

**SCITUATE SCHOOL COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2012
NORTH SCITUATE SCHOOL**

CALL TO ORDER

116-1

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

Dr. Klimaj moved, seconded by Mrs. Guglielmi, to move into Executive Session RIGL 42-46 -5(a 9 and 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.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

116-3

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

116-3

Mrs. Guglielmi moved, seconded by Mrs. Delmonico, to approve the minutes of the Executive Session of November 13, 2012. The Committee unanimously agreed. Mr. LaPlante abstained from vote due to absence.

Mrs. Guglielmi moved, seconded by Mrs. Delmonico, to approve minutes of the Regular School Committee Meeting of November 13, 2012. The Committee unanimously agreed. Mr. LaPlante abstained from vote due to absence.

GENERAL FUND

116-4

Mrs. Guglielmi moved, seconded by Mrs. Delmonico, to approve The General Fund for month of December (2012-2013) in the amount of \$724,446.33. The Committee unanimously approved motion.

GRANT BILLS

116-5

Mrs. Guglielmi moved, seconded by Mrs. Delmonico, to approve Grant Bills for month of December in the amount of \$87,887.84. The Committee unanimously approved motion.

CORRESPONDENCE

116-6

1. A request from Principal Zajac for approval of a field trip for seventh graders to Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty on May 17, 2013.
2. A letter to Superintendent from Cindy Bourgault requesting to home school her son, Chace Bourgault for the 2012/2013 school year using the online school, James Madison HS.
3. A letter to Superintendent from Rhonda and Thomas Andrews informing him of their intent to home school their son, Richard Andrews for remainder of the 2012/2013 school year.

116-7

1. Recommendation: Approve the request.

Chair Umbriano stated the prom will be held on same date. Chair Umbriano and Mrs. Guglielmi attended last year and it was a great trip for the students.

Dr. Klimaj moved, seconded by Mrs. Guglielmi to approve request. The committee unanimously approved motion.

2. Recommendation: Approve the request, according to the policies and procedures established by RIDE and the school department.
3. Recommendation: Approve request according to policies and procedures established by RIDE and the school department.

Dr. Klimaj moved, seconded by Mr. LaPlante to approve both home schooling requests. The committee unanimously approved motion.

116-8

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 all other negotiations have been completed and teachers' negotiations will be starting soon.

POLICY

Dr. Klimaj stated nothing to report.

RIASC

Chair Umbriano 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 last meeting the town-wide mailing was discussed in addition to a scholarship which will be added for former Scituate student Ali Mink.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Mrs. Guglielmi stated nothing to report.

SCITUATE
PREVENTION
PARTNERSHIP

Chair Umbriano stated nothing to report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

116-9

There is no unfinished business for the month of December.

116-10

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

**HIGH SCHOOL
COURSE PROPOSALS
AND REVISIONS**

On November 26, 2012, Dr. Filippelli met with Dr. Sollitto and Guidance Director Michelle Kelley to discuss course revisions and proposals. There are no new courses being added to the course of studies at Scituate High School. However, there are some revisions. The first revision will be to the Journalism courses (Journalism I and II). These are elective courses for students. The major revision is students involved in these courses will be working on the school newspaper and school yearbook. Each course runs a half year and each course requires students complete two Course Proficiency Tasks for their Graduation by Proficiency Portfolios.

The next rounds of revisions are in the Science department. The first revision is that students will be completing a Science Fair Project as an independent student project. There will no longer be a traditional science fair. When Dr. Filippelli met with Carlo Catucci and Dr. Sollitto, it was indicated that teachers in the science department were losing a vast amount of instructional time during the traditional science fair at SHS. A science fair will still be offered at Scituate High School but it will be during school hours rather than after school. For students who wish to participate in this science fair, there will still be “real world” judges called in to judge projects and participants will still be able to apply to the state science fair as done in the past. A student’s completion of the science fair counted towards their mid-term grades. The course of studies has been revised to reflect that a student must complete an independent science research project by the second week in January for a mid-term grade. Thus, the rigor of science classes has not changed only the larger science fair project component of the past.

