

**SCITUATE SCHOOL COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 8, 2013
TOWN HALL CHAMBERS**

CALL TO ORDER

117-1

The School Committee Meeting was called to order by Chair Umbriano at 7:00 PM.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

117-2

Led by Chair Umbriano, all participated in a pledge of allegiance to the flag.

REORGANIZATION OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE

117-3

Dr. Lescault stated the school committee completes reorganization each January. At this time, Dr. Lescault asked for a nomination for the position of Chair.

Mrs. Guglielmi nominated Marylou Umbriano for position of Chair which was seconded by Mrs. Delmonico, and unanimously approved by committee.

Dr. Lescault added Chair Umbriano is the hardest working School Committee chairperson with whom he has worked and looks forward to another year of working with Chair Umbriano.

Chair Umbriano asked for a nomination for the position of Clerk.

Mrs. Delmonico nominated Mrs. Guglielmi for position of Clerk which was seconded by Mr. LaPlante and unanimously approved by committee.

Chair Umbriano reviewed reorganization of committee liaisons:
Budget: Mrs. Delmonico and Mr. LaPlante; *Curriculum:* Mrs. Guglielmi; *Health, Wellness and Food Services:* Chair Umbriano; *Negotiations:* Mr. LaPlante and Chair Umbriano; *Policy:* Mrs. Delmonico; *RIASC:* All members; *Scholarship:* Mrs. Esposito; *Special Education:* Jean Esposito; *Strategic Planning:* Mrs. Guglielmi; *Transportation and Safety:* Chair Umbriano.

Mrs. Esposito asked to be considered to curriculum committee based on expertise.

Chair Umbriano stated Mrs. Guglielmi previously was involved in curriculum and will step back into that role.

Chair Umbriano mentioned to Mrs. Esposito that RIASC is holding a session for all new committee members.

Dr. Lescault confirmed Mrs. Esposito was receiving RIASC emails.

Mrs. Esposito stated experience with common core standards and motioned to be the liaison for curriculum.

Chair Umbriano thanked Mrs. Esposito for input and stated motions cannot be made on this portion of the agenda; these positions are appointed.

Mrs. Esposito asked how liaisons were determined.

Chair Umbriano stated Chair and Superintendent review committees and activities.

Mr. LaPlante added there are many opportunities for all to speak to curriculum.

Mrs. Guglielmi stated the group is mostly advisory in nature; Mrs. Guglielmi would welcome any input from Mrs. Esposito.

TRACK PROPOSAL

Chair Umbriano motioned to hear Track Proposal at this time. Mr. LaPlante seconded motion and committee unanimously agreed.

(Committee members received detailed proposal from Michael Nehring in which he requests permission for implementation of boys and girls high school track Clubs. His intent would be to form permanent teams if clubs are successful. Committee members also received copies of email from Principal Sollitto and AD Ryan (to Dr. Lescault) which recommend committee approve Club teams for Outdoor Track for 2012-2013 school year.

Dr. Lescault stated as done in past, when implementing a new sport, it is requested the new sport begin as a club sport during the first year and if group is successful (funding team and minimum number of participants) then the committee would consider taking responsibility for it as a sport the following year.

Dr. Lescault added recommendation has been received from Principal Sollitto and AD Ryan. They along with Mr. Nehring who wrote proposal are here to answer any questions.

Chair Umbriano stated there are many components to Outdoor Track (hammer, relay, etc.) and asked what this program would entail.

Mr. Nehring stated a member of the RI InterScholastic League is also in attendance and available to answer any questions. Due to size of school and facility availability, it is very common for such a program to begin with a running program (100, 200, 400, 800, 1000 and all of the relays). All of the middle distance runners can run the cross-country course which was created several years ago which is maintained by the team. Mr. Nehring stated sides of buildings can be used and sprints can be done along edges of new field or on off side of Manning Field. Also, the hill on Central Pike can be utilized.

Mr. Nehring stated additional events can be added at later date and team could place roll out mat (\$300) behind scoreboard which is unused space. Also, lumber and sand could be donated and a pit could be built for long jumps. Mr. Nehring stated running coaches are in place. Track and Field typically has a separate coach for weight training; Shannon Donovan has volunteered to coach this portion of this program if program expands.

