

**SCITUATE SCHOOL COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2009
SCITUATE MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL**

CALL TO ORDER

54-1

The Regular School Committee Meeting was called to order by Chair Marcure at 6:30 PM directly following Executive Session RIGL 42-46-5(a)2.

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

**TOUR OF MIDDLE SCHOOL
AND HIGH SCHOOL**

54-2

Mr. Steve Gormley, Director of Buildings and Grounds, Principals Sollitto and Zajac and Assistant Principal Sweet provided a tour of the Middle School and High School which included an overview of recent improvements as well as deficiencies which should be addressed in the next budget cycle.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

54-3

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

54-4

Mrs. Umbriano moved, seconded by Mr. LaPlante, to approve the minutes of the School Committee Meeting of September 1, 2009. The Committee unanimously agreed.

CAPITAL RESERVE FUND

54-5

Mrs. Umbriano moved, seconded by Mrs. Archambault, to approve the Capital Reserve Funds for the month of October in the amount of \$54,824.38. The Committee unanimously agreed.

**MONTHLY PAYABLES
NEW BUDGET**

54-6

Mrs. Umbriano moved, seconded by Mrs. Guglielmi, to approve the Budget Bills 2009 for the month of October in the amount of \$700,153.76. The Committee unanimously approved the motion.

CLAYVILLE LAND FUND

54-7

Mrs. Umbriano moved, seconded by Mrs. Guglielmi to approve the Clayville Land Fund for the month of October in the amount of \$1,713.43. The Committee unanimously approved the motion.

GRANT BILLS

54-8

Mrs. Umbriano moved, seconded by Mrs. Archambault, to approve the Grant Bills for the month of October in the amount of \$78,550.73. The Committee unanimously approved the motion.

**RECOGNITION OF TEACHER
OF THE YEAR**

54-9

Dr. Lescault stated all look forward to this meeting as it a time to recognize and applaud Scituate's finest teachers. Dr. Lescault stated Maureen Kennedy teaches mathematics at Scituate Middle School and has been chosen as Scituate's Teacher of the Year. It is important to note that in honoring Ms. Kennedy, we honor all teachers. Dr. Lescault then read a small portion of the press release submitted when Ms. Kennedy was chosen as Scituate's Teacher of the Year:

"Ms. Kennedy has taught grade 7 on the Explorer Team since 1999. She is an outstanding teacher, a dedicated professional and a fun loving and caring individual. As an educator, she strives to make each and every one of her students believe in themselves as a learner and to accept who they are as an individual. Her colleagues describe Ms. Kennedy as energetic, humorous, a team player, and a natural educational leader. They state she is generous,

kind, nurturing, effective, strong, and a confident teammate. She is also a persuasive student advocate; doing whatever it takes to do what is best for students. Administrators describe Ms. Kennedy as completely student centered. She is highly respected by parents, students, colleagues, and administrators.”

Dr. Lescault stated the Scituate School Department and School Committee are proud and privileged to recognize and applaud Maureen Kennedy as Scituate’s Teacher of the Year.

Dr. Lescault showed Ms. Kennedy and attendees Ms. Kennedy’s name on the ongoing Teacher of the Year Plaque.

Ms. Trainor of the Scituate Teachers Association, read a letter of commendation to Ms. Kennedy:

“We are gathered here this evening to honor you as an outstanding Scituate educator for you have enriched the hearts and minds of young people for the last ten years. You have distinguished yourself not only as a teacher but also as a leader in the area of mathematics education and as a selfless promoter of standards-based instruction in mathematics and assessment programs for middle level students. You have enriched the lives of hundreds of students that each has grown and developed under your caring eye. People of your caliber come along only rarely and we at Scituate feel fortunate and honored that you have shared so much of yourself with all of us. We are better people for the wisdom and kindness you have given us. Tonight we say thank you for being an outstanding educator. Tonight by honoring you, we honor the entire education profession and the significant contribution teachers make in molding the minds and bodies of our future leaders. Well done.”

Chair Marcure presented Ms. Kennedy with a plaque given jointly by the Scituate Teachers’ Association and Scituate School Committee.

Ms. Kennedy thanked her family, friends, and colleagues.

Dr. Filippelli added Ms. Kennedy also received The Presidential award for Excellence in Teaching Mathematics.

At this point, the meeting adjourned for refreshments.

CORRESPONDENCE

54-10

1. A request from Timothy Brown to use a personal day with reason for September 4, 2009 to attend sister’s wedding.

Background: Since the day requested is contiguous with a holiday, the School Committee must vote to approve/deny the day.

2. A letter to Dr. Lescault from Diane Scacco, PTO President, North Scituate School, requesting approval of the School Committee for the events, programs and fundraisers submitted to the Committee.
3. A letter from Christine Morton, PTA President, Hope School, requesting School Committee approval for various fundraisers for the 2009-2010 school year.
4. A letter to Dr. Lescault from Betsy Shimberg, a member of the RI Board of Regents, thanking Dr. Lescault for including Ms. Shimberg in Commissioner Gist’s visit last week.

5. A request from Ronald J. Bonner to use a personal day with reason on Friday, October 9, 2009 to take care of legal business.

Background: Mr. Bonner usually works a 3:00-6:00 PM schedule. Because of the in-service (no school) day, Mr. Bonner is required to work a day shift. Since the day requested is contiguous with a holiday weekend, the school committee must vote to approve/deny the request.

54-11

1. Recommendation: Approve the request.

Mrs. Guglielmi moved, seconded by Mrs. Umbriano, to approve the request to use a personal day with reason. The Committee unanimously agreed.

2. Recommendation: Approve the request.

Mrs. Umbriano moved, seconded by Mr. LaPlante to approve the schedule for the events, programs and fundraisers planned by the North Scituate School PTO. The Committee unanimously agreed.

3. Recommendation: Approve the request.

Mrs. Umbriano moved, seconded by Mrs. Archambault, to approve the schedule of fundraisers planned by the Hope School PTA. The Committee unanimously agreed.

4. Recommendation: No action required.

5. Recommendation: Approve the request

Mrs. Archambault moved, seconded by Mrs. Umbriano to approve the request to use October 9, 2009 as a personal day. The Committee unanimously agreed.

54-12

REPORT OF COMMITTEE LIAISONS

BUDGET

Mrs. Archambault stated nothing to report.

CURRICULUM

Chair Marcure stated nothing to report.

FOOD SERVICES

Mrs. Umbriano stated new brand of cookies have been added to menu which the children are enjoying. Mrs. Umbriano also stated the food counts are climbing with the change to 60% whole wheat and 40% white wheat (as detailed in September's meeting).

SPACE NEEDS

Chair Marcure stated nothing to report.

**HEALTH/
WELLNESS
NEGOTIATIONS**

Mrs. Guglielmi stated nothing to report.

Chair Marcure stated negotiations have been finalized with the paraprofessionals and the contract will be ratified under New Business. It was a great example of teamwork which reflected the needs of the school as well as the paraprofessionals. Six groups accepted a wage freeze and an increase in co-pays which helped the town greatly (financially).

