towns booked?

Dr. Lescault stated as grants. As fiscal agent, Scituate handles all of the expenditures.

Mr. LaPlante confirmed after it is floated through the budgetary process, there is a net figure that must be injected into formula to make it work.

Dr. Lescault replied there is a very small contribution made each year. Scituate is also responsible for out-of-district students and resource teachers/support personnel.

Mrs. Brierley stated service providers are on Scituate payroll.

Dr. Lescault stated Occupational and Physical Therapists, etc. are all being paid through the Northwest Region as these resources are being shared.

Mr. LaPlante confirmed the cost would be much greater if this (Special Education) was done in-house.

Mrs. Brierley responded the cost would be approximately \$158,000.

Chair Marcure stated the 16 out-of-district students are at a cost of \$452,000 which is approximately \$21,000 per student.

Mrs. Brierley stated ability of NWR is to build capacity. There are a range of programs to support the wide range of students with disabilities. Half of those out-of-district tuitions are moved in beyond Scituate's control, for instance DCYF students move in and Scituate must accept responsibility. Two of the students that are out-of-district are students hoped, with reallocation of space and new bond will be brought back into the district at a savings of almost \$100,000 to the town.

Mr. LaPlante stated it is economy of scale.

Mr. LaPlante moved to approve the NWR Collaborative Agreement. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Umbriano. The Committee unanimously agreed.

Chair Marcure added Mrs. Brierley also visits each site to determine if site(s) would also be appropriate for each child. This department has a great dedication to these children..

Mrs. Brierley stated in one particular case if the student had to be sent out of region due to unique needs, the cost would be approximately \$90,000 but right now the tuition is approximately \$40,000. NWR tries to work within what has been built.

Chair Marcure stated some people do question the amount (of money being spent on Special Education services). Chair Marcure stated the special needs population costs comes fairly close to the cost of the general population. People need to know that so that there are no misgivings about the budget or that facet of education.

Chair Marcure updated the attendees with the current school population. Last month the enrollment was 1,702 and this month at 1,695: 948 Middle School and High School, 747 at elementary schools, 217 at Clayville, 260 at Hope and 270 at North Scituate. Pre-K was moved to North Scituate Elementary School which increases their numbers. It was decided by this Committee years ago that grades K-2 should have small class sizes. The class size is 16-17 students per class in grades K-2; the average is 22 per class for remaining elementary classes. These are great numbers which are unlike other districts. Grade size is important from a space needs perspective. From K-

12 grade size is approximately 129 students.

42-11

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

**JANUARY 16, 2009
PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT DAY**

The following represents plans for January 16th:

- *Elementary teachers* will participate in X **CONNECTS** training with Marianne Fosnaugh on deconstructing the math GLEs and Author Math (a program for advanced students).
- *Middle school teachers* will be working on **advisory** led by the Advisory Committee. The Advisory Committee will lead the staff through three activities that the staff will eventually use with the students in their advisory. The committee will do a PowerPoint presentation on the status of advisories and the sixth grade teachers will report out on the pilot.
- *High school teachers* will participate in a **differentiated instruction** workshop conducted by East Bay Educational Collaborative. This is the pre-cursor to the lab site professional development on differentiated instruction and best practice instruction that will be offered in the spring to all teachers (commencing with math and science teachers).

Mrs. Archambault asked for definition of the advisory described by Dr. Stringfellow.

Dr. Stringfellow stated the Middle School program participated in a grant fund to explore opportunity of having an advisory and this year they're working through advisory and are getting a lot of professional development from a lot of different sources mostly teacher-lead. Advisory activities include team building, student reflection, career choices, student/advisor time, etc. The Board of Regents requires that each student develop an advisor relationship with at least one staff member.

**PERSONAL
LITERACY PLAN
(PLP) REPORT TO
COMMISSIONER**

Copies of the district Personal Literacy Plan (PLP) report that is annually submitted to the Commissioner of Education were submitted to Committee members. There was great success exiting students from PLPs (which is a process that can take several years). In order to be exited, the student needs to be currently reading on grade level. Also, there are no students at the North Scituate Elementary School who are reading below grade level (none who qualify for a PLP).

Dr. Stringfellow stated this is something to be celebrated. It is due to the hard work of teachers, parents, and others.

Chair Marcure sought clarification on numbers on report.

Dr. Stringfellow stated some of the students are reading at or above grade level and some students reading below grade level. At the elementary level, it is required that students one year below have a PLP. Scituate also keeps data on students one week or one month below. At the secondary level, students more than two years below are on a PLP, but one year have a different tier of support.

Chair Marcure explained to attendees Dr. Stringfellow tracks these students quarterly (K-12) and is able to catch if a student is reading below grade level very fast. Chair Marcure asked if there were approximately 150 students receiving reading assistance.

Dr. Stringfellow agreed. Some of those students have PLPs and some don't. Some also have IEPs; there are no ELL (English as a second language) in Scituate. Dr. Stringfellow stated the reason (the cells in) the report did not work is because Scituate is tracking quarterly which is not required nor are other districts doing.

There are no students reading below level at North Scituate Elementary School. At first, Drs. Lescault and Stringfellow felt they'd be able to move reading teacher to another school since the students were reading on grade level but then realized the

reason the program is working is due to these supports in place. To keep these students on grade level, the students need to continue their time with the reading teacher to maintain success.

Chair Marcure stated due to early intervention and constant evaluation, Scituate was still able to provide support to these students even after the budget cut last year.

Dr. Stringfellow stated there are five Reading teachers (two full time at Hope, one full-time at the Middle School, Clayville, North Scituate and High School at this time.) What is seen at the middle school level is students who choose not to read anymore and have fluency and comprehension problems because they are not reading (beyond required text books). They cannot comprehend high school strategies and these students are struggling with text reading.

Chair Marcure asked if the school is in contact with the students who are not reading.

Dr. Stringfellow stated that is part of the PLP (home communication).

Chair Marcure asked reason for this.

Dr. Stringfellow stated some do continue to read beyond grade 5 but most are disaffected to read and are interested in other things more (social, sports, music/art, computers, etc.)

TITLE I COMPARABILITY REPORT

Copies of the Title I Comparability report submitted on 12/11/08 were submitted to Committee members. This is an annual compliance document required of the Federal Title I office which demonstrates that there are comparable instructional staff at the Title I school (Hope Elementary) as compared to the other elementary schools.

WELLNESS

The next District Wellness Committee meeting will take place on January 15, 2009. The following items will be discussed:

- Lindsay Ann Burke Policy (first reading this month and second reading in February; copies of policy were submitted to the Committee).
- The plan for safety on fields (coaches and physical education teachers) as developed by Dr. Filippelli, Mr. Sollitto, Mr. Gormley, Miss Angell and Mrs. Grossguth.
- Staff wellness---Drs. Lescault and Stringfellow will be meeting with Principal Cappelli and all of the school nurse teachers on January 22nd at 3:30pm to discuss plans for district staff wellness.

Dr. Stringfellow stated if someone is injured or needs medical assistance (on athletic field), a detailed and consistent procedure for contacting 9-1-1 or Principal Sollitto, and then parents etc. must be established. Normal protocol now is to have a student escort the injured student inside the building. One thought is to purchase walkie-talkies or a cell phone for coach on field to communicate with Principal Sollitto or school nurse.

Mrs. Umbriano expressed concern that a student would be walking a student requiring medical assistance into the building. It should be the coach but then the coach would need to leave the team.

