

**SCITUATE SCHOOL COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 5, 2010
TOWN HALL CHAMBERS**

CALL TO ORDER

60-1

The Regular School Committee Meeting was called to order by Acting Chair Umbriano at 6:30 PM.

Acting Chair Umbriano moved to adjourn to Executive Session, seconded by Mr. LaPlante and the committee unanimously approved the motion.

The Regular School Committee meeting reconvened from Executive Session RIGL 42-46-5 (a) 2 at 7:30 PM.

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.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

60-2

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

**REORGANIZATION OF
SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

60-3

At this time, Dr. Lescault asked for nominations for the position of Chair of the School Committee.

Mrs. Guglielmi nominated Acting Chair Umbriano stating Acting Chair Umbriano stepped into the position after the death of Chair Marcure and did a great job. Mrs. Archambault seconded the nomination and the committee unanimously agreed.

Chair Umbriano asked for nominations for the position of Clerk.

Mrs. Archambault nominated Mrs. Guglielmi and Chair Umbriano seconded the nomination. The committee unanimously agreed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

60-4

Mrs. Guglielmi moved, seconded by Mrs. Archambault, to approve the minutes of the Executive Session of December 1, 2009. The Committee unanimously agreed.

Mrs. Guglielmi moved, seconded by Mrs. Archambault, to approve the minutes of the Regular School Committee Meeting of December 1, 2009. The Committee unanimously agreed.

Mrs. Guglielmi moved, seconded by Mrs. Archambault, to approve the minutes of the Budget Work Session of December 8, 2009. The Committee unanimously agreed.

CAPITAL RESERVE FUND

60-5

Mrs. Guglielmi moved, seconded by Mrs. Archambault, to approve the Capital Reserve Funds for the month of January in the amount of \$4,796.45. The Committee unanimously agreed.

**MONTHLY PAYABLES
NEW BUDGET**

60-6

Mrs. Guglielmi moved, seconded by Mr. LaPlante, to approve the Budget Bills 2009 for the month of January in the amount of \$484,968.24. The Committee unanimously approved the motion.

GRANT BILLS

60-7

Mrs. Guglielmi moved, seconded by Mrs. Archambault, to approve the Grant Bills for the month of January in the amount of \$109,265.67. The Committee unanimously approved the motion.

CORRESPONDENCE

60-8

1. A letter to Acting Chair Umbriano from Robert Budway, Budget Committee Chair, thanking Acting Chair Umbriano for attending the committee's December 29, 2009 budget meeting. The letter also requests that the school committee submit a budget based upon no increase over the current fiscal year budget while maintaining adequate fund balance, and to be prepared for possible further modifications.
2. A letter to Drs. Lescault and Filippelli and the School Committee members from a teacher, requesting that all the short-term sick days she has used to manage a chronic health condition be designated as long-term sick leave. In addition, she requests that all future appointments directly related to this condition also be changed to long-term sick leave.
3. A letter to the school committee from Annette B. Cook, Co-Chair Clayville School Fifth Grade Memory Book Committee, requesting permission to hold an Avon fundraiser for the purpose of producing a memory book for the graduating fifth grade students at Clayville Elementary School.

60-9

1. Recommendation: Direct the Superintendent to take whatever action the committee deems appropriate.

At the Town Council budget meeting, Chair Umbriano stated Town Council voted to request the school committee in addition to all other town departments, to submit a budget based on no increase over the current fiscal budget while maintaining adequate fund balance.

Dr. Lescault dislikes having to present the first round of budget to Town Council with no increase. Everyone worked hard putting this budget together and it is up by approximately \$430,000. To cut that will be a challenge as each year the budget becomes leaner and leaner. Dr. Lescault will do what the committee requests; if the committee wishes for Dr. Lescault to pare the budget down to one with a zero increase, Dr. Lescault agreed to do so. However, Dr. Lescault does not believe that is the best strategy as the inference Town Council may draw is that it was much easier than would have thought possible in which case the committee should be braced for potential cuts down the road.

Mrs. Guglielmi asked where cuts could be made.

Being the two largest items in the budget, Dr. Lescault would look at salaries and benefits. Dr. Lescault would look to eliminate any contingency item in salary which may account for approximately \$100,000.

Mr. LaPlante asked Dr. Lescault to define contingency in salary.

Dr. Lescault replied Scituate School Department is currently carrying two Step 5 teachers as a contingency in the budget so that if presented with new enrollments or need additional classes, there would be money to pay for those two teachers. Dr. Lescault added approximately \$100,000 could be eliminated in health care. The considerable decrease in the amount of claims has helped with health care costs. West Bay Health Collaborative had initially presented an 18% increase but Dr. Lescault was able to reduce that to 10%. It is possible to try to reduce that even further.