Chair Marcure commended the paraprofessionals for working with the

committee on a difficult situation. Chair Marcure hopes 2010 will turn this economy around; however Scituate is in the black unlike many other districts.

POLICY

Mr. LaPlante stated nothing to report.

RIASC

Mrs. Archambault stated nothing to report.

**SAFETY AND
TRANSPORTATION**

Regarding Scituate Traffic and Safety, Mrs. Umbriano stated nothing further has been discussed on the Route 116/115 project.

Mrs. Umbriano stated there is no longer a backup at Hope School; the school buses are able to pull directly into the yard, drop off, and make the turn to exit. Per Mrs. Umbriano, Ms. Mowry stated there was one parent concern that the children were not able to play outside in the morning (before school) but as no one else has complained the process will not change.

Mr. LaPlante asked for clarification on the bus drop off.

Mrs. Umbriano stated the buses are entering the school yard to drop off students and then exit school yard versus emptying students in the street as done previously.

Mr. LaPlante confirmed there were no children in the school yard at that time.

Chair Marcure asked if any part of the fence needed to be removed.

Mrs. Umbriano replied no. The fence also remains for the safety of the children when playing kickball after school.

Chair Marcure asked if the Route 116/115 project was expected to move forward.

Mrs. Umbriano stated the state of Rhode Island hasn't moved forward on this project at this time.

Mrs. Archambault asked if the Hope students have an opportunity to go outside to play in the morning.

One of the Hope paraprofessionals stated the students now come in to the cafeteria and/or the gym and eat breakfast or sit and talk. There is only the black top in the school yard and children were often tripping or falling on the hard ground. Also, the playground equipment is still wet early in the morning. When the buses would drop off in the street, students would walk both in front and back of buses in front of cars. One morning a parent did back into the bus. With this new process, it is much safer for all.

Mrs. Umbriano stated there will be a change at the end of Rockland Ave. The yield sign will be changed to a stop sign and the four lanes (two lanes each direction) on Route 6 will become two lanes and there will be one lane in the center for making turns. There will not be any structural changes; the changes will be in road paint.

Chair Marcure asked if one is traveling east and wishes to turn left into the State Police Barracks, there must be a lane available.

Mrs. Umbriano stated there will be a holding lane for turns; however there is minimal traffic turning left when traveling east.

Mrs. Umbriano added the bus companies hold a fundraiser each year for the students of the Bus Safety program; this year marks its 33rd year. A costume party will be held October 24th at 7:30 PM at the Elks Lodge on Route 3 in West Greenwich.

SCITUATE ADVOCATES FOR EVERYONE (SAFE)

Mrs. Umbriano was told Scituate does not send any student representatives to the Rhode Island Teen Institute which is a state-wide prevention program that promotes positive peer leadership in both middle and high schools. This year, Scituate will send five students. The student representatives should consist of students not currently in leadership positions to provide more opportunities for more students to take on leadership roles.

Chair Marcure stated years ago students were sent every year.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Chair Marcure stated nothing to report.

BUDGET COMMITTEE

Chair Marcure stated a member of the School Committee usually attends the Town-wide Finance Committee meeting.

Mrs. Archambault believes the Town-wide Finance committee was disbanded.

Chair Marcure attended a few meetings and stated the duties of the Committee seemed to be absorbed by Town Council. The Committee usually consists of a School Committee member, two Town Council members, and a tax payer.

Mr. George Kuzmowycz also attended the last Town-wide Finance Committee meeting and stated it was held over a year ago.

Chair Marcure stated the School Committee discusses budget with Town Finance in February. It would be nice to have that Committee to review each department's budget.

Mr. LaPlante will contact Town Council for further information on the Town-wide Finance Committee.

Chair Marcure added it will be difficult if the School Committee doesn't find out until February there will be a town deficit, it will not allow much time to rectify situation. As the School Department is approximately 70% of the budget, it is key to establish communication now.

BUILDING COMMITTEE

Regarding the Middle and High School Renovation Project, Chair Marcure stated there is now a new music room, a new office for the Special Education Director and three new Special Education classrooms and an enhanced electrical system which meets state requirement codes. The cafeteria is complete and the ventilation is in place and functioning. The parking lot area has been cleared and the storm building is under construction. The parking lot is on the same timeline as the additional five rooms.

Chair Marcure added current district enrollment is 1, 660.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Mrs. Guglielmi stated nothing to report.

**54-13
UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There is no unfinished business for the month of October.

54-14

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

**RESPONSE TO
INTERVENTION GUIDEBOOK**

Dr. Filippelli met with elementary principals and elementary reading teachers on September 16 to put the finishing touches on the RTI Guidebook for teachers. The guidebook was given to the committee as an attachment at the last meeting. The criteria portion of the RTI matrix has been updated. (Committee members received copies.)

**TECHNOLOGY STATUS
UPDATE**

Mark DiLuglio, Technology Director, has had the opportunity to put the test equipment in place at Hope School and put it through some testing. Mr. DiLuglio feels this technology is going to work well and according to Mr. DiLuglio, the only time it appeared sluggish was when it was streaming live video on numerous terminals at the same time. The netbook orders have been processed. Ken Abrams at the middle school will be testing the sample machines that have been purchased thus far in order to ascertain which machines would be the best fit for the middle/high schools. Once all have been tested for what is needed, then a full order will be placed.

**SCIENCE NECAP TEST
SCORES**

Dr. Filippelli received the district's Science NECAP scores on September 16, 2009. The results were embargoed until September 23, 2009. These scores are from the Science NECAP assessments taken in May, 2009. (Committee members received copies.)

- At North Scituate School, 50% of the students are proficient with the highest domain of proficiency being Life Science
- At Clayville Elementary School, 69% of the students are proficient in Science with the highest domain being Earth Space Science
- At Hope Elementary School, 54% of the students are proficient with the highest domain being Physical Science
- At Scituate Middle School, 29 % of the students are proficient with the highest domain being Physical Science.
- At Scituate High School, 50% of the students are proficient with the highest domain being Physical Science.

It is important to note that Scituate is scoring much higher than the state averages on the Science NECAP tests. However, it is equally important to note that Measured Progress and RIDE changed the NECAP science assessment last year. The entire district curriculum as it pertains to science in the elementary and middle schools is based on the KITES kit curricular model. Last year, Measured Progress and RIDE removed the kit-based component of the NECAP science assessment. Assured by RIDE that this wouldn't affect test scores, an analysis of scores from last year to this year proves a different scenario. Dr. Filippelli has had conversations with Principals Zajac and Sollitto about further aligning the science curriculum. An analysis of testing data indicates that Scituate is very proficient in Life Science and Physical Science but that there is room for improvement in the Earth Science domain. Considering the positive changes that have occurred over the last year in regards to the science staff at both schools, Dr. Filippelli's expectation is that the Earth Science domain will be an easy target to zero in on and improve.

Dr. Filippelli believes there will be a change in scores with Ann Battey moving into the Earth Science position in addition to others changes made. Dr. Filippelli stated since the detail of strands of the NECAP results for each student is provided, it is easy to drill down to determine which area needs improvement.

Chair Marcure stated Clayville did well on Earth Science where other schools

did well on other sciences then asked if the expectation was to bring all students up to proficiency level (in all science areas).