Dr. Stringfellow stated this discussion stemmed from the Diabetes Policy. If there is a diabetic emergency, the student needs to be brought to the nurse by an adult.

Chair Marcure confirmed this includes Physical Education as well as coaches.

Dr. Stringfellow replied yes.

Chair Marcure asked if an assessment of the conditions of the field been done (poor conditions may result in injuries).

Dr. Stringfellow replied the Wellness Committee has never done such an assessment but believes that Mr. Gormley does this under Buildings and Grounds.

Mr. Sollitto added Buildings and Grounds does a really good job of keeping up the fields during the season.

Chair Marcure added parents have indicated concern in the previous bond attempt. The fields are used as practice fields by several teams and also for physical education. There are areas where there is no grass, dips in the ground, etc.

Dr. Stringfellow will speak to Mr. Gormley regarding an assessment and will report back to Chair Marcure.

DATA DAYS (RTI)

Time has been set aside in each elementary school in January (equivalent of one full day per school) for grade level teams of teachers to review RTI assessment data (AIMSweb and progress monitoring plans) and to develop PLPs and RTI plans. The meetings will be held with reading teachers, resource teachers and principals.

Mrs. Archambault asked where teachers are finding the time to participate.

Dr. Stringfellow stated two substitutes come in and rotate classrooms as teachers receive the 45-minute training. It is cost-effective for district. There are other district partners in this initiative as well.

Mrs. Archambault recalls one issue with teachers was not enough time to communicate among each other and this will be a great opportunity for them.

COLUMBIA PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLANS

- On January 6th grade level meetings will be held to work on units of study.
- On January 7th teachers will participate in voluntary professional development on topics they selected from a menu of offerings.
- There will also be a parent training session (date and time to be determined) for parents and school committee members.

X CONNECTS TRAINING

Marianne Fosnaugh has trained all principals, all K-6 math teachers and Dr. Stringfellow on the X CONNECTS program and on January 16th Ms. Fosnaugh is conducting a follow-up session in deconstructing GLEs and Author Math for advanced students.

TEXT BASED DISCUSSION UPDATE

The third text based discussion group will be held on Monday, January 26th from 4-6 PM. At this time, it will be decided if the group will choose another book to read this year or if the group will continue the action planning discussions and choose a new book in the summer/fall. In February the group plans to meet to put these discussions into district planning ideas (acting on what has been read).

Chair Marcure stated Scituate is surrounded by smart, compassionate, caring and hard-working people.

Mrs. Guglielmi stated it (the book) is based on businesses and it's very interesting especially in light of where we are now economically.

Mrs. Umbriano asked for update regarding gift for administrators who attended each of these sessions voluntarily.

Mrs. Archambault stated a list of ideas was received from Dr. Stringfellow and Mrs.

Archambault will review and respond.

NEW HIGH SCHOOL COURSE PROPOSALS

On December 5, 2008, Guidance Director Tracy, Principal Sollitto and Dr. Stringfellow met with each department chair regarding course proposals and the spreadsheet represents recommendations for new courses for school year 2009-2010.

- **Class of 2008:** Students needed to earn 21 credits to receive a high school diploma. Of the 21 credits, 15 credits were required coursework: English (4); Mathematics (4), Science (2); US History (1); Social Studies (1); Physical Education (2); Health (1).
- **Class of 2009:** Students must earn 21 credits to receive a high school diploma. Of the 21 credits, 17 credits are required coursework: English (4); Mathematics (4); Science (3); US History (1); Social Studies (2); Physical Education (2); Health (1).
- **Class of 2010** and subsequent classes: Students must earn 21 credits to receive a high school diploma. Of the 21 credits, 18 credits are required coursework: English (4); Mathematics (4); Science (3); US History (1); Social Studies (2); Fine Arts (1); Physical Education (2); Health (1).

Chair Marcure asked how these requirements affect how many credit students are taking. Chair Marcure was told in Grade 9 all students take 7 credits because there is a literacy piece, in Grade 10 students take 6.75, in Grade 11 students take 6.75 and Grade 12 students take 6.75 or if students drop a core subject and take an elective, the students would drop to 5.75. Special needs students can achieve 23.5 credits which is less than general population. It was asked if a 2-tier program could be established but that isn't possible.

Chair Marcure stated FLPA provides a scholarship so students would be interviewed (in another district) in senior year for a \$4,000 scholarship and some very bright students would be interviewed and these students were dropping key courses in senior year to make course load easier.

Mr. Sollitto added four-year colleges also require two years of a foreign language even though it is not required to graduate.

Chair Marcure stated some students would take an additional math or science instead of a foreign language in years 3 and 4. By requiring 22 credits only it should be communicated to these students to maximize this time.

Mrs. Umbriano asked if a student could graduate at the end of junior year with 22 credits.

Mr. Sollitto stated it is not possible due to 4 year English requirement and soon 4 year Math requirement also.

Dr. Stringfellow agrees. Both students and parents want to ensure nothing goes awry senior year as that is final year. Dr. Stringfellow added the Guidance Department is extremely focused and helps students ensure chosen program is rigorous and designed for that student and that the student will be successful. Dr. Stringfellow stated if Chair Marcure would like to explore the possibility of 22 credits, Dr. Stringfellow will look into it.

Chair Marcure stated if a student is challenged, the student will meet the challenge.

Mrs. Archambault stated son in senior year was not able to take an art class desired and after speaking with the school was told Mrs. Archambault's son needed to be in all Honors classes (for college of his choice). Mrs. Archambault pushed for the art class and the Guidance Department rearranged Mrs. Archambault's son's schedule so that he was able to continue with the Honors classes and take the art class as well. The Guidance Department works very hard to ensure each student's success and helps



students follow path required to reach their goals.

Chair Marcure responded by saying Mrs. Archambault's son was academically talented and was probably among a small number of students following that course. There was also an issue of students leaving before the last period or coming in late due to course schedule.

Dr. Stringfellow replied students are no longer allowed to arrive late and/or leave early. Additional components to graduation requirements are senior project, digital portfolio, course outcomes, and proficiency tasks in addition to the 22 credits. It is a very rigorous program in high school today.

Chair Marcure stated back in the early 90s, the consensus of some of the PTOs was that 20 credits may not be enough. There will be a lot of competition out there. Students will not realize it now, but looking back will realize it (additional courses) was the best thing to do. Sports, extra-curricular activities, etc. will all contribute to their success.

The review of new course proposals is scheduled this evening under New Business and the adoption is scheduled for the February meeting.

The following spreadsheet captures the proposals by department:

DEPARTMENT	COURSE	EXPLANATION
Art	Ceramics	Replaces Visual Arts in Society
Social Studies	AP US Government	Replaces P.A.D.
	East Asian Civilization	From Honors to Regular
	US History Honors II	Add (2 nd in series)
Math	Math of Finance	Replaces Math Concepts IV
	Intermediate Algebra II	Replaces Math Concepts III
	Intro to Calculus	Replaces Calculus Honors
	AP Calculus	Change in pre-requisite
	.5 Elective Probability/Statistics	Replaces ½ of Selected Topics in College Mathematics
	.5 Elective Analytic Geometry/Trigonometry	Replaces ½ of Selected Topics in College Mathematics
	Math Lab Course section	Replaces Computer Programming III
Science/Ag	Physical/Earth Science	Replaces Physical Science
	Environmental Science	Now FFA eligible
	.5 Elective Biotechnology	Addition to Science/Elimination of Agriculture Department
	.5 Elective Plant Propagation/Horticulture	Addition to Science/Elimination of Agriculture Department
	Ag Mech & Ag Mech II	Eliminated

Course proposal explanations are as follows:

ART

Department Chair Wendy Feldman is proposing the following:

- **Ceramics in lieu of Visual Arts in Society** Addition of a full year Ceramics course in lieu of the Visual Arts in Society EE (Honors) course. Ms. Feldman is of the opinion that this honors course has not been running and with the high school graduation requirement of Fine Arts, Ms. Feldman wanted to make a “hands on” course available for students who wanted to fulfill the art requirement but may not have had significant prior experience in art.

