

**SCITUATE SCHOOL COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING  
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2012  
MIDDLE SCHOOL/HIGH SCHOOL**

**CALL TO ORDER**

**112-1**

The School Committee Meeting was called to order by Chair Umbriano at 6:05 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 7:11 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.

Chair Umbriano informed attendees the School Committee met in Executive Session prior to this meeting to discuss contract negotiations.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**112-3**

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

**RECOGNITION OF TEACHER OF THE YEAR**

**112-2**

Dr. Lescault stated Donna Pennacchia has been a teacher, senior project coordinator and Math Chair over the past 20 years. Most impressed upon Dr. Lescault is that every day Dr. Pennacchia performs in a way she believes is best for the students. The committee is honored to thank her for all she has done for Scituate School Department.

Ms. Kennedy, STA representative, stated she has known Dr. Pennacchia as a mentor, parent, and colleague. Dr. Pennacchia is always opening the door to her classroom and the administrators rely on her for her leadership, knowledge, and humor. On behalf of the teachers and students of Scituate, Ms. Kennedy thanked Dr. Pennacchia and presented her with award.

Chair Umbriano presented Dr. Pennacchia with Teacher of the Year Award and thanked her on behalf of the school committee. Chair Umbriano also noted Dr. Pennacchia's name would be added to the ongoing plaque housed in the School Department Building.

Dr. Pennacchia thanked everyone and expressed her love for Scituate. Dr. Pennacchia added her two daughters, also present, are graduates of Scituate School Department. Dr. Pennacchia loves the town and everyone with whom she works; everyone works hard and would not be here if it weren't for the students.

At this time, the meeting was adjourned for cake and coffee.

The committee reconvened at 7:30 PM.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**112-4**

Mrs. Guglielmi moved, seconded by Mrs. Delmonico, to approve the minutes of the Executive Session of September 4, 2012. The Committee unanimously agreed.

Mrs. Guglielmi moved, seconded by Mrs. Delmonico, to approve minutes of the Regular School Committee Meeting of September 4, 2012. The Committee unanimously agreed.

**GENERAL FUND**

**112-5**

Mrs. Guglielmi moved, seconded by Mrs. Delmonico, to approve The General Fund for month of October (2012-2013) in the amount of \$642,498.38. The Committee

unanimously approved motion.

**GRANT BILLS**

**112-6**

Mrs. Guglielmi moved, seconded by Mrs. Delmonico, to approve Grant Bills for month of October in the amount of \$39,906.15. The Committee unanimously approved motion.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

**112-7**

Dr. Lescault asked committee if they would prefer to receive and edit changes online versus hard copy to which committee agreed. School Committee Secretary and Director of Technology will coordinate.

1. A letter to the Superintendent from Jason Rivard requesting use of a personal day without reason and two personal days with reason on 1/2/13, 1/3/13 and 1/4/13.

Background: The date requested is contiguous with a school vacation. According to STA contract, school committee must vote to allow the date requested.

2. A letter to Dr. Lescault from Jonathan DiLuglio requesting permission to remove and replace a portion of fence at Manning Field as his Eagle Scout project.

Background: The project has been reviewed and approved by Steve Gormley.

**112-8**

1. Recommendation: Approve the request.

Chair Umbriano asked if in the past anyone has requested as many days after a holiday.

Dr. Lescault stated only for weddings and this is Mr. Rivard's wedding.

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

2. Recommendation: Approve the request.

Master DiLuglio stated he is pursuing his Eagle Scout Award and has come to the committee for approval on his project. Master DiLuglio wishes to replace an old portion of the fence at Manning Field. The fence is in need of repair and also is not stopping the balls from going into the woods which contains poison ivy. Master DiLuglio wished to replace fence which is 150 feet long and 6 feet high as well as cleaning up trash. The anticipated cost is approximately \$1,000 which Master DiLuglio hopes to secure with donations; he has approached Boosters Club and will contact Wood and Fence Company. Master DiLuglio will work with Mr. DiLuglio.

