

**SCITUATE SCHOOL COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING  
TUESDAY, AUGUST 7, 2012  
TOWN HALL CHAMBERS**

**CALL TO ORDER**

**105-1**

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

Mr. LaPlante moved, seconded by Dr. Klimaj, 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, Lillian Jean Delmonico, Brian LaPlante, June Guglielmi, and Scott Klimaj. Also present were Paul Lescault, Superintendent, and Lawrence Filippelli, Assistant Superintendent.

Mr. LaPlante moved, seconded by Dr. Klimaj, to amend the agenda due to new developments concerning the Education Support Personnel contract. As a result of those developments, the committee must vote under New Business this evening due to contract deadline and the safety of the students. The committee unanimously approved the motion.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**105-2**

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**105-3**

Mrs. Guglielmi moved, seconded by Mrs. Delmonico, to approve the minutes of the Executive Session of June 5, 2012. The Committee unanimously agreed.

Mrs. Guglielmi moved, seconded by Mrs. Delmonico, to approve minutes of the Regular School Committee Meeting of June 5, 2012. The Committee unanimously agreed.

Mrs. Guglielmi moved, seconded by Mr. LaPlante, to approve the minutes of the Executive Session of June 27, 2012. The Committee unanimously agreed.

Mrs. Guglielmi moved, seconded by Dr. Klimaj, to approve the minutes of the Executive Session of July 2, 2012. The Committee unanimously agreed.

**CAPITAL RESERVE FUND**

**105-4**

Mrs. Guglielmi moved, seconded by Mrs. Delmonico, to approve the Capital Reserve Funds –School Improvements for the month of August (2012-2013) in the amount of \$8,137.62. The Committee unanimously agreed.

**GENERAL FUND**

**105-5**

Mrs. Guglielmi moved, seconded by Mrs. Delmonico, to approve The General Fund for month of July (2012-2013) in the amount of \$514,909.22. The Committee unanimously approved motion.

Mrs. Guglielmi moved, seconded by Mrs. Delmonico, to approve The General Fund for month of August (2012-2013) in the amount of \$358,734.04. The Committee unanimously approved motion.

**GRANT BILLS**

**105-6**

Mrs. Guglielmi moved, seconded by Mrs. Delmonico, to approve Grant Bills for month of July in the amount of \$64.95. The Committee unanimously approved motion.

Mrs. Guglielmi moved, seconded by Mrs. Delmonico, to approve Grant Bills for month of August in the amount of \$8,137.62. The Committee unanimously approved motion.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

**105-7**

1. The following letters to the Superintendent were received requesting home schooling for the 2012-2013 school year:  
John and Corinna Lotter for daughters Emily and Holly Lotter; Sarah Santaniello for daughter Molly; Renee McInnis for children Christoph, Charlotte and Gabriel; Ivette Fantasia for children Zachary, Felicity and Luke; Jamie Delehant for children Roman, Myles, Caleb and Gabriel; Tom and Sandy Bartlett for daughter Faith; Bill Tremblay for daughter Bronte; and Joy Angell for daughters Audrey and Amber; and Stephen and Ellen Hutchins for children Maggie and Caleb.
2. A letter to the Superintendent from Dawn Casey-Rowe requesting permission for her son Declan to start the school year in North Scituate Elementary on a tuition basis if the closing on their house is delayed past the August 24, 2012 expected date.
3. The Committee has continued its practice of postponing, until the August meeting, action on parent requests for their children to attend schools other than their school or record. The list of these requests as well as the recommended action was provided to the committee.

**105-8**

1. Recommendation: Approve the requests, according to the policies and procedures established by RIDE and the school department.

Dr. Klimaj moved, seconded by Mrs. Guglielmi to approve the requests according to the policies and procedures established by RIDE and the school department. The committee unanimously approved the motion.

2. Recommendation: Take whatever action the committee deems appropriate.

Mr. LaPlante stated this type of request has been a hot issue and suggests the committee reserves right to review this request again in September.

Mrs. Guglielmi stated the closing is scheduled for August which is prior to start of school.