Chair Marcure asked if there will create increased participation in Ceramics/Arts.

There is an entire classroom dedicated to Ceramics.

Dr. Stringfellow replied that is Ms. Feldman's hope. There are courses which include Ceramics but there is not a course entitled Ceramics.

Mrs. Archambault stated this is one thing to keep in mind when thinking of increasing the number of credits required for graduation because in the case of Mrs. Archambault's son, there wasn't enough room in the schedule for Mrs. Archambault's son to take an art class.

Mrs. Grigevich confirmed what is being replaced is a general course which any student can take.

Dr. Stringfellow stated the early enrollment course was not running. Ms. Feldman is hoping to give all students the opportunity to take this new class.

Mrs. Umbriano asked if there is a kiln in the classroom.

Dr. Stringfellow replied there is.

Chair Marcure stated adjustments can be made after reviewing which courses have not been running, especially those not running for several years (due to lack of interest).

SOCIAL STUDIES

Department Chair Amy Grundt is recommending the following:

- **AP U.S. Government in lieu of PAD** Eliminate Problems in American Democracy Honors and replace it with AP U.S. Government and Politics. This course did not run last year. The Social Studies Department believes that the AP distinction will attract students.
- **Eliminate Honors Distinction on East Asian Course** Change Introduction to East Asian Civilization from Honors to not having honors distinction. This course also did not run this year, students expressed interest in taking the course as a social studies elective because of the new requirements in social studies for graduation, but there was only limited interest in this elective as an honors course.
- **Add U.S. History Honors** The addition of US History II Honors. This proposal was actually started last year when US History Honors and US History II were proposed. This is the 2nd course for students who this year took US History Honors. The school has already committed to offering this course as the second in the series for credit.

Chair Marcure asked if AP Social Studies ran before.

Dr. Stringfellow stated there was never an AP Social Studies course; however there were Honors classes. It's part of revamping the department.

Chair Marcure asked what the East Asian course would specifically cover.

Dr. Stringfellow replied Japan, China, etc. This is an area for which this teacher has a great fondness and has experience through travel and graduate studies and students have already expressed interest.

Mrs. Guglielmi asked what is included in an Honors course.

Dr. Stringfellow stated the curriculum is different, the pace is much quicker, and is rigorous and also includes independent work.

MATH

Department Chair Jean Esposito is recommending the following:

- **The elimination of Math Concepts IV and the addition of Mathematics of**

Finance. This will be a full year math elective for students in their senior year. High school graduation requires four years of math.

- **The elimination of Math Concepts III and the addition of Intermediate Algebra II.** Last year Concepts of Math I, II and III was eliminated and replaced with Introduction to Algebra and Introduction to Geometry. These courses represent the first two (of four) courses in a series for students who are struggling in math proficiency. A commitment was made last year that every student graduating from Scituate High School would have Algebra I, Geometry and Algebra II. Adding Intermediate Algebra II will serve as the third course in this series.
- **The change in pre-requisite** for AP Calculus Honors from B- or better in Pre-Calculus Honors or A- in Pre-Calculus to B or better in Pre-Calculus Honors and A or better in Pre-Calculus.
- **The elimination of Selected Topics in College Mathematics and the addition of two .5 math electives:** Probability/Statistics and Analytic Geometry/Trigonometry. This is an attempt to give students more choices and experiences during their senior year (when they are required to take and pass a fourth year of math).
- **The elimination of Computer Programming III and the addition of a math lab course.** Mrs. Esposito, Mr. Tracy, Mr. Sollitto and Dr. Stringfellow have identified approximately 10-12 students who will be in jeopardy of not graduating high school because of the four year math requirement and the proficiency score requirement in mathematics. Being proposed is the addition of one section of a math lab. This course will be required for the 10-12 students who have been identified as being below proficiency in math in April of grade 8. These students will be required to take 1 period of Intro to Algebra I and math lab (which will be offered by the same teacher). Research evidence has been received that students who struggle with math need two periods of support. This course will not receive math credit, it will receive elective credit, but it will be a required course. Mrs. Esposito and Dr. Stringfellow are also planning to offer a “summer ramp up course in math” for those 10-12 students who were identified.

Chair Marcure asked if it was thought the new course would keep the students on target; would these courses bring success to those students who are having difficulty in math classes, for instance.

Dr. Stringfellow stated it is believed so.

Chair Marcure stated math concepts seem to be a general math intervention.

Mrs. Esposito stated in the beginning of the 90's there was general math sequence and in 1994 there was the introduction of courses that were connecting Algebra and Geometry and a little bit more Algebra/Geometry through the concept sequence. Now the thinking is that all students should have the opportunity to have some form of cuts so that there is the opportunity of going to college (two years or four years). Mrs. Esposito stated all students need to have Algebra and Geometry before graduating and most colleges are looking for Algebra II also. Support becomes an important issue especially at the 9th grade level where support is needed to be successful in the Algebra/Geometry sequence. Mrs. Esposito's recommendation would be to give the students Introductory to Geometry and Algebra but also with support at all those levels.

Chair Marcure asked when these students (needing support) finish would they then finish at the same time as the other students.

Mrs. Esposito stated the school is looking at those proficiencies where students are meeting those GSEs but also offering them at a different pace and support at all those levels so that the students are taking a double math.

Dr. Stringfellow stated that is what the new research indicates. Mrs. Esposito and Dr.

Stringfellow attended a full day Math Summit with the Governor and the Dana Center presented. What the students need is double math and the pace needs to be rigorous versus math taught at a slower pace. That is what being proposed; a math lab for a very targeted group of youngsters taught by same teacher who is teaching Introduction to Algebra.

Chair Marcure asked if this was a generic math and who would teach it.

Dr. Stringfellow stated this cannot be a first year teacher; it needs to be a 'master' math teacher (teaching both).

Chair Marcure asked if this was not a class where Trig or Calculus would come into this lab.

Dr. Stringfellow replied no. These students have been identified and will be supported in basic Algebra proficiency and what is being offered during the summer is a ramped-up math program so that they can lead these students into the program.

Mrs. Archambault asked if the students would participate.

Dr. Stringfellow replied yes. Parents will be strongly encouraged to send children to program to ensure students can graduate in four years.

Chair Marcure asked if additional staff was needed for this program.

Dr. Stringfellow stated it would be one extra math section with a math teacher.

Mr. Sollitto added the math lab would be for an elective credit as students are not able to receive two math credits.

Mrs. Esposito stated until full number of sections is identified, full staff assignments cannot be completed. The doubling of math is an extremely difficult issue. When a student isn't very good at math and then the student needs to double Algebra and Geometry it is very difficult.

Dr. Stringfellow added that students may have belief they are not good at math and think why bother and so the student drops out.

Chair Marcure asked about frequency.