Mrs. Delmonico asked timeframe or project to which Master DiLuglio replied it would take two days and the complete project will take approximately two weeks./

Chair Umbriano stated the troop and troop leaders also will help.

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

**112-9**

**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE LIAISONS**

**BUDGET**

Mr. LaPlante stated nothing to report.

CURRICULUM	Dr. Klimaj stated nothing to report.
FOOD SERVICES AND HEALTH/WELNNESS	Chair Umbriano attended Health and Wellness meeting and learned a high number of students do not eat breakfast prior to school. Chair Umbriano stated the attendees were intentionally not fed until the end of the session to demonstrate how the students feel without nourishment of breakfast.
NEGOTIATIONS	Mr. LaPlante stated the committee has completed negotiation in principle with paraprofessionals and Central Office Staff. Teachers, administrators, extra-curricular, coaches, and all stipend positions are on the horizon. Mr. LaPlante stated Drs. Lescault and Filippelli as well as Dr. Myers have assisted committee on negotiations.
POLICY	Dr. Klimaj stated nothing to report.
RIASC	Dr. Klimaj stated nothing to report.
SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION	Chair Umbriano stated there was a study of intersection of Routes 12 and 101 and high speeds were noted. Chair Umbriano stated that the passing in the middle will be removed and there will be a turn added.
SPECIAL EDUCATION	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 nothing to report.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**112-10**

There is no unfinished business for the month of October.

**112-11**

**ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

**OCTOBER 5<sup>th</sup>  
PROFESSIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT DAY**

Dr. Filippelli stated the October 5<sup>th</sup> professional development day will center on different PD initiatives at each of the buildings. The first will be training for elementary teachers by the district writing committee. The work of this committee has been ongoing and they will be presenting on calibration of the persuasive essay writing rubric. Additionally, elementary teachers will be trained by each of their principals on the new RIDE EPSS system. This system is the online component to the new teacher evaluation model. Principals will be training the teachers on this model and then allowing them to upload their student learning objectives to the system during the second portion of the PD day.

At the middle level, teachers will also be trained in the EPSS system in the morning portion of the day. The second half of the day, teachers will meet in content areas to discuss transitioning our current curricula over to the common core state standards.

At the high school level, there are two major PD initiatives taking place. The first program will involve the teachers putting the final touches on their committee work for the NEASC visit that will occur at the end of October. The second program will involve departmental meetings looking at their current curricula and transitioning over to the common core state standards.

**SCIENCE NECAP TEST  
SCORES**

Dr. Filippelli received the district's Science NECAP scores on 9/19/2012. The results were embargoed until 9/20/2012. These scores represent how the district fared from the Science NECAP assessments taken in May 2012. (Committee members received copies.). The results of this round of testing showed vast improvement in some areas as well as some unexpected results in others. One of the major highlights is the scores at Scituate High School. Of note was an 8% increase in level 4 (proficient with distinction) at the high school level. Additionally, Scituate saw decreases (which is wanted) in level 2 (below proficient) and level 1 (substantially below proficient) at the high school as well. This means that the science department has been consistently moving their students out of the lower performing tier and into the higher performing tier in the last three years. Congratulations to Mr. Catucci and his department as well as Dr. Sollitto for increasing the test scores once again this year.

Another of the highlights is the scores at Hope Elementary School. Hope Elementary was able to increase proficient scores by a substantial increase of 19% percentage points this year. They too, like the high school also lowered their percentage scores at the below proficient level 2 (by 4%) and the substantially below proficient Level 1 (by 10%). This represents not only proficiency, but also substantial student growth. Dr. Filippelli congratulated Ms. Mowry and the staff at Hope for producing these increases.