The second change in the Science department is that Chemistry Honors is changing to Chemistry Honors Early Enrollment. Essentially, there is no change in course structure or content. However, students who participate in this course now have the option of taking this course for early enrollment college credit. Mrs. Collins has taken required preparatory coursework at Rhode Island College for this class to be considered a college level honors course.

The third change in the Science department is in the Human Anatomy class. At a meeting on 11/26, it was felt there should be an honors offering for this class. However, current enrollment may not be sufficient enough to support two sections of honors human anatomy classes. Dr. Filippelli suggested to Mr. Catucci that considering the rigor of this class, perhaps students who take it would like it to count for honors if they were willing to complete additional requirements to bring it up to honors level. Mr. Catucci agreed and will meet his department to determine the additional requirements.

Dr. Filippelli acknowledged Dr. Klimaj’s contribution over the last few years as a member of the school committee. Dr. Filippelli stated it has been pleasure working with Dr. Klimaj.

MONTHLY ACTIVITIES

Committee members received copies of monthly activities.

116-11

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

**APPROVAL OF THE
NORTHWEST REGION
SPECIAL EDUCATION
COLLABORATIVE
AGREEMENT**

As has been the practice each year, listed under New Business for review is the Northwest Rhode Island Special Education Collaborative Agreement for 2013-2014. Dr. Lescault stated the agreement has been in place for many years and has served the district very well. (Committee members received copies of agreement.)

**APPROVAL OF
SCHOOL BUDGETS**

(Committee members received copies of school site budgets and copies were available to attendees.) Dr. Lescault stated as in the past few years, given the increases the school faces in nondiscretionary expenditures in the district budget, there will be no substantial increases or changes in the school budgets. Consequently, once again Dr. Lescault has not asked school principals, department chairs or content area coordinators to attend the School Committee meeting.

Chair Umbriano asked about the \$107,000 under Buildings and Grounds in the High School budget.

Dr. Lescault stated those items are out of the typical realm. This year, the high school is facing Civil Rights Compliance (compliance audit completed earlier this year). In the past, items have been added to bond or the funds have come from Town reserve; average of \$200,000 is spent annually on Buildings and Grounds.

Dr. Klimaj asked if any funds were allocated to drive/parking lot of Hope School.

Dr. Lescault stated to complete the project in full would be very costly so it has been postponed; the area will be patched and will continue to be safe.

TRUCK PURCHASE

Per Dr. Lescault's November 26 email to committee members, Dr. Lescault proposed immediate purchase of a truck. As indicated in that email, Dr. Lescault became aware of the urgency of the need for a new truck when reviewing (Director of Buildings and Grounds) Steve Gormley's budget requests for 2013-2014.

The '04 truck recommended for replacement has over 160,000 hard miles on it (snow plowing), does not have a valid inspection sticker, cannot pass inspection and needs at least \$6,000 of work to possibly do so. Even if it passes inspection, Dr. Lescault does not believe School Department should enter snowplowing season depending on a truck with a variety of other mechanical problems and a '05 truck with over 130,000 miles on it. If either of these trucks fails during a school emergency, the School Department will be forced to cancel school, extending the school year even further into summer. If the School Committee approves this proposal, Dr. Lescault will expedite the purchase of a truck by piggy backing on an existing municipal or state bid. Mr. Gormley anticipates that an appropriately equipped truck for snowplowing will cost about \$27,000.

Mr. LaPlante asked plan for disposition of existing truck to which Dr. Lescault replied it would be considered surplus and perhaps transferred to another department, sold, auctioned, etc. Mr. LaPlante added the committee does not need to vote on that but appreciates informing the committee of issue.

MONTHLY ACTIVITIES

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

Chair Umbriano stated lunch prices needed to be increased due to federal reimbursement rate. (Scituate was charging less than requirement.)

Dr. Lescault added Scituate is still below requirement so similar increase will probably be considered again next year. It also may be a different company next year as food services will be up for (state) bid.

Chair Umbriano noted Commissioner Gist recognized former student Ali Mink (who passed recently).

