

**SCITUATE SCHOOL COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING  
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2011  
HOPE SCHOOL**

**CALL TO ORDER**

**90-1**

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

Dr. Klimaj moved, seconded by Mr. LaPlante, to move into Executive Session RIGL 42-46 -5(a) 2. The committee unanimously approved motion.

The regular school committee meeting reconvened at 6:35 PM.

Present were Marylou Umbriano, Brian LaPlante, and Scott Klimaj. Also present were Paul Lescault, Superintendent, and Lawrence Filippelli, Assistant Superintendent.

Not present were Lillian Jean Delmonico and June Guglielmi.

Chair Umbriano stated Executive Session RIGL 42-46-5(a)2 discussion related to upcoming custodian negotiations.

**TOUR OF HOPE  
SCHOOL**

**90-2**

Principal Mowry and Steve Gormley, Director of Buildings and Grounds, provided an overview of Hope School showing recent improvements as well as deficiencies which need to be addressed during the next budget cycle.

**PLEDGE OF  
ALLEGIANCE**

**90-3**

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

**APPROVAL OF  
MINUTES**

**90-4**

Dr. Klimaj moved, seconded by Mr. LaPlante, to approve the minutes of the Executive Session of October 4, 2011.

Dr. Klimaj moved, seconded by Mr. LaPlante, to approve the minutes of the Regular School Committee Meeting of October 4, 2011.

**CAPITAL RESERVE  
FUND**

**90-5**

Dr. Klimaj moved, seconded by Mr. LaPlante, to approve the Capital Reserve Funds – Building Improvement Fund for the month of November in the amount of \$8,626.80. The Committee unanimously agreed.

**NEW BUDGET BILLS**

**90-6**

Dr. Klimaj moved, seconded by Mr. LaPlante, to approve the New Budget Bills for the month of November in the amount of \$628,660.09. The Committee unanimously approved the motion.

**GRANT BILLS**

**90-7**

Dr. Klimaj moved, seconded by Mr. LaPlante, to approve the Grant Bills for the month of November in the amount of \$43,583.34. The Committee unanimously approved the motion.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

**90-8**

There is no correspondence for the month of November.

**90-9**

There is no correspondence for the month of November.

**90-10**

**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE LIAISONS**

BUDGET	Mr. LaPlante stated nothing to report.
CURRICULUM	Dr. Klimaj stated nothing to report.
FOOD SERVICES AND HEALTH/WELNNESS NEGOTIATIONS	Mrs. Delmonico was not present. Mr. LaPlante stated custodian negotiations will be occurring soon.
POLICY	Dr. Klimaj stated nothing to report.
RIASC	Mr. LaPlante stated nothing to report.
SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION	Chair Umbriano stated the Manning Field project has been approved and is moving forward.
SPECIAL EDUCATION	Mrs. Delmonico was not present.
SCHOLARSHIP FUND	Mrs. Guglielmi was not present.
STRATEGIC PLANNING SCITUATE PREVENTION COALITION	Mrs. Guglielmi was not present. Chair Umbriano stated nothing to report.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**90-11**

There is no unfinished business for the month of November.

**90-12**

**ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

**OCTOBER 7 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY FOLLOW UP**

Dr. Filippelli is happy to report that the October 7 professional development day with the teachers was a success. With the help of the building principals, Dr. Filippelli was able to convey to all of the teachers in the district, the expectations surrounding the new teacher evaluation model. Scituate is in the gradual implementation year and Dr. Filippelli stressed that to the teachers in my opening address to them. Dr. Filippelli thanked Dr. Sollitto, Mr. Byerlee, and Mr. Zajac for helping with the presentation. Having all of the district teachers hear the same message from district and building administrators was very powerful in helping to calm some of the nervousness surrounding the new evaluation model. The principals reported later in the day that the other professional initiatives planned (electronic report card training, autism support training, NEASC committee work, writing strategies, and providing time for teachers to complete their evaluation self assessments) were also successful as the day was rounded out.

**COLLABORATIVE LEARNING FOR OUTCOMES**

Dr. Filippelli wished to explain the CLO (Collaborative Learning for Outcomes) process that RIDE is undertaking as a part of Race to the Top. RIDE has hired an outside consulting firm to spend time in each district of the state to determine their readiness for implementation of Race to The Top. Basically, this is a requirement that RIDE has to be part of as a result of them taking the Race to the Top monies. Scituate had its first meeting in August and the second meeting was on October 26<sup>th</sup>. Maureen Kennedy (STA President) and Bryan Byerlee (Dr. Filippelli's RTTT team leader) attended the session with Dr. Filippelli. These sessions are held so that the outside consulting firm hired by RIDE can assess barriers to RTTT implementation. In Dr. Filippelli's dealings with them, they have been very receptive to the feedback (both positive and negative) from the

districts that are bound to RTTT regulations.