Dr. Filippelli replied there are four domains in science: Life Science, Earth Science, Physical Science and Inquiry. Inquiry component on each one went down in each district, including Scituate. Dr. Filippelli stated when comparing Inquiry component to NECAP math scores, the same type of strand (Inquiry) resulted in slight decreases as well. This is an area which needs to be improved.

Chair Marcure asked if it was reasonable to have a school perform at 60% in all of the sciences not including the Inquiry.

Dr. Filippelli clarified if Chair Marcure asked 60% proficiency in totality.

Chair Marcure replied yes.

Dr. Filippelli stated the area to zero on in would be the Level 2 (partially proficient) because it may only take zeroing in on 15-20 students and bringing them up to the proficient category. This will not bring the proficiency score to 60% next year but if this type of strategy is used over the next couple of years, it might be possible to get into the 60% proficient range. By 2011, the targets will increase substantially. Scituate has been hitting the target for the last few years but the bar is being raised across the board. Dr. Filippelli added that the expectation in the year 2015 is for all Rhode Island schools to be at 100% proficiency on NECAP test. Currently, Rhode Island is reporting only 17% proficiency.

Chair Marcure asked if not having the kit-based component will hurt Scituate.

Dr. Filippelli replied the hands-on component was removed adding that the cost of the materials and shipping the materials (sand, rocks, etc.) to each school in the state was becoming too costly. Instead, a mock experiment was done. By removing the component, it is possible the Inquiry component of the test was affected.

Chair Marcure asked if the kits will be continued.

Dr. Filippelli replied yes.

Mrs. Guglielmi asked if it was too late to add this into professional development for the current school year.

Dr. Filippelli replied all teachers have been properly trained on using the kits. These are smaller departmental conversations in looking at the data and students in the specific strands they got incorrect and then looking at specific threads in which many or all got incorrect.

Chair Marcure asked if there is something the middle school teachers will do to increase domain for Physical Science considering that had the lowest score. The highest proficiency was 32%.

Dr. Filippelli stated when looking at the strands, it is actually Inquiry and Earth Science in the middle school that is so low. One of the reasons may have been that high school juniors taking the test may not have seen Earth Science since 7th grade. There has also been a change in staff in addition to other changes so Dr. Filippelli expects to see these numbers increase next year, especially at the middle school level.

Chair Marcure asked if proper time allotment or adequate resources were not provided to the students.

Dr. Filippelli stated there are so many variables with NECAP tests such as cohort of student, test questions, staff changes, removal of kit component, etc.

Mrs. Archambault asked if this was the first year the students tested.

Dr. Filippelli replied this is the first year the test counted (in Science); the first year was a pilot.

Mrs. Umbriano asked if last year was the year the students were not taking the NECAP tests seriously.

Dr. Filippelli replied it was the previous year.

Mrs. Archambault asked for a year-to-year comparison. Dr. Filippelli will provide for the Committee.

Mrs. Guglielmi stated the notices sent out from school to parents were very valuable.

Mrs. Umbriano added the email system has been critical in getting information out to parents.

Mrs. Archambault stated it is critical to get the information to the parents and that (email system) is very helpful.

Also, Dr. Filippelli added that research has shown October is a difficult time to be testing. The tri-state contract for the NECAP assessment is very costly so there is uncertainty if this is something which will be reviewed by the state within the next few years.

Chair Marcure asked if Commissioner Gist was taking this information into consideration.

Dr. Filippelli responded he did not know the intentions of the Commissioner.

TECHNOLOGY SURVEY RESULTS

Dr. Filippelli sent out a request via email to 136 Scituate teachers to complete a technology survey Dr. Filippelli posted on surveymonkey. The survey was 10 questions in length and followed a Likert Scale Model with responses coded for Strongly Disagree, Disagree, Neutral, Agree, and Strongly Agree. 63 teachers responded to the survey which gave a 43.4% response rate. (Committee members received copies of the survey and report.) There are a few particular question strands that Dr. Filippelli feels are important indicators to guide Scituate in providing professional development on how to effectively implement technology in the classroom.

Question three asks; *I design technology instructional strategies*. Only 19.3% of the respondents selected Agree and 8.8% selected Strongly Agree. These responses support the need for more professional development in the area of instructional strategies. Question 4, *I apply current research on learning with technology*, had similar results with 5.3% of teachers responding Strongly Agree and 31.6% responding Agree again showing support for the inference that more technology professional development is needed. Question 6 asked the question; *I plan strategies on a technology-enhanced environment*. The response percentages were low almost all across the board. Dr. Filippelli did receive some emails asking for clarification on this question. After having some conversations with teachers, the teachers

inferred the question to ask about technology in current classrooms. Given this information, it was clear that teachers need and want adequate technology in the classroom. The plan the technology committee has put in motion will satisfy many of those needs/concerns.

Finally, about half the respondents (53.4%) selected Agree to the question *I use technology to support learner-centered strategies* and 15.5% selected Strongly Agree to the question *I use technology to support learner-centered strategies*. This indicates that a total of 68.9% of the respondents either Agree or Strongly Agree that technology is used to support learner centered strategies. However on question 3, only 28% of teachers design technology instructional strategies in the classroom.

There is a discrepancy that Dr. Filippelli hopes to find more about by having a small focus group of teachers meet and discuss the results of the survey. The responses to questions 1 and 3 contradict each other as it would be difficult for almost 70% of teachers to use technology to support learning (instructional) strategies but only 28% of teachers actually design such lessons. Ultimately, it is important to recognize that more professional development is needed in the area of utilizing technology to support instructional practices. Dr. Filippelli's assessment is that it is happening in all the schools but only in certain pockets. Dr. Filippelli's goal is to provide Professional Development to teachers in January once the technology in the schools has been fully integrated. The goal of this professional development is so that all teachers will have the tools available to them to be more confident in utilizing technology more effectively in the classroom.

XCONNECTS

Dr. Filippelli is planning to continue with the XCONNECTS NECAP Math assessment package that was put into place last year. Currently, this program runs up through the sixth grade. Dr. Filippelli has had conversations with Maryann Fosnaugh, the creator of the program who will be rolling out the seventh grade version of this by January 2010. Ms. Fosnaugh changed the original rollout date of November 2009 because Ms. Fosnaugh has been backlogged. This program allows Math teachers to easily assess which Math NECAP question strands student are weak and provides targeted assessments to strengthen their comprehension and understanding of those questions/concepts.

CURRICULUM ARTICULATION

Dr. Filippelli has asked all administrators to meet on October 7 following the regular administrator's meeting to discuss curriculum articulation throughout the district. Dr. Filippelli's plan in meeting with the administrators first is to establish a framework to bring forth to the teachers so that all can work collaboratively on this effort and to be sure that there will be a viable product as a result of everyone's efforts. Dr. Filippelli commended Ruth Trainor and Deb Salzberg who have begun curriculum articulation talks already and there are some plans in place to continue this discussion throughout the school year.

Mrs. Archambault asked if this was just a conversation to update the curriculum.