Mr. Nehring stated there are at least four students currently running who potentially could earn scholarship for college. With good track numbers, these students can apply for those scholarships and be seen by college coaches. The next step is track program competing against other schools (outdoor and indoor and cross country) and so this club is a little behind in training regimen; however deficit can be picked up in the spring.

Mrs. Guglielmi asked if this club/team would be able to compete next year in the scholastic league.

Representative from RISL stated that the Club can be placed on the schedule as a team this Spring (both boys and girls team).

Mrs. Esposito stated there are at least seven different track meets and asked about transportation for team members.

Mr. Nehring stated there are several parent volunteers and for preliminary meets, they

could be run as dual meets and everything else is invitational.

Mr. LaPlante stated there are space limitations already at the fields and asked what space would look like with track teams in place?

Mr. Nehring replied it would be same as is currently. Track teams would be utilizing cross country trails which are not used at this time.

Mr. LaPlante asked why existing track would not be used to which Mr. Nehring replied runners may develop shin splints running on asphalt. Grass training is best when available. Mr. Nehring added sprinting requires warming up and repeats of timed runs.

Mr. LaPlante asked where sprints would be run.

Mr. Nehring stated along the side of the field (behind soccer field near concession stand). Practices can also be done on the hill for cross country runners.

Mr. LaPlante stated to properly handle this program, would it be beneficial to have added facilities to which Mr. Nehring agreed; however the team has what is needed, especially to start a Club.

Mr. LaPlante asked if the seniors running this spring would have platform for college scholarships, etc.

Mr. Nehring stated there is still time for these students to obtain necessary numbers.

Mr. LaPlante asked about indoor track during the winter.

Mr. Nehring stated currently there are two girls and two boys running indoors (with coach at Ponagansett).

Mrs. Delmonico asked if this Club would take away from other sports currently running.

Mr. Nehring stated it is possible. Mr. Nehring stated several years volleyball team was a full team and once football team was formed, five players transferred to football. Mr. Nehring had to rebuild program; the key is not to have a certain sport available rather to have sport the students want. It is clear the students here this evening want to go out and run. Other coaches can do same and rebuild their programs if necessary.

Mrs. Delmonico was very active during her high school years and commends all for bringing this to the committee.

Mrs. Guglielmi stated it is wonderful to see so many people come out and show interest in a program and to show the public that is your interest.

Chair Umbriano stated it is a learning curve for students. They now understand a proposal must be submitted and properly presented in order to establish such a program. Chair Umbriano stated the committee is very proud of the efforts of the students in the room.

Mrs. Guglielmi stated it is important that students realize there is a process, not simply making a request for a program. These students put in a lot of work prior to getting to this point this evening and Mrs. Guglielmi is very impressed.

Mr. Nehring stated this is a very special group. Having coached for many years, Mr. Nehring said these students are dedicated sportsman, never complain and are top-notch.

Mr. LaPlante thanked Dr. Sollitto and AD Ryan for supporting this program.

Ian Gould, one member of the team, stated the students have big goals for next season and now those goals are becoming more realistic.

Mrs. Delmonico moved, seconded by Mr. LaPlante to accept the track proposal as presented. The committee unanimously approved the motion.

Chair Umbriano asked if an existing school sport does not receive minimum number of players to participate in competitive program one year, would the sport being an established sport (as it already received approval) or does it need to pass through approval once again when the adequate number of players enrolls.

AD Ryan stated it would still be considered a sport.

Dr. Sollitto sits on Principal's Committee of Athletics and stated a one year waiver would need to be requested and then the following year, they would need to reapply.

Representative from RISL stated each year one school's team becomes a little smaller; however there is not a minimum for the track program. There may not be awards or medals for certain sports if a minimum number is not reached, but those teams remain on the schedule and can still participate in competitions.

AD Ryan stated four individuals are still considered a team although this year there exists individual athletes.

**APPROVAL OF
MINUTES**

117-4

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

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

**CAPITAL RESERVE
FUND**

117-5

Mrs. Guglielmi moved, seconded by Mrs. Delmonico, to approve the Capital Reserve Funds –School Improvements for the month of January 2013 in the amount of \$8,486.27. The Committee unanimously agreed.

