

**SCITUATE SCHOOL COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 4, 2011  
TOWN HALL CHAMBERS**

**CALL TO ORDER**

**76-1**

The Regular School Committee Meeting was called to order by Chair Umbriano at 6:00PM.

Mr. LaPlante moved, seconded by Dr. Klimaj, to adjourn to executive Session RIGL 42-46-5(a)(8)(ii). The committee unanimously agreed.

The Regular School Committee meeting reconvened at 7:40 PM.

Present were Marylou Umbriano, Lillian Jean Delmonico, Brian LaPlante, June Guglielmi and Scott Klimaj. Also present were Paul Lescault, Superintendent, and Lawrence Filippelli, Assistant Superintendent.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**76-2**

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

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE REORGANIZATION**

**76-3**

Dr. Lescault stated at the beginning of each calendar year, there is a reorganization of member roles. Dr. Lescault asked for nominations for the position of Chair.

Mrs. Guglielmi moved, seconded by Dr. Klimaj, to nominate Chair Umbriano as Chair. The committee unanimously approved motion.

Chair Umbriano asked for nominations for the position of Clerk.

Dr. Klimaj moved, seconded by Mr. LaPlante for the position of Clerk. The committee unanimously approved motion.

Chair Umbriano stated school committee members were sworn in during the Inauguration Ceremony prior to meeting. Chair Umbriano also welcomed Lillian Jean Delmonico to the school committee.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**76-4**

Mrs. Guglielmi moved, seconded by Dr. Klimaj, to approve the minutes of the Regular School Committee Meeting of December 7, 2010. The committee unanimously approved the motion.

**CAPITAL RESERVE FUND**

**76-5**

Mrs. Guglielmi moved, seconded by Mrs. Delmonico, to approve the Capital Reserve Funds-Middle School/High School for the month of January in the amount of \$3,159.00. The Committee unanimously agreed.

**NEW BUDGET BILLS**

**76-6**

Mrs. Guglielmi moved, seconded by Dr. Klimaj, to approve the New Budget Bills for the month of January in the amount of \$457,402.38. The Committee unanimously approved the motion.

**GRANT BILLS**

**76-7**

Mrs. Guglielmi moved, seconded by Dr. Klimaj, to approve the Grant Bills for the month of January in the amount of \$89,657.31. The Committee unanimously approved the motion.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

**76-8**

1. A letter to Dr. Lescault from Todd and Jamie Delehant, stating intent to home school their children.
2. A letter to Dr. Lescault from Heeja and Richard Vanelli stating intent to home educate their daughter through the remainder of 2010.

3. A letter to the school committee from Michael Nehring, Head Cross Country Coach, requesting payment of ½ the salary of the assistant coach position in addition to the head coach salary.

Background: According to Paragraph C of the Extracurricular Pay Schedule (committee members received copies of Extracurricular Pay Schedule), “If the position of an assistant coach cannot be filled ... the school committee will consider allowing other coaches in that sport to cover that coaching assignment and be reimbursed up to ½ of the salary of the unfilled position.”

1. Recommendation for Correspondence #1 and #2: Approve the requests according to the terms and conditions established by RIDE and the school department.

Mr. LaPlante moved, seconded by Dr. Klimaj, to approve the requests according to the terms and conditions established by RIDE and the school department. The committee unanimously approved the motion.

2. Recommendation: Approve the payment.

Mr. LaPlante moved, seconded by Dr. Klimaj, to approve payment. The committee unanimously approved the motion.

#### **76-9**

#### **REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE LIAISONS**

BUDGET	Mr. LaPlante stated nothing to report.
CURRICULUM	Mrs. Guglielmi stated nothing to report.
FOOD SERVICES AND HEALTH/WELNNESS	Chair Umbriano stated nothing to report.
NEGOTIATIONS	Chair Umbriano stated nothing to report.
POLICY	Mrs. Guglielmi stated nothing to report.
RIASC	Chair Umbriano stated nothing to report.
SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION	Chair Umbriano stated nothing to report.
SCITUATE PREVENTION COALITION	Chair Umbriano stated the committee is meeting to write several grants to obtain funding for students.
BUILDING COMMITTEE	Mrs. Guglielmi stated nothing to report.
STRATEGIC PLANNING	Mrs. Guglielmi stated nothing to report.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

#### **76-10**

There is no unfinished business for the month of January.