Mrs. Esposito stated it would run four days per week and the intent is to work the classes back-to-back. There are some students entering 9th Grade who haven't passed a math class in years because it is possible to not pass math. There are several not meeting proficiency since elementary school.

Mr. Sollitto added when the Class of 2012 takes NECAPs, they will need to be proficient to graduate.

Chair Marcure asked for description of Math of Finance.

Mrs. Esposito stated Math of Finance is personal finance for students that cannot take math into the real world. This is more mathematical in nature, than business-focused. It is more the Algebra functions of financing.

SCIENCE/AGRICULTURE

Please be reminded that the Agriculture Department Chair and the Scituate Agriculture Education Advisory Committee both asked the School Committee to eliminate the Agriculture Department for school year 2009-2010. Agriculture courses will be offered in

the Science Department for science credit.

Science Department Chair Carlo Catucci is recommending the following:

- **The change of our 9th grade course Physical Science to Physical/Earth Science.**
This recommendation comes as a result of the high school science scores (with the lowest area being that of Earth Science) and the struggle to cover Earth Science Concepts in the high school curriculum.
- The change of **adding a line in the program of studies** under the Environmental Science course that students taking this course will be eligible for FFA.
- **The addition of two AG/SCI courses:** Biotechnology as an elective (.5) for students in grades 11 and 12 that also would make students eligible for FFA. Plant Propagation /Horticulture Science which is also an elective (.5) for students in grades 11 and 12 and eligibility for FFA.
- **The elimination of AG Mechanics and AG Mechanics II.** Discussions with Russ Furlong in the IT department are being planned to see if he can incorporate this work into one of the IT courses.

Chair Marcure asked what year Physical/Earth Science is covered.

Dr. Stringfellow replied Grade 9.

Chair Marcure asked what the continuation of this program would be typically.

Mr. Catucci replied Biology and then Chemistry but now there are more electives as far as Chemistry or Applied Science for third year science which was added last year.

Chair Marcure stated as students move up the ladder, students may now be more challenged because earlier these students may have made easier course selections.

Mr. Catucci stated Applied Science was added for third year science instead of Chemistry. Mr. Catucci agreed with Chair Marcure stated some students might not enroll in Chemistry because it is too challenging, but because three years of science is required, the department is now offering alternatives for those students.

Chair Marcure asked what the concepts would be of those classes.

Dr. Stringfellow stated Applied Science and Environmental Science are already offered courses. Applied Science is a lab and Applied Chemistry is also being offered. Concepts include measuring, nutrition, matter, etc.

Chair Marcure asked if those experiences would translate into society.

Mr. Catucci stated concepts would be used by detectives, mechanics, veterinarians, farmers, etc. These students will be applying scientific method with whatever career they choose.

Dr. Stringfellow stated years ago students were tracked in high level or low level courses and now it is about giving the opportunity for students to go in-between based on interest level and difficulty and so it would be not unheard of for students to go through Honors classes and take Anatomy and Agriculture classes.

Chair Marcure asked if anything would be taken away from the Honors classes as students are now required to take three years of Science.

Mr. Catucci stated the department does not foresee that being a problem.

Dr. Stringfellow stated the only Agriculture course running is Ag Mechanics. Agriculture is important and the school wants students to take Agriculture. What is being reviewed is how it can be reformed so the students can get science credit. Now

being offered together is half year in Bio-Technology and half year in Plant Propagation and Horticulture. If kids sign up for these classes, then the classes will run. The department is going to try it. There is some difficulty with the Ag Mechanics course because what happened at initial conversations was that the science department was not comfortable having Ag Mechanics as it is currently running be offered for science credit. The machinery is available and there are students who wish to take the course and there are kids who also wish to take Ag Mechanics II so it was discussed combining Ag Mechanics I and II where teacher would differentiate by project for each section. This evening the department is not ready to make a proposal regarding this course to the Committee. Discussions will be held with Russ Furlong (IT Department Chair) to see if he is interested in running the program.

Chair Marcure asked how many kids who completed Ag Mechanics I would be enrolling in Ag Mechanics II.

Joan Selfridge (Ag Department Chair) stated currently there are 34 students in both of the classes together of which six are seniors so there is potential for at least 25 students.

Chair Marcure stated class would be cut off at 20 or would be in a lab situation.

Ms. Selfridge stated there were always two sections running, each with 17-18 students.

Chair Marcure stated the question is whether Mr. Furlong has the opening to teach two sections if necessary. Perhaps Ag Mechanics should be more broad-based.

Dr. Stringfellow wished to clarify that Ag Mechanics I and II are not being proposed at this time. There is a follow-up meeting scheduled to which Chair Marcure was invited to discuss how this would fit in and if it would run through the Science Department.

Chair Marcure stated the use of those additional two rooms also will be available to the Science Department.

**TEACHER
EVALUATION**

Dr. Stringfellow attended a session with Commissioner McWalters on December 18th to discuss teacher evaluation. Commissioner McWalters is scheduling a subsequent meeting in January and hopes to deliver a proposal to the Regents in January that will call for regulatory guidance to districts.

Dr. Stringfellow stated it will most likely be a Danielson model which is what Coventry and Cranston area already using and it's going to be very specific criteria regulatory and linked to teacher and mentor standards. Dr. Stringfellow has also been on the mentoring team since its inception and it eager to see how that links as well.

**STEM
(SCIENCE,
TECHNOLOGY,
ENGINEERING &
MATH EXTERNSHIP)**

The Rhode Island Economic Development Corporation is offering math, science and technology teachers the opportunity to apply to participate in a summer externship program. Participation in a summer externship has many advantages:

- Teachers have the opportunity to work in a science or math field so that they can see the application of the skills and concepts that they teach.
- Teachers have the opportunity to create school/business partnerships for the future.
- Teachers receive a stipend (\$800 per week for 6-8 weeks)

Dr. Stringfellow has scheduled an information session at the high school on January 7, 2009 at 2:30 PM for interested teachers.

**NO EATING OR
DRINKING IN**

On December 30th, Drs. Lescault and Stringfellow met with Mr. Marcure and Mrs. Umbriano to discuss the site concern list. As a result of that meeting, Mr. Marcure

CLASSROOMS

and Mrs. Umbriano were of the opinion that they would like to create a policy outlining that there should be NO food or drink in any classrooms in any schools at any time. Drs. Lescault and Stringfellow pointed out there was language already integrated into the Pest Management Program Policy #5040 and that the concern that Drs. Lescault and Stringfellow have is in the ability to enforce this rule for both teachers and students. Drs. Lescault and Stringfellow are looking for guidance from the School Committee on this issue. Drs. Lescault and Stringfellow propose to review the Pest Management Policy this evening and perhaps ask administrators to run focus groups at each school and ask them to bring feedback to the Committee with regard to this issue for the February School Committee meeting.

Chair Marcure stated this issue gets more involved at high school level and believes it is a distraction and complicates the learning process when children bring in outside cups/beverages. Kids are kids and issues over who took whose bottle, or throwing them on the floor, etc will be a distraction. There is also the issue of teachers bringing coffee or water into classroom. There are times during the day when a teacher can go to the staff room for a beverage. There is also a pest control issue when food is brought in and left in the rooms. Another issue is that of children contaminating drinks. Teachers have been rushed to the hospital because children have put things into the teachers' drinks.

Mrs. Umbriano stated water bottles are allowed at the middle school due to the lack of ventilation and the temperature in the room.

