

**SCITUATE SCHOOL COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2009
NORTH SCITUATE SCHOOL**

CALL TO ORDER

57-1

The Regular School Committee Meeting was called to order by Acting Chair Umbriano at 7:05 PM following Executive Session RIGL 42-46-5 (a) 9.

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

Mr. LaPlante stated the committee unanimously agreed in Executive Session to briefly postpone the decision of the grievance hearing for further analysis of evidence presented. Mr. LaPlante stated it is also important to understand this is a time sensitive issue and so a special Executive Session will be scheduled this month by Acting Chair Umbriano.

At this time, Acting Chair Umbriano introduced new School Committee member, Scott Klimaj, DMD.

**TOUR OF NORTH SCITUATE
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

57-2

Principal DiMicco and Steve Gormley, Director of Building and Grounds, provided a tour of North Scituate Elementary School.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

57-3

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

57-4

Mrs. Guglielmi moved, seconded by Mrs. Archambault, to approve the minutes of the School Committee Meeting of November 3, 2009. The Committee unanimously agreed.

CAPITAL RESERVE FUND

57-5

Mrs. Guglielmi moved, seconded by Mrs. Archambault, to approve the Capital Reserve Funds for the month of December in the amount of \$2,221.10. The Committee unanimously agreed.

**MONTHLY PAYABLES
NEW BUDGET**

57-6

Mrs. Guglielmi moved, seconded by Mrs. Archambault, to approve the Budget Bills 2009 for the month of December in the amount of \$585,320.86. The Committee unanimously approved the motion.

GRANT BILLS

57-7

Mrs. Guglielmi moved, seconded by Mrs. Archambault, to approve the Grant Bills for the month of December in the amount of \$104,774.00. The Committee unanimously approved the motion.

**HIGH SCHOOL
IMPROVEMENTS**

57-8

Mrs. Guglielmi moved, seconded by Mrs. Archambault, to approve the High School Building Improvements for the month of December in the amount of \$9,778.12. The Committee unanimously approved the motion.

CORRESPONDENCE

57-9

1. A letter to Dr. Lescault from Lillian M. Travis requesting to home school her son, Noah, for the 2009-2010 school year.
2. A letter to Dr. Lescault from Connie Jacavone requesting an extension of the deadline for her children to attend Scituate schools on a tuition basis.
3. A letter to the Scituate School Committee from Jean N. Esposito, informing the committee of her intent to retire from her teaching position effective

December 28, 2009.

57-10

1. Recommendation: Approve the request according to the guidelines established by the school department and RIDE.

Mr. LaPlante moved, seconded by Mrs. Archambault, to approve the request according to the guidelines established by the School Department and RIDE. The committee unanimously agreed.

2. Recommendation: This request is consistent with past practice.

Background: At the July 7 school committee meeting, this family was granted permission to have children attend North Scituate School, on a tuition basis through the month of October. Because of delays in building their new home, Ms. Jacavone is now asking for an extension of that date. Ms. Jacavone believes completion of the home should be late January/early February.

Mrs. Archambault moved, seconded by Mr. LaPlante, to approve the request to extend deadline to early February on a tuition basis. The committee unanimously agreed.

3. Recommendation: Accept the resignation for reason of retirement, with regret.

Ms. Esposito asked for letter of resignation to be read aloud. Mrs. Guglielmi read:

“I am writing this letter to inform you of my intention to retire from the teaching profession effective on December 28, 2009. I began my teaching career thirty-eight and one-half years ago as a mathematics teacher in the Mansfield, MA school system. In October 1984, I came to the Scituate School District as mathematics department chair. During these two tenures, I learned that teaching mathematics is more than the presentation of concepts. Teaching is about the numerous personal encounters, remembered for the joy of success, the anguish of failure and the delights in learning and friendship.

I will remember the joys of a mathematics department here at Scituate High School. I have myself learned and matured through the daily interactions with Donna, Kristen, Heather, Nick, and Heidi. Their dedication to teaching mathematics and having all students learn as much mathematics as possible is laudable and stands as a testament to their professionalism. I am extremely proud to call them my colleagues, my friends.

I will remember the joys of professional camaraderie as Ruth, Donna, and I worked cooperatively to move Scituate High School to become a benchmark high school learning community. Ruth and Donna are truly my professional compadres whose dedication to teaching and learning is respected and admired. They are both truly assets to the Scituate educational community. I am grateful for our time to work together and extremely proud of that work and our friendship.