Mrs. Archambault asked if that would be realistic.

Dr. Lescault replied yes. In the past four months, Scituate has gone from a \$90,000 deficit to approximately a \$80,000 surplus. Dr. Lescault stated there are some health care reserves which could be reviewed. It begins to get very difficult after the first \$200,000.

Mrs. Archambault stated the committee needs to adopt a budget tonight due to meeting with Town Council within the next two (2) days. Regarding the letter from Mr. Budway, there is a short amount of time to adjust current budget however can adopt what has been presented. The school committee has always worked with Town Council in the past.

Mr. LaPlante stated the budget is \$21 million and the increase is \$430,000; the increase is miniscule in comparison. The committee can motion, under new business, to adopt the budget as presented tonight.

Chair Umbriano stated discussion at the Town Council budget meeting included increase in debt (bond), car taxes, and Water Board issue.

Dr. Lescault stated with all due respect to Town Council, if Town Council is requesting the school committee to take such draconian measures, then all need to sit down and review these items. It is important to see what the impact will be. The governor has submitted a *proposed* budget; it is not known what legislature will do so to react to that would not be responsible at this point.

Mrs. Archambault stated the committee is not ignoring the letter.

Mr. LaPlante interjected the 2% anticipation has been injected into the proposed budget.

Mrs. Archambault is afraid if the committee proposes a zero increase to budget then Town Council will request additional cuts.

Mr. LaPlante stated the committee should go forward with proposed budget and listen to the concern of Town Council and then adjust the budget as necessary.

Chair Umbriano added each department was asked to identify areas which line items could not be reduced or eliminated and the reason.

Mr. LaPlante stated the reality is with a \$21 million budget, the notion that Town Council can, but the school committee cannot, find areas to cut is ludicrous. Of course there will be places which could be cut but would it be appropriate to do so. Is the school committee willing to cut in a cooperative area because of the issues facing the town?

Chair Umbriano stated it is the same issue with the town; services will be reduced or lost.

Dr. Klimaj stated it will better to present the budget as it is now and work with Town Council rather than just eliminating things right now.

Mr. LaPlante stated the committee is just discussing the letter right now and a motion can be made under New Business later.

Mr. LaPlante asked if the committee deems appropriate asking Dr. Lescault to identify areas which could be cut.

Mrs. Archambault stated those areas Dr. Lescault identified earlier would be helpful along with the amount for each.

Dr. Lescault asked if the committee wished to compile list of \$430,000 in cuts.

Mrs. Archambault stated just salary, benefits, and healthcare.

Mr. LaPlante asked why a menu of \$50,000 would not be appropriate.

Dr. Klimaj stated the committee should start working backwards. Town Council needs to see how hard everyone has worked on this budget with only a 2% increase.

Mr. LaPlante stated this is simply for a review for the committee's benefit.

2. Background: There is no clear-cut response to this request. Dr. Lescault is always reluctant to open the door and set a precedent for others who might seek additional short-term days for tests, lab appointments, etc. However, there have been at least two (2) other similar requests, including one (1) for this same teacher for unique, serious medical conditions (committee members received copies) that the committee has approved. Also, the alternative may be that the teacher and her doctor exercise her right to five (5) days or more blocks of sick leave up to 120 days per year.

Recommendation: Authorize Dr. Lescault to sign a memorandum of agreement (MOA) with the STA agreeing to allow the teacher to exceed ten (10) days of short-term sick leave.

Dr. Lescault spoke with the principal at the time and the principal feels she is an excellent teacher and believes it is better to have this teacher in the classroom on the days the teacher is available rather than to have a long-term substitute in the classroom.

Mrs. Guglielmi stated until December only 4.5 days have been taken. Is this going to be once a month or long-term?

Dr. Lescault stated it became long-term with teacher not knowing whether the committee would approve long-term sick leave so the teacher stayed out for longer period of time versus coming in and out of classroom.

Chair Umbriano stated teacher can set up for substitute on the days she is not available and the students will have some consistency.

Dr. Lescault stated this allows for planning. Dr. Lescault stated it does open up for a slippery slope. It opens to a potentially abusive situation. However, this is a unique condition.

Mrs. Archambault asked if this was a contract issue.

Dr. Lescault stated an MOA was issued with STA.

Mrs. Archambault moved, seconded by Dr. Klimaj to approve the request to designate short-term sick days to long-term sick leave and to authorize Dr. Lescault to enter into MOA with STA. The committee unanimously agreed.