North Scituate Elementary and Clayville had opposite results. While there were some increases at level 4 (proficient with distinction), Scituate did see a loss in some of the other areas. Dr. Filippelli has spoken to the principals to strategize how to prepare to change these scores for the May 2013 testing window. After an analysis of the data, it was apparent that more work needed to be done on scientific inquiry. All three schools received the same Professional Development over the last two years from EBEC so the scores were somewhat of a surprise at the other two schools.

The levels of proficient, partially proficient and substantially below proficient remained fairly consistent at Scituate Middle School as well. There were no exceptional gains. However Scituate Middle School was able to reduce the amount of students performing at the below proficient level 2 by 1% and the substantially below proficient Level 1 by 2%. There is growth there, but it is moderate.

It is equally important to note that Scituate is scoring much higher than the state averages on Science NECAP tests in every school. Naturally, this translates to district success as well. The following are the results from a district perspective:

**At the Elementary levels:**

Level 4 (proficient with distinction) the state is scoring at 1%, and Scituate is scoring at 4%. This represents a 2% increase over last year.

At Level 3 (proficient), the state is scoring at 44% and Scituate is scoring at 58%.

At levels 3 and 4 you WANT to see averages higher than the state.

At Level 2 (partially proficient) the state is scoring at 36% and Scituate is scoring at 33%. As noted prior, it is important to understand that you WANT the district to be below the state average here. This is a level where you want to move kids out of so they can score in the level 3 and level 4 areas.

At Level 1 (substantially below proficient), the state is scoring at 19% and Scituate is scoring at 3%. Again, in the level 2 and level 1 realm, it is very important to note that you WANT to be lower than the state numbers here.

**At the High School Level:**

Level 4 (proficient with distinction) the state is scoring at 3%, and Scituate is scoring at 11%.

At Level 3 (proficient), the state is scoring at 29% and Scituate is scoring at 48%.

At levels 3 and 4 you WANT to see averages higher than the state.

At Level 2 (partially proficient) the state is scoring at 45% and Scituate is scoring at 37%. As noted prior, it is important to understand that you WANT the district to be below the state average here. This is a level where you want to move kids out of so they can score in the level 3 and level 4 areas.

At Level 1 (substantially below proficient), the state is scoring at 23% and Scituate is scoring at 4%. Again, in the level 2 and level 1 realm, it is very important to note that you WANT to be lower than the state numbers here.

At the Middle School Level:

Level 4 (proficient with distinction) the state is scoring at 1%, and Scituate is scoring at 1%.

At Level 3 (proficient), the state is scoring at 26% and Scituate is scoring at 35%. At levels 3 and 4 you WANT to see averages higher than the state.

At Level 2 (partially proficient) the state is scoring at 45% and Scituate is scoring at 49%. As noted prior, it is important to understand that you WANT the district to be below the state average here. This is a level where you want to move kids out of so they can score in the level 3 and level 4 areas.

At Level 1 (substantially below proficient), the state is scoring at 28% and Scituate is scoring at 15%. Again, in the level 2 and level 1 realm, it is very important to note that you WANT to be lower than the state numbers here.

By analyzing the percentages, Dr. Filippelli stated it is clear Scituate is moving in that direction but has more work to do at the elementary and middle levels. Dr. Filippelli believes that the scores at Clayville and NSES Elementary are an anomaly this year. One point of discussion Dr. Filippelli will have with the principals is how much time throughout the elementary day is spent on Science as opposed to other subjects. Perhaps fine tuning the time spent on it per day would be beneficial and hence, increase test scores. Finally, the quality of the students and the support they get at home cannot be negated either. Scituate has good students, supportive parents, high quality educators, and a thorough vision district-wide of where Scituate wants to move kids instructionally.

Chair Umbriano asked if scores were higher based on Mr. Ceprano's work with Health and Wellness.

Dr. Filippelli stated Hope School was the highest rating with double digit gains.