Lastly, I will remember the joys of teaching all my students at Scituate High School. I hope that I have made a small impression on their successes. They have made notable impacts on my career and my heart. Thank you for all the fun as we learned mathematics and experienced many adventures together inside and outside of the classroom, To my present AP students, I will always

be there for you, if the occasion arises.

I leave knowing that I have had a full career and hope that others see me as a dedicated professional educator who helped students grow and learn.”

Mr. LaPlante moved, seconded by Mrs. Archambault, to accept resignation with regret. The committee unanimously agreed.

A student of Ms. Esposito’s, Mr. LaPlante thanked Ms. Esposito and stated Ms. Esposito will be sorely missed. Mr. LaPlante also credited Ms. Esposito for his success in college mathematics courses.

57-11
REPORT OF COMMITTEE LIAISONS

BUDGET

Mrs. Archambault stated Dr. Lescault will discuss during the Superintendent’s Report but noted a budget meeting is scheduled for December 8th at the High School.

CURRICULUM

Mrs. Guglielmi stated nothing to report.

FOOD SERVICES

Acting Chair Umbriano stated Dr. Lescault also will discuss Food Services during the Superintendent’s Report. Acting Chair Umbriano stated the first full Food Services Meeting occurred at Clayville headed by Mrs. Cappelli where it was reported that the food counts are increasing. As with every September, there was a deficit for the first month of the school year, however the month of October showed a profit.

Mr. LaPlante stated as negotiations are still underway with Aramark, Mr. LaPlante will provide update once a decision has been made.

SPACE NEEDS

Mrs. Guglielmi stated nothing to report.

**HEALTH/
WELLNESS
NEGOTIATIONS**

Mrs. Guglielmi stated nothing to report.

Mr. LaPlante stated nothing to report.

POLICY

Mrs. Guglielmi stated nothing to report.

RIASC

Mrs. Archambault attended the RIASC meeting last month and believes the committee should continue to participate in these meetings. Mrs. Archambault stated of all school committees within Rhode Island, twenty (20) school districts were represented. All of the districts are facing budget issues. Mr. Tim Duffy, Executive Director of RIASC, updated the attendees on issues being addressed at the state house, one of which being collaboration. Mrs. Archambault stated the state has a tendency to mandate to school departments such things as food services or bus services with intent of financial savings; however those districts currently participating in those (pilot) programs are facing a deficit. Many are frustrated that the state is dictating the school department must participate in these programs with belief that school departments would see a fiscal savings yet none of these districts have benefited thus far.

Mrs. Archambault stated another topic discussed was regionalization. There have been a few districts which have proven successful: Bristol-Warren, Foster-Glocester, Exeter-West Greenwich, and Chariho (Charlestown-Richmond-Hopkinton) and each of those districts are content with own collaboration. What Mr. Duffy impressed upon committee attendees was to be proactive and do own homework as this is an issue coming down the pike

so districts must demonstrate why regionalization may not work for their district.

Mrs. Archambault stated binding arbitration was briefly discussed in addition to funding formulas.

Mrs. Archambault stated there are a few school systems that recently negotiated contracts with teachers which were believed to mutually benefit each party. Those can be viewed online on RIDE.

Mrs. Archambault added there was discussion on National Learning Standards versus Federal Learning Standards. (Dr. Filippelli will discuss further during the Assistant Superintendent's Report.) The difference between the two standards is that National Learning Standards are state by state and Federal Learning Standards are those mandated throughout US in which there are financial repercussions if state school department(s) does not adhere to the established standards.

Mrs. Archambault stated the BEP was briefly addressed (seniority-based teaching positions) and whether the new policy created by Commissioner Gist will stand.

Mrs. Archambault stated Mr. Duffy also warned the committee attendees that some of the currently available funding will dry up by 2012. There was discussion that for stabilization, school departments must maintain status quo. Currently funding must remain at the current level, so for instance, when the committee goes to Town Council, the town (and the state) must keep School Department funded at the same level as was funded the previous year.

SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION

Acting Chair Umbriano stated the committee is proactive with the bus company regarding cost savings. After having a deficit with the food service program last year, Dr. Lescault and Acting Chair Umbriano made a formal complaint with RIDE which resulted in many positive changes. Prior to the start of the transfer to the state-mandated bus program, Acting Chair Umbriano is requesting evidence to support a financial savings to the school department. To date, other districts already enrolled in the new program are reporting deficits.