#### **76-11**

#### **ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

#### **RACE TO THE TOP**

Dr. Filippelli attended a meeting at RIDE on 12/14 which was set to bring all assistant superintendents and curriculum directors up to speed with the progress of RTTT. The topics covered were the educator evaluation system, common core curriculum development, teacher certification and the new mentoring/induction program. RIDE will be rolling out training

sessions for administrators and teachers after the New Year.

**MATH CURRICULUM  
ARTICULATION AND  
PLANNING**

On December 15<sup>th</sup>, Dr. Filippelli held a superintendent's meeting in order to have the staff developer from Highlander Dunn Institute come in and train the grades 3-5 teachers on the use of the AimsWeb progress monitoring system. There are numerous other dates set up throughout the remainder of this year to complete this work.

**SCIENCE  
CURRICULUM  
ARTICULATION AND  
PLANNING**

Dr. Filippelli has been in weekly contact with EBEC, the building principals, and science content leaders about the upcoming professional development and curriculum articulation in science. EBEC will be helping to align the current science curriculum with state expectations and help to complete the K-12 gap analysis. Details are still being worked out on how to address the gaps in the curriculum, but at this point Scituate is moving in the direction of purchasing supplemental leveled readers to augment the work being done with the KITES kits.

**FEBRUARY 18<sup>TH</sup>  
PROFESSIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT**

Dr. Filippelli met with the elementary administrators on December 22<sup>nd</sup> to discuss professional development planning for the elementary schools. At this point Scituate will be focusing on math progress monitoring tools (Scituate will be using AimsWeb which is one of the progress monitoring tools used for reading at the elementary level). Scituate will also be using the day to have grade level discussions around math articulation. The Dunn Highlander Institute will facilitate the elementary professional development. At the high school, teachers will be reviewing and revising the mission statement of the school. This is a process that is done every few years and will be the expected work of the NEASC visit. In the afternoon, the high school will be engaged in work centered around writing articulation and common assessments in writing across grade levels. The middle school will also be completing continued work on writing articulation across grade levels as well as committee work involving the school improvement team, website revisions, faculty handbook revisions, and response to intervention. For the afternoon session, the middle school will be engaged in professional development on autism spectrum disorder and how to build school wide supports to address those students in all classes. Dr. Filippelli has asked Principal Zajac to use Scituate's own teachers (Michelle Hamill and Christine Connell) to run this professional development as they present around the state on the topic and are considered experts in the subject area.

**SENIORITY  
TEACHING  
ASSIGNMENT  
LANGUAGE**      **BASED**

On December 7<sup>th</sup>, Drs. Myers and Filippelli met with Ruth Trainor and NEARI attorney Tom Landry to talk about seniority based teaching assignment language. This work has been done in collaboration over the last year and we are nearing completion. Dr. Filippelli is personally very excited about this work because it addresses job fair language and puts a fairer, criterion and rubric based system in place to determine teacher placement when vacancies arise.

Chair Umbriano asked if the teachers vote on this to have language removed.

Ms. Trainor, President of the STA, stated the Executive Board is happy and the board has been through several drafts. Ms. Trainor stated the process has been very open and does not believe that will happen. These are for vacancies that occur due to layoffs; this is voluntary transfer language. A lot of the changes coming will be dictated by the Board of Regents staff which will deal with the 'bumping' which often comes with layoffs. Should a content coordinator, Department Chair position or new position (reading specialist, for example) be added, this is where this language will come into play. This process was very objective but at same time gave credit to people for hours beyond classroom such as professional development, advanced degrees, etc. Ms. Trainor stated this is very fair and noted teachers are paid for longevity and for advanced degrees, etc.