Dr. Filippelli stated the administrators will determine framework prior to start of conversations. For example, in developing the RTI book, prior to sitting with all participants, Dr. Filippelli met with the administrators to establish a framework so that specific points would be discussed and actioned.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY OCTOBER 9

High School: For the morning session, high school staff will be analyzing the gap analysis in student achievement that was completed in October, 2007. They will be analyzing alignment of the current curriculum focusing on Math

and ELA grade span expectations. In the afternoon session, there will be departmental meetings to review and revise curriculum. Core content areas will meet as whole departments and elective areas will meet with ELA or Math departments to focus on cross content alignment to the GSE's.

Middle School: The morning session will be comprised of an advisory presentation. Advisory committee members will share information with staff members they acquired after completing a course over the summer. The course detailed ways to assess the effectiveness of the current advisory program. The afternoon session has been set aside for setting team goals, reviewing NECAP testing protocols and evaluating the first six weeks of the academic year

Elementary Schools: Regular education teachers will meet in grade level groups to complete writing units of study in reading and begin units of study in writing. This initiative was begun last year as part of the professional development led by staff developers from Columbia University.

School Nurse teachers will work on developing new lessons for the Health Education Curriculum and share out important information on the Diabetes Education Program for School Nurses.

Chair Marcure asked if the issue of childhood obesity will be addressed.

Dr. Filippelli replied that issue will be addressed by the Health and Wellness Committee.

Mrs. Archambault asked if this was a different approach to professional development than what has been done in the past.

Dr. Filippelli replied yes. There are great professionals who are highly skilled and already in the building so Scituate can use a trainer-to-trainer model. RIDE has also pulled all Professional Development funding so it is not possible to bring in outside consultants so schools are forced to use carryover monies. Dr. Filippelli added it is great professional development when peers are training their own.

Mrs. Archambault stated the high school agenda looks more like planning than professional development.

Dr. Filippelli stated some of that will be in reference to the Commissioner's visit regarding the high school graduation requirements.

Principal Solitto stated the morning session will be training staff how to analyze the gap analysis and to see which areas of the curriculum are aligned/not aligned. The second part of the session will be to identify areas of weakness on grade span expectations. Principal Solitto stated it will be a very hands-on day; it won't be a planning session. It's a very in-depth session.

Ms. Trainor added there is a lot of opportunity to look at the NECAP scores to see where there's reading comprehension, writing, and mathematics and where teachers can better support those systems. Also, to look at students with IEPs, etc. and to support those needs as well. This type of alignment will allow teachers to see how the curriculum needs to be developed. Ms. Trainor added this is a nice jumping point.

**NECAP PREPARATION
CHECK IN WITH**

Dr. Filippelli has checked with the building principals in regards to what they are doing for NECAP testing preparation. Dr. Filippelli reports that all of the

ADMINISTRATORS

testing schedules are complete and administrators are going to continue with their excellent preparation and follow through with the NECAP testing strategies Dr. Filippelli reported on in July.

Mrs. Archambault stated the administrators have done everything they could do; the students need to their jobs also.

Dr. Filippelli added each of the principals also went into each classroom to encourage students to eat a healthy breakfast, get a good night's sleep, etc. the night before the test.

Mrs. Guglielmi stated even when comparing scores from one year to the next, it is important to note the students are different.

Dr. Filippelli agreed and added nothing has changed structurally and yet there is still a small ebb and flow of test scores.

**ARRA AND STIMULUS
MONEY**

The ARRA/Stimulus money continues to be a challenge in regards to reporting, receipt of money, and approval of projects. The federal government and state seem to be changing the procedures almost on a daily basis. On September 15, Dr. Filippelli attended a training session provided by the Governor's office on how to report ARRA monies. Drs. Lescault and Filippelli sent Marti Bower and Carol Geary to a similar training on September 22 so that all office personnel will be aware of the importance of federal reporting. The only grant awards received to date are for ARRA Title I and ARRA SFSF stabilization funds. These grants were approved on September 14 and September 21. The completed application was filed in late June. This is an indication of how arduous this process continues to be. Additionally, for each of the ARRA grants Scituate receives, Dr. Filippelli must complete and file six reports for the state and five reports for the federal government. The challenge is that Scituate has not received most of the money thus far and, therefore, cannot implement the changes and report on them until RIDE approves the applications.

On September 21, Dr. Filippelli attended a meeting of the Rhode Island Association of School Business Officials meeting to further understanding of the reporting process and the timeline with which the monies would be available. Dr. Filippelli brought Ms. Smith from central office so that Ms. Smith would be aware of the information as well. Dr. Filippelli will keep the committee informed of the process and progress, as the monies become available. The reporting process is extensive and Dr. Filippelli plans to keep working on it so that all of the information is uploaded accurately.

Dr. Filippelli successfully submitted all of the job reporting data reports to RIDE on September 29, 2009 and the federal stimulus reports to the federal government on October 1, 2009.

Mrs. Archambault asked if all districts were having the same problem.

Dr. Filippelli assumes that is the case as all districts must use the same number. Dr. Filippelli stated it's a frustrating process as the rules are changing almost daily. The only monies received thus far are the stabilization funds and Title I ARRA money grant. Dr. Filippelli stated these must be uploaded to federal government by October 10 2009. All expenditures must be reported by that date.

Dr. Lescault added it is not new money, rather replacing existing money. The state government wants to be able to report how money was spent and how many jobs were saved due to this money.



Dr. Filippelli stated there are several reports required and it is a tedious project.

**INTERNET USE
AGREEMENT FORM
FOLLOW UP**

Dr. Filippelli has spoken with Principals Zajac and Sollitto on the Internet agreement form that is currently given to students in the sixth grade. This year, the form was distributed to sixth through twelfth graders. Moving forward to next year, the rules and regulations for appropriate use of the Internet will be published in both the middle and high school agendas.

**ASSISTANT
SUPERINTENDENT
CRITICAL FRIENDS GROUP**

On September 23rd, Dr. Filippelli was able to participate in the first Assistant Superintendents Critical Friends group which is sponsored by the Rhode Island School Superintendent's Association. The meeting was held at SORRICO in North Kingstown. Dr. Filippelli thanked the committee for allowing him to be part of this group of professionals as so much can be learned from sharing the best practices, successes and challenges of the job.

The committee thanked Dr. Filippelli for participating as well.

54-15

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

**CAPITAL RESERVE
ACCOUNT (MEDICAID)**

Medicaid reimbursements have historically been accounted for as restricted funds. As restricted/grant funds, unexpended funds at the close of a fiscal year roll over and are available for expenditure in the following year(s). However, the new Universal Chart of Accounts (UCOA) requires that Medicaid reimbursements be listed as general revenues, eliminating the carryover option and dramatically increasing in one year the balance of the accumulated general fund. That is inconsistent with the direction the school committee has established, so Dr. Lescault sought a means to reconcile it with the RIDE requirement. After discussion with RIDE, Scituate's auditor, Ms. Geary and Ms. Smith, Dr. Lescault is recommending, under New Business, that the Committee establish a capital reserve fund for existing, prior year, accumulated Medicaid funds. If the Committee approves, the capital reserve account will be established with \$419, 177.39. The School Department will then be able to draw upon those funds over the next few years in an orderly and efficient manner to enhance the educational program as needed.