GENERAL FUND

117-6

Mrs. Guglielmi moved, seconded by Mrs. Delmonico, to approve The General Fund for month of January 2013 in the amount of \$742,325.60. The Committee unanimously approved motion.

GRANT BILLS

117-7

Mrs. Guglielmi moved, seconded by Mrs. Delmonico, to approve Grant Bills for month of January in the amount of \$25,844.62. The Committee unanimously approved motion.

CORRESPONDENCE

117-8

A letter to Superintendent from Bill Tremblay informing him of intent to home school his daughter, Lindsay for remainder of 2012/13 school year beginning December 18, 2012.

117-9

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

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

117-10

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE LIAISONS

BUDGET

Mrs. Delmonico stated the budget will be discussed during Superintendent's Report.

CURRICULUM

Mrs. Guglielmi stated nothing to report.

FOOD SERVICES AND
HEALTH/WELNNESS
NEGOTIATIONS

Chair Umbriano stated the next meeting will be held at Clayville on January 16 at 9:30 AM.

Mr. LaPlante stated negotiations with teachers are on the horizon.

POLICY

Mrs. Delmonico 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 the committee meets on the second Monday of each month. The committee will be ramping up work as they are now in the beginning of the year to discuss funding for scholarships.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Mrs. Guglielmi stated the Strategic Plan is updated each spring.

SCITUATE
PREVENTION
PARTNERSHIP

Chair Umbriano stated nothing to report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

117-11

There is no unfinished business for the month of January.

117-12

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

**RTTT and RIDE
UPDATE**

At the last assistant superintendent's meeting, representatives from RIDE outlined some work that districts may engage in for the upcoming academic year. They include:

- Interim Assessments: Districts may choose to have their teachers trained in using the online interim assessment module. Training on these modules will commence in the Fall of 2013. Dr. Filippelli will be discussing the feasibility of the training with the building principals in the upcoming months to determine if it will be beneficial for the schools and teachers.
- Growth Model: RIDE will begin using the student growth model to inform teacher evaluation results during the 2013-2014 school year. RIDE will use this regardless of the pending results of the PARCC tests because they maintain that student

growth is measured over time.

- PARCC Testing: RIDE has indicated that this performance based assessment will be given as close to the end of 2014 as possible. As of right now, RIDE has no plans to give this assessment in addition to the NECAP assessment in 2014. However, they are still not 100% certain this will be the case because they still need to come into compliance with NCLB.

Mr. LaPlante asked if student growth relates to a specific cohort measured over time.

Dr. Filippelli stated the current NECAP measures a snapshot of scores of one cohort; the growth looks at longitudinal progress of that cohort from year to year. RIDE is still in the process of completing how the new PARCC test is going to factor into the growth model. RIDE expects to roll out the PARCC test in the 2013-2014 academic year. Dr. Filippelli stated there are still discussions between RIDE and unions so it's possible that it may change. Scituate completes its evaluations and submits to RIDE but growth factor is factored in and of itself and gets added into the final evaluation rating of each teacher.

Dr. Filippelli stated PARCC testing is a major issue for every part of RI currently. Dr. Filippelli stated prior to NECAP there was another testing program; however between the two was a transition year when new standards reference exams were completed in March and then NECAP piloted in October and the real NECAPS were completed the following October. Dr. Filippelli asked RIDE if NECAP would remain in place as PARCC is being put into place to retain longitudinal data on students. RIDE is uncertain as they await notification of NCLB which dictates testing. Students will continue to take NECAP Science but no districts know if students are going to have to take the NECAP and the PARCC in the same year.

**FEBRUARY 15TH
PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT**

In preparation for 2/15 PD day, Dr. Filippelli has been in close contact with the Dunn Institute who will be leading the PD at the elementary level. Over the last 6 weeks, Dr. Filippelli has surveyed the elementary teachers using surveymonkey.com to assess PD needs as they pertain to work around the common core. Dr. Filippelli has built the PD day around their needs which included grade level meetings, creating common core curriculum templates in ELA and Math, and outlining the next steps needed to transition over to the common core. At the middle level, the teachers will be working in departmental groups on aligning the current curriculum to common core. At the high school level, the teachers will be working on the RIDE teacher evaluation model as well as working in departmental groups on response to intervention. Dr. Sollitto is trying to secure a representative from RITAP on that day to lead some of the direction on RTI at the high school level.