Chair Marcure stated hopefully by September 1st the ventilation issue should be resolved.

Due to health and wellness requirements, Mrs. Umbriano stated soda machines are not allowed in the schools; however teachers are bringing soda into the classroom which is unfair to the children.

Chair Marcure stated beverages and food have never been allowed years ago and there is a time to teach and do your job. Another issue Chair Marcure would like to address is the dress policy.

Mrs. Umbriano asked if there currently was a dress policy for teachers and staff.

Drs. Lescault and Stringfellow did not believe there was a dress policy.

Mrs. Umbriano stated a policy needs to be established regarding food and drinks being brought into classrooms. If it's not allowed in a classroom, then a child would not be tempted to put something into a teacher's drink.

Chair Marcure stated it has become an important issue due to the latest incident of a teacher's drink being contaminated. It could have happened to a child just as easily. There have been incidents in other states where students have been bringing in alcoholic beverages in their cups.

Mrs. Umbriano stated there is also a middle school student who is selling Red Bull from a locker.

Dr. Lescault asked if Chair Marcure agreed with methodology being asked of administrators to retrieve information about each of the schools and bring back to the School Committee.

Drs. Lescault and Stringfellow will also check into whether other districts have policies in place.

Chair Marcure stated an impression of a teacher's ability is sometimes made based on

attire. The teacher could be an excellent teacher but you are sometimes given a wrong impression if dressed inappropriately. Chair Marcure believes a positive model should be set by the teachers.

Mr. LaPlante agreed it sometimes devalues the person.

Chair Marcure stated when Chair Marcure taught women wore appropriate blouse and dress pants or skirt and men wore a shirt and tie. In some cases, dress down day gets out of hand. It changes the efficiency and the success of what is trying to be accomplished.

Mr. LaPlante stated dressing down is going away (in business sector) but in a school environment, teachers need to be careful as kids are very impressionable; kids take cues from teachers. A baseline needs to be created.

SITE CONCERN LIST

Dr. Stringfellow distributed a copy of the revised site concern list at the January meeting. Drs. Lescault and Stringfellow, Mr. Marcure and Mrs. Umbriano met on December 30th to review the list and Dr. Stringfellow has asked principals to follow-up on certain items.

DIABETES POLICY

This evening under New Business Dr. Stringfellow will ask the Committee to approve a second reading and adoption of the Diabetes Policy that was formally endorsed by the Wellness Committee and is in accordance with state law.

**ELEMENTARY
AFTER SCHOOL
MUSIC PROGRAM**

Mrs. Archambault asked Dr. Stringfellow to update the Committee on the elementary after school program. 45 students are participating district-wide, mostly guitar and violin at the Hope School. This is the first time for 3rd grade participants who also are taking guitar and violin. A lot of students signed up initially but many are dropping out. 18 students signed up for drums at the Hope School but dropped out along the way. It is still a viable program but the numbers are not as high as those in September.

Chair Marcure asked why the numbers are much lower now.

Dr. Stringfellow stated there are several reasons. There are students who sign up for instruments and drop out which is typical (for that age). At the Hope School, the Guitar Center is the provider however when the number decreased from 18 to 10, either the Guitar Center or PTO group felt the program could not continue for those remaining 10 students. In North Scituate Elementary School and Clayville School, some of the Scituate music teachers are teaching the program as well as other teachers hired to support those teachers.

Mr. LaPlante stated now that the provider at Hope has dropped the program, why can't the school intervene with a solution similar to what has been done at one of the other schools.

Dr. Stringfellow stated there was some initial resistance from the Hope PTO because they felt either the PTO needs to run it or the school needs to run it but if the PTO runs the program, the PTO needs to make it work for their families and will lead the program.

Mrs. Archambault stated the whole program hasn't been eliminated; only the drums have been dropped.

Dr. Stringfellow stated the Hope School PTO feels that the after-school SKILLS program is working well. Some kids select music and some select something else but there are very healthy after-school music programs running currently. Hope PTO does not see this as a crisis. Some kids may drop drums and pick up karate, for example, which is typical of this age group.

Mrs. Umbriano added some students are also taking private lessons outside of the school.

Mrs. Archambault stated a letter was received from Roger Cichy and it is clear there is still animosity about the transition to that type of a program (after-school SKILLS). There may be some parents not willing to participate. As this program continues, the Committee can continue to evaluate it.

Mr. LaPlante stated concern over those who are not participating because they can't due to the decrease in numbers. Why can't the school provide instruction for those students?

Dr. Stringfellow stated teachers were interviewed this summer and recommendations were presented to the PTO but the Hope PTO declined.

Mrs. Umbriano stated there should be some intervention with the drum program so that those 10 children can still receive lessons.

Mr. LaPlante stated the Committee wishes to support this program as much as it can.

Dr. Stringfellow stated another piece to consider is the economic piece. It is unknown if parents can afford the rental fee of the instrument. The school is seeing this in other activities such as hockey, etc. Parents aren't signing kids up for same activities and/or same number of activities as they did last year.

42-12

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

BUDGET

On December 19th, Dr. Lescault sent to the committee copies of the proposed 3-month, 12-month and 15-month district budget incorporating the corresponding school budgets the committee approved at the December 2 meeting. Please discard those documents. Revised copies that include a few minor changes were submitted to the Committee. In the December 19th memo, Dr. Lescault noted that like with the school site budgets, every effort was made to minimize or eliminate increases in any area other than contractually mandated salaries. Dr. Lescault also noted that no funds were included for "Improvements to Buildings and Grounds," but the Town Treasurer had told Dr. Lescault that Mr. Przybyla believes funds for that purpose will be included as part of the town's overall capital budget request. Also attached was a spreadsheet providing a summary of the 3-month, 12-month and 15-month district budgets. Please also discard that document. A revised copy was provided to the Committee. In the summary, Dr. Lescault inserted a column after the 3-month budget entitled "Balloon Payment." This column indicates the portion of the increase of that line that is a result of having to include funds for July and August. Dr. Lescault has been reporting to the Committee on this problem for several months, as it greatly inflates the funds needed to pay teachers whose contract ends in August but whose salary is earned through June and, therefore, chargeable to the 3-month budget. The town treasurer, the town auditor and Dr. Lescault have had several conversations about the problem. It was concluded from an accounting standpoint the additional funds must be included, despite the negative impact doing so has on the overall increase in the budget. Mr. Przybyla also plans to consult Auditor General Ernie Almonte. In Dr. Lescault's cover memo to the Committee on December 19th, Dr. Lescault noted that the budgets were merely proposed first drafts for discussion purposes and were subject to any revision the committee wishes. However, Dr. Lescault believes under New Business, the Committee should adopt some version of it on January 6th in preparation for the joint Town Council/School Committee meeting on January 8th.

Chair Marcure stated possible waivers will be needed from Mr. Almonte due to the new school bond.

Mr. Farrar stated the school bond should be outside the cap so that shouldn't be

needed.

Dr. Lescault stated this is causing an accounting anomaly. It is very complex and very counterintuitive. The problem is the 3 month budget includes April, May, and June. The teacher contract runs from September through August; the teachers are paid in 26 payments from September through August. However by state law all of that money is earned through June. From an accounting basis, what needs to be budgeted in that 3 month budget is for all of the weeks in that three month period but also for July and August which was earned from previous year's contract. The 3 months budget needs to include funds for 5 months which is counterintuitive. One might assume, the 12 month doesn't have to pay for those two months because they have already been paid. However, the budget starts in September and runs through August, and come next year, June happens again (June happens twice) at which time the extra two months have to be budgeted for again. So what really needs to be budgeted is for 17 months of teachers' salaries which inflates teachers' salary line by \$1.4 million.