3. Recommendation: Approve the fundraiser.

Chair Umbriano asked if having an Avon fundraiser was allowed.

Dr. Lescault replied it was; it is no different than fundraisers like Yankee Candle, etc.

Mr. LaPlante moved, seconded by Mrs. Archambault to approve the request. The committee unanimously agreed.

60-10
REPORT OF COMMITTEE LIAISONS

At this time, Chair Umbriano asked Mr. LaPlante to report the outcome of the Executive Session.

Regarding potential litigation with Aramark, Mr. LaPlante stated there was a vote which resulted in permitting Chair Umbriano to sign a new contract with Aramark and for Mr. LaPlante to negotiate final terms of contract.

Mr. LaPlante also stated there was consideration concerning negotiations with teachers. The committee voted to table that matter to the next Executive Session.

BUDGET

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

CURRICULUM

Mrs. Guglielmi stated nothing to report.

FOOD SERVICES

Chair Umbriano stated Dr. Lescault will discuss Food Services during the Superintendent's Report.

SPACE NEEDS

Mrs. Guglielmi stated nothing to report.

**HEALTH/
WELLNESS
NEGOTIATIONS**

Dr. Klimaj stated nothing to report.

Mr. LaPlante stated Drs. Lescault and Filippelli will discuss during their reports.

POLICY

Mrs. Guglielmi stated two policies will be discussed later this evening.

RIASC

Mrs. Archambault stated there was no activity with RIASC this month.

**SAFETY AND
TRANSPORTATION**

Chair Umbriano received card as new member of the Scituate Safety and Transportation Committee. Nine new houses are being built on French Lane off of Trim Town Road. The concern for this committee was bus transportation and the lack of a stop sign. Mr. Collins tested the traffic pattern which will not present a problem and a stop sign will be added.

Mrs. Archambault asked if people were living in these houses.

Chair Umbriano stated the houses are not yet built. 22 acres have also been donated which will not be developed.

SCITUATE ADVOCATES FOR

Chair Umbriano stated Diane Scacco was appointed Assistant Chair of

EVERYONE (SAFE)

SAFE.

Chair Umbriano attended the vigil at the high school sponsored by SADD and supported by MADD. One Rhode Island high school hosts the vigil each year. Victims' families are asked to discuss how their lives have changed due to drunk driving. The event included a video presentation.

Chair Umbriano also thanked Erica McCormick, parent coordinator, who helped organize this event. An emotional event, Chair Umbriano and Mrs. Guglielmi stated the event was very well organized and well attended.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Chair Umbriano stated nothing to report.

BUILDING COMMITTEE

Mrs. Guglielmi stated nothing to report.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Mrs. Guglielmi stated the Strategic Plan will be updated later this year.

**TOWN-WIDE FINANCE
COMMITTEE**

Mr. LaPlante stated nothing to report.

**60-11
UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There is no unfinished business for the month of January.

**60-12
ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

TITLE I REVIEW

Dr. Filippelli has completed the preparation for the Title I review which will be on January 13, 2010. RIDE gave a pre-visit checklist of items they wanted mailed to them prior to their visit. The items were mailed on December 23, 2009 and Dr. Filippelli is awaiting confirmation of receipt of those items. It is Dr. Filippelli's understanding that RIDE will be reviewing past years Title I documents and may be visiting Hope Elementary School on the review day. Jan Mowry, Christine Ragosta, and Roxanne Forgue have been an integral part of helping Dr. Filippelli to prepare the visit documents and Dr. Filippelli wished to thank them publicly for helping out in the process.

**PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT
COMMITTEE MEETING AND
UPDATE**

Dr. Filippelli met with the district professional development committee on December 8, 2009. At that meeting, the results of the survey that the committee members gave to elementary teachers were discussed. The results of the survey indicated that teachers wanted more training on Response to Intervention, Words Their Way, Math Investigations and First Steps. As a result of this meeting, Dr. Filippelli held a subsequent meeting with the elementary principals and John Magner on December 17, 2009 to plan out the professional development day on January 15, 2010. For the morning session, grades K-2 will receive professional development on Words Their Way with Dr. Laura Hauerwas from Providence College facilitating that session. Grades 3-5 will be trained on Response to Intervention with Dr. Phyllis Lynch from RIDE facilitating that session. The afternoon session will proceed as the exact opposite of the above with grades 3-5 trained on Words Their Way and grades 1-2 trained on Response to Intervention.

On January 15, the middle school teachers will be completing a data analysis of NECAP scores as they relate to Grade Level Expectations. This analysis will provide a subject by subject and GLE by GLE breakdown of the question strands that students keep getting incorrect on the NECAP tests. The goal is to inform curricular and instructional decisions to help students successfully answer NECAP question strands.