SCITUATE ADVOCATES FOR EVERYONE (SAFE)

Acting Chair Umbriano stated six (6) students were sent to the RI Teen Institute for four (4) day training program. The RI Teen Institute prepares teens for leadership roles within the school and/or community. RI Teen Institute program begins at the high school level currently but Scituate will be introducing the program at the middle school level soon.

Acting Chair Umbriano stated SADD is hosting a candlelight vigil at Scituate High School on December 2. Acting Chair Umbriano and Mrs. Guglielmi both will be in attendance.

Acting Chair Umbriano also stated this past year, the state required SAFE to provide a mission statement and update its by-laws. With this new mandate, only programs focused on drug and alcohol and/or bullying awareness will be funded.

Acting Chair Umbriano added Scituate High School held a student-faculty volleyball game which was well-attended. Twelve (12) student teams and one (1) faculty team participated with the faculty team losing only one (1) game.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Acting Chair Umbriano stated nothing to report.

BUILDING COMMITTEE

Mrs. Guglielmi stated Dr. Lescault will discuss during the Superintendent's Report.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Mrs. Guglielmi stated nothing to report.

TOWN-WIDE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Mr. LaPlante stated nothing to report.

57-12

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There is no unfinished business for the month of December.

57-13

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

TITLE I REVIEW

Dr. Filippelli stated that on January 13, 2010, RIDE Title I program staff will be conducting an on-site monitoring visit of Scituate's Title I Part A program. This on-site review will be based on last year's Title I information, parent surveys, comparability analysis, and private school consultation. Dr. Filippelli is attending a training session on December 2 in order to prepare for this visit and will bring two key Title I reading teachers as well as Jan Mowry.

RESPONSE TO INTERVENTION

Dr. Filippelli met with the elementary principals, John Magner, and Denise Brierley on November 16th to discuss the progress of RTI at the elementary level. A decision was made to center some of the professional development work on the next PD day around RTI for elementary teachers. Dr. Filippelli is currently looking to our teaching staff to prepare and present best practices on this day. If Dr. Filippelli finds that there is a level of discomfort in presenting from the teachers, Dr. Filippelli will look to an outside source to help with the process.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Dr. Filippelli is currently in the process of setting up professional development on the XCONNECTS NECAP review program for first grade teachers. This is planned for sometime in February. Dr. Filippelli has also asked building principals to provide feedback on the need for KITES KIT professional development and Science NECAP data analysis professional development in each of their schools.

CURRICULUM UPDATE

Dr. Filippelli will be attending a meeting with Principal Sollitto on December 3rd about new standards that RIDE may be establishing. There is talk among educational groups that there may be an alignment to national standards in Math and ELA. Considering that districts will have to bear the costs of any and all curriculum alignment as a result of this, Dr. Filippelli is recommending holding off on any more ELA articulation until the state gives us better direction. Dr. Filippelli doesn't want to expend funds on something that may be changed in the next year or so.

Mrs. Archambault stated this was discussed at RIASC and the New England NECAP was touted as the best among the US (regarding scores).

COURSE PROPOSALS

Dr. Filippelli met with Principal Sollitto, George Tracy, Carlo Catucci and Jean Esposito on course proposals for next year. Jean Esposito is proposing the elimination of the following semester mathematics courses: Probability and Statistics, Trigonometry and Analytical Geometry, Using Technology to Solve Mathematics Problems, and SAT Mathematics. Ms. Esposito is proposing to introduce the following new mathematics courses: Introduction to Topics in College Mathematics, and Algebra 3 with Trigonometry. The

rationale for these changes is that the new courses allow more flexibility for students to complete a fourth, full year of Math study which are currently part of the requirements for RIDE. Presently, the program of studies has the semester classes as the only alternative to Pre Calculus for seniors. By selectively moving finite topics in math that are covered in the courses, students are afforded multiple opportunities to study college mathematics topics.

In regards to Science, Carlo Catucci is proposing that AP Biology be dropped from the program of studies and be replaced with Biology II Honors. The rationale for this is that there are not enough numbers to support AP Biology. The class did not run this year as only seven (7) students signed up for it.