**DISTRICT READING  
COMMITTEE**

On October 26<sup>th</sup>, Dr. Filippelli held a district reading committee meeting. One of his goals for this meeting was to assess district reading data longitudinally going back to 2002. Dr. Filippelli wanted to assess the effectiveness of the reading program. By analyzing student reading data and tracking them through grade 8, Dr. Filippelli will be able to determine what component of the reading programs are working and which aren't. Dr. Filippelli is currently in the middle of assessing this data and will be able to report on it more accurately next month.

**MONTHLY  
ACTIVITIES**

Dr. Filippelli provided committee members with a copy of monthly activities for the month of October.

Regarding the dip in cores in standard testing discussed at the last meeting and the affected students being 'flagged', Mr. LaPlante asked if upcoming teachers have received information.

Dr. Filippelli stated a discussion was held with the principals and all are working with the teachers in the 4<sup>th</sup> grade across the board to ensure there are no issues.

Ms. Mowry, Principal of Hope School, stated it will tie-in to the Collaborative which is coming to Scituate. Ms. Mowry stated when looking across the board, it appears the most difficulty with most children is in inquiry. The content is pretty well-understood. The Collaborative will work on curriculum as well as do model lessons in one 4<sup>th</sup> grade class and one 5<sup>th</sup> grade class in three different rounds so that teachers can watch them and then will have time to meet with the facilitators before and after the lessons.

Mrs. Mowry added Mrs. Napolitano, a 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, is working with the rest of the Science team to identify inquiry pieces from NECAP and administer at different times of year so children will have many opportunities to work on questions of that type for good practice. Not only will scores improve, but also it provides skills children need to be good scientists.

**90-13**

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

**Audit Report**

(Committee members received copies of the finalized Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for Scituate.) It is identical to the draft report Dr. Lescault provided to the committee in October. Consequently, Dr. Lescault's summary and analysis of it is unchanged. As of March 31, 2011 the school district had an accumulated unrestricted fund balance of \$1,541,809, an increase of \$151,708. The increase is the result of expenditures of \$1,854,752 less than budgeted. It is not the result of excess revenues, which were actually \$551,044 less than budgeted. Overall the financial condition of the district remains good.

**Assistant Bookkeeper**

49 applications were received for the assistant bookkeeper position. Drs. Lescault, Filippelli and Mrs. Geary screened the applications and selected 6 candidates for interviews. Two of those six applicants were invited for a second interview, in which Chair Umbriano participated. The recommendation was a unanimous decision. Assuming the committee approves Dr. Lescault's recommendation of the appointment, the new hire will begin no later than November 7.

Chair Umbriano asked if a letter is sent to applicants who do not receive an interview.

Dr. Lescault stated those applicants who submitted application via School Spring received a typed response via School Spring. Those who came in for an interview

received a formal letter and the finalists received a phone call.

Chair Umbriano thanked Dr. Lescault for addressing the bookkeeping issue so quickly and stated Mrs. Geary fits into this new position so nicely. The transition made the most sense as Mrs. Geary would be providing training for this position.

Dr. Lescault stated Mrs. Geary has worked for the school department for 40 years.

**Transportation**

Drs. Lescault, Filippelli, Myers and Chair Umbriano have met on two occasions with representatives of First Student to discuss the rate for field and athletic trips. The committee authorized this team at the last school committee meeting to seek proposals from other vendors if they were unable to negotiate more favorable rates with First Student. First Student subsequently agreed to reduce the rate per mile for these trips from \$3.00 to \$2.25 and rate for driver time from \$23.25 to \$20.00. However, on October 21 Dr. Lescault received what was perceived as a verbal commitment to provide additional relief. However, Dr. Lescault's analysis of the new offer of a flat rate of \$45/hour with no mileage indicates it is a step backwards. The team has shared that and their disappointment with First Student and asked to continue this discussion with them. (Committee members received copies of analysis.)

**Parking**

Dr. Lescault stated twenty contractors have requested bid specification packets for the new bus parking lot. November 2 is the deadline for bids. All work must be completed prior to December 1.

**Evaluation Training**

Drs. Lescault and Filippelli attended the second module of training on the new state evaluation system for principals. It is geared to superintendents, assistant superintendents and anyone who will be tasked with evaluating principals. Principals are currently engaged in self assessment. Drs. Lescault and Filippelli will be meeting with them in early November to discuss goals and establish a timeline for visitations.

