

**SCITUATE SCHOOL COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 13, 2012
TOWN HALL CHAMBERS**

CALL TO ORDER

98-1

The School Committee Meeting was called to order by Chair Umbriano at 6:10 PM.

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

The regular school committee meeting reconvened at 7:00 PM.

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

98-2

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

98-3

Mrs. Guglielmi moved, seconded by Mrs. Delmonico, to approve the minutes of the Executive Session of February 7, 2011.

Mrs. Guglielmi moved, seconded by Mrs. Delmonico, to approve the minutes of the Regular School Committee Meeting of February 7, 2011.

CAPITAL RESERVE FUND

98-4

Mrs. Guglielmi moved, seconded by Mrs. Delmonico, to approve the Capital Reserve Funds –School Improvements for the month of March in the amount of \$4,141.13. The Committee unanimously agreed.

GENERAL FUND

98-5

Mrs. Guglielmi moved, seconded by Mrs. Delmonico, to approve The General Fund for month of March in the amount of \$545,318.21. The Committee unanimously approved motion.

GRANT BILLS

98-6

Mrs. Guglielmi moved, seconded by Mrs. Delmonico, to approve Grant Bills for month of March in the amount of \$82,326.29. The Committee unanimously approved motion.

CORRESPONDENCE

98-7

1. A letter to the Superintendent from Mr. and Mrs. Rene Theroux informing him of their intent to home school their daughter Amber effective March 15, 2012.

98-8

Recommendation: Approve request according to policies and procedures established by RIDE and school department.

Dr. Klimaj moved, seconded by Mr. LaPlante, to approve the request according to policies and procedures established by RIDE and school department. The committee unanimously approved motion.

98-9

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE LIAISONS

BUDGET	Mr. LaPlante stated Dr. Lescault will discuss proposed modifications during the Superintendent's Report.
CURRICULUM	Dr. Klimaj stated nothing to report.
FOOD SERVICES AND HEALTH/WELNNESS NEGOTIATIONS	Chair Umbriano stated Dr. Lescault will discuss during Superintendent's Report. Mr. LaPlante stated the committee is currently in negotiations with custodians and then will begin negotiations with paraprofessionals. Dr. Lescault stated a meeting should be scheduled with paraprofessionals sometime in April.
POLICY	Dr. Klimaj stated nothing to report.
RIASC	Dr. Klimaj attended RIASC meeting hosted by RI College which reviewed common core standards. One topic discussed was potential passing of \$20 million revenue bond for technology and another was proposal to move teacher layoff notification from March 1 to June 1 (Senator DiPalma and Representatives Jackson and Brien). Dr. Klimaj stated there was also discussion surrounding possibility of students being asked to pay for various activities, including sports as well as out-of-district bussing for private schools (with exception of special needs students).
SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION SPECIAL EDUCATION	Chair Umbriano stated Dr. Lescault will discuss during the Superintendent's Report. Mrs. Delmonico stated nothing to report.
SCHOLARSHIP FUND	Mrs. Guglielmi stated the scholarship committee is working hard to obtain additional scholarships this year. However, there are still a number of scholarships that have not been claimed. (Scholarships are received after student completes semester in good standing and also retains full-time status.) If the funds are not claimed within the next month, the monies will revert back to the general fund. Mrs. Guglielmi stated the scholarship committee would like to establish a link on the (high school) web site for students and/or parents to access applications and additional information. Chair Umbriano asked about current application process. Mrs. Guglielmi stated each student must submit application and also can contact the Guidance Department got additional information as well.
STRATEGIC PLANNING	Mrs. Guglielmi stated nothing to report.
SCITUATE PREVENTION PARTNERSHIP	Chair Umbriano stated the SPP has tentatively scheduled the crash demo at the high school for May 17. The crash will take place during a school day assembly and a Q& A will take place in the auditorium following demo. Chair Umbriano added it will be mandatory for any student wishing to attend the prom to attend.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

98-10

There is no unfinished business for the month of March.

98-11

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

NECAP ANALYSIS

(Committee members received copies of NECAP data analysis from the Fall 2011 testing window.) Dr. Filippelli has compared the proficiency levels across four years. When you do a direct comparison of proficiency levels, (for example Grade 7 Reading went up by 10% from 2010 in the proficient with distinction category) this is an indicator of how this year's cohort of students compared to last year's cohort of students with essentially the same teachers and instruction. Dr. Filippelli has noted as in previous year's analysis, in the areas of below proficient and partially proficient, a decrease in percentage points in levels 1 and 2 is desired. This means that students are moving into the proficient and proficient with distinction categories and shows that the numbers are decreasing in the partially proficient and substantially below proficient categories.