**MONTHLY ACTIVITIES** Committee members received copies of monthly activities.

### **112-12** **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

#### **Audit Report**

Dr. Lescault stated copies of Scituate's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for FY 2012 were to be distributed to committee members during meeting; however the document is still being printed. An electronic copy was submitted to committee members from Dr. Lescault for review earlier in the week. Dr. Lescault stated the report is substantially more complicated and difficult to understand than in the past. Town and School Data are presented together, so the financial condition of the schools is not as transparent. (Committee members received copies of spreadsheet entitled "Scituate Schools Reconciliation of Fund Balance to Audit Report" that provides a simple, executive summary of the General Fund Balance and how it was determined. Committee members also received the appropriate pages from the prior and current audit reports from which the data on the summary were derived.) Dr. Lescault noted the Fund Balance at the end of the FY11 was \$1,541,809. However, \$1,152,000 of that was budgeted as revenue in FY12, reducing the Fund Balance to \$389,809. FY12 ended with a budgetary surplus of \$920,378 (Revenue -\$73,391 + Expenditures \$993,769).

GASB also required that the auditors include in the Fund Balance a "Special Revenue Fund" (Medicaid \$384,011) not previously included in the fund balance. The Committee also authorized the transfer of \$300,000, previously designated as "State Fiscal Year Transition" revenue, into the Fund Balance. These transfers are one time transfers and therefore inflate the Fund Balance. The Fund Balance is reduced by \$274,481, as this amount was paid in FY12, but is for FY13 expenditures. That leaves a Fund Balance of \$1,719,717 on March 31, 2012.

Dr. Lescault stated it is important to note that the Fund Balance of \$1,719,717 was reduced by \$1,152,000, which was budgeted as revenue in FY13. Assuming the FY13 budget is fully expended and revenue is in line with the budgeted amount, on March 31, 2013 the Fund Balance will be \$567,717. Dr. Lescault stated it is important to note this because if that scenario occurs, the district will not be able to commit \$1,152,000 of Fund Balance as revenue for FY14.

**Budgetary Assumptions**

Dr. Lescault stated the Committee needs to establish Budgetary Assumptions for the development of the 2013-2014 District Budget. For 2012-2013 the Committee used 1.5% for teachers. The actual is -0.63%, with step 10 teachers receiving 0.49%. Dr. Lescault stated the Committee may want to consider a percentage between 0.00% and 0.50% for 2013-2014 budget planning purposes.

Committee agreed to wait until the following meeting to determine increases.

**Rhode Island  
Standardized Budget  
Project**

Dr. Lescault stated the RI Legislature passed a law during the last session that requires all RI school districts to adopt a standardized budget. Like the Uniform Chart of Accounts law which required a vastly expanded Chart of Accounts, the Budget Project will require Scituate to develop a budget that is exponentially more complex than what is now in place. The change will be phased in over the next two years, but many of the changes must be implemented during the current budget development cycle.

However, RIDE has not yet determined the format of the new Standardized Budget. As Scituate's budget development for FY14 is already underway, Dr. Lescault stated Scituate is proceeding with current format and may have to modify it later.

**Open Houses**

Drs. Filippelli and Lescault divided up the school open houses and were able to attend 4 out of the 5 of them. The principals and teachers were also very appreciative that school committee members attended all of the open houses.

**Monthly Activities**

Committee members received copies of Dr. Lescault's monthly activities.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**112-13**

**Harris Kenner, William Henry Road**

Dr. Kenner asked if buses are state mandated to which Dr. Lescault replied yes.

Dr. Kenner asked if buses could pick up children 500 feet from area versus revamping portion of highway to eliminate the issue at hand.

Chair Umbriano stated it is not simply for drop off of students of Early Learning Center or for the church.

Mr. LaPlante stated it is related to a private school versus the Scituate School Department and school bus transportation.

Dr. Kenner asked if a (mandated) breakfast program exists within school district.

Chair Umbriano stated there are very few students who arrive who have not eaten breakfast.