PUBLIC COMMENTS

116-12

Jean Esposito John Hopkins Road; Newly Elected School Committee Member

Mrs. Esposito applauded school committee of recognizing importance of outside learning outside of the classroom such as the class trips for Grade 7-8 students. However, upon reviewing previous budgets, Mrs. Esposito did not identify financial support for such field trips. Mrs. Esposito finds it troubling when committee is voting on and supporting outside learning but does not support it financially. After number crunching, Mrs. Esposito believes it will be a minimal increase within budget to add a minimal line item for such field trips. Looking at line items directly affecting students such as textbooks, instructional supplies, equipment, and classroom reference, the total expenditure of these items represents only 1% of proposed budget. Mrs. Esposito suggested adding \$500 per elementary school and \$1000 for middle school as well as for the high school strictly for field trips which would help defray some of the costs typically incurred by parents. Mrs. Esposito suggested combining field trip and cultural field trips as one line item in the new budget. Mrs. Esposito believes this will encourage teachers to bring their students outside of the classroom.

Chair Umbriano asked Principal Byerlee if he recalled North Scituate PTO donated for field trips.

Mr. Byerlee stated North Scituate PTO did not fund field trips; however they did provide financial assistance to any family needing financial assistance for student to attend field trip(s).

Dr. Lescault asked if students attended "A Christmas Carol" to which Mr. Byerlee replied it was a yearly trip which costs approximately \$600. However, this year North Scituate PTO did provide \$2,000 in budget to cover field trip costs.

Mrs. Esposito stated this would be a local gesture of committee, to make such an increase rather than relying on PTO donations allowing PTO to continue fundraising efforts for other items which occur. Mrs. Esposito stated parents are now incurring cost of \$80 per person for New York field trip.

Chair Umbriano stated students also are fundraising to reduce the cost per person.

Mrs. Esposito stated parents are supporting in one way or another (financially) as the parents are likely the same ones who are supporting the fundraising. If the committee could provide this support it will be 1% of that budget.

Mr. LaPlante asked if there has been feedback from parents relating to the cost of field trips to which Mr. Byerlee stated it is not for North Scituate with exception of a few parents experiencing financial difficulty.

Mr. LaPlante asked if opportunities were available for students to take field trips.

Mr. Byerlee stated each teacher participates in two to three field trips per year. One teacher is planning a field trip to Brown University Haffenreffer Museum which is on-site school field trip. These trips typically are parent funded and/or by PTO which typically is cost of buses.

Regarding level funded budget, Mrs. Esposito understands Scituate is the top within the state concerning testing and classification. Mrs. Esposito asked if Scituate can continue to uphold such high standards when budget has been level funded for past few years and stated textbooks are beginning to change as a result of common core. Mrs. Esposito reviewed list of textbooks (submitted by Dr. Lescault) and noted the publishing dates of many of these books are dated prior to 2007 and in one case 1973. Mrs. Esposito stated

with curriculum directly correlated to common core, there seems to be a disconnect. Mrs. Esposito acknowledges there are not many books currently aligned to common core; however the total textbook budget for all schools is \$17,612.

Chair Umbriano asked Dr. Filippelli to address procedure for requesting new textbooks.

Dr. Filippelli stated some of these textbooks are French Literature (published 1970s) that is still within system.

Mrs. Esposito stated even Modern Chemistry textbook which may be used for new Honors course dates back to 1999. Mrs. Esposito stated many of the math textbooks are dating back to 1990s.

Dr. Klimaj believed there was a delay in ordering some of the new textbooks as books were still being written to align to common core.

Dr. Filippelli stated some courses were kit-based and so new kits were ordered and some did need supplemental texts especially for Science which was done. Amy Grundt also submitted a proposal for new textbooks for East Asia and History which was fulfilled in 2010. The school does its best to fulfill need for current textbooks when requests are submitted; however less teachers are requesting new textbooks. In the elementary school, the kits have been taking up a great deal of funds as there was a move to kits versus textbooks. Regarding common core, Dr. Filippelli stated there is a full professional development over the next two years to review and roll out. Also PARCC will be assessing common core curriculum. Over the last few years, Dr. Filippelli has been able to fund all textbook requests.

