

**SCITUATE SCHOOL COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, JULY 7, 2009
TOWN CHAMBERS HALL**

CALL TO ORDER

51-1

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

51-2

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

51-3

Mrs. Umbriano moved, seconded by Mrs. Archambault, to approve the minutes of the School Committee Meeting of June 2, 2009. The Committee unanimously agreed.

Mrs. Umbriano moved, seconded by Mrs. Guglielmi, to approve the minutes of the Emergency School Committee Meeting on June 19, 2009. The Committee unanimously agreed.

CAPITAL RESERVE FUND

51-4

Mrs. Umbriano moved, seconded by Mrs. Guglielmi, to approve the Capital Reserve Funds for the month of July in the amount of \$6845.00. The Committee unanimously agreed.

MONTHLY PAYABLES NEW BUDGET

51-5

Mrs. Umbriano moved, seconded by Mrs. Archambault, that the Committee approve the Budget Bills 2009 for the month of July in the amount of \$356,036.13. The Committee unanimously approved the motion.

GRANT BILLS

51-6

Mrs. Umbriano moved, seconded by Mrs. Archambault, that the Committee approve the Grant Bills for the month of July – FY 2009 in the amount of \$340,454.47. The Committee unanimously approved the motion.

Mrs. Umbriano moved, seconded by Mrs. Archambault, that the Committee approve the Grant Bills for the month of July – FY 2010 in the amount of \$2,662.60. The Committee unanimously approved the motion.

CORRESPONDENCE

51-7

1. A letter to Dr. Filippelli from Joan Selfridge requesting the use of a personal day on September 1, 2009 in order to travel from a family reunion out of state.

Background: According to STA contract, since the day is contiguous with a holiday period, the school committee must vote to allow/not allow the day.

2. A letter to the Superintendent from Renee McInnis stating intent to home school her children, Christoph and Charlotte, for the upcoming 2009-2010 school year.
3. A letter to the Superintendent from Henry and Jodi Cullen requesting permission to home school their daughter, Mikayla.
4. A letter to the Superintendent from Reanna Wilson stating intent to home school her children for the next school year.
5. A letter to the Superintendent from Mr. and Mrs. John Lotter, stating intent to home school their children during the 2009-2010 school year.

6. A letter to the Superintendent from Linda Colavecchio requesting permission to register her daughter at Scituate Middle School for the 2009-2010 school year on a tuition basis, while they complete building their new home.
7. A letter to the Superintendent from Connie Jacavone requesting permission for her children to attend North Scituate School in September 2009 on a tuition basis, while they complete building their new home.
8. A letter to the Superintendent from Diane Langlais changing the effective date of her retirement to August 31, 2009.

51-8

1. Recommendation: Take whatever action the committee deems appropriate.

Chair Marcure indicated the day requested is not a school day rather a teacher planning day.

Mrs. Guglielmi stated Ms. Selfridge should be granted the request. Ms. Guglielmi added Ms. Selfridge was also involved in the transition of the agricultural and science departments so Ms. Selfridge is very aware of the changes.

Chair Marcure added because Ms. Selfridge was so involved it will be very easy for her to get caught up to speed on what was missed during that planning day.

Mr. LaPlante confirmed Ms. Selfridge would miss only the day preceding start of school and that the committee feels this teacher is acclimated to the changes in program already.

Mrs. Guglielmi moved, seconded by Mrs. Archambault to approve the use of a personal day on September 1, 2009. The Committee unanimously agreed.

2. Recommendation: for Correspondence items #2, #3, #4 and #5 - Approve the requests according to the terms and conditions established by RIDE and the school department.

Mrs. Archambault moved, seconded by Mr. LaPlante, to approve the home school requests according to the terms and conditions established by RIDE and the school department.

3. Recommendation: Approve the request to enroll the child at Scituate Middle School on a tuition basis for the 2009-2010 school year.
4. Recommendation: Approve the request to enroll the child at North Scituate School on a tuition basis beginning in September 2009.

Mrs. Archambault and Mrs. Umbriano asked if these children were living in Scituate and attending Scituate schools currently.

Dr. Lescault replied they are not.

Mr. LaPlante confirmed parents would be a pay a prorata portion of the school year.

Dr. Lescault responded yes; the fee is refundable if the family is moved in by date established by school department.

Mrs. Umbriano asked if there was room in those grades.

Dr. Filippelli replied the correspondence doesn't indicate which grade(s) the students will enter. Dr. Filippelli stated the only concern right now is the 6th grade for which Drs. Lescault and Filippelli are working on a plan to address needs. There are two spots maximum in 7th and 8th grades.

Dr. Lescault stated these students will need to be accommodated either way and it is also possible the construction of these homes will be completed by end of summer.