Mr. LaPlante stated it is important for the committee to remain informed should the closing be delayed or should the family need to find another home for any reason. It is possible the student would be enrolled without being residents.

Chair Umbriano stated the next meeting does not occur until September.

Mr. LaPlante moved, seconded by Dr. Klimaj to approve the request subject to review at September school committee meeting. The committee unanimously approved the motion.

3. Dr. Lescault stated at this time the committee is able to approve eight of the nine requests. Due to a lack of space one request must be denied.

Mrs. Guglielmi stated the home school is Hope School.

Mr. LaPlante stated the class size is larger at the North Scituate which is the school of choice for that family.

Dr. Klimaj moved, seconded by Mrs. Delmonico to approve the eight requests and deny one according to the policies and procedures established by RIDE and the school department. The committee unanimously approved the motion.

**105-9**

**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

Chair Umbriano stated nothing to report.

Mr. LaPlante stated the Educational Support Personnel contract will be ratified under New Business this evening. Negotiations with the paraprofessionals are currently underway.

Mr. LaPlante stated Dr. Myers has proven to be a tremendous resource during negotiations. There has been concern about the duties of Dr. Myers and Mr. LaPlante informed attendees that Dr. Myers is firm but respectful and fair, thoughtful, creative, and very knowledgeable. Mr. LaPlante also acknowledged the support of Drs. Lescault and Filippelli as well as their accessibility to the committee.

POLICY

Dr. Klimaj stated nothing to report.

RIASC

Dr. Klimaj stated nothing to report.

SAFETY AND  
TRANSPORTATION  
SPECIAL EDUCATION

Chair Umbriano stated nothing to report.

Mrs. Delmonico stated nothing to report.

SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Mrs. Guglielmi stated nothing to report.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Mrs. Guglielmi stated nothing to report.

SCITUATE  
PREVENTION  
PARTNERSHIP

Chair Umbriano stated after several years, she and Diane Scacco have stepped down as Chair and Co-Chair from SPP to make room for new leadership.

Chair Umbriano stated the media firm who provided all media for the mock crash put together a montage of video and music for the Scituate School Department. The core message of the video is "Don't Drink and Drive." Chair Umbriano stated the video is very well done and wished to thank G & G Media for providing this tool for the community.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**105-10**

There is no unfinished business for the month of August.

**105-11**

**ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

**LOOKING TO THE  
YEAR AHEAD**

Dr. Filippelli will be having meetings and planning sessions with administrators and teachers on the following topics this year:

- Professional Development planning at the elementary and secondary level.
- Continuation of Math Curriculum Articulation grades 5-8
- Continuation of Writing Rubrics in grades K-12
- Race to the Top work around:
  - Common Core Curriculum training in Math and ELA
  - Teacher Evaluation
  - Teacher Mentoring
- NEASC visit at Scituate High School
- Assessing current reading curriculum and making appropriate changes as necessary.

**BULLYING REPORTS**

Dr. Filippelli has received the semiannual bullying reports from each of the schools in the district. Of particular note in the reports is that at the middle school and high school, all incidents and visits to Mr. Sweet's office are reported in PowerSchool. From January 23, 2012 through June 2012, there were 35 total reports across the 12 behavioral field domains assessed and reported by PowerSchool. This is a decrease of 8 incidents from the mid-year total of 43 total reports. That is good news because it represents a total decrease of 15 incidents from last year at the same time. These numbers continue to remain exceptionally low. At the elementary schools during the same reporting period, 1/23/2012 – 6/19/2012, there were zero bullying incidents reported at each of the elementary schools. This represents a decrease of one at Clayville, three at North Scituate and one at Hope Elementary School. In summary, Dr. Filippelli stated it is clear that the reports of bullying at the schools indicate that bullying incidents remain very low.

Now that each school is using PowerSchool for reporting, Chair Umbriano asked if all reports are now comparing data accurately.

Dr. Filippelli replied that is correct.