Mr. Farrar stated the state is mandating this change.

Dr. Lescault stated every line item in the budget has been level-funded; there has been no increase on utilities, repairs, etc. Even with everything level-funded, the 3-month budget is up 26%. It's really just the difference between accrual versus cash basis.

Mr. Farrar stated it just couldn't have happened at a worse year as the budget will already be scrutinized.

Mrs. Umbriano asked if over the next three years, couldn't the budget be changed one month at a time.

Mr. LaPlante asked if people will be paying inflated taxes and if that is the implication.

Dr. Lescault stated this is so important that the full Town Council should know this situation and he spoke to Bob Budway, Ted Przybyla, the auditor and Scituate's accountant. All have agreed Scituate must make the transition to the state fiscal year this year. People will already be suspect of the 15-months budget that the school is hiding something and when people see the large increase, it is counterintuitive.

Mr. LaPlante stated the most critical piece the taxpayers will be concerned about paying more taxes due to budgeting concept.

Chair Marcure stated if quarterly payment is \$1,000, taxpayers will continue to pay \$1,000 for that quarterly payment.

Mr. LaPlante stated there is the possibility that taxes will be impacted if there will some righting of the ship; from a budgetary standpoint, it perpetuates itself.

Dr. Lescault stated yes, but it happens just once.

Mrs. Archambault asked what the new fiscal year will be once this transition is completed.

Dr. Lescault stated July 1-June 30.

Mrs. Archambault stated this issue will arise every year.

Dr. Lescault replied yes, but it will never balloon again as there will never be two Junes again. After this transition, the comparison will always be 12 months to 12 months.

Mrs. Guglielmi asked if the teachers' contract changed so that if paid teachers from September to June would that solve anything.

Dr. Lescault replied no because it is when it is earned, not when it is paid.

Mrs. Guglielmi asked if salaries were divided by entire year to reduce number of payments would that make a difference.

Mr. LaPlante stated there will still be two Junes so the balloon will still be there. When this is presented to the town, there may be requirement of assessor to ask for taxpayers to pre-pay to compensate for this new cycle.

Dr. Lescault stated it will require 7% increase over 15-month budget but 26% of 3-month budget.

A meeting attendee asked if that meant taxes would be higher one year to compensate.

Dr. Lescault replied yes.

Mr. LaPlante stated it will increase 7% and then after it will be back to a more steady increase.

Mrs. Umbriano asked if any other towns were in same situation.

Dr. Lescault replied East Providence. Dr. Lescault contacted East Providence to see how they were handling the transition and was told East Providence is not making transition.

Mrs. Archambault stated perhaps it could be discussed Thursday night with Town Council about sending a pre-notification to taxpayers explaining the transition as opposed to everyone showing up at the April Financial Town Meeting and hearing about it then. It needs to be explained to these taxpayers.

Mr. LaPlante agreed.

Mr. Farrar stated this has been something (transitioning to same fiscal year as state) for which many have been asking for awhile. The only option is to ignore the mandate which East Providence is doing. It's just the timing couldn't be worse.

Chair Marcure stated since only two towns need to change, Chair Marcure doesn't foresee the state backing off on this mandate.

**BUDGET
WORKSESSION**

The School Committee and Town Council will meet in a budget work session on January 8th at 6:30 PM in the Town Council Chambers. If history is a guide, the town will request copies of the school department's proposed budget prior to that meeting. If they do, Dr. Lescault will explain that the School Committee has not approved a budget for FY10. However, as in past years, in a spirit of cooperation Dr. Lescault will provide Town Council with what Dr. Lescault is recommending to the Committee on January 6, with the caveat that only the School Committee has the authority to determine what the budget will be. Regarding revenues, for now, Dr. Lescault is recommending that the Committee assumes level funding across the board, which may prove to be overly optimistic.

**WORKER'S
COMPENSATION**

Drs. Lescault and Myers, Ms. Smith and Ms. Bower met with representatives of Beacon Insurance, the TPA for worker's compensation, at Beacon on December 11th. Procedures, responsibilities, etc. were reviewed to insure that the school department is receiving the maximum benefit from Beacon. The contract between the school department and Beacon for TPA services expires on January 1, 2009. Beacon is willing to renew the contract for one year at the same rate as 2008, which was



\$9,500.00. Approval of a one-year extension of this contract is listed under New Business for School Committee consideration.

**SPECIAL
EDUCATION
STAFFING POLICY**

At the December 2nd meeting, the Committee approved a first reading of a “Special Education Staffing” policy. Approval of a second reading is listed for action under New Business. The Committee may recall that recent regulatory changes require school districts to have a Special Education Staffing Policy, but the state has prescribed so many of the elements of the policy, that there is little room for personalization.

**NWR SPECIAL
EDUCATION
COLLABORATIVE
AGREEMENT**

The Northwest Special Education Collaborative Agreement was tabled at the December 2nd meeting. Consequently, it is listed under Unfinished Business for School Committee action on January 6. Chair Archambault requested that Special Education Director John Magner provide budget information for the NWR. A copy of what was provided to Chair Archambault was submitted to Committee members.

BUILDING PROJECT

Dr. Lescault speaks for the entire Committee when Dr. Lescault says how thrilled he is that voters approved the Middle School/High School Renovation Project on December 16 by about a 4 to 1 margin. Mr. Marcure deserves the Committee’s praise and gratitude for the tremendous amount of work Mr. Marcure did to achieve that outcome. Now the Committee needs to begin working aggressively to deliver the project on time and on budget. Dr. Lescault and Mr. Marcure have begun that process and have asked Bob Budway to have the Town Council formally appoint a Building Committee composed of Ernie Marcure as Chair, June Guglielmi, Steve Gormley, Dwight Farrar, Mike Sollitto, Dr. Larry Filippelli, Jack McGee, Al Howe, Diane Scacco and Dr. Paul Lescault.

Chair Marcure stated the Building Committee is going to be very aggressive on this to provide the necessary spaces the staff and teachers communicate are needed. Chair Marcure was approached by several members of the community, one being the Chief of Police who was concerned about exiting site on Caito Field side which goes down to Rockland Road. The suggestion was to consider a sweep to bear right as there have been problems with delivery trucks and buses.

Mr. Farrar added it has been this way since the school has been built. Now students use that road versus teachers but there is always the option to go around if so desired. It’s also always sanded.

Chair Marcure stated speaking with several others in the police and fire department who also believed it would be a good idea to consider the change to the exit. However, it is understood there is only so much money in the budget.

Mr. Farrar stated the bond will be maximized; if a \$1 is saved in one area, it will be spent in another area.

Chair Marcure stated perhaps there is money available from state transportation as monies will be received for bridges and roads. It is worth looking into possibility.

Mr. Farrar added now that DPW has been revamped, the Committee should look to see if this is a project which could be picked up by DPW.

**RHODE ISLAND
TECHNOLOGY
ENHANCED SCIENCE
PROGRAM**

As Dr. Lescault informed the Committee on December 11th, the Scituate School Department has been chosen to be part of the first cohort in the Rhode Island Technology Enhanced Science program (RITES) sponsored by the Natural Science Foundation with an \$11.5M grant. As the competition among districts to be part of this existing project was intense, all are delighted Scituate schools will have the opportunity to participate in this wonderful opportunity to improve teaching and learning in Science.