Also on January 15, The Northern Rhode Island Collaborative will be professional developing high school teachers on teaching diverse learners. Teachers will be introduced to the Principles of Universal Design for Learning and how they can be applied utilizing time tested successful teacher techniques. Examples and resources will be provided. The afternoon session will be focused on the NEASC New Standards for Accreditation. The faculty members will be assigned a committee for the upcoming self-study. The facilitators for this portion of the day will be Principal Sollitto, Assistant Principal Sweet, Mrs. Nobrega, and Mrs. Pennachia.

Mrs. Archambault asked Dr. Filippelli to elaborate on this process of professional development.

Dr. Filippelli stated during the morning session, teachers will receive NECAP data, break it down and then based on test strand data results, the teachers will review GLE and match against those strands students continue to get incorrect and adjust curriculum to fill in the holes.

Mrs. Archambault understands professional development typically has someone coming in to middle school and/or high school to teach.

Dr. Filippelli stated that is still done sometimes however Scituate has a lot of content experts within own system who can professionally develop their own so outside experts are not always needed. In the afternoon, the teachers work together in teams to plan out curriculum for the following semester based on what the data presented (in morning).

Dr. Lescault believes Mrs. Archambault is asking where the personal growth aspect comes into play. Dr. Lescault believes it is in the process of working with the other teachers and developing strategies and how to better approach the students.

Ms. Ruth Trainor, teacher and STA President, felt it was very valuable.

Mrs. Archambault asked Ms. Trainor if it could be considered an effective method for professional development.

Ms. Trainor replied yes. At the middle school and high school level, where instruction needs to be adjusted to address the needs of the students and to address what is becoming a high stakes test. It is for their achievement and to better instruction. Ms. Trainor enjoys the session.

Mrs. Archambault believes it is valuable but is still struggling with it fitting into the professional development model.

Ms. Trainor stated teachers do change things within own curriculum and subject areas and change instruction within own classroom as well as developing as a professional. It's looking at best practice and stated all have been happy with Drs. Lescault and Filippelli moving in the direction of using peers.

CURRICULUM UPDATE

Dr. Filippelli will be meeting with Principal Sollitto and some of his key department heads as a result of the Commissioner's Review that was held at the high school on December 4, 2009. The agenda will include curriculum alignment, common rubrics for instruction across departments, and standard setting based on state assessment data analysis.

On December 21, 2009, Dr. Filippelli had a brief meeting with Carlo Catucci,

science department head at Smithfield High School. Dr. Filippelli and Mr. Catucci are in the process of planning another science curriculum articulation meeting in February.

UTES

On December 21, 2009, Dr. Filippelli met the middle school and high school science teachers for their in-service professional development by Ken Bell from RITES. The teachers have received the probes needed for their experiments. Ken Bell was there to teach them how to use the probes and also how to access the student data online so that real time data analysis could be achieved by the classes while they are doing the various experiments associated with the probes. Dr. Filippelli wishes to thank Mark DiLuglio and his staff for helping to get the needed technological requirements set up for the teachers. This included, among other things, importing all of the class lists and helping teachers access the RITES site online.

Ms. Guglielmi asked for definition of RITES.

Dr. Filippelli replied Rhode Island Technology Enhanced Science.

Chair Umbriano stated it is the \$12 million grant Scituate applied for last year.

ARRA REPORTING

As the fourth quarter of 2009 comes to a close, much of Dr. Filippelli's time has been consumed again with the federal and state reporting that is associated with the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. As reported in prior months, Scituate School Department acts as the fiscal agent for the Northwest Special Education Region in regards to the IDEA Part B and IDEA Preschool grants. Dr. Filippelli had to collate all of their information for the final reports in addition to completing Scituate's own reports. Dr. Filippelli is happy to report that the state and federal reports have been successfully completed and uploaded to RIDE and to federalreporting.gov.

SOCIAL NETWORKING POLICY

Committee members received copies of the revised draft of the proposed Social Networking Policy. This item is listed under New Business for tonight's meeting. The revised draft is the result of a meeting with Tom Landry, Ruth Trainor, Keith Sanzen, David D'Agostino, and Dr. Filippelli on December 2 where input was elicited from the teacher's union. David D'Agostino revised some of the language that was of concern to the teachers.

Ms. Trainor stated Mr. Landry currently is out on paternity leave.

MONTHLY ACTIVITIES

Committee members received copy of monthly activities.

Mrs. Archambault asked for a description of Exchange City of Rhode Island.