SOCIAL NETWORKING POLICY

The committee members received copies of a proposed draft of a social networking policy for all staff members that Dr. Filippelli is planning to put forward for a first reading at the January School Committee meeting. Dr. Filippelli is working in collaboration with the teacher's union, legal counsel and Brian LaPlante to seek input on creating a sound policy. There are meetings scheduled in December to review the policy and make amendments that administration deems necessary.

Acting Chair Umbriano asked if this policy included cell phones and other means of accessing Facebook, Twitter, etc.

Mr. LaPlante stated it is a broad-based view of propriety of use during school hours palatable to both teachers and the committee. The idea is to have something in place so there is some background going forward.

Dr. Filippelli stated current research indicates Facebook and Twitter also can be used as an educational tool. There was one opportunity where a teacher requested authorization to set up an art forum on Facebook where the teacher would be moderator and oversee page. However, in addition to safety, there are also other issues to address. For example, there is an instant messaging component with Facebook (over cell phone/iphone/smart phone) which could be disruptive.

Mrs. Archambault agreed this is an important tool.

MONTHLY ACTIVITIES

Dr. Filippelli submitted copies of activities for the month of December to the committee members.

57-14

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

BUDGET

The School Department is in the process of finalizing the school budgets, which the committee is scheduled to review and discuss at the December 8 budget hearings at the High School media center. (Committee members received copies of the agenda.) Given the economic environment, Dr. Lescault stated members have worked hard to minimize increases in any areas other than contractually mandated salaries and benefits. The budgets will include funds for "Improvements to Buildings and Grounds", to provide a snapshot of what is needed in that area. However including these funds in the district budget will artificially inflate it, as no funds for "Buildings and Grounds" were included in the current 2009-2010 budget. Rather, needed improvement projects have been funded out of a capital reserve account created for that purpose. The budgets do include additional detail for some line items per the required UCOA. That detail will be collapsed when these budgets are incorporated into the district budget for public presentation purposes. The Treasurer and Dr. Lescault believe the School Department

should continue to utilize the current chart of accounts and the traditional budget format for the district budget as it is simpler and easier to understand. However, for tracking and reporting purposes, the lengthier, more detailed format will be used.

Mrs. Archambault stated in the past few years the School Department has received approximately \$200,000 relating to Buildings and Grounds from the town. Will that be the case this year?

Dr. Lescault stated previously those funds were comingled with the town's funds; however beginning last year, funds utilized for Buildings and Grounds were to come directly from the school budget which is why the Capital Reserve fund was created. Dr. Lescault will propose to Town Council that the town includes facilities needs with those of the school department.

Dr. Lescault stated the majority of increases will not be seen during next week's budget meeting. Next week's meeting is a small percentage of the budget; approximately 80% of the budget consists of salaries and benefits which will not be reviewed next week. However, some of the items discussed next week are those items on which there is discretion.

Mrs. Archambault asked if the committee would receive report on salaries and benefits for review.

Dr. Lescault stated that portion of the budget will be presented at the January meeting. Town Council and the School Committee are scheduled to meet on Thursday, January 7, 2010 at 6 p.m.

Mrs. Archambault asked if it was possible to begin (Town Council and School Committee) meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Dr. Lescault will request start time of 6:30 p.m. and report back to committee.

**NWR SPECIAL EDUCATION
COLLABORATIVE
AGREEMENT**

As has been the practice each year, listed under New Business and attached for review is the Northwest Rhode Island Special Education Collaborative Agreement for 2010-2011. The only change to the agreement, which has been in place for many years and has served Scituate well, is in the percentage of support each community provides. Scituate's percentage had been fixed at 50%. Dr. Lescault asked the Executive Board, which approved request, that the percentages of support reflect the percentage of total participants. Based on that criterion, Scituate's new percentage will be 45%. Dr. Lescault will be recommending the Committee adopt the agreement under New Business.

Mrs. Archambault stated this is a perfect example of collaboration; these are the types of items to which the state is referring.

Dr. Lescault stated there are several areas in which Scituate already fulfills that request such as health insurance, special education, food services, purchasing, etc.

Mrs. Archambault stated it is important to document these going forward.

Mr. Magner added a report was generated last year which detailed the collaboration which can be updated and submitted to the committee.