Mrs. Archambault asked what exists now for the Medicaid fund.

Dr. Lescault stated this is a restricted grant account. Within grant funds, there are 42 different grant funds and Medicaid is one of those funds.

Mr. LaPlante asked if there was any issue moving the funds.

Dr. Lescault replied no (it has been approved by RIDE and auditor). The reason is so these funds will not be co-mingled with other funds in the fund balance and in one year increase the fund but then not be available to spend as needed in future years.

Mr. LaPlante stated it will be a similar system the School Department has been utilizing but in accordance with new state system.

Mrs. Archambault confirmed a separate account was established basically so those funds do not disappear. Mrs. Archambault asked if those unused funds remain for years to come.

Dr. Lescault stated the capital reserve fund cannot be replenished so the School Department will spend current year reimbursements first and then

utilize this account only as needed. It is similar to the asset protection plan.

Mrs. Archambault asked if there was a reason for the amount in the account.

Dr. Lescault replied that is the amount in the restricted fund currently.

BUDGETARY ASSUMPTIONS

At the September meeting, the need to develop budgetary assumptions for the 2010-2011 budget was discussed. The most important assumption deals with the projected increase in teacher salaries. The STA agreed to a salary freeze for the current school year. However, in 2010-2011, salaries will increase to the state mean. If the salary freeze were not in place, teacher salaries would have increased .46% on average for this year. Preliminary data for 2010-2011 which is incomplete and subject to change, indicates the average salary increase will increase to 1.62% next year. Dr. Lescault, therefore, recommends Scituate use 1.6% for budget development planning.

Dr. Lescault asked for feedback from the Committee.

Chair Marcure stated what has been read in the papers and what is happening around the country that this is reasonable.

Dr. Lescault stated if things change or if the criteria needs to change, the spreadsheet will be created so that variable can be changed without having to reproduce the full budget.

SCHOOL OPENING/TRANSPORTATION

The school opening went very smoothly. Drs. Lescault and Filippelli visited all of the schools and welcomed teachers back to school. Drs. Lescault and Filippelli split up the open houses, so that someone was at every open house. The usual assortment of transportation issues occurred during September, but most have been resolved. Detailed data was collected on three occasions during the month regarding every bus run to determine how many students ride each bus and how long the run takes.

Mr. LaPlante asked status of state transportation bid.

Dr. Lescault stated the private school portion is active and currently, transportation is being provided to 179 locations including out-of-district. At this time, half of the communities within the state are involved. The state is projecting one piece to cost 25% less and the other piece to cost more. It is undecided if this is a successful initiative at this point but it is still being reviewed.

Chair Marcure asked if complete urban bus routes are being run right now.

Dr. Lescault replied no.

Chair Marcure stated the original plan was to do urban, suburban, and then rural.

Mr. LaPlante stated even focusing on that one small piece, this pilot wasn't overwhelmingly successful.

Dr. Lescault replied the state believes the pilot was successful on one piece but the other piece needs to be reviewed. In some cases, the amount being charged back to the districts is higher than the community's original transportation provider's cost.

Mr. LaPlante asked if the state was continuing with its original transportation plan.

Dr. Lescault replied it is the same plan; this will be mandatory for all districts but there is a long way to go by next fall. The state needs to justify the services being provided are better and at a reduced cost, otherwise, the plan may not continue.

In early Spring, Mrs. Umbriano will meet with the schools currently in this pilot program to discuss pros and cons so that issues can be discussed with RIDE prior to full rollout of program.

BUILDING COMMITTEE

The Building Committee has been meeting on about a weekly basis to monitor the building project. The biggest unanticipated cost has been related to the discovery of buried debris and a large number of very large rocks. Dealing with those problems may cost up to about \$150,000, but the project is still within the original budget. Mr. Gormley believes the project is about two weeks behind schedule, but additional workers and shifts have been added by the contractor to provide for completion by the established early November deadline.

CLAYVILLE EVACUATION/PARKING LOT

The Clayville evacuation/parking lot is substantially complete. Although not paved, it was available for use at the September 23 open house.

Mrs. Umbriano stated one complaint was that the area is too dark.

Dr. Lescault stated two large lights will be added on both ends of the parking lot. Dr. Lescault is still working to receive money from the Providence Water Supply Board and that money will be used to pay for the additional lighting.

Chair Marcure mentioned to Ted Richards (Scituate representative) the Providence Water Supply Board issue and was told Scituate should expect to receive the funds as promised.

Mrs. Guglielmi confirmed the space will be used for emergency evacuation and fire drills.

AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) includes extremely complicated and burdensome reporting requirements. Dr. Lescault has asked everyone in the central office who must participate in the accounting of ARRA funds to attend workshops presented by RIDE and RIASBO so that Scituate will be in compliance with the federal ARRA regulations. As a result, in addition to Dr. Filippelli who is taking a lead role with this issue, Ms. Geary, Ms. Bower and Ms. Smith have attended training sessions.

WEST BAY HEALTH

Dr. Lescault represented the Scituate schools as a member of the Board of Directors at the first West Bay Health (WBH) meeting of the 2009/2010 school year in September. WBH continues to be a very viable organization and has allowed Scituate to save millions of dollars over the years by purchasing health care insurance collaboratively with about a third of the districts in the state representing over about 10,000 employees. However, as with any self-funded, claims made product, risk exists and it is important to maintain reserves to deal with spikes in claims. While overall claims experience has been positive, for the month of August claims exceeded revenues by \$86,059.

Mrs. Guglielmi asked if Scituate was impacted by Blue Cross/Blue Shield (there was brief mention of the new BC/BS building).

Dr. Lescault stated BC/BS is Scituate's claims administrator; they process

claims. Scituate pays BC/BS the discounted amount and then a per person fee for management per month per employee.

Mrs. Guglielmi asked if it would be cheaper to use another company.

Dr. Lescault stated other companies were reviewed.

Mrs. Archambault asked if an analysis which indicated which claims were most common so that Scituate, as an employer, can put practices and programs in place to help lower the claims.

Dr. Lescault stated Dr. Stringfellow worked with Muni-Blue regarding a Wellness Program. Dr. Lescault receives monthly reports regarding filed claims.

As self-insured, Mr. LaPlante stated there is a real incentive for Scituate to approve Wellness Programs. Mr. LaPlante asked who heads up Wellness in the schools.

Mrs. Guglielmi stated Principal Karen Cappelli chairs the committee.

Dr. Lescault stated even though Wellness Programs may be in place, not everyone will participate.

Mrs. Umbriano stated no one came to the programs when they were in place awhile back.

Mrs. Archambault stated what would be helpful would be to identify the top claims/health issues and select one to focus on one each year, i.e. heart disease. Another item to focus on is medication such as mandating generic versus brand name prescriptions.

Dr. Lescault stated the program the School Department uses requires generic prescriptions unless brand name is required by doctor.

Mr. LaPlante asked Dr. Lescault to provide the Committee with a copy of that analysis.

Dr. Lescault stated although the cost of claims is very high for the month of August, it could be a lag from earlier months.

FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM

The food service program and the students who utilize it are benefiting from the modified RI Nutrition requirements (RINR) that Dr. Lescault and Mrs. Umbriano pushed for with RIDE. There has been some turnover of Aramark food service employees in Scituate, so Dr. Lescault and Mrs. Umbriano are concerned and have discussed the problem with the food service director. Dr. Lescault and Mrs. Umbriano recognize that the food service employees are employees of Aramark not Scituate and know they should not attempt to micromanage a private contractor. However, Dr. Lescault and Mrs. Umbriano did want to reiterate their belief as articulated in the strategic plan, that all interactions in the school community should be respectful and in an environment of mutual respect.

H1N1

Dr. Lescault has been participating with other RI school superintendents in bi-weekly conference calls with RI Department of Health (RIDH) Director Gifford regarding H1N1. A seasonal flu clinic for all school department employees and their families was held on September 30. RIDH will begin administering H1N1 vaccine in every school in the state starting in October. Elementary school clinics are tentatively planned for evenings and weekends,

the secondary school clinics will be held during the school day. Participation is voluntary and will require a parent permission slip that the RIDH will provide.

Mrs. Archambault asked if there would be a change to cleaning processes.

Dr. Lescault stated the virus lives for such a short time on surfaces, additional cleaning is not really necessary. The key things to remember are hand washing, sneezing into arm and staying home if sick.

Mrs. Archambault asked what steps are being taken if Scituate finds itself with high number of teachers absent due to illness.

Dr. Lescault stated teachers will become sick if children are coming to school sick.

Mrs. Archambault asked if 20% of teachers are absent, what is plan.

Dr. Lescault stated it isn't likely as CDC and DOH have communicated that as many as 30% of the population may come down with the flu over time but that would be over the course of a five or six month period. Not being recommended is closure of schools.

Mrs. Guglielmi asked the length of the period of illness.

Dr. Lescault stated typical person is really sick for approximately three days after which the person still needs to remain home for at least 24 hours (fever-free without medication/Tylenol).

Dr. Lescault stated the School Department needs to be flexible. In some classes there may be a policy if a student is absent, the student may receive a penalty which may force a student to come to school when sick. Students need to be home when sick.

Dr. Lescault stated H1N1 clinics will be held at the schools and will be on a voluntary basis. Students will be sent home with permission slips. Elementary schools will be done on weekends or evenings so that parents may be present with young children.

COMMISSIONER VISIT

Commissioner Gist visited Scituate High School and Scituate Middle School on September 24. Commissioner Gist met with members of the School Committee, the administration, the faculty, and parents. Commissioner Gist also visited some classrooms. Scituate School Department shares her desire to improve education for all RI students and looks forward to working with Commissioner Gist to achieve that goal.

Mrs. Archambault stated it was mentioned there was a packet which was distributed to each meeting attendee and requested a copy.

Dr. Lescault stated packets were not distributed even though Commissioner Gist's letter stated a handout detailing Commissioner Gist's five priorities would be distributed.

Mrs. Archambault asked what was discussed with the Commissioner.

Mrs. Umbriano replied one request made to the Commissioner was not to treat Scituate the same as Providence. Also discussed was the Food Service Program, curriculum, and evaluation instrument.

Mrs. Guglielmi stated it was more an introductory meeting; no decisions were made during the visit.

TECHNOLOGY

As Dr. Filippelli reported to the Committee last month, Drs. Lescault and Dr. Filippelli are working with Mark DiLuglio and the principals, to find ways of updating Scituate's aging technology with very limited resources. Mr. DiLuglio is carefully testing various options before committing to specific solutions. Powerschool is now also up and running at all schools.

ASSISTANT BAND DIRECTOR/JAZZ ENSEMBLE DIRECTOR

On Friday September 18 Drs. Lescault and Filippelli informed the Committee by email after being notified the previous afternoon that because of the absence of an Assistant Band Director, the band would not be able to participate in the Big E the following Tuesday, September 22. Drs. Lescault and Filippelli informed the entire Committee of the problem via email, consistent with the prior direction of the Committee. Given the emergency nature of the situation, Drs. Lescault and Filippelli sought some immediate feedback from individual members of the Committee because some advice/direction was needed on structuring a solution that honored the town wide wage freeze, but allowed students to attend the Big E. A solution that met those parameters was determined and solved the immediate problem. On September 25, Drs. Lescault and Filippelli and Principals Sollitto and Zajak sent an email to parents of middle and high school students informing them about the long-term problem and soliciting their assistance. It was noted that the Assistant Band Director and the Jazz Ensemble Director positions are vacant and there have been no applicants. It was indicated the stipends for the positions are \$480 and \$961 and that the positions require a substantial time commitment. Also indicated was that because all town employees are currently subject to a pay freeze, the stipends cannot be increased at this time. Principal Sollitto received a number of suggestions in response to the request. Drs. Lescault and Filippelli and Principals Sollitto and Zajak met on September 29 to discuss those suggestions, which included some outside individuals interested in taking on the jazz ensemble position. The ideas were shared with Band Director Stephanie Marsland and collectively it was decided to advertise the positions on October 4. Subsequent to that decision, but also on September 29, a current music teacher agreed to assume the Assistant Band Director position. Therefore, the only position that advertised was the Jazz Ensemble Director. Several individuals have indicated an interest in the position, so it is expected to have someone in place shortly after the October 7 closing date for applications.

Mrs. Umbriano expressed appreciation parents were notified these positions were not being filled. If something happens where students are not able to participate or attend an event, parents will realize it's not the School Department taking something away rather that a position cannot be filled.

Mrs. Guglielmi stated the community is a tremendous resource.

Mrs. Umbriano stated 16 parents volunteered for the position to get the students to the Big E.

Mrs. Archambault found the letter to the parents confusing and doesn't understand why it was brought to the School Committee.

Dr. Lescault stated the issue was that the teachers and others felt the stipend was not adequate for the number of hours required for the position. Previously, the School Committee agreed to a wage freeze with the Town Council and all groups, and so Dr. Lescault didn't feel he had the authority to increase the stipend for this position without opening the issue of other



extra-curricular positions coming forward requesting a stipend increase. Dr. Lescault wished to get input from the Committee. In addition, in the past Dr. Lescault would have contacted one of two members for feedback but the Committee requested Dr. Lescault to communicate via email to all members so that all members would receive the same information.

Mrs. Archambault asked if Dr. Lescault felt this position was underfunded why this issue was not brought to the Committee when reviewing the budget.

Dr. Lescault stated it was agreed a wage freeze would be across the board.

Mrs. Archambault believed there was a difference between salaries and stipends.

Mrs. Umbriano expressed surprise the Music Department didn't address the wage issue.

Mrs. Archambault asked if the process is flawed. Originally, the process was to meet with all of the Department Chairs and last year the Committee painstakingly reviewed the budget and this position was never addressed. This particular information seemed to involve one employee and that employee addressed this with Ms. Marsland.

Dr. Lescault stated this employee addressed issue with Ms. Marsland and with Dr. Stringfellow last May at which point it was communicated that the Department (and Town Council) were in a wage freeze so no one's salary would be increased.