Dr. Filippelli stated Scituate was involved in this program for a few years. During the first two years, the program was great and was good for the Social Studies curriculum. Dr. Filippelli pointed out that during that time, Exchange City New Hampshire was training and implementing Exchange City Rhode Island.

Beginning in the third year, the feedback Dr. Filippelli received was that it has been poorly organized. Typically, the teachers incorporate the program into their instruction, step back and Exchange City staff interacts with the students within 'the city.' However, the last time Scituate participated, the Exchange City staff did not interact and were incompetent requiring Scituate teachers and parent volunteers to step in and assist.

At the request of a colleague, Dr. Filippelli met with the new Executive

Director of Exchange City. Dr. Filippelli described past experience to Executive Director stating if program hasn't changed, Scituate will not participate. Dr. Filippelli added the program also costs \$4,000 per grade (grades 6 and 7 participate).

Dr. Filippelli was told the program has been revamped and also now is aligned with the GLEs.

Chair Umbriano suggested Scituate come down and participate at no cost.

Mrs. Guglielmi asked how long the program runs. Mrs. Guglielmi attended a few years ago and stated at that time, the program was really good.

Dr. Filippelli stated Scituate participated for three years but the third year was disorganized.

60-13
SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

**RACE TO THE TOP
APPLICATION**

Drs. Lescault and Filippelli attended a meeting with Commissioner Gist on December 17, 2009 at which Commissioner Gist discussed the option of district participation in the Rhode Island's "Race to the Top" application. The state is applying for approximately \$100,000,000 of "Race to the Top" federal money to improve education in RI. Districts must choose and commit to one of three participation levels: (1) full participation (2) involvement or (3) no involvement beyond state mandated changes. District's seeking level 1 or 2 participation must sign a MOA (committee members received copies of MOA) outlining varying levels of commitment to the goals and activities in the application. Agreeing to participate represents a huge commitment to change education in RI over a four-year period. The superintendent must sign for the school department, the school committee chair for the school committee and the union president for the teachers association. Signed district applications are due at RIDE by January 8. RIDE's application to USDOE is due January 19. The Commissioner conceded the obvious, that the timeline is insane and that there is a multitude of details that are unknown at this time. However, the opportunity for Rhode Island is historic in its magnitude and Drs. Lescault and Filippelli believe the Scituate schools should capitalize on the opportunity for the district by offering to participate at level 1. The state teacher labor unions have advised union presidents not to sign the district applications at this time. RIDE is actively working with them to revise the language in the MOA that the unions believe contradict their contracts. In any case, RIDE will accept applications without union president's signatures. The absence of that signature will weaken the probability of being chosen to participate, but will not eliminate it. Drs. Lescault and Filippelli will recommend that the committee authorize district participation in the Race to the Top application during New Business. There is no guarantee Scituate will be successful, but Drs. Lescault and Filippelli believe Scituate must at least make an effort to take advantage of this wonderful opportunity.

Mrs. Guglielmi asked how much money would be available for Scituate.

Dr. Lescault stated it would be approximately \$50 million distributed among the districts dependent upon number of districts participating, and size of districts. Roughly, however, Scituate could receive up to \$.5 million.

Mrs. Archambault asked what activities would be included.

Dr. Lescault replied activities include working on world class standards and

assessments, developing global curriculum, establishing state-wide mid-term assessments, professional development for teachers and administrators, data systems to support instruction.

Dr. Filippelli stated there is no money for Level III participation, only technical assistance from RIDE; only Levels I and II receive funds.

Chair Umbriano asked how Scituate can seek Level I without all three signatures.

Dr. Lescault stated the STA has been advised not to sign at this point due to language which may be contradictory to teachers' contract; however Commissioner stated applications will be accepted without STA President's signature though it won't be as powerful. Dr. Lescault and Ms. Trainor have discussed this and Ms. Trainor is in favor of the concept however the concern is some of the details.

Chair Umbriano stated Scituate should take attempt to obtain money and later work out the details. Those other states that provide three signatures will have stronger chance than Scituate.

Dr. Lescault stated an updated memorandum was provided to committee members earlier this evening as the Commissioner now wants districts to buy into specific activities. Initially, districts provided yes/no responses to activities based on interest.

Dr. Filippelli stated the Commissioner's revised memorandum indicates districts must select specific activities; it is not optional.