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE
CALENDAR OF MEETINGS**

The committee received copies of proposed calendar of school committee meetings for calendar year 2010. It follows the committee's longstanding practice of meeting the first Tuesday of each month. The only exception is November 9, because November 2 is Election Day.

TUITION POLICY

Committee members received copies of school committee policy #8000: Student Admission. Subsection "Non-Resident Students" addresses the school committee policy, first adopted November 1991, regarding non-resident students attending Scituate Schools. This policy requires that non-resident students pay tuition monthly and in advance in the amount of district cost per pupil for the previous year (currently \$1,061/month). That tuition is refunded if the student becomes a resident of Scituate by October 1 of that year or by another date set by the School Committee. On average about three (3) or four (4) students are involved in this arrangement each year and the October 1 date is usually extended to the end of November or December. The concern has been raised whether the arrangement of refunding the prepaid tuition is fair to other Scituate taxpayers. One could argue that those other taxpayers, in effect subsidize the non-residents for the one to four months they attend the Scituate schools tuition free. For example four (4) students x four (4) months x \$1,061/month = \$16,976. Dr. Lescault has been asked to include this topic in the Superintendent's Report to generate school committee discussion about it. Should the school committee wish to revise policy #8000, it can do so by holding two readings of the revised policy, one each for the January and February meetings.

Mr. LaPlante asked if Dr. Lescault was referring to the reimbursement portion for the month of September. Mr. LaPlante stated being in same situation years earlier when building his new home and was required to pay taxes prior to home being fully constructed.

Acting Chair Umbriano stated during construction of a new home, property owner is required to pay land tax until home is completed. In Scituate, the cost to educate a student is \$12,000 per pupil per year (more if student has special needs). Acting Chair Umbriano is not suggesting \$1,000 per month rather base it on anticipated taxes.

Mr. LaPlante stated it is a losing proposition as any homeowner with a child pays less in taxes than the School Department expends to educate child.

Acting Chair Umbriano stated a formula is needed which is based on what taxes will be upon completion of home (not based only on land as is done now). In addition, if new student is a special needs child, the cost is much higher. Acting Chair Umbriano agrees these students will eventually become part of the Scituate school district; however tuition should be paid for the privilege of attending Scituate schools until residency becomes permanent.

Mrs. Guglielmi asked what happens if new homeowner has several children. Would this formula be applied to each student?

Mr. LaPlante stated the simple way is to continue to charge (potential) homeowner per month per student and when the family moves in, simply stop the tuition payments. There should be no reimbursement as the homeowner gained benefit of attending school during those months; pay to play.

Mrs. Archambault stated one of the reasons this is being addressed is because of the budget. This is an opportunity to use these funds to cover line items which may have to be eliminated due to the current budget, for example perhaps certain field trips, athletic equipment, etc.

Acting Chair Umbriano stated surprise after moving to Scituate from Cranston and receiving a reimbursement check from the school and donated money back to the Scituate PTO.

Mr. LaPlante stated parents do not have the right to school children in Scituate if not a resident, so yes there should be tuition for that privilege.

Dr. Klimaj suggested tuition be based on a percentage of taxes and receive a tax credit.

Mr. LaPlante stated Town Treasurer may disagree with that solution but valid point.

Mr. LaPlante stated it is completely appropriate to continue doing what has been done and review on a case-by-case basis.

Acting Chair Umbriano stated (potential) homeowners have the option not to pay tuition by keeping child in existing school system and transferring them to Scituate once home is completed.

Mr. LaPlante asked Dr. Lescault for opinion on this matter.

Dr. Lescault stated is sympathetic to parent who wants child in the school in which child will complete school year to avoid disruption and also, parents may not have sufficient funds to pay tuition while building new home. On the other hand, Dr. Lescault is very sensitive to the economic conditions under which the School Department currently operates. The committee made a very good point in that Scituate is subsidizing the cost of educating those students. Seldom of late have any of the homeowners finished construction by original deadline and deadlines have been extended to December/January so it has become more costly than what the current policy states. The second paragraph of the policy can be eliminated where, as the committee stated, if homeowner wishes to place child into Scituate school system prior to claiming residency, homeowner must pay tuition and there will be no reimbursement.

Mr. LaPlante stated it could be pro-rata reimbursement especially if homeowner falls within established deadline.

Mrs. Guglielmi confirmed the second paragraph of policy would be removed.