**MONTHLY  
ACTIVITIES**

Committee members received copies of activity reports for November and December.

**76-12**

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

**2011-2012 SCHOOL  
DISTRICT BUDGET**

(Committee members received copies of first draft of the expenditure portion of the district budget for 2011-2012.) Dr. Lescault stated it is up from 2010-2011 by \$410,270 or 1.9%. The increase is misleading because the budget includes \$237,100 for Improvements to Buildings and Grounds. No funds for that purpose were included in the 2010-2011 budget. Consequently, the proposed budget is artificially inflated by that amount. Dr. Lescault has included the \$237,100,

but would expect to remove it after the School Committee/Town Council Budget meeting on January 20. Dr. Lescault hopes that the council will agree to include the \$237,100 as part of a bond request to fund all town capital expenditures. If the \$237,100 is removed, the proposed budget will be up \$173,170 or .8%. This amount is even less than the 1% assumption used throughout the budget for potential salary increases. Dr. Lescault noted that charter and vocational school tuitions alone are up by \$192,854 (\$57,510 + \$135,344).

Dr. Lescault has not, at this time, provided the committee with a proposed revenue budget for 2011-2012. Dr. Lescault suspects the best that can be hoped for is level funding. However, at this time, no reliable information is available on state aid. If the new state aid formula for education is implemented and fully funded, state aid for Scituate will increase by about \$150,000. However, given the deficit the state is facing, that scenario is unlikely. Dr. Lescault also cannot guarantee that the district will be able to use \$1,152,000 of fund balance as revenue in 2011-2012, as it has in past years. As Dr. Lescault reported to the committee in November, the district's fund balance declined by \$765,000 during 2009-2010. That left a fund balance of \$1,390,101. If the 2010-2011 budget is fully expended, only \$238,101 (\$1,390,101 - \$1,152,000) of fund balance will be available to use as revenue in 2011-2012. That will create a revenue shortfall of \$913,899 (\$1,152,000 - \$238,101). Dr. Lescault's hope is that the district will end the 2010-2011 year with a balance sufficient to replace all or a large part of the \$1,152,000 currently being expended. Dr. Lescault stated the office is working on projecting expenditures and revenues to develop an estimate of that balance, but that work is not yet complete. The process is normally complex and difficult because of the many unknowns. It is particularly challenging this year because of the ARRA, Education Jobs Fund and IDEA funds that are involved and were used to backfill typically unrestricted state aid.

Dr. Lescault stated that while the district budget will likely undergo significant revisions as more and better information becomes available, 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 20.

**TOWN  
COUNCIL/SCHOOL  
COMMITTEE BUDGET  
MEETING**

Dr. Lescault informed the committee on December 8, 2010, the Town Council has scheduled a joint Town Council/School Committee for Thursday, January 20, 2011 at 7:00 PM to discuss the school department budget for 2011-2012. (Committee members received copies of the agenda.)

**SCHEDULE OF  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
MEETINGS FOR 2011**

(Committee members received copies of proposed calendar.) Dr. Lescault stated scheduled for consideration under New Business is a proposed calendar of school committee meetings for 2011. The calendar follows the established practice of meeting the first Tuesday of each month. The only exception for 2011 is August. School Committee Chair Umbriano tentatively agreed that the committee would meet that month on the third Tuesday rather than the first, to accommodate Dr. Lescault's travel plans.

**BREATHALYZER  
POLICY**

The school committee asked me to investigate instituting a Breathalyzer Policy. A proposed policy from Mike Sollitto and David Sweet, written after researching other school department's Breathalyzer policies was presented (committee members received copies). It has been reviewed by legal counsel, David D'Agostino. Dr. Lescault is providing it to the committee at the January meeting for informational purposes only. A first and second reading of it will be scheduled and advertised for the February and March school committee meetings.