BUDGET

On December 18, 2009 Dr. Lescault mailed to the committee a first draft of a district expenditure budget for 2010-2011. (Committee members also received a copy of that document and the cover memo.) As noted in that memo, despite everyone's best efforts to minimize increases, the budget is up by \$430,233 or 2.0%. Town Treasurer Pryzbyla notified Dr. Lescault by telephone on December 17, 2009 that Dr. Lescault should not expect anything more than level funding from the town. If that is the position of the Town Council, the proposed school department budget will have to be reduced by \$430,233, plus any reduction in state aid. However, the school committee should adopt it or some form of it under New Business in preparation for the joint Town Council/school committee meeting on January 7.

TOWN COUNCIL/SCHOOL COMMITTEE BUDGET HEARING

Dr. Lescault stated the school committee is scheduled to meet with Town Council at 6:30 PM on Thursday, January 7 in the Town Council chambers to discuss the proposed school budget. (Committee members received a copy of the agenda.)

TUITION POLICY

Dr. Lescault stated Mr. LaPlante has revised the Student Attendance Policy #8000 to reflect the discussion of the committee at the December 1, 2009 meeting regarding tuition for non-resident students. (Committee members received copies of the revised policy.) The policy is recommended for a first reading under New Business.

Mr. LaPlante stated the non-resident student tuition payment paragraph was revised and the language concerning tuition refund was removed.

Mrs. Archambault asked if anything was added to the policy.

Mr. LaPlante replied no. Mr. LaPlante added discretionary power to the

school committee for a case-by-case basis.

BUILDING PROJECT

Dr. Lescault stated the building portion of the MS/HS project is substantially complete and students will be moved into the new rooms after the end of the first semester on January 25. The new parking lot has been delayed, likely until the Spring, due to a dispute with the site contractor and weather.

HEALTH CARE INSURANCE

Dr. Lescault previously reported Scituate's claims experience was very bad during the month of August yet has improved in each month since that point. Scituate has gone from about a \$90,000 deficit in the health care account for the current year, to a surplus of about \$80,000. The projected rate increase for FY2011 was based on the previous bad claims experience. If the current trend continues Scituate will be able to negotiate a much smaller increase than the 10% increase in 2010-2011 school district budget.

FOOD SERVICES

(Committee members received copies of a spreadsheet showing the monthly revenues and expenditures for the food service program.) Dr. Lescault stated that the program has operated at a deficit every month except October, with an accumulated year to date deficit of \$17,706. This is despite the best efforts of Dr. Lescault, Mrs. Umbriano and Aramark.

6th GRADE OVERAGES

Dr. Lescault stated to implement decision made, school department needs to add teacher to 6th grade to reduce class size. Dr. Lescault stated it is necessary to move ten (10) students from the Titan Team to the Olympian Team effective January 25. Principal Zajac will personally call each of the parents of the students to inform them of the change.

Based on variety of factors including Physical Education class assignment, band or chorus selection, special needs and elective rotation schedules. Principal Zajac and members of the team identified ten (10) students that can be moved. Therefore it'll be impossible to honor requests from parents not to move any of those ten (10) students.

Mrs. Archambault asked if there is anything negative about the move.

Dr. Lescault replied nothing.

Dr. Filippelli stated this has been done before. Typically, the phone call from the principal will address any concerns the parent may have.

Dr. Lescault stated interviews will be held on Thursday and a new teacher is expected to be in place by January 25. Drs. Lescault and Filippelli also met with the STA and the team and it was decided this was the best time to implement change.

Mrs. Archambault stated there is a lot going on at that time.

MONTHLY ACTIVITIES

Dr. Lescault provided list of monthly activities to committee members.

**60-14
PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Ruth Trainor Trim Town Road (STA President)

Ms. Trainor will be attending a meeting on January 12 regarding Race to the Top. Ms. Trainor is staying informed on this topic. The state organization has suggested union presidents not sign because currently, there are pieces that are in violation of the contract.

Chair Umbriano confirmed it is not just Scituate, Rhode Island.

Ms. Trainor stated in places like Massachusetts and New Hampshire, those states have adopted language more contract-friendly and that's what the organizations are looking at Rhode Island to do. Ms. Trainor is trying to do what is best for the system and Ms. Trainor is also in constant contact with Drs. Lescault and Filippelli regarding what needs to be done.

George Kuzmowycz Esek Hopkins Road

Regarding tuition policy, Mr. Kuzmowycz understands changes are with respect to tuition however there is a bias with respect to the admission policy. Referring to the age of entrance, Mr. Kuzmowycz recalled earlier discussions allowing for some exceptions and asked current position of school department and Kindergarten admission (allowing admission earlier).

Dr. Lescault stated there was a series of tests Dr. Stringfellow reviewed at that meeting. Dr. Lescault does not recall the details but can provide those for Mr. Kuzmowycz.