Dr. Lescault confirmed yes. Dr. Lescault will make change and bring to the committee at the January meeting for a formal vote.

Acting Chair Umbriano asked if a formula was required.

Dr. Lescault stated the formula in previous years has been per pupil cost but that can be decided among the committee.

Mr. LaPlante stated cost per pupil.

Acting Chair Umbriano stated it is critical for the committee to review all options. For example, the elderly in Scituate have tax freeze (which the committee supports) but in some cases, the elderly have children and/or grandchildren residing in their home as well. In these particular cases, Scituate pays the expense for these students. Acting Chair Umbriano understands this is a difficult time for many and understands the need for some families to share a home/housing expenses; however the committee must be careful. The budget is going down and expenses are increasing in all

areas.

Mrs. Archambault asked if the tuition must be deposited into the general fund or if a separate account be established.

Dr. Lescault stated the tuition must be treated as general revenue; however the committee has spending authority it can allocate those funds as deemed appropriate.

**NURSE/TEACHER
SUBSTITUTES**

Following the committee's approval to increase daily rate for substitute nurse/teachers, Drs. Lescault and Filippelli embarked on an aggressive campaign to recruit nurse/teachers and RN's. The position was advertised in the Providence Journal and through all of the schools. In addition, Scituate's existing nurse/teachers have reached out to their colleagues and professional organizations. As a result, at least a dozen requests for application procedures have been requested. RIDE must review and approve applications, so Scituate does not yet have any substitute nurses. However, Dr. Lescault expects that the applications will result in a small pool of substitutes. While not a large pool, this will be a significant improvement over the prior pool, which contained no applications.

FOOD SERVICE

As reported last month, Dr. Lescault and Mr. LaPlante met with Aramark to discuss the food service program deficit for the last fiscal year and are awaiting a second meeting with Aramark to discuss this issue. In the interim, Dr. Lescault and Acting Chair Umbriano met with the local food service manager on November 13 to discuss the financial condition of the food service program for the current school year. While the program ran a \$21,680 deficit for September due to start up costs, it showed a \$1,386 profit for October. The trend line for participation was also up from September to October. As labor costs are down, if the trend continues, the goal of breakeven status may be attainable.

BUILDING PROJECT

The Building Committee met on November 4. The project, particularly the site improvements portion, was behind about five (5) weeks at that point. The problem is a sub-contractor has basically stopped working over a change-order dispute. The committee authorized legal action. The committee met for a second time on November 20 with an attorney specializing in construction law to discuss options.

**BUILDING AND GROUNDS
REPORT**

Mr. Steve Gormley, Director of Building and Grounds, provided a monthly report of all the work completed by Mr. Gormley and Mr. Gaisor in the month of October.

MONTHLY ACTIVITIES

Dr. Lescault submitted copies of activities for the month of November to the Committee.

Dr. Lescault added on December 4, the Commissioner's Team will be coming to Scituate to review graduation requirements, personalization of instruction, etc. Drs. Lescault and Filippelli, Acting Chair Umbriano and Principal Sollitto will be meeting with the group in the morning.

Mrs. Archambault asked Dr. Lescault about West Bay Health Board of Directors meeting.

Dr. Lescault stated the Board meets monthly and establishes policy. Some of the topics discussed were wellness programs, rates for the upcoming enrollment period and penalties for those not paying fees.

Mrs. Archambault asked how the rates look for the upcoming year.

Dr. Lescault replied the rates do not look good. Scituate experienced the worst month this past October which has hit Scituate hard and was well beyond what was expected.

Mrs. Guglielmi asked if it was a result of the flu.

Dr. Lescault replied it was not the flu; it was high on surgical care. However, in November Scituate ran a surplus. If rates were to be established at this point of the year, the increase would be approximately 18%. It might require dipping into some of the reserves to drive the expense down.

Mrs. Archambault asked what status is on seniority-based teaching.

Dr. Lescault stated the topic is still very controversial. Providence Superintendent Tom Brady and senior staff provided presentation on how Providence implemented this new policy. Providence has four (4) schools which have been underperforming for so long that the Commissioner mandated this policy within those schools.

57-15

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Dave Durfee Deerfield Drive

Mr. Durfee stated the budget comes from the concept that the school must educate society and to make a comment like pay-to-play regarding tuition or pay as they go contradicts the purpose of the school. Mr. Durfee asked the committee to reconsider some of the comments made earlier. With four children (4), Mr. Durfee stated it would cost someone like him approximately \$4,000 per month if Mr. Durfee had to pay tuition waiting for a house to be built.