Mrs. Guglielmi stated it makes no difference which grade the students will be entering as they will be living here in Scituate and they will need to be accommodated.

Mr. LaPlante stated if request is denied, students would continue to attend current schools for a month or two and then transfer to Scituate which would disrupt their school year.

Mrs. Umbriano moved, seconded by Mr. LaPlante, to approve the requests to enroll on a tuition basis beginning September 2009. The Committee unanimously agreed.

5. Recommendation: Accept the change of date.

Mrs. Archambault moved, seconded by Mrs. Umbriano, to accept the change of date of retirement to August 31, 2009. The Committee unanimously agreed.

51-9

REPORT OF COMMITTEE LIAISONS

BUDGET

Mrs. Archambault stated the state budget was just finalized and Mrs. Archambault asked Dr. Lescault to provide Committee with an update on how that will impact the Scituate School District. Dr. Lescault will provide in the Superintendent's Report.

CURRICULUM

Chair Marcure stated nothing to report.

FOOD SERVICES

Mrs. Umbriano stated nothing to report.

SPACE NEEDS

Chair Marcure stated nothing to report.

HEALTH/ WELLNESS

Mrs. Guglielmi stated nothing to report.

NEGOTIATIONS

Chair Marcure stated nothing to report.

POLICY

Mr. LaPlante updated the Committee on the pay-to-play policy. Mr. LaPlante doesn't believe Scituate will face a budget crunch this year where programs will need to be eliminated. Mr. LaPlante stated The Interscholastic League takes the position that is the school department's responsibility to pay for sports and that the school department cannot implement a pay-to-play policy.

Mrs. Archambault asked if other communities are doing this and Mr. LaPlante replied there are not.

Mrs. Umbriano stated disappointment that the Interscholastic League would rather see a sport be cut than to allow parents to help pay for the costs.

Mr. LaPlante stated the threat of dropping sports hasn't really happened yet; however it is possible in some communities it may happen soon. Thankfully, Scituate is not one of those communities. Mr. LaPlante will continue to update the Committee.

Mrs. Umbriano would like Scituate be ready to search for grants, fundraise or do

something to raise the money for sports programs should the situation arise where Scituate would need to make cuts in programs. Mrs. Umbriano doesn't want the children to miss out. Mrs. Umbriano stated it may simply be charging a fee for a sport versus asking for a donation.

Mr. LaPlante has begun to think about mechanisms for employing the pay-to-play for extracurricular activities. With a sport, the Booster Club collects donations at which point the school can rightfully take money from a donating party.

Mrs. Umbriano questioned whether students wishing to play a sport could sell X boxes of candy which would cover individual cost.

Mr. LaPlante stated the Booster Club could fundraise but the school department's hands are tied; however Mr. LaPlante believes that may change as things start tightening legislatively. It may not be unreasonable to see legislature which broadens the scope of what school departments can actually do to meet the needs of the students. The school department absolutely cannot ask children to purchase text books, for example. The RI Interscholastic League says the school department does not have the power to reach out and ask for donations.

Chair Marcure stated people will begin to see more of a problem this year as towns and municipalities are being cut back. Councils are starting to look at funding recreation programs which feed middle school programs which in turn feed varsity programs. The General Assembly will be in severe deficit this coming year.

Mr. LaPlante stated The RI Interscholastic League does allow a child to pay for a trophy or plaque they take home. It is something tangible which is taken home; however the same argument could be made that to a sport or music program something tangible is being taken home.

Mrs. Umbriano received a copy of the law from RIDE and stated the dates go back to the 1800's.

Mr. LaPlante stated it is an 1800 law. When they stripped the school department of responsibility of right to tax and mandated that pupils be properly educated.

Mrs. Guglielmi believes it is awful that students should have to pay to play anything. Children go out to compete and represent the schools and then to be asked to pay to do so isn't fair. Mrs. Guglielmi does not oppose Booster Clubs or other clubs to do so but would like it to not include the students.

Chair Marcure stated with declining enrollment, there will be fewer students to participate in various sports and it is happening throughout the state. Once a sport drops below needed enrollment, the sport will need to be cut. That has happened here in the past.

RIASC

Mrs. Archambault stated nothing to report.

**SAFETY AND
TRANSPORTATION**

Mrs. Umbriano stated Scituate Safety Committee is looking at changing the curve of Routes 115/116 due to lack of an island. However, there is concern that school buses may not be able to make the turn with an island in place. Next meeting is scheduled for July 31, 2009.

**SCITUATE ADVOCATES
FOR EVERYONE (SAFE)**

Mrs. Umbriano stated the 8th grade dance was well attended. Both Dr. Filippelli and Mr. Zajac (incoming middle school principal) attended. SAFE donated door prizes and each student received a t-shirt.