Mr. LaPlante stated Dr. Stringfellow communicated to the committee that most of the parents who submit children for testing will be disappointed when their child does not meet required criteria for entrance.

Mr. Kuzmowycz discussed this at great length with Dr. Stringfellow at an earlier meeting. Mr. Kuzmowycz sees nothing in this current policy but believed there was an exception to the rule. Has that changed?

Mrs. Guglielmi recalled speaking with Dr. Stringfellow about a particular child and when it came time to run the battery of tests, Dr. Stringfellow stated the decision was made to not make exceptions and to allow admission entrance to Kindergarten based only on age (birthday) requirements.

Mr. LaPlante recalls an exception being discussed and remembers Dr. Stringfellow stating the school would be inundated with requests to run tests, which are also costly. Mr. LaPlante stated it is an entire process of testing which led to the decision of no exceptions. The committee can include some language within the policy that allows for consideration.

Mrs. Guglielmi asked if consideration was ever made previously when a birthday fell in January or February.

Mr. Kuzmowycz has tried to avoid personalizing situation during his attendance/communication. However there was a situation where an exception was not made for Mr. Kuzmowycz's son whose birthday at the time was two days over deadline despite appeals. However a year later (during which time there was a new principal and new assistant superintendent), the consensus was that an error was made which adversely affected a significant portion of Mr. Kuzmowycz's son's grade school experience and overflowed into high school and a series of complications. It can and did happen and the absence of exception was detrimental to the child for so many years. Things worked out in the end, but the ideal is to work things out in the beginning. Mr. Kuzmowycz realizes this isn't the reason the policy is up for discussion, but Mr. Kuzmowycz's position is that the committee may want to leave some door open.

Dr. Lescault will research whether there is a policy in place currently regarding age of entrance.

Mrs. Guglielmi stated the first reading of the policy is slated under New Business this evening.

Mr. LaPlante stated it is a serious issue and should be addressed but believes the committee can go forward with modifying the policy presented.

Regarding social networking policy, Mr. Kuzmowycz asked if there was another policy specifically for students as the policy described is geared toward staff.

Dr. Filippelli stated there is a separate policy for the students.

Mr. Kuzmowycz asked if it was a violation of policy if a teacher receives and reads a text message on cell phone during class. How do you distinguish between that and running Facebook application on iphone?

Dr. Filippelli stated the goal is to prevent the fraternization piece. Dr. Filippelli would like teachers, coaches, advisors, etc. to be able to use Facebook and Twitter. However it can't be something that is going to disrupt the school environment. There are several policies for students within the student handbook; this policy would be strictly for staff.

Mr. Kuzmowycz asked if this was something the committee felt needed to be addressed by policy rather than educational opportunity.

Dr. Filippelli stated as the technology becomes more pervasive and is used even more, there are more opportunities for teachers and staff to use them in the classroom moving forward. Dr. Filippelli wanted to ensure there was some guidance as teachers did this.

In the interest of finding potential savings in the budget, Mr. Kuzmowycz stated the committee is proposing to spend \$55,000 per year on a position (Resource Officer) that some feel is unnecessary for several reasons. Mr. Kuzmowycz stated this sends a message that the school doesn't trust the students and Mr. Kuzmowycz believes that is destructive. Also, this was a grant-funded position initially and it was discussed that when the grant ended, this position would be reviewed to determine if the school's budget should pick it up. Mr. Kuzmowycz hasn't seen such a review to determine what would happen if the position were to be eliminated.

Mrs. Archambault stated Chair Marcure reviewed this position last year and all members of the school committee do support this position.

Mr. Kuzmowycz stated all of the school committee members may support this position but not all of the taxpayers which some may remember from prior Town Financial Meetings. Mr. Kuzmowycz stated it may be a good exercise for someone to run an election campaign on this.

Mr. LaPlante asked Mr. Kuzmowycz to clarify position on the position of resource officer.

Mr. Kuzmowycz stated having armed officer within schools tells the students the school does not trust them. It appears that the Chief of Police agrees with Mr. Kuzmowycz as Mr. Kuzmowycz read a quote from Chief of Police reported in the Providence Journal "you can't have fire arms on school grounds." The Chief of Police was responding to something regarding the Scituate Arts Festival part of which was on school grounds. Mr. Kuzmowycz stated the needs this resource officer is fulfilling can be filled by educators or guidance department, not law enforcement. This is also a salaried item over

which the school department has no control. The salary increase proposed for next year is 1.6% however this position is subject to police increase.

Dr. Lescault will confirm salary increase but the numbers were provided by the Scituate Police Department.