Mrs. Esposito asked what is done in the classroom to keep teachers aligned with standards.

Dr. Filippelli stated DUNN analyzes existing curriculum against NECAP scores and identifies gaps. Now, moving over to common core one of the best practices (currently in Georgia) will be taught to the teachers. Teachers will be trained on templates by DUNN and teachers will have time in grade level meetings to move their current curriculum over to the CCSS.

Mrs. Esposito asked if teachers choose what to use within curriculum as long as it aligns to common core.

Dr. Filippelli stated there is some flexibility; however the move is to get common assessments, etc. at grade level so that all teachers within same grade are focusing on same thing. Supplemental materials can be added but there is a long-term vision of K-5 span, along with common core development.

MONTHLY ACTIVITIES Committee members received copies of monthly activities.

117-13

**2013-2014 DISTRICT
BUDGET**

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

(Committee members received first draft of expenditure side of school district budget for 2013-2014. Copies were available for public as well.) The proposed budget is up from 2012-2013 by \$599,427 or 2.7%. The increase is somewhat misleading as the budget includes \$205,390 for Improvements to Buildings and Grounds. No funds for that purpose were included in the 2012-2013 school district budget, but town is funding \$203,000 of Improvements to Buildings and Grounds out of their budget. Consequently, the proposed school district budget for 2013-2014 is artificially inflated by \$205,390.

Dr. Lescault stated a 0.49% assumption is used throughout the budget for potential salary increases for certified and non-certified personnel that are not otherwise covered by an existing contract for 2013-2014, with specific rates. With step increases, a 0.49% increase translates into about a \$200,000 increase in Teacher Salaries. In part because they were not able to eliminate two buses during 2012-2013 as planned, transportation costs will increase in 2013-2014 by about \$80,000.

Dr. Lescault has not, at this time, provided the Committee with a proposed revenue budget for 2013-2014. Rhode Island state aid for education will not be known until the budget for 2013-2014 is completed and signed into law sometime in June or July. If that budget ultimately includes full funding of the state aid formula, Scituate will receive about \$200,000 of additional state aid.

Based on Scituate's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for FY 2012, School Fund Balance at end of FY11 was \$1,541,809. However, \$1,152,000 of that was budgeted as revenue in FY12, reducing Fund Balance to \$389,809. FY12 ended with a budgetary surplus of \$920,378 (Revenue -\$73,391 + Expenditures \$993,769). GASB also required that auditors include in Fund Balance a "Special Revenue Fund" (Medicaid \$384,011) not previously included in fund balance. The Committee also authorized transfer of \$300,000 previously designated as "State Fiscal Year Transition" revenue, into Fund Balance. These transfers were one time transfers and therefore inflate the Fund Balance. The Fund Balance is reduced \$274,481, as this amount was paid in FY12 but is for FY13 expenditures. That leaves Fund Balance of \$1,719,717 on March 31, 2012. However, it is important to note the balance was reduced by \$1,152,000, which was budgeted as revenue in FY13. If FY13 is fully expended and revenue is in line with budgeted amount, on March 31, 2013 Fund Balance will be \$567,717, which would make it impossible to commit \$1,152,000 of Fund Balance as revenue for FY14.

Dr. Lescault stated Scituate is working on projecting expenditures and revenues for March 31, 2013, to develop an estimate of 2012-2013 balance. While that process is not complete, Dr. Lescault is comfortable the worst case scenario as outlined will not occur.

The proposed district budget will likely undergo revisions. However, Dr. Lescault stated

the School Committee should adopt it or some form of it under New Business in preparation for the meeting with the Town Budget Committee on January 16.

Regarding second bus not eliminated, Chair Umbriano asked if a discussion was held with First Student if student requiring bus leaves district then bus would be eliminated.

Dr. Lescault replied yes.

Mrs. Esposito asked the fiscal year for Scituate.

Dr. Lescault stated fiscal year is April 1-March 31 and state fiscal year is July 1-June 30.

Mrs. Esposito stated Rep. Marcello forwarded an email regarding incoming state aid for FY 2013 and asked if the \$242,000 was reflected within the budget Dr. Lescault reviewed.