5th grade Hope Pond event was rained out and was unable to be rescheduled. Each student was given a memory t-shirt.

Mrs. Umbriano is also chairperson for Scituate Old Days which was also well attended by many Scituate school students. Highlights included presenting Chair Marcure with Scituate Citizen of the Year award.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Chair Marcure stated nothing to report.

BUDGET COMMITTEE

Chair Marcure stated nothing to report.

**BUILDING
COMMITTEE**

Chair Marcure stated Clayville Evacuation project is still moving smoothly and is expected to be completed prior to start of school.

Regarding the middle school/high school project, excavation for five additional rooms has been completed and Alhambra Construction is now working on expanding the cafeteria and special education room, ventilation system, four roofs, practice field and containment pond. The back of the school property has been cleared out also.

The target completion date originally was September 1, 2009; however due to current economy many (steel) companies are not maintaining a high inventory level due to costs, so completion is expected November 1, 2009.

Mrs. Archambault asked if low inventory was common business practice or it was a sign of the times.

Chair Marcure stated in an economy like this, businesses cannot afford to maintain the inventory due to costs.

Chair Marcure added that the exit lane at the middle school/high school drops at a 13 degree angle and is very steep and has been dangerous. The committee is looking at creating a more gradual drop by possibly creating a curve down to Rockland Road. Each winter, the road is plowed and sanded due to the danger of that intersection.

Mr. LaPlante asked if business as usual is planned for the start of the first quarter at the middle school/high school.

Dr. Filippelli replied yes. Students will begin the school year in existing classrooms and spread out into new rooms after completion.

Chair Marcure added that the old agriculture building which remains on the middle school/high school campus will be demolished. The guardrail will also be moved seven to eight feet to allow sufficient space for cars to travel in and out.

Dr. Lescault stated that although the exterior work will not be completed until November 1, 2009, the interior renovations will be completed prior to the start of the school.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Mrs. Guglielmi stated nothing to report.

**51-10
UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

1. A memo to Chair Marcure from committee member Archambault requesting that additional information be included with the monthly reports of the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent beginning August 2009. Ms. Archambault also asks that a Visitor Log be implemented at central office.

Recommendation: Take whatever action the committee deems appropriate.

Mrs. Archambault thought it would be helpful to put the request in writing and provide additional information in what Mrs. Archambault would like to see. Mrs. Archambault stated a report similar to the Bullying Report or Building and Grounds Report would be appropriate. When Committee members are working full-time, it makes it easy to get a quick snapshot of what is going on. At the beginning of the year, the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent welcome the teachers, and one concern Mrs. Archambault stated was that there are new administrators this year and it is important to ensure they are being mentored. It also helps the Committee sell to the public that this district does need these administrators.

Mrs. Guglielmi stated it is an important subject but when the Committee asks for specific processes that it becomes micromanagement. It is important for the Committee to know exactly what our roles as School Committee members are and Mrs. Guglielmi read some points taken from an article entitled "Becoming a Better Board Member- A Guide to Effective School Board Service" published by the National School Board Association (NSBA).

The following are the points Ms. Guglielmi read from the article:

"Boards set policy and administrators carry it out." That's the first thing virtually every school board member learns about the responsibilities of the job. Yet anyone visiting school boards across the country would have to conclude that many boards don't follow this basic precept. They stay bogged down in the details of managing the schools and devote little time to leading them."

Mrs. Guglielmi hopes that this School Committee does not lose sight of the big picture and our roles.

In a discussion of Ethics, it said:

"Know your job and don't interfere with the administration's job."

"Understand that the Superintendent is practicing a career--a highly complex one for which he or she has prepared with formal training, and in most cases, years of progressive experience. For that reason, if not for any other, the Superintendent can be expected to have learned at least a bit more about the practice of school administration than the average layman."

"Education is different from any other business or governmental service in any community--and it is big business. A school district often employs more people, serves more meals, maintains more buildings and grounds, transports more people over more miles and has a larger budget than any other business in the community."

"Managing a school system is different than managing a business."

"A sound Code of Conduct for school board members begins with a genuine commitment to striving for high quality public education that supports the full development of all children."

"Do not undermine the authority of the Superintendent or intrude into the spheres of responsibility that properly belong to the school administration."

"Refuse to become involved in micromanagement."

"Emphasize planning, policymaking, and public relations rather than becoming involved in management of schools."

“Establish goals for our school district and make sure the community is aware of these goals.”

“As one of your district policymakers, you have a responsibility and a right to be informed about school matters.”

“Before you request information, ask yourself these questions:

- What exactly are you looking for?
- Why do you want the information?
- What will you do with it when you get it?
- How will you use it?”