**RIDE CIVIL RIGHTS  
COMPLIANCE AUDIT**

Dr. Filippelli has been in contact with the representatives from RIDE on the Civil Rights Compliance Review at Scituate High School. Dr. Filippelli met with the representatives on July 18<sup>th</sup> at Scituate High School with Steve Gormley and Dr. Sollitto. This was a preliminary meeting where the representatives outlined the process of bringing the building up to compliance. Steve Gormley is going to be running the process of bringing the building up to compliance under RIDE's voluntary compliance plan. Dr. Filippelli stated they are completing this voluntary compliance order to avoid a mandatory compliance action from the U.S. Department of Justice. Dr. Filippelli will be handling the administrative voluntary compliance documents with input from RIDE in the next two months.

Dr. Lescault stated nothing is wrong with the policies; it is simply a matter of updating.

**RIDE NEW  
ACCOUNTABILITY  
SYSTEM FOR  
SCHOOLS AND  
DISTRICTS**

The three main elements of the new RIDE accountability system are looking at taking new approaches to: school measurement, school classification, and school support and intervention. There are new measures that RIDE will be using. These include the following:

- Absolute percent proficient – How many students have attained proficiency or better?
- Progress to 2017 targets – Is the school approaching its 2017 targets?
- Achievement Gaps – Is the school serving all students with disabilities

- Percent of Students at Distinction Level – How many students have attained distinction?
- Growth – Are all students making progress?
- High School Graduation Rates – Is the school reaching its graduation rate goals?
- High School Scaled Score – Is the school improving annually?

Under this new system, there are new classifications for schools. These include: commended, leading, typical, warning, focus, and priority. After analyzing the data given to us by RIDE, the schools fall into the following categories:

- Scituate High School – Commended (#1 high school in the state of RI)
- Scituate Middle School – Typical (SMS missed the “leading” category by .07 of a point)
- North Scituate Elementary School – Leading
- Clayville Elementary School – Commended (#3 elementary school in the state of RI)
- Hope Elementary School – Typical

The new system can be quite confusing as to how RIDE arrives at their final numbers to determine status. Dr. Filippelli will be contacting some representatives from RIDE to possibly come out to the district and attend one of the administrator meetings to explain the process. One other issue to consider is that designations can vary greatly from year to year based on the waiver that RIDE has received from the U.S. Department of Education. With the waiver, the threshold number for subgroup classification has been reduced from 40 to 20. Scituate’s only subgroup is “students with special needs”. If that subgroup doesn’t perform or if the educational targets established by RIDE are not met, that could seriously alter the classification designation for a particular school. Dr. Filippelli thanked all of the administrators, teachers and support staff that made these scores possible. When one takes into account the size of the district, the demographics, and socioeconomic variances, it is exemplary that Scituate has 2 out of the five schools being at commended status. As evidenced by the recent article in the ProJo, to make it into the commended status is outstanding and also very difficult. Dr. Filippelli is so proud of the team effort and the results that Scituate showed statewide as a district. Dr. Filippelli also would also like to thank Dr. Sollitto and his staff at the High School for taking top honors in the state with the #1 high school. As a technicality, Classical high school tied Scituate for the #1 spot. However, Classical is a “test in” high school where they only take those students who pass the entrance exam. Dr. Filippelli would also like to thank the teachers and principal at Clayville Elementary school for their outstanding work as well.

### **105-12 SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT**

#### **BUS ROUTES**

Scituate bus routes have not been substantially revised in many years. In fact for continuity purposes, Scituate required that First Student not do so during the first year of their contract. Dr. Lescault stated Scituate is now doing so in an effort to generate efficiencies that will make it possible to eliminate two buses.

The allocation for buses in the 2012-2013 school district budget assumes that elimination. The \$100,000 saved will offset the \$100,000 the district must repay to First Student for a first year loan of that same amount.

Cindy Thacker of Superintendent’s Office, and formally First Student and Blackmore Bus Company, has completed a thorough review of all of the bus routes. Drs. Myers, Lescault and Ms. Thacker met with First Student on July 18 to discuss Ms. Thacker’s findings and recommendation to eliminate two buses. First Student concurred with the recommendation and believes eliminating two buses is feasible and advisable.