To truly get a representation of increases or decreases in proficiency by each grade, you need to look at percentage point increase or decrease from the year prior. For example, if you look at Grade 6 reading in the proficient with distinction category, you will see a 23% increase from last year's students to this year's students. Dr. Filippelli has realized significant grade level increases all throughout the district. There are pockets in each school where some scores show slight percentage decreases, but they are fairly minor. By and large, across the district, teachers are moving greater percentages of the students out of levels 2 and 1 (partially proficient and substantially below proficient respectively) and into levels 3 and 4 (proficient and proficient with distinction respectively).

In Dr. Filippelli's opinion, the most important analysis comes from looking at the data page entitled *Total Proficiency Analysis for October Testing 2011*. This page provides a snapshot of each of the grades broken up by Reading, Mathematics, and Writing over a four year span. This page indicates the "big picture" of where the students are currently compared to prior year cohorts. Additionally, this year, Dr. Filippelli has added in the state level proficiencies to get an accurate representation of gains as compared to the state average in each of those three areas. While the averages are much higher than the state averages, as always, there are some areas Dr. Filippelli believes Scituate can improve. The professional development work being done across the district in mathematics with the Dunn Highlander Institute is working in all schools. Areas of improvement on which Dr. Filippelli would like to focus include middle and high school writing in grades 8 and 11 and also high school math in grade 11. Dr. Filippelli believes that the long-range professional development plans he set in place going back to 2009 are beginning to pay off. The teachers have been involved in more holistic and grassroots PD. Outside consultants guide the work, but the talent of the teachers is what is driving the curriculum and thereby increasing student achievement. Drs. Filippelli and Lescault are very proud of the results from the testing this Fall. Dr. Filippelli believes in the power of the administrative team and the support from the School Committee that goes along with it!

**2/17
PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT
DAY**

Dr. Filippelli stated the district-wide professional development day for all district teachers at the middle/high school went very well. The morning was spent with presenters from RIDE educating teachers on the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). The Friday prior (2/10/2012), RIDE was here again for an all day training, educating teachers in an all day, deep training of the CCSS. The principals, in conjunction with Dr. Filippelli identified this group of teachers as the "go to" people as Scituate transitions as a district from GLEs and GSEs to the CCSS. For the second part of the day, elementary teachers produced proficiency tasks in three main areas of PD this year which include Math, Science, and Writing. The middle school engaged in team meetings to address curricular gaps based on NECAP data, and the high school was enmeshed in committee work to prepare for their NEASC visit in the Fall.

Mrs. Guglielmi asked if this included teachers from outside the district to which Dr. Filippelli replied yes.

**DISTRICT
READING
COMMITTEE**

On February 15th, Dr. Filippelli met with the district reading committee. This was a follow up meeting to discuss the results of a survey Dr. Filippelli gave to the elementary teachers regarding the current reading program and assessments being used in the district. What grew out of the conversation was a plan to enhance reading programs with some targeted professional development next year. Dr. Filippelli is currently reaching out to experts around the state as well as in this district to help guide this PD. October of next year may sound far away, but all of this work needs to be written into the consolidated resource plan for next year.

MONTHLY ACTIVITIES

Dr. Filippelli provided committee members with a copy of activities for February.

Mrs. Delmonico asked about the Cyber Bully, Sexting and Social Network presentations.

Dr. Filippelli stated there was a much greater turnout to the event in Bristol which was held on the last snowy night than others. Dr. Filippelli added he will be presenting at Chariho High School tomorrow night.

Mrs. Delmonico asked about the Crowd Control Management session Dr. Filippelli attended.

Dr. Filippelli stated the state of Rhode Island is mandating crowd control managers at events exceeding certain number of people. Almost all school events will have a school administrator so the first round of training included all of the principals.

Mr. LaPlante asked about was learned at this session.

Dr. Filippelli stated the session was very informative and included crowd dynamics, awareness of entry and exit points, etc.

Chair Umbriano asked to be included in the next training session if possible (and will pay own fee).

Dr. Filippelli stated the training/certification is valid for three years.