Chair Umbriano asked that a copy be provided to the public attendees as well as to the members of SADD. Chair Umbriano also noted several SADD members who attended the SPC meeting requested the breathalyzer policy and asked Jimmy Scacco, who was in attendance and also a SADD member, to provide a copy of the policy to SADD.

Dr. Lescault stated it will only be used in case of reasonable suspicion or where there is evidence of alcohol use in a variety of objective criteria at which point an administrator and not the police would administer test.

Chair Umbriano stated the SADD students who brought this request to SPC felt it was a tool they could use to say no with support of this policy without feeling peer pressure.

Mr. LaPlante asked who will administer tests.

Dr. Lescault stated a trained administrator onsite at the event. Dr. Lescault added Mr. D'Agostino is in process of ensuring all equipment and policies are in compliance.

Dr. Klimaj asked what happens when someone tests positive. Is the Scituate School Department required to report it to the police?

Dr. Lescault replied no, but school policy will be followed. A student will not be allowed to drive if s/he tests positive. However, if a student was found distributing drugs, etc. police would be notified.

**DISPOSITION OF  
UNUSABLE SCHOOL  
SUPPLIES**

Principal Zajac requested disposition of certain English books that no longer align with the curriculum and have not been used for some time (committee members received copy of request). The disposition was authorized by Dr. Lescault per school committee direction.

**MONTHLY  
ACTIVITIES**

Committee members received copies of monthly activities for the months of November and December.

**BUILDING AND  
GROUNDS**

Committee members received copies of a list of the activities Steve Gormley and Jay Gaisor have been working on during the months of November and December.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**76-13**

**George Kuzmowycz Esek Hopkins Road**

Mr. Kuzmowycz reminded the committee when reconvening after Executive Session the committee must announce to the public what occurred in Executive Session and under what RI General Law.

Mr. LaPlante stated the committee indicated it was entering into Executive Session RIGL 42-46-5(a)(8)(ii) at the start of the regular committee meeting (at 6 PM) and it is a courtesy to do so again.

Mr. Kuzmowycz stated he was not here at 6 PM and it has been done that way for the past fifteen years.

Mr. LaPlante stated the purpose of the Executive Session was to discuss the privacy of student and student records.

Referring to (Building and Grounds) Improvements in the budget, Mr. Kuzmowycz stated cost for mulching playground has increased and asked if these improvements should be in upkeep as it is a consumable expense. Mr. Kuzmowycz asked the advantage or disadvantage of placing it in Improvements.

Dr. Lescault stated the town receives a 30% reimbursement for Improvements. Mulching at each of the schools is approximately \$500.

Mr. LaPlante stated it is a good faith basis that mulch is protecting the playgrounds for multiple years.

Regarding certified pensions and the fact they are chronologically underfunded, Mr. Kuzmowycz stated Dr. Lescault overestimated what was budgeted last year so maybe there is an improvement budget to budget but Scituate actually has to pay whatever it is Scituate needs to pay so in terms of real dollars, Scituate will be paying more in the coming year than did last year. Mr. Kuzmowycz asked Dr. Lescault, what portion, for instance, of what you propose to add to surplus, was a result of fact that you over budgeted the pension account. Does that work against you to build up surplus again?

Dr. Lescault replied no, because for the current budget year, the amount to be spent for pensions was heavily over budgeted so that line item will have a balance of \$300,000 which can be returned to the fund balance.

Mr. Kuzmowycz stated Scituate is faced with increased expenditures next year for pension contribution in which case isn't that a wash.

Dr. Lescault replied yes. Dr. Lescault stated the number may not be exact but it reduced the amount used for this year as Dr. Lescault expected the number to increase but it decreased because it was so over budgeted in the last year.

Mr. Kuzmowycz stated they key point in presentation to Town Council is budget over budget versus budget over actual.

Referring to the position of resource officer, Mr. Kuzmowycz hasn't seen a cost benefit analysis (positive or negative) especially in the times when everyone is looking for ways to save money. Eliminating the position could save the school \$60,000.