Mrs. Archambault stated none of the Committee members were made aware of that.

Dr. Lescault stated a wage freeze had been negotiated.

Mrs. Archambault stated surprise the Committee was approached. There was not a recommendation in the letter to the Committee. Mrs. Archambault found the timing of the mention of the position being underfunded to be inappropriate.

Mrs. Archambault asked when this position was originally posted.

Dr. Lescault replied it was posted in the beginning of the school year. Drs. Lescault and Filippelli became aware of the situation on Thursday prior to the Big E event.

Mrs. Archambault reiterated it was known last May that a lot revolved around one employee.

Mrs. Guglielmi asked whether the employee applied for this position.

Dr. Filippelli replied this employee did not hold the position last year; Christine Johnston held the position last year. When Ms. Johnston completed the year at the end of August, Ms. Johnston did not reapply.

Mr. LaPlante asked if there was a backup plan if the position was not filled.

Dr. Filippelli stated the posting ended just a few days prior to the Big E event so the option was to get something in place temporarily so the students could attend this event and then solve the issue of the position after the event.

Mr. LaPlante asked the process of trying to fill a position for which no one applies. How much time is allowed to lapse?

Dr. Filippelli stated the procedure is to post internally first, then advertise externally in the newspaper and worst case is filling position with substitutes or coverages. Luckily in this case, Ms. Johnston stepped up to cover some events to allow these students to get to the Big E. If it was a teacher vacancy, a substitute would be filling in until a permanent teacher was hired.

Dr. Lescault stated it was not possible to know the position was not filled prior to being notified of such.

Mrs. Archambault stated Ms. Marsland should have known.

Principal Sollitto stated the posting deadline was Thursday.

Chair Marcure stated there simply wasn't enough time between the posting deadline and the first event/performance.

Mrs. Umbriano stated it would not be possible to increase one stipend without opening the door for others to request the same. It's unfortunate the Music Department didn't come forward like the other organizations requesting an increase. Negotiations aren't for a few more years.

Ms. Trainor stated those stipends are not in the (teachers') contract.

Mrs. Archambault stated the School Committee should be made aware if there is a deficiency in salary because the Committee is willing to pay an adequate figure. In this case, Mrs. Archambault feels someone fell short of their responsibilities. This was an invitation to micromanage which the Committee has been told not to do; the Committee should be a policy-making board. This is not a policy. Mrs. Archambault understands the attempt is to equate it to the wage freeze.

Dr. Lescault replied the wage freeze is a policy.

Mrs. Archambault stated a policy is a rule or guideline put into effect long-term to bring consistency to an organization. A wage freeze was an agreement between teachers and personnel for one year only due to the budget crisis. This should not be associated with the wage freeze.

Dr. Lescault disagreed.

Mrs. Archambault stated the letter received indicated the issue was a crisis.

Dr. Lescault stated it was a crisis as Drs. Lescault and Filippelli wanted the students to be able to attend the Big E event.

Mr. LaPlante did not find the letter disrupting and was very hopeful Dr. Lescault would be able to solve the problem but did not find the communication to be problematic.

Mrs. Archambault stated the letter was lacking pertinent information, misleading, not a policy issue and found it to be an intrusion into her day and found the communication to be very poor. Mrs. Archambault added what was most disturbing was that at first review, Mrs. Archambault believed it to be a personnel issue and also found it to be a very emotional response to a frustrating situation and disturbing that between the High School Principal,

Assistant Principal, Band Director, and Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent, a solution could not be found.

Dr. Lescault stated one solution would have been to increase the stipend.

Mrs. Archambault replied that was not a solution.

Dr. Lescault stated the recommendation everyone made was that an increase in stipend was needed.

Mrs. Archambault asked who made the recommendation.

Dr. Lescault replied the administrators of the school and members of the Music Department.

Chair Marcure stated if the stipend wasn't sufficient, the Music Department should have come forward and said it will be difficult to fill this position with that stipend (\$480). At that point, the Committee could have acted on it.

Mrs. Umbriano stated \$480 to \$1500 is a very large increase.

Ms. Trainor stated even though this isn't part of a contract, Ms. Trainor wished to defend the teachers. If the wage issue was an issue in May and the position wasn't posted until September, there wasn't enough time to know whether or not one would choose to apply for the position. Ms. Johnston did not apply due to personal reasons not because of the stipend. If no one else applied, there would be no way for the administrators to know if they agreed with that stipend. Ms. Trainor does not feel comfortable with the direction of the conversation. It sounds like the Committee is saying the teachers held off until two days prior to the event and then decided not to accept the position.

Mr. LaPlante stated if the reality is that it was perceived by members of that department that the stipend was not acceptable last May, they should have been communicating with the Committee or with administrators.

Ms. Trainor did not believe it was perceived at that point. Ms. Trainor stated uncomfortability with teachers being discussed this way.

Mr. LaPlante stated that communicating about this issue, the propriety of the Music Department, waiting if it knew that the stipend was too low, to tell the administrators at the last minute is important. The assumption being heard is that was an underlying sentiment from the Music Department which is of concern. If that information was communicated, the position could have been properly filled.

Ms. Trainor stated that is a large assumption to make on public record. Although you can make any assumption you wish, that is a jump. Things are being taken out of sequence.

Mr. LaPlante felt Ms. Trainor was suggesting he not speak.

Ms. Trainor disagreed.

Mrs. Umbriano asked if last May was when the increase in stipend was suggested.

Per Dr. Lescault, an employee spoke with Dr. Stringfellow via telephone regarding the stipend and Dr. Stringfellow communicated back to the employee that there was a wage freeze on all positions.



Mr. LaPlante stated it is important not to focus on the past, but to focus on process. Going forward, there should be clear communication with department heads concerning the filling of these positions so that these issues do not arise. At the end of the day, it is still a negotiation issue. There should be a formalized process.

Mrs. Umbriano does not want the students to lose out because this wasn't done fast enough.

Dr. Lescault was under the impression from the Committee that when presented with something like this, Dr. Lescault was to send an email to the entire Committee to obtain feedback. Dr. Lescault requested direction from Committee.

Mrs. Archambault stated the issue was lack of management, not timing. There are managerial skills that are lacking. This was mismanaged and it is not being blamed on teachers. Mrs. Archambault agrees with Mr. LaPlante that a process needs to be implemented. If the stipend was not adequate it should have been brought out during budget hearings. Even though there was a wage freeze, if something was inadequate the Committee could have taken action. If it was truly inadequate it should have been communicated to the Committee prior to the whole Committee voting on it.

Mr. LaPlante stated his only criticism is regarding the process, not Dr. Lescault. There shouldn't be these last minute issues that individual departments can handle. Mr. LaPlante added email communication was acceptable. Mr. LaPlante stated Dr. Lescault handles numerous issues during his work week and Mr. LaPlante feels it is acceptable for Dr. Lescault to communicate via email to obtain feedback when needed.

Mrs. Archambault agrees all Committee members should receive the same information but feels this communication lacked information and was misleading. Mrs. Archambault stated the communication stated that students would lose the opportunity to perform in up to 13 performances when it appears the only immediate problem would have been the Big E.