**98-12
SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

TRANSPORTATION

Dr. Lescault stated all 16 of the new large buses have arrived, been inspected, registered and put into service last week. Only 1 of the 4 mini buses has arrived and is in service. The other three are scheduled to arrive about March 14.

BUDGET

(Committee members received copies of revised 2012-2013 School Department Budget.) The budget reflects the tentative agreement the Committee reached with the Town Council on March 1 to provide a budget with level local funding. It assumes a \$300,000 increase in state aid that offsets a corresponding equal increase in expenditures. It reduces the teacher salary account by \$264,269 and eliminates Improvements to Buildings and Grounds (\$203,000), in return for the Town providing funding through bonding, or other sources, to pay for the needed improvements.

As Dr. Lescault informed the Committee on February 7, he is projecting a balance of about \$550,000 at the end of FY 2012 on March 31, 2012. That is \$600,000 short of the goal to end the year with the \$1,152,000 necessary to replenish accumulated fund balance. As the accumulated fund balance as of March 31, 2011 was \$1,541,809, reducing it by \$600,000 will leave only \$941,809. That would leave us \$212,191 short of being able to apply \$1,152,000 of fund balance as revenue in FY 2013. To avoid that possibility, and with the Committee's permission, Dr. Lescault will transfer \$300,000 of

restricted funds into the general fund prior to March 31, 2012.

The committee unanimously approved transfer of \$300,000 into the general fund.

SCHOOL CALENDAR

The proposed 2012-2013 School Year Calendar was presented for the committee's review in February. It is now listed under New Business for formal approval.

**TEACHER LAYOFF
NOTICE RESOLUTION**

(Committee members received copies of information from Tim Duffy asking the School Committee to support a bill by Senator DiPalma and Representatives Jackson and Brien.) The bill would move the teacher layoff deadline from March 1 to June 1.

Dr. Lescault stated approximately one third of staff was laid off again this year knowing it was very unlikely that that many teachers would not be called back.

Mr. LaPlante stated although the committee needs to do so protectively, it is simply not good karma.

Chair Umbriano asked how this would affect job fair.

Dr. Filippelli stated the job fair is no longer held for teachers (due to revised job transfer language); Chair Umbriano may be referring to the job fair for paraprofessionals. Paraprofessionals do not have the same opportunities for professional development as teachers do; however Dr. Filippelli is working with Jay Walsh at NEARI to make changes.

Dr. Filippelli stated much more information is available to make decisions in June than in March.

Mrs. Guglielmi stated the state budget isn't finalized until July 1.

Dr. Lescault stated the hope is the state budget is completed by June.

Dr. Klimaj moved, seconded by Mrs. Guglielmi to approve the change to teacher layoff notice deadline from March 1 to June 1. The committee unanimously approved motion.

Mrs. Guglielmi stated signatures are required.

Dr. Lescault stated there are two lines for the Clerk and Chair to sign. Once this draft is finalized, it will be provided for signatures.

**FOOD SERVICE
PROGRAM**

Dr. Lescault stated everything is running smoothly; expenses are down and participation is up by 2%. Profits as of February were up by \$1,400. At this time, food services are \$5,200 ahead from where they were last year.

MONTHLY ACTIVITIES

Dr. Lescault provided committee members with a copy of activities for February.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

98-13

Harris Kenner

Referring to teacher layoff notice resolution, Mr. Kenner if this is something that has already become law.

Dr. Filippelli replied no.

George Kuzmowycz Esek Hopkins Road

Regarding NECAP analysis, Mr. Kuzmowycz stated prior measurement tools would break out math (problem solving versus concepts, etc.). Is this tool no longer providing that or it this analysis under data being presented here and available?

Dr. Filippelli does have previous years' data available electronically. RIDE provides the opportunity for building principals to review specific data. Regarding student-specific data such as which students or who answered specific strands incorrectly, only administrators are allowed to see (due to students' personal data). Teachers are able to delve into questions to determine why so many students may be answering specific questions incorrectly (i.e., numbers and operations). At that point, teachers can review and modify curriculum.

Dr. Filippelli stated this process will start over once again as New England schools participating in NECAP begin transition to PARCC. However, instead of teachers allocating time to review specific data, RIDE is producing an IMS system that will provide online tools to cull specific data in addition to practice questions to close gap.

Mr. Kuzmowycz asked if there was a form for public review of aggregate data which is more granular.