Mrs. Esposito asked if it would be advantageous to have a five year rolling plan for textbooks to which Dr. Filippelli replied as long as the budget can support the plan.

Dr. Lescault stated the amount being allocated is based on teacher requests which have all been filled and is about \$50,000 per year. One teacher has \$6,300 allocated for textbooks; however teacher would prefer to purchase projectors. Dr. Lescault agreed level funding is becoming more and more difficult to make ends meet all around; however that is what the school department is receiving from town. The town is required only to allocate level funded budget.

Mrs. Esposito asked a state source about state aid and was told there is a \$300,000 each year and instead of increasing budget by \$300,000, Mrs. Esposito could only find \$300,000 decreased.

Dr. Lescault stated the budget has increased \$300,000.

Chair Umbriano stated someone stated the school department would be receiving \$600,000; however the school is not receiving that amount.

Mrs. Esposito asked if the school was receiving that amount over the course of seven years.

Dr. Lescault stated the amount is adjusted each year and enrollment also decreased which affected that amount.

Mrs. Esposito stated the town budget (received by taxpayers) has not changed since becoming department chair in 1984. Mrs. Esposito understands that the school department is in process of standardizing budgets which is a daunting task in itself; however this is local and that can be changed. Mrs. Esposito stated difficulty in searching for line items

within the budget and suggested more categories be added. Mrs. Esposito would like to see a salary category specifically so that all employees are in one location. Mrs. Esposito stated difficulty locating Buildings and Grounds.

Dr. Lescault stated the reason for presenting budget like this is for simplicity for members of the public to review; the actual complete, current budget is so detailed, that it would be overwhelming to most. Dr. Lescault added that the public budget it can be reorganized. Dr. Lescault can revamp budget format in any way committee desires.

Mrs. Esposito stated a citizen receiving this budget in mail would have difficulty in locating salaries etc.

Dr. Lescault stated the budget and salary information is public information and he happily accepts calls with questions from anyone.

Bryan Byerlee, Principal, North Scituate School

Mr. Byerlee welcomed everyone to North Scituate School and congratulated Mrs. Esposito on her new position on the school committee. Mr. Byerlee also thanked Dr. Klimaj for his dedication and service on the school committee for the past few years; it really means a lot.

Dr. Lescault added it has been a pleasure working with Dr. Klimaj.

George Kuzmowycz Esek Hopkins Road

Regarding Superintendent's Report, Mr. Kuzmowycz asked current charge for EEP to which Mrs. Esposito replied approximately \$700 for four credits.

Mr. Kuzmowycz stated students must pay for this and provides students with credits that are not very transferrable. It may behoove department chair to inform parents that this may be something that student may not be able to use. In Mr. Kuzmowycz's experience, his three children got very little out of those courses at college level.

Dr. Filippelli will review language as that document is going to print soon.

Mr. Kuzmowycz stated same occurs with AP once entering college.

Regarding budgets, Mr. Kuzmowycz understands Dr. Lescault is reviewing variance reports each month as well and asked if analysis of last few months of variance reports and straight-lined funding is most appropriate. For instance, last year's heating season was a lot less costly. How much analysis has occurred?

Dr. Lescault stated he reviews five years of data. Dr. Lescault stated one example is custodial supplies has been level funded each year and each year the target is missed; level funding simply won't work as supplies have increased in cost by approximately 20%. Dr. Lescault stated all other numbers are real.

Mrs. Esposito asked if a student could do science fair as well as a senior project to which Dr. Filippelli replied no; the project must be out of their comfort zone.

Mrs. Esposito asked if that was when science fair was required of honors students.

Dr. Filippelli stated starting in 2013; a science fair component will not be required of honors students. Dr. Filippelli added as long as students require course requirements by mid-term, in theory a student can combine both, but the project does need to be out of their comfort zone.

Rhonda Andrews

Ms. Andrews asked if Scituate will be doing any type of virtual learning in middle school, especially for those students who do not perform as well in classroom. Ms. Andrews stated Providence has indicated desire to become more involved in virtual learning as other states have already done so.