Mrs. Archambault stated Scituate residents pay taxes which support the school system.

Mr. Durfee does not disagree with not reimbursing tuition to new homeowners.

Mr. LaPlante stated disagreement with Mr. Durfee's philosophy which is not a matter of fact. There are systems in the country, including New York where families with children pay more.

Mr. Durfee stated it was communicated by elderly residents at a Financial Town Meeting that they did not wish to pay because they did not have children in the school system and those with children in private schools echoed those statements. The committee is using the same reason and must be careful because this is how the town receives funding to teach our children.

Mr. LaPlante stated when it comes to the committee's opportunity to bring in income such as with families who do not have the right to educate their child here, it is perfectly appropriate for the committee to seize such opportunities.

Acting Chair Umbriano agrees \$1,000 per month is too much to pay so a formula must be determined; it must be based on taxes.

Mr. Durfee stated wife is employed by Department of Education and is involved in the new out-of-district busing system being implemented. The

comment made earlier by the committee that only one (1) or two (2) towns saving money is incorrect. Mr. Durfee understands a meeting is scheduled and Ms. Durfee will be in attendance at which point this matter can be addressed further.

Acting Chair Umbriano stated the same due diligence will be done with the bus program as was done with the Food Services program.

Regarding consolidation with other towns, Mr. Durfee believes a good practice would be to demonstrate what does/doesn't work so that the committee will have data to present. The committee must make an earnest effort to look into this possibility so that only facts are used to prove or disprove potential solutions.

Acting Chair Umbriano met with Mr. Collins and Mr. Blackmore and discussed past practices. At one time, students were on a bus longer than 60 minutes, then the requirement of students not being allowed to be on a bus longer than 60 minutes was implemented. This was one reason the consolidation with Foster-Glocester is no longer possible because some students would be on the bus too long. However, that policy has returned to no longer 90 minutes so it's possible to revisit that collaboration once again.

Acting Chair Umbriano stated in a similar conversation with the Commissioner, Acting Chair Umbriano felt if Scituate was doing well, scores were high, and students were doing well, perhaps Scituate should be allowed to continue to do what it has done because it must be working.

Mr. Durfee suggested looking at Foster-Glocester and other areas so that Scituate isn't forced to collaborate with towns such as Cranston or Johnston years from now.

Mr. LaPlante agreed the committee should be open to considering collaboration with other areas. In some cases, it has been very beneficial for Scituate.

Tim McCormick Trim Town Road

Mr. McCormick received a pre-recorded phone message the day before Thanksgiving encouraging folks to attend the football game. Mr. McCormick asked if phone number was taken from the emergency list and/or if the school authorized such phone calls.

Dr. Lescault stated the call was not through AlertNow and Dr. Lescault did not distribute nor authorize distribution of phone numbers.

George Kuzmowycz Esek Hopkins Road

Mr. Kuzmowycz also stated surprise at receiving same phone message, more so because Mr. Kuzmowycz hasn't had children in the school department for over five (5) years. Mr. Kuzmowycz asked if the school was aware and/or authorized this and also how does the school feel this applies to the Federal Do Not Call Law. Will the Music Department or Drama Club be next group to make phone calls to get people to attend performances? What authorization do they have to contact people who have no business association with the schools?

Dr. Lescault stated the school was not aware nor did the school authorize such calls.

Principal Sollitto received notification after the fact from a parent stating interest had been generated but no further details were provided at that time. Principal Sollitto stated no authorization was given but Principal Sollitto will look into this issue further and report back to Dr. Lescault.

Ms. Kennedy did not receive a phone call and Ms. Kennedy teaches at the Middle School and also has a son who plays football. Ms. Kennedy does not believe it was the Booster Club.

Mr. Kuzmowycz has taken active steps to reduce the number of calls received from telemarketers, etc. and is interested to know what the position of the school is as this seems to be a violation of the Do Not Call Law.

Acting Chair Umbriano stated this issue will be looked into further and apologized on behalf of the caller. The policy of the school is such that any documents such as correspondence, flyers, etc. cannot be sent home to parents without prior authorization by Dr. Lescault or Dr. Filippelli.