Dr. Filippelli replied data is available on the RIDE web site and the public can view by school and by grade.

Regarding the budget, Mr. Kuzmowycz asked what percentage of a full-time employee is Dr. Myers and is it anticipated his services will be required indefinitely as Mr. Kuzmowycz believed it was a time-specific position.

Dr. Lescault stated the position is at will; however this position was expected to be long-term as the position is replacing a full-time administrator. Dr. Myers is allowed to work 90 days per year due to retiree status. Dr. Myers' role changes due to his vast expertise and what is needed each year. Currently, his biggest role is negotiations.

Mr. LaPlante stated Dr. Myers is very good in his role.

Mr. Kuzmowycz does not question his abilities only to ascertain nature and extent of responsibilities.

Dr. Lescault stated it is anticipated the position will remain indefinitely. Dr. Myers may decide to fully retire at some point, but even at that time, the school department would be looking to fill that void.

Referring to difficulty in maintaining fund balance, Mr. Kuzmowycz stated with the mild winter the variance should be positive with limited snow removal and reduced fuel costs. Wouldn't that flow back into the fund balance?

Dr. Lescault stated last year the school department believed it would spend \$21+ million and in fact, school department would have to spend only \$19+ million in order to break even to replenish fund balance as revenue. As numbers continue to decrease each year and cutting \$260,000 in teacher salaries and a lot of contingencies once in place disappear.

Dr. Lescault added snow removal is a fixed cost through town. In addition there is savings in custodial overtime (clearing walk ways, etc.) and reduced fuel due to mild winter however the price of fuel has also increased.

Regarding \$200,000 for building improvements, Mr. Kuzmowycz asked if an asset protection plan was still in place and if it get updated each year.

Dr. Lescault replied yes, the plan is still in place but is not updated each year. It was the state which required annual update of plan. Mr. Gormley does update the plan as needed.

Mr. Kuzmowycz noted that insurance for buses is at zero and asked if that was rolled into cost associated with First Student to which Dr. Lescault replied it was.

NEW BUSINESS

98-14

1. **APPROVE SCHOOL CALENDAR FOR 2012-2013**

See Superintendent's Report for detail on this item.

Recommendation: Approve the calendar as proposed

Mrs. Delmonico moved, seconded by Dr. Klimaj to approve the proposed school calendar. The committee unanimously approved motion.

2. **APPROVE SCHOOL BUDGETS**

See Superintendent's Report for detail on this item.

Recommendation: Approve the school budgets as proposed

Dr. Klimaj moved, seconded by Dr. Klimaj to approve the proposed school budgets. The committee unanimously approved motion.

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

98-15

Dr. Lescault recommended the following appointments for approval: Cynthia Thacker, Superintendent's Office Staff; Jamie Tucker, Bus Monitor, Sal Gelsomino, Middle School Baseball

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

Dr. Lescault recommended the following resignations for approval:
Gail Poirier, Bus Monitor

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

98-16

COMMITTEE REMARKS

MRS. DELMONICO

Mrs. Delmonico believed the committee did a good job at the meeting with Town Council and wished to thank Mr. LaPlante for his presentation.

MRS. GUGLIELMI

Mrs. Guglielmi also thanked Mr. LaPlante for his seamless presentation to Town Council.

DR. KLIMAJ

Dr. Klimaj thanked Mr. LaPlante for his presentation.

Dr. Klimaj also stated the Scituate School Department budget is held close to the best as the committee and Drs. Lescault and Filippelli watch closely how monies are spent. Each year, the costs increase and to be level funded in the future is going to make it even harder. Dr. Klimaj hopes taxpayers will come out to support the school committee or to provide suggestions to save money.

MR. LAPLANTE

Mr. LaPlante thanked the committee for their kind words. Mr. LaPlante thanked Drs. Lescault and Filippelli and the committee for providing thoughts and facts.

CHAIR UMBRIANO

Chair Umbriano stated Mr. LaPlante gave such a great presentation and Town Council was very attentive.

**DISCUSSION OF
FUTURE BUSINESS**

98-17

April 3 Financial Town Meeting
May School Committee Meeting
June 5 School Committee Meeting

ADJOURNMENT

98-18

Mrs. Guglielmi moved, seconded by Mrs. Delmonico to adjourn meeting at 7:50 PM. The Committee unanimously approved the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. Guglielmi, Clerk