Dr. Filippelli stated Scituate does have a virtual high school program as well as credit recovery program; Scituate is ahead of the state. The state changed the drop out age from age 16 to age 18 within last few years. Dr. Filippelli stated Scituate is piloting Study Island this year but in no way is it going to be a replacement for any coursework. Dr. Filippelli stated if a student wish to attend all classes in a virtual environment, the student would need to be homeschooled.

Ms. Andrews asked if that is available only at high school level to which Dr. Filippelli replied yes. There are courses virtual available at high school (for example, Mandarin) and at the middle school level, Study Island is being introduced.

Ms. Andrews stated a student would not actually obtain a degree via virtual learning to which Dr. Filippelli stated not in Scituate unless it was a student who needs to complete Credit Recovery in order to obtain diploma.

Ms. Andrews asked if other states are doing this to which Dr. Filippelli replied there are pockets around the country; however the full replacement is not yet in place.

Dr. Lescault stated a parent could make a homeschool request and student could complete coursework via virtual learning.

Mrs. Andrews asked if an accredited program is identified as such by institution providing coursework not by school district in which child resides to which Dr. Lescault replied yes.

Chair Umbriano asked what grade student is in currently to which Mrs. Andrews replied Grade 7.

Dr. Filippelli stated another parent requesting homeschooling is completing program via James Madison High School. Dr. Filippelli stated progress reports are requested from parents.

Dr. Lescault told Mrs. Andrews to contact Dr. Filippelli and we will do best to assist.

NEW BUSINESS

116-13

1. Ratification of Northwest Special Education Region Collaborative Agreement

Recommendation: Approve the agreement as proposed

Mr. LaPlante, moved, seconded by Mrs. Delmonico, to approve the agreement as proposed. The committee unanimously approved the motion.

2. Ratification of School Budgets (5)

Recommendation: Approve the budgets as proposed

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

Mr. LaPlante asked the importance of ratifying these budgets to which Dr. Lescault

stated this is one step in process which allows him to begin the overall district budget. The budget can be changed at any point within the process by the committee all the way up until the time of print for the financial town meeting in the spring.

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

116-14

Dr. Lescault recommended the following resignations for approval:
Nick Annicelli; day custodian, Scituate Middle/High School

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

116-15

COMMITTEE REMARKS

MRS. DELMONICO

Mrs. Delmonico thanked Dr. Klimaj and wished him well.

MRS. GUGLIELMI

Mrs. Guglielmi thanked Dr. Klimaj for his dedication, expertise and support over the past few years; it has been a pleasure working with him.

DR. KLIMAJ

Dr. Klimaj thanked everyone and truly enjoyed his experience for the past three years and hopes he has made a contribution.

MR. LAPLANTE

Mr. LaPlante thanked Dr. Klimaj for being a great teammate and doing great things for this town during his tenure.

CHAIR UMBRIANO

Chair Umbriano asked Mr. LaPlante to discuss SYA (Scituate Youth Association).

Mr. LaPlante stated group recently by several resident parents to enhance existing services both of school and leagues in town and to coordinate efforts and to try to bring in grant monies to not be a burden to town. Mr. LaPlante added it is a very youth-centered group but collaborative in nature.

Chair Umbriano stated this group is also hoping to obtain grant funding to better town fields as well as school fields.

Drs. Lescault and Filippelli met with the accreditation group on Monday and shared that information and they were glad to hear.

Mr. LaPlante will share more information as it becomes available; there will be a school committee member liaison as there will be a sharing of resources.

Chair Umbriano added there will be a tree lighting on December 7 at 4:30 PM. These are memory trees and all are welcome to bring an ornament in memory of a loved one.

Chair Umbriano stated total enrollment is 1511.

**DISCUSSION OF
FUTURE BUSINESS**

116-16

January 8 School Committee Meeting

ADJOURNMENT

116-17

Dr. Klimaj moved, seconded by Mrs. Delmonico to adjourn meeting at 8:00 PM. The Committee unanimously approved the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. Guglielmi, Clerk

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