To avoid confusion and misinformation, the team developed a detailed and extensive plan to inform students, parents and school staff of the changes. Several mediums, including a mailing, will be used to insure the information is provided. Dr. Lescault stated they cannot guarantee how the information is received. Some may resist the changes. For that reason, bus routes are listed as a new business item to demonstrate that the decision to revise the bus routes was made publicly and transparently.

Mr. LaPlante asked how the department makes up for the two missed buses.

Dr. Lescault stated those students are picked up by another bus.

Mr. LaPlante asked if the transit time is longer for those students.

Dr. Lescault stated it should a very modest adjustment, if at all. This will make the process more efficient.

Chair Umbriano stated when two companies were handling the bus route; the two companies would split various main roads. When switching over to First Student this past year, the routes remained the same to ease the transition and so there were two buses running same old routes. It is now time for that one company to make the routes more efficient. The same bus now is simply completing the route. Chair Umbriano stated Cindy Thacker did an amazing job coordinating with First Student. Chair Umbriano asked thanked Mark DiLugio, Technology Director for taking time during his vacation to help make all technological changes required for bus routes.

Chair Umbriano added the buses are now safely parked behind the fences with lights, etc.

Dr. Lescault stated this was more than just consolidating buses; it was about reviewing the full system and making the system efficient.

#### **SCHOOL VISITS**

If the Committee would like to continue to hold one meeting at each school each year, we need to develop a schedule for those meetings. The October meeting is always scheduled at the home school of the Teacher of the Year for the presentation ceremony. So for 2012-2013, the October meeting will be at the high school. The dates of the other meetings are flexible and can be arranged however the committee wishes. The typical schedule has been Clayville School - September, Hope School – November, and North Scituate School – December.

#### **AVERAGE SALARY INCREASES**

The teacher contract calls for salary increases based on the average percentage increase of teachers statewide as of August 15<sup>th</sup>. Scituate is in the process of computing the average percentage increase for steps 1- 10. Dr. Lescault noted that the document cannot be finalized until after August 15<sup>th</sup>. A 1.5% assumption was included in the district budget for planning purposes.

#### **MONTHLY ACTIVITIES**

As schools are closed during July and August, activities, in addition to the normal day to day ones, are very limited. Therefore, they are not included in the Superintendent's Report or Assistant Superintendent's Report. The lists will resume after the schools reopen.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

##### **105-13 Ellen Kenner 222 William Henry Road**

Dr. Kenner stated it is nice to read that Clayville is a commended school and also to hear the school department is rolling back.

Dr. Kenner suggested centralizing bus routes even further by establishing bus stops in

safer neighborhoods where possible for several children to get on bus rather than the bus stopping at every house, waiting for each parent to put their child on the bus and waiting for the bus monitors to run their checks at each stop.

Mr. LaPlante stated the route already is consolidated in his neighborhood.

Dr. Lescault stated they will continue to monitor daily as the school year begins.

Dr. Kenner stated it is unfair to drivers to have to wait so long while trying to get to work.

Mrs. Guglielmi stated the traffic is much worse in the village.

Dr. Kenner also suggested transporting children to another's house if parents were willing to work together voluntarily.

### **Harris Kenner 222 William Henry Road**

Dr. Kenner asked if the goal is to match the state average for teachers' salary increase.

Mr. LaPlante stated that is a contractual requirement.

Dr. Kenner stated that will guarantee that the next round of negotiations will continue to run downhill.

Mr. LaPlante stated it is the only situation that is tracked so intently by the school committee in relation to other communities.

Chair Umbriano stated the committee attends RIASC meetings to remain informed of various topics as well as what is occurring in other districts.

Mr. LaPlante stated it s a point well taken.

Mrs. Delmonico added the committee also received emails and other modes of communication to keep the committee informed.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **105-14**

#### **1. Bus Routes**

See Superintendent's Report for detail on this item.

Recommendation: Approve the elimination of two buses

Dr. Klimaj moved, seconded by Mrs. Guglielmi to eliminate the two buses due to the new bus route. The committee unanimously approved the motion.

Mr. LaPlante asked when details of the routes will be available.

Dr. Lescault stated the new routes should be complete by the end of the week.

Chair Umbriano stated every student will receive a letter stating bus arrival and pick up times as well as being publicized.