“The following questions can be useful guidelines:

- What information does the board need for policymaking?
- What information does the board need to evaluate policies and their implementation?
- What information does the board need to evaluate school district operations?
- What information does the board need to exercise its role as advocate for students and learning?”

Mrs. Guglielmi does not object or not object to a log but asks what its purpose would be. In schools, visitor’s logs have been implemented to ensure safety. After the Columbine incident, schools have been locked down to provide protection to the students and the staff. In case of fire or evacuation of a building, the visitor’s log is there to ensure all in the building have been accounted for. The Central Office is quite small so the scenario is different; however the way the Central Office is run does not seem to be a matter of policy rather of administration.

Mrs. Umbriano does not feel the Committee is overstepping bounds by asking for a visitor’s log. It does offer a sense of security but does not feel it does any harm to ask visitors to sign in when visiting the office. Mrs. Umbriano stated until the Committee was presented with a monthly report from Buildings and Grounds, Mrs. Umbriano did not realize just how much work was completed by Mr. Gormley and Mr. Gaisor. Mrs. Umbriano does not feel that is micromanaging. At the Financial Town Meeting, people were complaining about the number of people in the Central Office among other things. If the need for an additional person was needed in the Central Office, this would help demonstrate the need. All Committee members report on meetings and tasks; this is just another method of communication. All of the Committee members as well as Central Office, teachers, and faculty are here for the students and it is important to show support at various school events such as Honor Society Awards, etc. Perhaps it is another way of ensuring a representative attends.

Mrs. Guglielmi does not wish to make the request a policy.

Mrs. Archambault stated this is a request for information and does not see this as micromanaging. Working full-time, Mrs. Archambault stated there isn’t time during the day to stop by the Central Office for updates.

Mrs. Guglielmi stated if the Committee votes on this, then it becomes policy. What should occur is a conversation between the Chair and administration to resolve this.

Mrs. Archambault stated concern of performing the job well as a school committee member. Mrs. Archambault receives a packet of information at the end of the month but feels there must be much more happening during the month than what is included. It was extremely helpful when Mr. Gormley provided a monthly report.

All Committee members were floored after seeing how much work is completed each month by Mr. Gormley and Mr. Gaisor. It was helpful to Chair Marcure to see the Bullying Report. Mrs. Archambault requested Drs. Lescault and Filippelli to include a report monthly which details what has been completed monthly. The Committee receives reports from principals, etc. It is simply information.

Mrs. Guglielmi stated what was requested was a list of all site visits made by Drs. Lescault and Filippelli. They provide these details in their reports at this meeting each month.

Mrs. Archambault wishes to do a better job as a Committee member and this information would be helpful. Mrs. Archambault if Drs. Lescault and Filippelli felt this task would be burdensome.

Chair Marcure stated Dr. Filippelli did provide a detailed report on what was accomplished in a month. Scituate has the smallest Central Office in the state and it is good to know the significant things which occur during the course of a day or professionally but Chair Marcure does not feel the need to know the smaller details of what occurs on a day-to-day basis.

Mrs. Archambault stated this should not be a day-to-day task. Mrs. Archambault requested this be implemented on a trial basis starting in the month of September. One key reason for starting this is also due to the number of new administrators and Mrs. Archambault would like to ensure these administrators are being mentored.

Mrs. Guglielmi stated the fact that Drs. Lescault and Filippelli visit the schools does not necessarily measure mentorship.

Mrs. Archambault stated it is important to see when Drs. Lescault and Filippelli complete site visits. For example, each year the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent welcome the teachers at the beginning of the school year. Not everyone knows these great things that are accomplished.

When asked if the task would be too laborious, Dr. Lescault stated feeling uncomfortable being caught between various school committee members on this topic. Drs. Lescault and Filippelli will agree to the decision the Committee makes.

Mr. LaPlante referred to own experience as an attorney where all time must be logged for client billing purposes which can be a very tedious task. Mr. LaPlante stated the Committee needs to be clear on what is being asked. Mr. LaPlante does not believe the request made by Mrs. Archambault was to include all tasks, only the significant ones. Mr. LaPlante believes Mrs. Archambault would like to see the same report Dr. Lescault provides to the Committee but in a grid form (as an attachment) for a quick snapshot. Mr. LaPlante stated Dr. Lescault supervises Dr. Filippelli and Dr. Filippelli supervises those below him; however no one except for the School Committee has the responsibility of supervising Dr. Lescault. To be more appropriate, it may be helpful to receive more feedback from Dr. Lescault. Mr. LaPlante stated if someone wants to implement policy, the question why must be asked and what effect will it have. Personally, Mr. LaPlante does not feel under informed and feels the monthly reports received are informative and calls Dr. Lescault if Mr. LaPlante has a question. Mr. LaPlante does not feel it is necessary but also does not feel it is harmful to implement the request; Mr. LaPlante believes Mrs. Archambault's suggestion of doing on a trial basis sounds fair.