Dr. Lescault stated the Big E is the first performance with the Columbus Day parade the second and so forth.

Mrs. Umbriano perceived the 13 performances to take place at the Big E.

Mr. LaPlante asked Chair Marcure to move on to next topic.

ENROLLMENT

Dr. Lescault stated enrollment overall has dropped to 1,660 which is 25 students less than projected.

WATER PROBLEM AT NORTH SCITUATE SCHOOL

Dr. Lescault reported the water problem in North Scituate has been resolved. The system had to be chlorinated. Bottled water was brought in for the students.

Mrs. Guglielmi asked what happened.

Dr. Lescault stated the well water ran dry and then didn't replenish itself in a timely fashion and is uncertain what caused it.

Chair Marcure stated by 3 p.m. the water was full.

Chair Marcure stated the land is surrounded by dense population and systems



proximity at times seems to affect schools. The wells have been redone and recased. An addition housing a water filtration system has been added to the school to resolve the problem. The Water Board stated the system in place at North Scituate is similar to the system in place there. Wells and cess pools in this area are sometimes within only 50 feet of each other.

Chair Marcure stated approximately five years ago, residents voted no again on bringing in the water. The cost to bring in a pipe to North Scituate School would be substantial. The state has warned Scituate to resolve the situation within four years, one of which has already passed.

Mr. LaPlante stated one solution is to relocate the school.

Mrs. Umbriano stated which would cost less: relocating the school or resolving the issue.

Chair Marcure will discuss with Mr. Provonsil.

CLASS SIZE AT MIDDLE SCHOOL

Dr. Lescault stated the class size of eight classes in the middle school has 26 students which is being heard at the school level currently. If denied by Dr. Lescault, the issue will elevate to the School Committee.

54-16

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Dave Durfee Deerfield Drive

Regarding the Music Department, Mr. Durfee stated everyone on the Committee is aware of the stipend issue when discussing the fact that Mr. Hassell would be bumped by Mr. Rivard at the budget meetings. Mr. Rivard spoke to the attendees of all the additional tasks Mr. Hassell performed for no stipend or a minimal stipend because of Mr. Hassell's love of his job and the students. Mr. Rivard stated emphatically to the attendees that he would not do the same (tasks). This was in a public forum to over 200 people. Mr. Durfee stated this Committee was aware the Music Department was dysfunctional. It's possible to say there was a shift change at the principal level and that knowledge got lost but everyone was very aware and it's unfortunate the children are not experiencing the music program as it once was. Mr. Durfee stated Mr. Hassell is sorely missed.

Mr. Durfee stated it is hard to compare business/commercial setting to public service but the fact that the Board of Directors doesn't rubber stamp an executive report does not imply that they are micromanaging. A number of pertinent questions once per month should not make administrators feel defensive; it's a part of the job of the Board of Directors to ask questions. Mr. Durfee disagrees with Mrs. Archambault in this particular issue.

Mr. Durfee stated the tri-state testing is expensive but the nice thing about it consists of three states. When it first came out the states did a good job of hiding the results and created in such a way it was difficult to compare the results; however that is no longer the case. Now instead of being able to compare one district to another within the state, one is able to compare with districts in other states with similar demographics and/or similar issues. Historically, New Hampshire does perform better than the state of Rhode Island but it would be great to use these numbers to achieve realistic goals (60% vs. 100% proficiency level).

Dr. Filippelli added four states are now included in the tri-state testing.

54-17

NEW BUSINESS

1. **CAPITAL RESERVE ACCOUNT**

See Superintendent's Report for detail on this item.

Recommendation: Authorize the Superintendent to establish the account as detailed in his report.

Mr. LaPlante moved, seconded by Mrs. Umbriano to approve the authorize Dr. Lescault to establish the account as detailed in the Superintendent's Report. The Committee unanimously agreed.

2. **RATIFY PARAPROFESSIONAL AGREEMENT**

Recommendation: Ratify the agreement as presented in Executive Session.

Mrs. Umbriano moved, seconded by Mrs. Guglielmi, to ratify the Paraprofessionals Agreement as presented in Executive Session RIGL 42-46-5(a)2. The Committee unanimously agreed.

54-18

RESIGNATIONS/APPOINTMENTS/TRANSFERS

Dr. Lescault recommended approval of the following resignations: Patricia Dionne, Paraprofessional; Christine Johnston, Assistant Band Director

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

Dr. Lescault recommended approval of the following appointments: Linda Mae O'Rourke, Bus Monitor; Jill Morton, Portfolio Committee; Maggie Stormont, Portfolio Committee; Heather Dailey, Portfolio Committee; Anne Pedro, National Honor Society Advisor; Joan Selfridge, FFA Advisor; Sharon Terceira, Middle School Yearbook Advisor; Nancy Zito, Extended Day Teacher, Hope School, effective October 13, 2009; Lisa Hughes, Extended Day Teacher, Hope School, effective October 13, 2009; Marissa Gauvin, Extended Day Teacher, Hope, effective October 13, 2009; and Jason Rivard, Assistant Band Director.

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

54-19

COMMITTEE REMARKS

CHAIR MARCURE

Chair Marcure stated nothing to report.

MRS. GUGLIELMI

Mrs. Guglielmi attended several of the Open Houses and stated all were well attended.

MS. UMBRIANO

Mrs. Umbriano agreed all of the Open Houses were well attended and it was great to see so many families.

MRS. ARCHAMBAULT

Mrs. Archambault asked result of Booster Club raffle.

Principal Sollitto stated the correspondence helped increase sale of the raffle tickets.

Mrs. Archambault stated the Virtual Learning Academy seems to be having a positive impact on some at-risk students.

Mrs. Archambault stated Principals Sollitto and Zajac and Assistant Principal Sweet seem to have developed a strong bond and are accomplishing some great things together. Mrs. Archambault was pleased to see this mentorship.

Mrs. Archambault stated the music position posting was not dated and asked that in the future all postings be dated.

Mrs. Archambault also wished to thank Dr. Lescault for providing the Committee with list of site visits for the month of September. Mrs. Archambault forwarded to the Board of Regents copy of the minutes from the Committee's discussion regarding the request for site visits to determine if Mrs. Archambault was going beyond duties as a School Committee member to request such a list. The Board of Regents directed Mrs. Archambault to the BEP and stated it would be helpful to review. Mrs. Archambault stated Mrs. Guglielmi felt it was micromanaging and Dr. Lescault was not at ease with the request so Mrs. Archambault distributed copies of the revised 2009 version of the BEP to each Committee member to revisit the Committee's responsibilities. Mrs. Archambault suggested a brief meeting after the Committee has reviewed the document to get back to basics and identify what can and cannot be requested by Committee members.

BRIAN LAPLANTE

Mr. LaPlante stated nothing to report.

54-20

DISCUSSION OF FUTURE BUSINESS

October 10-12 Scituate Art Festival

October 17 Homecoming

November 3 Regular School Committee Meeting held at Hope

December 1 Regular School Committee Meeting held at North Scituate

54-21

ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Umbriano moved, seconded by Mrs. Archambault to adjourn meeting at 9:46 PM. The Committee unanimously approved the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. Umbriano, Clerk