Dr. Filippelli stated only Hope Elementary School is a Title I school.

Dr. Lescault stated the program was very under-utilized in the other schools, so it was eliminated.

**Ellen Kenner, William Henry Road**

Dr. Kenner referenced her time in Brown University and though she majored in biology, she began as an art major and was being taught to paint like Jackson Pollock (splashes of paint, etc.) Dr. Kenner feels it was a way to break a child's mind as that is not how reality appears to you. Dr. Kenner expressed delight in seeing artwork reflecting realism rather than abstract art that Dr. Kenner feels is sometimes difficult to understand.

Chair Umbriano asked if student's art work was still available for sale to which Dr. Sollitto replied it will be for sale during the art show.

**Dianne Scacco Crestview Drive**

Ms. Scacco thanked Dr. Filippelli as her son as well as other students who are truly enjoying Global Economics elective. With such a small school system, to have the opportunity to have such a worthy elective be embraced and enjoyed, Ms. Scacco stated she is very grateful.

Ms. Scacco attended both middle school and high school open houses and was told by Dr. Sollitto that the Scituate High School received commendation (and was tied with Classical High School which is a test in school) and is so proud of the teachers as well as parents. Ms. Scacco asked if a banner or something would be placed within the school as this is such an honor.

Dr. Lescault stated it was reported in the ProJo but was not in any of the local papers.

Chair Umbriano stated Scituate has great teachers, a great staff and parents and enjoys working on school committee.

Ms. Scacco asked about fund balance being decreased and asked how bond rating is affected to which Dr. Lescault replied Town is affected by the bond rating as the Town is the issuer of the bonds.

Mr. LaPlante stated the School Department does have a very small effect on that.

**Mark Horner, Trim Town Road**

Mr. Horner stated Scituate School Department received \$600,000 because of Rep. Marcello. Mr. Horner stated the state acquired \$50 million because of the new funding formula.

Dr. Lescault stated monies will be received but it is unknown at this time what that actual number will be. Dr. Lescault suggested contacting Rep. Marcello to determine how he arrived at that figure. Dr. Lescault stated an additional \$300,000 was budgeted as the committee believed it would be passed by legislature but what has been approved is unknown. Scituate School Department's fiscal year differs from the state.

Mr. Horner asked if that was passed in 2010 would the School Department be required to document that income within the budget.

Mr. LaPlante stated it would not be submitted within budget as the money is revenue.

Dr. Lescault stated the 2013 fiscal year budget was passed in June 2012 (not 2010) which was the first year there was any substantial increase. Prior to that, state was level funded. Whole there were less expenditures than expected, the School Department also received less money than was anticipated. The line item of \$300,000 that is viewed as potential income that the School Department hopes to receive. If there is more than that it will show up in the audit report. Dr. Lescault added that the funds are deposited into the Town account which is then transferred to the school account.

Mr. Horner stated \$417,000 of that money has been received.

Dr. Lescault stated the number could be slightly different; the figures presented this evening are those from the Governor's projected budget. Legislation usually tinkers with the budget at the last minute and gets adjusted based on things such as student population and a variety of other variables.

Mr. Horner asked what the plans are for the incoming \$300,000.

Dr. Lescault stated those funds will be used to balance the budget as expenditures were up by \$300,000.

Chair Umbriano stated a few years ago, the amount of money received was less what was indicated.

Mr. LaPlante recalls projecting more than actually received. Mr. LaPlante stated the School Department receives the money and if additional money is received, it is additional money which can be added to budget for spending.

Dr. Lescault stated the School Department must end the year with \$1.1 million or funds are not available to back-fill the fund reserves used as revenue.

Mr. Horner is not too keen on public officials as many say things but it is not always accurate which is why Mr. Horner hopes to receive answers to his question. Mr. Horner made it clear he is not suggesting any wrongdoing but simply wants to find out who is stretching the truth.