STA CONTRACT

The latest teacher contract negotiations resulted in an agreement between the STA and

COMMITTEES

the school committee to develop six study committees. Drs. Lescault and Myers met with the STA co-presidents on December 11th to get the various committees underway. Drs. Lescault and Myers were able to work out an agreement on the Lump Sum Payment Committee on the 11th, so that Committee's work is complete. The Professional Development Day Attendance Committee met on December 17 at 12:30 PM and met on January 6. Drs. Lescault, Stringfellow and Myers and Mrs. Guglielmi and Mrs. Umbriano met with the STA representative of that Committee. An additional meeting is scheduled for January 29th at 3:30 PM.

SUCCESSION PLANNING

Per Chair Archambault's request a succession planning audio seminar has been planned for Wednesday, January 28 at 2:00 PM in the Hope Elementary School conference room. A CD of the conference also has been ordered for anyone who is not able to attend the session on January 28th. At this point, Drs. Lescault and Stringfellow will be attending with members of the School Committee who are able to attend. Drs. Lescault and Stringfellow will ask principals to join us if the Committee wishes; however, as the audio conference overlaps with dismissals at the schools, it might be preferable to have them listen to the CD afterwards.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Drs. Lescault and Stringfellow attended the next in a series of professional development workshops for Superintendent's at SORICO on December 16. The title of this session was "Handle with Care: Personnel Issues Confronting RI Schools." It was presented by three attorneys from Taylor, Duane, Barton and Gilman.

LEADERSHIP FORUM

The Commissioner and RISSA are sponsoring a forum on January 22nd entitled "Leading for Learning – A Key to Positive Student Results." The forum is an attempt to develop a cohesive leadership system from RI. Dr. Lescault will be attending with representatives of Scituate's leadership team (Drs. Stringfellow and Filippelli and Mr. Magner). The Commissioner is suggesting a School Committee representative attend as well. If anyone is interested, Dr. Lescault will add him or her to the registration form.

42-13

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Janine Grigelevich 16 Woodland Road

Mrs. Grigelevich asked if the Food Services Committee spoke to any of the parents regarding the menus. The lunches are whole wheat and hot and Mrs. Grigelevich has found her children are eating them less.

Mrs. Umbriano stated Food Service meetings take place once per month and there is a representative from each school at each meeting. The next meeting will be held at Clayville on January 15th at 8:45 a.m. Mrs. Umbriano invited Mrs. Grigelevich to attend one of the meetings. The menu is supplied by RIDE through a state contract and is driven by Health and Wellness.

Mrs. Grigelevich stated as one suffering celiac disease, there is an issue with wheat as part of meal and would like to see how much waste if coming out of the schools. Mrs. Grigelevich sends son with additional snacks in case the meal is unappetizing or son is unable to eat due to what is being served.

Mrs. Umbriano offered to email Mrs. Grigelevich the new menus for the week. RIDE is forcing these lunches but the question is what the children are eating for breakfast and dinner. RIDE believes the children will learn about eating healthy through these meals and will request parents to do the same at home.

Mrs. Umbriano stated son comes home and eats an additional meal after school because Mrs. Umbriano's son is so hungry from not eating all of the provided lunch at school.

Referring to the proposed policy on no food or drink in the classrooms, Mrs. Grigelevich pointed out each member of the School Committee drank water over the course of this meeting. One school is providing water bottles due to water situation but there is always a line of children in line waiting for water at the nurse's office. Grigelevich added one of her daughters doesn't drink water or juice and will drink milk or Gatorade and needs to keep hydrated. It is understood that sometimes kids do bad things and what happened to the teacher mentioned earlier was intolerable, but is not certain this policy is the answer. Mrs. Grigelevich stated one piece of advice her mother passed on was to never leave your unopened beverage out of your sight. How can teachers who talk for .75-1.0 hours per class be restricted from drinking water during the class?

Chair Marcure stated for decades teachers have been teaching without the need for beverages in the classroom. Chair Marcure teaches at RIC and does not drink anything during class (2-3 hour duration).

Mrs. Grigelevich stated but the students in the class are allowed to drink.

Chair Marcure stated some do drink during class but most don't. But keep in mind this is also a different group of people (adults in college setting). The situation described by Mrs. Grigelevich is a special situation which leads to exception. Chair Marcure stated a pass could be provided by principal or nurse for child to bring something into classroom in those instances.

Mrs. Umbriano stated bringing in a water bottle is one thing but bringing a coffee into the classroom and leaving it unattended is another. What if that teacher died? It could have been children putting something into another child's drink. This is to prevent something like that from happening again.

Mrs. Grigelevich stated it is not fair to restrict a teacher who speaks for the duration of class from bringing in a water bottle.

Mrs. Umbriano stated perhaps if it is a clear water bottle where pills or discoloration could be seen, the policy can be modified. You cannot see anything put into a hot cup of coffee. If a policy comes from this, perhaps it should state if a water bottle is brought in, it must be in possession at all times.

Mrs. Grigelevich stated if policies are made where Middle School and High School students are restricted and elementary schools are not restricted, it will be hard to make that change once they transition to Middle School.

Mrs. Umbriano stated elementary schools have recess whereas Middle School and High Schools don't.

Ms. Yvette Grossguth, Middle School/High School nurse, stated it is difficult for some kids to see others have something when they can't. The nurse believes all children should minimally have a water bottle as the nurse sees many children coming to office who feel faint (physical education, chorus, classes, etc.) due to dehydration .

Chair Marcure stated there are water fountains where students can drink in between classes.

Mrs. Umbriano stated when the incident with the teacher occurred, the Committee reacted. It was upon reviewing the list of site concerns submitted by teachers and staff that this was also addressed which led to this discussion.

Ms. Grossguth stated there is also concern when food is brought into classroom and perhaps a Reese's Peanut Butter cup wrapper is left behind in a classroom and another

child with a life-threatening allergy enters classroom it may cause a reaction. Ms. Grossguth added that although the policy in a 'peanut/tree nut free school' is no peanuts or tree nut products allowed, there isn't a way to ensure these products aren't entering the school.

Chair Marcure stated once the children had snacks up through 6th grade and once that stopped, these children have been without snacks in the classroom for several years and it is not needed.

Dr. Stringfellow stated there is a procedure for snacks allowed into classrooms now. There are also kids allergic to things other than peanuts and tree nuts such as milk, soy, etc. It is safer for all kids to have packaging ingredients listed. PTOs are doing a great job in celebrating birthdays with a special pencil or a book, etc. North Scituate PTO provided a basket for the holiday celebrations which the nurses reviewed as well.

Mrs. Grigelevich stated there are 180 days of school and 180 days these students should be taught. It seems there are too many parties occurring in the classrooms. At Christmastime, Mrs. Grigelevich's daughter said she saw four different movies. This is not acceptable. 180 days should equal 180 days of instruction. It is dissatisfaction with some of the things which occur in the school that Mrs. Grigelevich has been coming to the School Committee meetings. Food should not be a celebratory thing.

Regarding the proposed no food and drink policy, Mrs. Grigelevich stated her children needs snacks every two hours as they will either faint or stop paying attention due to drop in blood sugar.

Mrs. Grigelevich addressed the drop in enrollment. Where did those children go?

Chair Marcure stated two are being homeschooled, two moved to Maine, one to East Greenwich, etc.