Chair Marcure stated adding events such as attended soccer game, etc. to existing report should suffice. Chair Marcure's concern is requesting Dr. Lescault's daily schedule. Chair Marcure stated it can be overwhelming and with all of the demands the school departments have currently, Drs. Lescault and Filippelli do not need additional burdens. If a decision needs to occur quickly, Chair Marcure also feels

informed. Chair Marcure volunteered to also keep Mrs. Archambault better informed as well. Chair Marcure realizes it is difficult to communicate via phone during the workday and believes it may be more effective to continue updates via email so that members can view at their leisure.

Chair Marcure added Scituate has top administrators in this district. Dr. Lescault has all necessary skills to complete the Superintendent's job and Chair Marcure feels very confident with the skill set in Scituate.

Mrs. Guglielmi stated objection to voting on a specific means of submitting information because that means voting on a specific management tool and Mrs. Guglielmi does not wish to do that. Mrs. Guglielmi would like to see Mrs. Archambault and Drs. Lescault and Filippelli work out the details versus as a vote through the School Committee.

Mrs. Archambault stated the School Committee manages the school department.

Mrs. Guglielmi stated the School Committee makes policy and does not manage. The Committee has appointed these administrators to manage.

Mrs. Archambault asked how Committee members can make policy if unaware of what is happening.

Mrs. Guglielmi stated the issue isn't receiving the information, it is about voting on the means of submitting the information and making that policy.

Mrs. Archambault stated this does not need a vote.

Mrs. Guglielmi stated this is listed under Unfinished Business which means it requires a vote.

Mrs. Archambault stated it was very vague in the minutes last month and Mrs. Archambault wished to clarify the request and provide additional information for Drs. Lescault and Filippelli as well as Mr. LaPlante who did not attend last month's meeting.

Mrs. Guglielmi stated Mrs. Archambault mentioned the request briefly at the end of last month's meeting.

Mrs. Archambault stated perhaps the full Committee does not need the information.

Mrs. Guglielmi stated it is not a matter of not needing the information; it is a matter of voting on something like this which is something on which the Committee shouldn't be voting.

Chair Marcure believes the Committee addressed issues and believes this is something which can be resolved without setting policy.

Mr. LaPlante suggested empowering Chair Marcure to work with Dr. Lescault to determine what is comfortable for all.

Mrs. Archambault reiterated focus is solely on ensuring she is doing the job she was appointed to do. There is responsibility and accountability as a Committee member. Since leaving the position of Chair, the only information received is a monthly Committee packet.

Chair Marcure added all Committee members receive emails as well.

Mrs. Archambault stated emails are not received often.

Dr. Lescault confirmed two email addresses for Mrs. Archambault which are on School Committee distribution list.

Chair Marcure and Mrs. Archambault agreed 7 p.m. weeknights would be best time to communicate.

Mr. LaPlante added email is his preferred method of communication.

Mrs. Archambault asked to be part of meeting with Dr. Lescault and Chair Marcure to discuss method of communication.

Mrs. Umbriano is not in agreement with Committee. Mrs. Umbriano stated a Committee member feels she is not receiving adequate information and is not obtaining it. It is a matter of showing the public all of the things the Committee and administrators accomplish. For example, the month (May) the meeting was cancelled there was so much information reported at the following meeting. It is a small request and only shows what a great job is being done.

Mr. LaPlante stated the Committee will not collectively determine the level of information which would be acceptable for all. Chair Marcure, Mrs. Archambault and Dr. Lescault will meet to discuss Mrs. Archambault's request.

Dr. Lescault stated concern about being graded on the number of visits or events each month.

Mrs. Archambault stated that should not be concern; it should be a short list of events only.

Dr. Lescault read list of activities completed for month of June to Committee: meeting with RIDE Chief of Operations regarding Food Services, Paraprofessionals negotiations; West Bay Collaborative Board Meeting, STA Leadership/Administration Meeting, Bus Owners Negotiation, Building Committee Meeting, Middle/High School Project Groundbreaking, Northwest Region (Special Education) Board Meeting, Student Disciplinary Appeal Hearing, Scituate High School Graduation, Last Day School Visits, and Administrators Meeting.

Dr. Lescault added the confusion may have been that the term "log" was used in correspondence which led Drs. Lescault and Filippelli to believe the request was much more in depth.