Chair Umbriano stated Dr. Lescault's doors are always open.

Dr. Lescault stated the document mailed by Rep. Marcello can be questioned directly to Rep. Marcello. Rep. Marcello would be able to provide documentation of what Scituate received or should be receiving. Dr. Lescault added it is completely appropriate to inquire how those funds were generated.

Dr. Klimaj stated Rep. Marcello voted for the state funding of which Scituate will receive and that may be what he is describing.

Mr. Horner asked about Professional Development days and why teachers are paid for those days and then substitutes are hired while those teachers are being trained.

Chair Umbriano stated Professional Development days are held on days the students are not in school so substitutes are not needed.

Dr. Filippelli stated that during regular school days, if RIDE comes into the school for training during the day; then Scituate submits a bill for the cost of the substitute teachers



to the district and is reimbursed by RIDE using RTTT funds.

Mr. Horner asked if (First Student Scituate) Bus 48 (at 2:45 PM) at Route 116 are high school students and when do monitors board buses.

Chair Umbriano stated bus monitors are not required with middle and high school students but mandatory for elementary schools. The monitors are seated at the back of the buses for the high school students simply to maintain order on the bus.

Dr. Sollitto invited everyone to NEASC visit on October 24. They will arrive for a three day visit. Sixteen educators from all over New England will shadow students, teachers, and administrators and will be viewing all aspects of school life. There are two year, five year, and ten year reports. Dr. Sollitto added these members are all volunteers and are not paid for their time.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**112-14**

1. Ratification of Paraprofessionals Contract

Recommendation: Table ratification of Contract

Mr. LaPlante moved, seconded by Mrs. Guglielmi to table ratification of the paraprofessional contract. The committee unanimously approved the motion.

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

**112-15**

Dr. Lescault recommended the following appointments for approval: Kerri Savastano; 17 hour Paraprofessional, North Scituate Elementary School, Wednesdays 11:15 – 3:15, Thursdays and Fridays 8:15 – 3:15; effective 9/19/12; Deborah Brousseau; 17 hour Paraprofessional, North Scituate Elementary School, Mondays and Tuesdays 8:15 – 3:15; Wednesdays 8:15 – 12:15, effective 9/24/12; Brenna Carnevale; bus monitor; Sherry McCann; RTI Co-coordinator, Hope Elementary School; Christine Ragosta, RTI; Co-Coordinator, Hope Elementary School; Laura Pesare; RTI Co-coordinator, North Scituate Elementary School; Dina Colantonio; RTI Co-coordinator, Clayville Elementary School; Abbie Groves; RTI Co-coordinator, Clayville Elementary School; Jacquelyn Swanton; .5 Pre-School Teacher, North Scituate Elementary School, One Year Only

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: Maureen Ciotola; Child Outreach Coordinator, Northwest Region Special Education; Dennis Ballou; Drama Club Advisor, Scituate High School

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

**112-16**

**COMMITTEE REMARKS**

**MRS. DELMONICO**

Mrs. Delmonico congratulated Dr. Pennacchia for Teacher of the Year.

**MRS. GUGLIELMI**

Mrs. Guglielmi stated nothing to report.

**DR. KLIMAJ**

Dr. Klimaj stated Chair Umbriano, Mrs. Guglielmi and he attended the open houses and Scituate is in doing well.

**MR. LAPLANTE**

Mr. LaPlante stated nothing to report.

**CHAIR UMBRIANO**

Chair Umbriano stated nothing to report.

**DISCUSSION OF  
FUTURE BUSINESS**

**112-17**

November 13 School Committee Meeting at Hope School  
December 4 School Committee Meeting at North Scituate Elementary School

**ADJOURNMENT**

**112-18**

Mr. LaPlante moved, seconded by Dr. Klimaj to adjourn meeting at 8:25 PM. The Committee unanimously approved the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. Guglielmi, Clerk