Mrs. Grigelevich asked if it was possible to receive documentation indicating how many children are in Scituate and should be enrolled in school.

Dr. Stringfellow stated if one goes to the RIDE web site and clicks on Info Works, Info Works will show, in a pie chart, how many students attend public schools, private schools, are homeschooled, etc. If interested in a particular dip in one year, you can chart that also. Enrollment (at least in Scituate) is declining in terms of birth.

Mrs. Grigelevich stated daughter is in a class with 164 students. When children are in a big class, the average is 17-20 students per class.

Chair Marcure stated 7th grade has 121 students and 8th grade has 151 students. 4th Grade in North Scituate has 47 students which means 22-23 students per class. Chair Marcure agrees with Mrs. Grigelevich regarding the number of minutes in the classroom. When Chair Marcure was teaching, Chair Marcure taught for 180 days and students were not complaining.

Mrs. Grigelevich stated there were classes offered in which Mrs. Grigelevich was taught how to help own children and would like to see more of those.

Dr. Stringfellow stated staff developers will be coming out to teach parents what is being done in classroom.

Referring the BCI checks mentioned earlier, Mrs. Grigelevich stated there was a Scituate teacher with a domestic assault case against girlfriend (Mrs. Grigelevich will forward to Mrs. Umbriano) and asked what the recourse is when hiring someone when something like this comes up.

Dr. Lescault stated some of those offenses are not excludable. It's not a School Department issue; it's a Police Department issue.

Mr. LaPlante stated there are certain crimes deemed worthy of exclusion and if person is not in that target group, than the person is eligible to work in school setting/with children.

Mr. Sollitto added a person needs to be convicted of crime in order to be excluded.

Dr. Stringfellow stated someone can be convicted of a crime the Police Department doesn't deem excludable from working with children. It is very extreme crimes, such as molestation, rape, etc. which would exclude someone from working with children. The School Department does not get to decide those crimes which would exclude one from being hired (that information is determined by police departments.)

Dr. Lescault stated the school has not been able to obtain a list of which crimes are included and/or excluded in target list. It is not a contractual issue.

Dwight Farrar, Central Pike

Mr. Farrar thanked Mrs. Archambault for her years as Chair on the Committee and understands the time required of an elected official.

Mr. Farrar also wishes Chair Marcure luck in new position as Chair.

Mr. Farrar also thanked the Committee for asking him to serve on the Building Committee.

Chair Marcure stated Mr. Farrar was also very strong on the Building Committee and has also been very supportive of the schools and thanked Mr. Farrar for agreeing to serve. The Committee is very lucky to have Mr. Farrar on the Building Committee to which Dr. Lescault agreed.

42-14
NEW BUSINESS

1. INITIAL APPROVAL OF 2009-2010 SCHOOL DEPARTMENT BUDGET

See Superintendent's Report for detail on this item.

Recommendation: Adopt latest version of the 2009-2010 budget presented this evening in preparation for the joint Town Council/School Committee meeting on January 8.

Mrs. Umbriano moved to approve and adopt the latest version of the 2009-2010 budget presented this evening in preparation for the joint Town Council/School Committee meeting on January 8th. Mrs. Archambault seconded the motion and the Committee unanimously agreed.

2. SECOND READING SPECIAL EDUCATION STAFFING POLICY

See Superintendent's Report for detail on this item.

Recommendation: Approve the second reading, and adopt the policy.

Mrs. Archambault moved to approve the second reading and adopt the Special Education Staffing Policy. Mrs. Umbriano seconded the motion and the Committee unanimously agreed.

3. **HIGH SCHOOL COURSE PROPOSALS**

See Assistant Superintendent's Report for detail on this item.

Recommendation: Approve the course proposals as presented by the Assistant Superintendent.

Mr. LaPlante moved to approve the course proposals as presented by Assistant Superintendent. Mrs. Umbriano seconded the motion and the Committee unanimously agreed.

4. **SECOND READING DIABETES POLICY**

See Assistant Superintendent's Report for detail on this item.

Recommendation: Approve the second reading, and adopt the policy.

Mrs. Guglielmi moved to approve the second reading and adopt the Diabetes Policy. Mrs. Umbriano seconded the motion and the Committee unanimously agreed.

5. **FIRST READING LINDSEY ANN BURKE TEEN DATING VIOLENCE POLICY**

See Assistant Superintendent's Report for detail on this item.

Recommendation: Approve a first reading of the policy.

Mrs. Umbriano moved to approve the first reading of the Lindsey Ann Burke Teen Dating Violence Policy. Mrs. Archambault seconded the motion and the Committee unanimously agreed.

6. **RENEWAL OF TPA AGREEMENT – BEACON INSURANCE**

See Superintendent's Report for detail on this item.

Recommendation: Take whatever action the committee deems appropriate.

Mr. LaPlante moved to renew the TPA Agreement with Beacon Insurance. Mrs. Umbriano seconded the motion and the Committee agreed. Mrs. Archambault recused herself from vote.

42-15
RESIGNATIONS/APPOINTMENTS/TRANSFERS

Dr. Lescault recommended approval of the following appointments:
Nancy Zito, Extended Day Teacher for the 2008-2009 school year, effective January 7, 2009; Marissa Gauvin, Extended Day Teacher for the 2008-2009 school year, effective January 7, 2009; Elise Saccoccio, Extended Day Teacher, North Scituate School; Judy Tata, Teacher Assistant, Extended Day program, North Scituate School; Celeste Tudino, Teacher Assistant Substitute, Extended Day Homework Club, North Scituate School; Jennifer Mello, part-time (25%) Special Education Teacher, Scituate Middle School effective January 7, 2009.

Mrs. Umbriano moved, seconded by Mr. LaPlante. The motion was unanimously approved.

Dr. Lescault recommended approval of the following resignations:
Kristin J. Russo, Part-time (35%) English Teacher, Scituate High School

Mrs. Umbriano moved, seconded by Mrs. Archambault. The motion was unanimously approved.

Dr. Lescault recommended approval of the following transfers:
John Barnes, to Grade 7 Science Teacher, Scituate Middle School; Ann Battey, to Grade 7/8 Science Teacher, Scituate Middle School; Riley Callan, to Grade 7/8 Math Teacher, Scituate Middle School; Patti Bettez, to Grade 5 Teacher, Hope School
Kristen Pontarelli, to Grade 5 Teacher, Hope School, One Year Only; Cristina Brothers, to Special Education Teacher, Clayville School, One Year Only

Mrs. Archambault moved, seconded by Mrs. Guglielmi. The motion was unanimously approved.

42-16
COMMITTEE REMARKS

MR. MARCURE	Chair Marcure stated nothing to report.
MRS. GUGLIELMI	Mrs. Guglielmi wished Chair Marcure luck in new position (Chair).
MS. UMBRIANO	Mrs. Umbriano stated nothing to report.
CHAIR ARCHAMBAULT BRIAN LAPLANTE	Mrs. Archambault wished Chair Marcure luck in new position as Chair. Mr. LaPlante stated nothing to report.

42-17
DISCUSSION OF FUTURE BUSINESS
February 3, 2009 Regular School Committee Meeting
March 3, 2009 Regular School Committee Meeting
April 7, 2009 Regular School Committee Meeting

42-18
ADJOURNMENT
Mrs. Umbriano moved, seconded by Mrs. Archambault, to adjourn meeting at 10: 20 PM. The Committee unanimously approved the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. Umbriano, Clerk