**MONTHLY ACTIVITIES**

Dr. Lescault provided committee members with a copy of activities for the month of October.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**90-14**

**George Kuzmowycz Esek Hopkins Road**

Mr. Kuzmowycz asked Chair Umbriano to state for the record that there are enough committee members for a quorum.

Chair Umbriano replied yes.

Mr. Kuzmowycz asked for a copy of the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for Scituate.

Chair Umbriano provided a copy for Mr. Kuzmowycz.

**Jan Mowry, Principal, Hope Elementary School**

Ms. Mowry welcomed everyone to Hope and stated it is always a treat to host the committee meetings.

**Joanne Derosier, STA Member**

Mrs. Derosier stated the retirement issue is becoming exponentially greater each day and wondered if the town has thought about the fact that there are potentially 90 top step teachers within the district which is a substantial financial burden for the town. In addition, medical benefits must be covered. Teaching until the age of 67, there is a greater likelihood

that one will have a long-term illness and will require a long-term financial commitment. Mrs. Derosier is uncertain if the response would come from the town or from the committee, but the STA could really use the support of the school committee.

Chair Umbriano attended every meeting (at the state house or encouraged by Representative Marcello) and agreed it is very upsetting and offered her support.

Mrs. Derosier stated her plan was to retire at age 62 but now will be working until age 67.

Chair Umbriano stated there may be some teachers who choose to leave now because they do not wish to stay until they are age 62.

Dr. Filippelli stated it depends upon whether the teacher is under Plan A or Plan B.

Mrs. Derosier added with 90 teachers at top stop pay it is a pretty big burden for the town. At the same time, do you want someone who is 67 teaching a class?

**NEW BUSINESS**

**90-15**

There is no New Business for the month of November.

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

**90-16**

Dr. Lescault recommended the following appointments for approval: Jason Rivard, Jazz Band Director; Rhonda Podmaska, 12.5 hour Paraprofessional, Hope Elementary School; Monday-Wednesday 9:50 AM-2:30 PM; Jamie Grisson, 11.5 Paraprofessional, Hope Elementary School; Wednesday 8:30 AM-2:45 PM and Thursday 8:15 AM-2:30 PM; Stephen Rocco, School Based Coordinator; Ashley Cinquegrana, Competitive Cheerleading Volunteer Coach; Patrick Morgan, Middle School Boys Soccer Head Coach; Stephanie Carlu, Girls Volleyball Assistant Coach; Dianne Freedman, Bookkeeper Assistant, effective 11/7/2011; Robert Enright, Middle School Baseball Volunteer Coach

Dr. Klimaj moved, seconded by Mr. LaPlante to approve appointments as set forth on the appointment list. The committee unanimously agreed.

Dr. Lescault recommended the following transfers for approval: Carol Geary, from Superintendent's Secretary to Bookkeeper, effective 9/30/2011

Dr. Klimaj moved, seconded by Mr. LaPlante to approve transfers as set forth on the appointment list. The committee unanimously agreed.

**90-17**

**COMMITTEE REMARKS**

**MRS. DELMONICO**

Mrs. Delmonico stated nothing to report.

**MRS. GUGLIELMI**

Mrs. Guglielmi stated nothing to report.

**DR. KLIMAJ**

Dr. Klimaj stated nothing to report.

**MR. LAPLANTE**

Mr. LaPlante stated nothing to report.

**CHAIR UMBRIANO**

Chair Umbriano a great time was held by everyone at Hope with the New England Patriots' Gronkowski brothers.

Mrs. Mowry added it was a really nice tie-in with the character traits Hope School has been working on for the past year. It was a great opportunity for the children to see these people

focused on volunteerism.

Chair Umbriano stated the Mission Wolf presentation was an amazing presentation. It was a great reward for all of the students for performing so well on their NECAP tests. Chair Umbriano thanked Principal Zajac for helping to bring the program to Scituate.

Chair Umbriano announced the 8<sup>th</sup> grade dance this year will be held on June 1. The teachers asked if students can sign contracts in March rather than later in the school year.

Mrs. Mowry added the Harvest Fest will be held next Wednesday at Clayville School. Grades 4 and 5 will be traveling to honor their work. The Clayville PTO and North Scituate PTO generously donated the bus for the trip.

**DISCUSSION OF  
FUTURE BUSINESS**

**90-18**

December 6 School Committee Meeting **to be held at Clayville School**

January 3 School Committee Meeting

February 7 School Committee Meeting

June 1 – Grade 8 Dance

**ADJOURNMENT**

**90-19**

Mr. LaPlante moved, seconded by Dr. Klimaj to adjourn meeting at 7:35 PM. The Committee unanimously approved the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. Guglielmi, Clerk