Dr. Lescault stated any time an administrator needs to communicate with Dr. Lescault, Dr. Lescault is available. Dr. Lescault is available to support his administrators but also believes in staying out of their way. Dr. Lescault agrees it is important to make rounds and greet teachers and administrators; however at a certain point teachers will be concerned the Superintendent doesn't have more to do if making rounds too often.

Mrs. Umbriano stated that is a perfect example. It was in conversation with Dr. Stringfellow that Mrs. Umbriano discovered the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent brought a cake to each school at the beginning of each school year. These little things are things the Committee would like to know.

Chair Marcure added the reports received by the principals are very detailed and wished to commend them for their reports. Chair Marcure also commended the Science Department for its report on the changes occurring in that department.

Chair Marcure also asked to sit down with Dr. Filippelli to discuss strategies to improve NECAP scores. Chair Marcure is more concerned that students are

retaining content rather than just performing well on NECAP tests. Some parents were not aware of the importance of these tests. Perhaps something could be made available to the parents.

Dr. Filippelli stated RIDE sponsored a seminar on May 27, 2009 which reviewed several strategies to address the NECAP. Dr. Filippelli added each question has a value attached and the scores can drill down to each student's individual skill which is one way to look at improving individual's scores. There are also simpler ways to help students improve such as ensuring the students eat breakfast the morning of the NECAP test and getting a good night's sleep prior to the test.

Mrs. Umbriano asked how the email/List Serv is running specifically for the middle school students/parents.

Dr. Filippelli stated it is up and running and Mr. Zajac has full access and that will roll out in September.

Mrs. Guglielmi asked when the science teachers begin their new program.

Dr. Filippelli replied the new program is in place.

51-11
ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

**STABILIZATION AND
AMERICAN
REINVESTMENT AND
RECOVERY ACT**

June has proven to be an interesting month as expenditure guidelines for federal stimulus from the federal government and the Rhode Island Department of Education are still taking shape.

There are the Stabilization Funds which go back to April 1, 2009 and the ARRA Title I Funds and the ARRA (IDEA) Funds. John Magner is managing the ARRA (IDEA) Funds. The ARRA Title I Funds need to follow same rules as regular Title I Funds. The plan for Scituate schools is to augment the already existing Title I and special education programs with the stimulus money. This augmentation will take the form of increased services for students most in need as well as increased services for those students at Scituate's identified Title I school (Hope Elementary School).

Mr. LaPlante asked if this would free up money for other sources.

Dr. Lescault stated Drs. Lescault and Filippelli are working closely with John Magner on the IDEA Funds as well.

Mrs. Umbriano believed both North Scituate and Hope Schools were Title I schools this year.

Dr. Filippelli stated the rankings were mixed up, It would have been Clayville and Hope Schools this year; however the Title I award was given only to Hope.

**RESPONSE TO
INTERVENTION
SUPPORT AT ALL
SCHOOLS**

The teachers and administrators at each of the schools have been doing an excellent job at implementing response to intervention protocols for all students. Scituate is one of a handful of districts who got on board early to receive assistance and professional development from RIDE and Dr. Laura Hauerwas from Providence College throughout the year. The professional development was systemic, embedded and ongoing at all the schools throughout the year. The targeted professional development goals for each of the five schools for next year include an RTI component. Dr. Filippelli has asked each of the principals to indicate how they will make RTI a professional development goal for next year.

**TECHNOLOGY
COMMITTEE**

At Dr. Lescault's request, Dr. Filippelli facilitated a technology committee meeting for June 9th to address the technology needs in each of the district schools. One of

the main concerns is to increase the technology capacity at the middle/high school in order to support the technology requirements of the RITES grant for the science teachers. Dr. Filippelli anticipates one of the goals of the committee would be to create a focus group of key stakeholders to ascertain technology needs and then deploy resources wherever possible to address those needs.

Dr. Lescault feels Scituate is falling behind technologically. Mr. DiLuglio does an incredible job with his staff but part of the problem is the existing equipment. Scituate continues to add to it versus saying 600 computers are enough for a school district of 1800 kids. Scituate does not have a Chief Information Technology Officer. There is also the issue of the middle school being torn apart right now; the conduit system needs to be organized. Dr. Lescault stated there is the opportunity to make some technology investments to help bring Scituate to the next level.

Dr. Filippelli stated what is being considered are small personal laptops (in the \$250 range) which run on flash memory. RIDE only allocates a specific amount of money for technology each year. When competing for grants, the larger school districts are usually awarded the funds. For example, if Scituate needs to replace a lab at approximately \$30,000, it would require three years of funding from RIDE.

Dr. Lescault added Mr. Kuzmowycz has agreed to participate on the Technology Committee and Mr. Kuzmowycz was a tremendous resource the last time Scituate upgraded.