Dr. Lescault replied not at the cost of the safety of the students. It is not a quantitative analysis.

Dr. Kuzmowycz will wait until the public reading of the breathalyzer policy. Whether the students request this or not, does not necessitate providing it to them.

Dr. Lescault stated many schools require all students to be tested prior to entering an event with which Dr. Lescault disagrees as it conveys a message of distrust to the students.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**76-14**

1. **SCHEDULE OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETINGS – CALENDAR 2011**

See Superintendent's Report for detail on this item.

Recommendation: Accept the schedule of meeting dates.

Mr. LaPlante moved, seconded by Dr. Klimaj to accept the schedule of meeting dates including the modification of the August meeting. The committee unanimously approved motion.

Mrs. Guglielmi asked if the meeting of July 5 could be moved to July 12.

Mr. LaPlante moved, seconded by Dr. Klimaj to modify the schedule of meeting dates including the modifications of the July and August meetings. The committee unanimously approved the motion.

2. **INITIAL APPROVAL OF 2011-2012 SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET**

See Superintendent's Report for detail on this item.

Recommendation: Adopt the budget or some form of it.

Mr. LaPlante moved, seconded by Dr. Klimaj to adopt the proposed budget as presented. The committee unanimously approved motion.

**RESIGNATIONS/  
APPOINTMENTS/  
REAPPOINTMENTS/  
TRANSFERS/NON-  
RENEWALS/LAYOFFS**

**76-15**

Dr. Lescault recommended the following resignation for approval:  
Chuck Entwistle, Middle School Girls' Soccer Coach, effective at the end of the regular season

Mr. LaPlante moved, seconded by Dr. Klimaj to approve the resignation. The committee unanimously agreed.

Dr. Lescault recommended the following appointments for approval:  
Diane D'Orazio, Teacher Assistant, After School Homework Club, North Scituate School, for the period January 6 through April 14; Dina DeCristofaro, Reading Support Program, Scituate Middle School; Dawn Hartman, part-time (17 hours/week – Wednesday (10:30-2:30), Thursday (7:30-2:30) and Friday (7:30-2:30) Paraprofessional, Scituate Middle School, effective January 12, 2011.

Mr. LaPlante moved, seconded by Dr. Klimaj to approve the appointments. The committee unanimously agreed.

**76-16**

**COMMITTEE REMARKS**

**MRS. DELMONICO**

Mrs. Delmonico thanked everyone for their vote and stated she will let not the voters down. The number one reason the committee is here is for the children.

**MRS. GUGLIELMI**

Mrs. Guglielmi enjoyed seeing Ms. Shannon Donovan receiving award for Teacher of the Year. Mrs. Guglielmi also welcomed Lillian Jean Delmonico to the school committee and wished everyone a Happy New Year.

**DR. KLIMAJ**

Dr. Klimaj wished everyone a Happy New Year.

**MR. LAPLANTE**

Mr. LaPlante welcomed Lillian Jean Delmonico to the school committee.

**CHAIR UMBRIANO**

Chair Umbriano stated the Food Service and Health and Wellness committees have been combined. Starting this month, parents will be invited once per month to eat lunch with their children. Clayville parents will be coming in on January 11.

Ms. Scacco, co-chair of SPC, asked if the seating capacity will adhere to fire code.

Chair Umbriano replied it will. Chair Umbriano added it will be rotate by grade starting with Grade 5. Faculty will also be available. During art class, students will be making special placemats for the event(s) as well.

**DISCUSSION OF  
FUTURE BUSINESS**

**76-17**

February 1 School Committee Meeting  
March 1 School Committee Meeting  
April 5 School Committee Meeting  
May 3 School Committee Meeting  
June 7 School Committee Meeting

**ADJOURNMENT**

**76-18**

Mr. LaPlante moved, seconded by Dr. Klimaj to adjourn meeting at 8:30. The Committee unanimously approved the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. Guglielmi, Clerk