Mrs. Guglielmi asked if the letters will be sent home to the parents of out-of-district buses as well.

Chair Umbriano replied no, the school department does not oversee out-of-district bussing; that is handled by the state.

2. **Ratify Contract of Education Support Personnel**

**Recommendation:** Ratify the contract.

Mr. LaPlante moved, seconded by Dr. Klimaj to approve the changes of the collective bargaining agreement of Education Support Personnel. The committee unanimously approved the motion.

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

**105-15**

Dr. Lescault recommended the following appointments for approval: Karen Cappelli; Principal, Clayville Elementary, effective July 1, 2012; Natalie Jackson; .51 school teacher, North Scituate Elementary, one year only; Christine Connell; RTI Coordinator Scituate High School; Lita Motroni; Grade 9 Class Advisor, Scituate High School; Heather Dailey; Senior Project Seminar Leader, Scituate High School; Wendy Feldman; Portfolio (PBGR) Director, Scituate High School; Elizabeth Keough; RTI Coordinator Co-Chair, Scituate Middle School; Ann Battey; RTI Coordinator Co-Chair, Scituate Middle School; Margie Clark; Student Council Co-Advisor, Scituate Middle School; Jonathan Dunne; Student Council Co-Advisor, Scituate Middle School; Lauren Chabot; Summer school Spanish teacher, Scituate High School; Monique Grant; Summer school math teacher, Scituate High School; Hunter Stewart; Summer school English teacher, Scituate High School; Brett Concilio; Summer school history teacher, Scituate High School; Kristy Antonelli; .55 English teacher, Scituate High School

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

Dr. Lescault recommended the following resignations for approval: Antonio DiManna, Jr.; Principal, Clayville Elementary, effective July 1, 2012; Melissa Giorno; Paraprofessional, Scituate Middle/High School; Donna Geffre; Custodian, Scituate High School, effective July 11, 2012; Kathleen Billings; .6 Librarian, Clayville Elementary and North Scituate Elementary ; Ernie Spooner; Custodian, Clayville Elementary, effective August 10, 2012 ; Jennifer Slaughter; .5 Kindergarten Teacher, Clayville Elementary; Stephanie Carlu; Assistant Girls Volleyball Coach; Jose Reyes; Custodian, Hope Elementary School

Mr. LaPlante moved, seconded by Dr. Klimaj to approve resignations as set forth. The committee unanimously agreed.

Dr. Lescault recommended the following rescissions for approval:  
Kristy Antonelli; .35 English teacher, Scituate High School

Mr. LaPlante moved, seconded by Dr. Klimaj to approve rescissions as set forth. The committee unanimously agreed.

Dr. Lescault recommended the following involuntary transfers for approval:  
Heidi Rocchio, Special Education Teacher. Self-Contained, Scituate High School

Mr. LaPlante moved, seconded by Dr. Klimaj to approve involuntary transfers as set forth. The committee unanimously agreed.

**105-16**

**COMMITTEE REMARKS**

**MRS. DELMONICO**

Mrs. Delmonico is looking forward to the new school year.



**MRS. GUGLIELMI**

Mrs. Guglielmi stated nothing to report.

**DR. KLIMAJ**

Dr. Klimaj is looking forward to the new school year.

**MR. LAPLANTE**

Mr. LaPlante stated nothing to report.

**CHAIR UMBRIANO**

Chair Umbriano stated Gene Hutnak will be photographer for the Scituate Yearbook. Chair Umbriano added the yearbook committee was able to reduce the cost of yearbooks for this year and hopes it will be affordable for everyone.

**DISCUSSION OF  
FUTURE BUSINESS**

**105-17**

September 4 School Committee Meeting at Clayville  
October 2 School Committee Meeting at Middle School/High School  
November 13 School Committee Meeting at Hope School  
December 4 School Committee Meeting at North Scituate Elementary School

**ADJOURNMENT**

**105-18**

Dr. Klimaj moved, seconded by Mrs. Delmonico to adjourn meeting at 8:42 PM. The Committee unanimously approved the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. Guglielmi, Clerk