Mrs. Umbriano believes Scituate needs to open up to the parents more to try to get a strong PTO and also try to get some of the parents or local companies to donate some money.

**READING ASSESSMENT
PROGRAMS FOR THE
2009-2010 ACADEMIC
YEAR**

Dr. Filippelli would like to thank the elementary teachers and administrators for their help in determining which reading programs would be most beneficial in providing key data points for students involved in reading instruction at each of the schools. All met on June 11th and June 12th to discuss options and the reading teachers and elementary principals then met again on June 15th to finalize plans. Scituate will be using Aimsweb, Fuch's and PALS to assess reading levels and collect data and to drive instruction as Scituate moves forward.

**51-12
SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

STATE AID

(Committee members received copies of memo from RIDE regarding state aid.) The information from RIDE indicates state aid for FY 2010 was reduced by \$413,121 (Pension reform \$245,676 + Federal Stabilization \$167,445). However, as Scituate will receive \$168,328 of Federal Stabilization Funds and save approximately \$245,000 in certified pension expenses, the net result is zero and is consistent with the school district budget adopted at the April Town Meeting. Scituate will also receive additional Special Education (IDEA) (\$208,787) and Title I funds (\$47,506). However, these funds are highly restricted and cannot be used as general revenue. Consequently, the overall implications for the district from a budgeting standpoint are neutral.

The certified pension savings are the result of changes enacted into law in the pension system. The rate has been reduced from 14.17% to 11.89%. The changes to the retirement system do not have any effect on employees currently eligible to retire. Therefore, the 10-15 teachers and administrators that would have been forced to retire immediately if the original pension reform proposal had been adopted will likely remain. As a result, Dr. Lescault believes this change has positive implications for the district.

Mrs. Guglielmi asked if the document the Committee members received was the new Chart of Accounts (COA).

Dr. Lescault stated the document included in the new financial report is the new COA however only the COA for general operations.

MAINTENANCE OF EFFORT

RIDE has asked that Superintendents share a memo from Deputy Commissioner Abbott regarding Maintenance of Effort (MOE) with school committee members and attorneys. (Committee members received copies of memo) MOE is a complex issue that the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRAA) makes more complex. Federal and state guidance on the expenditure of the ARRA (Stimulus, IDEA and Title I) funds is evolving and incomplete. However, based on numerous discussions with RIDE officials, Dr. Lescault believes Scituate is in full compliance with the MOE requirements at this time.

BUS CONTRACT

Drs. Lescault, Myers and Mrs. Umbriano met with the bus owners on June 17 to discuss a one-year extension of the contract with them. The bus owners agreed with request for that extension for 2009/2010 with no changes in rates. Ratification of the agreement is listed under New Business for school committee action.

MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL PROJECT

The groundbreaking ceremony for the middle/high school project took place on June 18 behind the existing middle school. Heavy equipment clearing the wooded area that will be the site of a parking lot and a practice field was underway. Steve Gormley and his crew have emptied the middle school in preparation for the extensive ventilation work that will be done during the summer. Demolition of many areas slated for renovation, including the high school cafeteria, is underway. Excavation for the addition has also begun.

PRESIDENTIAL AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE TEACHING PROGRAM

Dr. Lescault is pleased to inform everyone that Maureen Kennedy has been chosen as a State-finalist for the 2009 Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST) Program. This program is designed to identify outstanding teachers of mathematics and science who will serve as models for their colleagues and form a leadership core to help advance the major reform movements in these disciplines.

TRANSITION MONTH

Drs. Lescault and Filippelli have been working together closely during Dr. Filippelli's first month as Assistant Superintendent for Instruction and Curriculum. While covering the Middle School and the Central Office during one of the most hectic months of the year was a challenge for both, the transition was smooth and seamless. Dr. Lescault hopes the two are off to a long and successful partnership.

**51-13
PUBLIC COMMENTS**

George Kuzmowycz 37 Esek Hopkins Road

Mr. Kuzmowycz stated surprise to hear some members of Committee state how awful it would be if students were required to pay for sports competitions. Mr. Kuzmowycz stated for many years, students have paid for transportation for the music program and Mr. Kuzmowycz does not see a huge difference between sports and chorus. In the last six or seven years, the Committee has introduced the three most expensive sports in the Interscholastic League.

David Durfee 52 Deerfield Drive

Mr. Durfee apologized for missing announcement of Dr. Goodfellow's retirement but wished to state that Dr. Goodfellow was one of the best teachers Scituate has had and Dr. Goodfellow and his wife will be greatly missed.