Mr. Kuzmowycz also wished to express thanks to Ms. Esposito for number of years of service especially on behalf of his children who were taught by Ms. Esposito. Mr. Kuzmowycz stated although both daughters had Ms. Esposito for mathematics courses, one daughter learned a better lesson that when treat older students as adults than they can sometimes repay service.

Ruth Trainor Trim Town Road

Ms. Trainor thanked Ms. Esposito for support, friendship and mentorship over the years.

Maureen Kennedy North Doctor's Way

Ms. Kennedy asked what other towns did regarding tuition reimbursement.

The committee will look into this topic further.

Ms. Kennedy thanked the committee for making the Wednesday before Thanksgiving a holiday.

Acting Chair Umbriano received several phone calls as a few parents were upset the students were not in school and/or were making the day up in June. Acting Chair Umbriano explained teachers are unable to take a day off prior to a holiday weekend so for safety concerns due to the amount of travel on that day, the committee felt this would provide a safer environment for both teachers and students and their families.

57-16

NEW BUSINESS

1. DISPOSITION OF UNUSABLE/BROKEN EQUIPMENT

A request from Principal Mowry to dispose of unusable/broken equipment is attached.

Recommendation: Authorize Principal Mowry to dispose of the equipment according to school department policy.

Mr. LaPlante moved, seconded by Mrs. Archambault to dispose of the

equipment according to school department policy. The committee unanimously agreed.

2. **NORTHWEST RHODE ISLAND SPECIAL EDUCATION COLLABORATIVE AGREEMENT**

See Superintendent's Report for detail on this item.

Background: This agreement is routinely approved each year. The current agreement is slightly different in that the cost of the collaborative will be shared by the member districts based on the total student enrollment as of October 1.

Recommendation: Approve the agreement with the changes noted above.

Mrs. Archambault moved, seconded by Mr. LaPlante to approve changes that Scituate pay 45% reduction of total cost as presented by Dr. Lescault. The committee unanimously approved the motion.

3. **RATIFY IN\$ITE REPORT FOR FY2008-09**

See Superintendent's Report for detail on this item.

Recommendation: Ratify the report as presented.

Mrs. Archambault moved, seconded by Mr. LaPlante, to ratify the agreement as presented by Dr. Lescault. The Committee unanimously agreed.

57-17

RESIGNATIONS/APPOINTMENTS/TRANSFERS

Dr. Lescault recommended approval of the following resignations:
Adrienne L. Carnevale, Bus Monitor, effective December 4, 2009; Beverly C. Place, Bus Monitor, effective November 21, 2009.

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

Dr. Lescault recommended approval of the following appointments:
Kirk Sedgley, Assistant Ice Hockey Coach, effective 11/20/09; Louise Beaudreault, part-time (20%) Music Teacher, Scituate Middle School, effective 11/23/09; Melissa Giorno, part-time (17.5 hours/week), Scituate Middle/High School (Monday – 7:00 AM – 2:15 PM; Tuesday – 7:00 AM – 2:15 PM; Wednesday – 7:00 AM – 11:00 AM)

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

57-18

COMMITTEE REMARKS

MRS. GUGLIELMI

Mrs. Guglielmi attended the football game with her son who played 25 years ago. Mrs. Guglielmi stated it was well-attended and everyone seemed to have a good time.

ACTING CHAIR UMBRIANO

Acting Chair Umbriano asked about the flu clinic.



Dr. Lescault stated 78% of students received flu vaccine at the High School clinic.

MRS. ARCHAMBAULT

Mrs. Archambault welcomed Dr. Klimaj to the committee and also thanked Ms. Esposito for years of service in Scituate and wished her luck in her retirement.

BRIAN LAPLANTE

Mr. LaPlante welcomed Dr. Klimaj to the committee.

SCOTT KILMAJ

Dr. Klimaj looks forward to working with everyone and if anyone has any concerns to feel free to contact Dr. Klimaj.

57-19

DISCUSSION OF FUTURE BUSINESS

January 5 School Committee Meeting Town Hall Chambers
February 2 School Committee Meeting Town Hall Chambers
March 2 School Committee Meeting Town Hall Chambers

57-20

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. LaPlante moved, seconded by Mrs. Archambault to adjourn meeting at 8:50 PM. The Committee unanimously approved the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. Guglielmi, Clerk