Mr. LaPlante stated the police have their own contract.

Mrs. Archambault stated last year all unions within the school and across town agreed to a pay freeze. The school committee is getting a letter from Town Council requesting level funding.

Mr. Kuzmowycz would prefer to see this money spent on a teacher, a guidance counselor or a librarian than on a police officer. Mr. Kuzmowycz feels this position was brought in under false pretenses as it was presented as a grant-funded position (for three years) and then we'll see what happens. However this position gets renewed each year (similar to a magazine subscription) without much thought.

Mrs. Archambault does not feel the position is renewed each year without much thought. The committee receives monthly reports from the resource officer and also spends time talking with teacher(s), students, school community and consistently hears positive feedback. This resource officer is very much a part of this community and Scituate is very lucky to have him. It is not something that just continues. There is communication that supports the committee's position.

Dr. Lescault stated every district administrator will state how critical this position is in terms of safety and tone of the school. Dr. Lescault greatly respects Mr. Kuzmowycz and his intelligence; however Dr. Lescault respectfully disagrees on this point.

Mr. Kuzmowycz agrees being in the minority on this issue but being in the minority does not mean being wrong. Mr. Kuzmowycz is certain there will not be a compromise on this and perhaps the only way to test this is in November and put the question to the taxpayers. This money would be better utilized elsewhere.

Mrs. Archambault believes this position saves money in the long run. The school would probably need to use services of attorneys, consultants, etc. Each school needs a resource officer.

60-15
NEW BUSINESS

1. **INITIAL APPROVAL OF 2010-2011 SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET**

See Superintendent's Report for detail on this item.

Recommendation: Adopt the budget or some form of it in preparation for the joint town council/school committee meeting on January 7.

Mrs. Archambault moved, seconded by Mr. LaPlante, to adopt the budget as presented by Dr. Lescault. The committee unanimously agreed.

2. **NON-RESIDENT STUDENTS – REVISED POLICY – FIRST READING**

See Superintendent's Report for detail on this item.

Recommendation: Approve the first reading of the revised policy.

Mrs. Guglielmi moved, seconded by Mrs. Archambault to approve the first reading of the revised policy as presented by Dr. Lescault. The committee unanimously agreed.

3. **RACE TO THE TOP PARTICIPATION**

See Superintendent's Report for detail on this item.

Recommendation: Authorize district participation in the Race to the Top application.

Mrs. Archambault moved, seconded by Dr. Klimaj, to authorize district participation in the Race to the Top application as presented by Dr. Lescault. The committee unanimously agreed.

4. **SOCIAL NETWORKING POLICY – FIRST READING**

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

Recommendation: Approve the first reading of the proposed policy.

Mr. LaPlante moved, seconded by Mrs. Archambault, to approve the first reading of the Social Networking Policy as presented by Dr. Filippelli. The committee unanimously agreed.

60-16

RESIGNATIONS/APPOINTMENTS/TRANSFERS

Dr. Lescault recommended approval of the following resignations:
Stephen Reed, Assistant Football Coach, effective December 21, 2009;
Christopher Bagley, Assistant Baseball Coach, effective immediately.

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

Dr. Lescault recommended approval of the following appointments:
Donna Pennacchia, Mathematics Department Chair; Deborah Johnson, part-time paraprofessional in ALC (17.5 hours/week), Scituate Middle/High School (Monday 7:15 AM-2:15 PM, Tuesday 7:15 AM-2:15 PM, Wednesday 7:15 AM-11:45 AM)

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

60-17

COMMITTEE REMARKS

MRS. GUGLIELMI

Mrs. Guglielmi congratulated Chair Umbriano on position and looks forward to working with her again.

CHAIR UMBRIANO

Chair Umbriano congratulated Mrs. Guglielmi on position of Clerk.

MRS. ARCHAMBAULT

Mrs. Archambault thanked Mr. Kuzmowycz for attendance, input and valuable feedback and for keeping the school committee on its toes.

BRIAN LAPLANTE

Mr. LaPlante stated nothing to report.

SCOTT KILMAJ

Dr. Klimaj wished all a happy new year.

60-18

DISCUSSION OF FUTURE BUSINESS

February 2 School Committee Meeting Town Hall Chambers

March 2 School Committee Meeting Town Hall Chambers

April 6 School Committee Meeting Town Hall Chambers

May 4 School Committee Meeting Town Hall Chambers

June 1 School Committee Meeting Town Hall Chambers

60-19

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. LaPlante moved, seconded by Mrs. Archambault to adjourn meeting at 9:00 PM. The Committee unanimously approved the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. Guglielmi, Clerk