Tim McCormick 428 Trim Town Road

Mr. McCormick echoed Mr. Kuzmowycz's comments regarding the transportation for music program. In the past, the Booster Club has been required to pay for transportation to performances/concerts for the music program so before any

programs are cut, the Committee should look to the Booster Club to step up and provide transportation for sports as well.

Mrs. Umbriano stated upon first hearing the music department paid for own transportation, Mrs. Umbriano was told Mr. Neeves was running the program at that time but is uncertain why Mr. Neeves chose to have parents pay for the buses rather than take from a portion of the music budget.

Mr. McCormick stated there is a disconnect between the two.

51-14
NEW BUSINESS

1. **DISPOSITION OF UNUSABLE/OUTDATED EQUIPMENT/BOOKS**

A request for the disposition of unusable/outdated textbooks from Dr. Filippelli. Also is a request from Principal Mowry to dispose of unused encyclopedias. (Copies submitted to Committee members.)

Recommendation: Approve the disposition of the textbooks/encyclopedias according to school department policy.

Mrs. Archambault moved, seconded by Mr. LaPlante to approve the disposition of the textbooks/encyclopedias according to school department policy. The Committee unanimously agreed.

2. **AGREEMENT WITH BUS OWNERS**

The Agreement with Bus Owners for the period September 2006 through August 2010 is attached. This agreement is a one-year extension of the agreement currently in effect.

Recommendation: Ratify the agreement as presented.

Mrs. Guglielmi moved, seconded by Mrs. Archambault to ratify the agreement as presented. The Committee unanimously agreed.

51-15
RESIGNATIONS/APPOINTMENTS/TRANSFERS

Dr. Lescault recommended approval of the following resignations: Nathan Cohen, part-time (20%) Music teacher, Scituate Middle School, effective June 26, 2009; Karen Maggiacomo, teacher assistant, Clayville School; Mamie T. Rogler, Guidance Secretary; Dennis J. Giannola, Middle School Social Studies, effective August 31, 2009

Mr. LaPlante moved to approve resignations, seconded by Mrs. Archambault. The motion was unanimously approved.

Dr. Lescault recommended approval of the following appointments: Denise Collins, full time Chemistry, Scituate High School ; Stephen Reed, Assistant Football Coach; Christopher Kelley, part-time (40%) Middle School Art, pending certification

Dr. Lescault stated Denise Collins (in attendance) is being recommended to replace Dr. Goodfellow. Dr. Lescault was told by the Interview Committee as well as two principals that Scituate found the female version of Dr. Goodfellow.

Chair Marcure stated it was a pleasure teaching with Ms. Collins in Coventry and Chair Marcure agreed Ms. Collins was an outstanding teacher, mentor and leader in her department at that time as well.

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

Dr. Lescault recommended approval of the following reappointments: Kristen Pontarelli, part-time (50%) Kindergarten, Clayville School; Cristina Brothers, part-time (25%) Special Education, Scituate Middle School; Rachel Anderson, part-time (80%) Science, Scituate High School; Bertice Wood, Teacher Assistant (to a position to be determined); Laurie Audet, Teacher Assistant (to a position to be determined)

Mrs. Archambault moved to approve reappointments, seconded by Mr. LaPlante. The motion was unanimously approved.

51-16
COMMITTEE REMARKS

CHAIR MARCURE

Chair Marcure stated the municipal side is being cut on everything and eventually the school department will be looked at because the school department is 77% of the budget. Chair Marcure hasn't seen a positive turn (economy) yet.

MRS. GUGLIELMI

Mrs. Guglielmi asked Maureen Kennedy the date of the dinner of 2009 Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST) Program. Ms. Kennedy stated the date has not been set but expects it to be in October 2009. The Committee members will receive notification.

MS. UMBRIANO

Mrs. Umbriano stated nothing to report.

MRS. ARCHAMBAULT

Mrs. Archambault congratulated Chair Marcure for being awarded Scituate Citizen of the Year; it was well-deserved.

BRIAN LAPLANTE

Mr. LaPlante stated that the dialogue appeared seemingly adversarial at times this evening, when there is a cohesiveness things sometimes flow through. It is good to have a check and balances and some intellectual conversation and challenge ourselves to make ourselves improve. Mr. LaPlante stated this is also a healthy, respectful discussion and respecting each other's opinions is important. There are many Committees which do not have such respect for each other.

51-17
DISCUSSION OF FUTURE BUSINESS

August 4 Regular School Committee Meeting
September 1 Regular School Committee Meeting
October 6 Regular School Committee Meeting
November 3 Regular School Committee Meeting
December 1 Regular School Committee Meeting

51-18
ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Archambault moved, seconded by Mrs. Umbriano to adjourn meeting at 8:45 PM. The Committee unanimously approved the motion.

Respectfully submitted,



Mrs. Umbriano, Clerk