Dr. Lescault replied yes. Dr. Lescault stated it is unknown at this time what the revenue will be but it does state that the school budget includes full funding of the state aid formula and Scituate will receive approximately \$242,000 state aid. Dr. Lescault stated funding will be over the course of two fiscal years which wouldn't be received until July (start of state fiscal year) but Scituate's fiscal year begins in April.

Mrs. Esposito would like three modifications to budget. Mrs. Esposito stated first modification was resolved in last month's meeting as Dr. Lescault stated when there is a need and request for textbooks, they are funded. Mrs. Esposito stated with common core on horizon, perhaps committee should be thinking about contingency funds for new textbooks which will reflect the common core, specifically at middle and high schools (which are more textbook dependent).

Dr. Lescault stated that is a discussion and decision for the committee.

Chair Umbriano stated committee typically has a session to review budget items.

Dr. Lescault stated if that need arose, Dr. Lescault will request money from committee and make necessary purchase(s).

Mrs. Esposito stated at the last meeting Dr. Filippelli indicated those (common core) textbooks have not been published at this time.

Dr. Filippelli stated RIDE has cautioned schools in purchase of new textbooks until PARCC has been completed and it is determined what is truly needed.

Mrs. Esposito stated the publishing dates on some of the textbooks are troublesome.

Mrs. Esposito stated second modification is to include field trip budget of \$6,000 (\$1,000 for each elementary; \$1,500 for middle school; \$1,500 for high school). At discretion of principal, teachers could request field trips. This will communicate to teachers that school committee supports field trips not only verbally but also with a small financial gesture.

Chair Umbriano stated field trips were in previous budgets but removed the line item as funding would be received through PTO as well as fundraisers.

Mrs. Esposito asked the funds be reinstated.

Dr. Lescault respects Mrs. Esposito's opinion but needs direction from whole committee.

As such a nominal amount, Mr. LaPlante is not against field trips; yet also does not feel it

is a compelling issue as the committee has not heard from teachers or parents on this topic.

Mrs. Guglielmi stated students are going on field trips; they are simply being funded in other ways. Regarding larger field trips such as middle school or senior trips, there often are fundraisers to help defray costs.

Ms. Maureen Kennedy (North Doctor's Way) is a Scituate math teacher and stated some teachers no longer take classroom field trips because they are costly. Teachers believe it is unfair to ask parents to fund \$20-30 in addition to bussing for those types of field trips. Many teachers do think twice before doing classroom or field team trips.

From a parent's point of view, Diane Scacco (Crestview Drive) stated some field trips are more fun-based (movies) than educational-based (Smithsonian). Ms. Scacco stated it is such a small amount to defray the cost would equate to approximately \$4 per student.

Mrs. Esposito stated it is a gesture of support of learning outside of the classroom and hopefully teachers will look for that curriculum connection. Years ago there was a large field trip budget, but this would be just a small demonstration of support.

Rep. Mike Marcello (Chopmist Hill Road) stated school year ended with a \$567,000 surplus. This has been an issue of import for many years and stated if committee truly believes that an approved educational field trip will be beneficial to students, then committee should fund them. Rep. Marcello stated when ending year with a \$567,000 surplus and then nickeling and diming parents to raise \$15 dollars to attend a field trip is ridiculous. This demonstrates this is not a priority for school committee; if committee wanted to fund the trips, there is certainly funding to do so. Now is the time to start putting some of this money back.

Dr. Lescault is not opposed to field trips and the amount requested is minimal; however the \$567,000 to which Rep. Marcello refers is a problem because unless the school department has \$1.2 million at year end, Scituate School Department will be in a deep hole in which the Town will have to compensate. An additional \$700,000 needs to be raised before the School Department receives any additional money.

Mr. LaPlante stated the fund balance has been used to which Rep. Marcello stated understanding.

Rep. Marcello stated according to Dr. Lescault's budget, the school will still be up by \$167,000.

Mrs. Guglielmi stated when discussing \$6,000 for over 1,500 students, it is not a significant amount of money; it is not possible to obtain a bus for one classroom for that amount. To fund field trips, a much higher budget would need to be considered and Mrs. Guglielmi is not ready to allocate those funds at this time as field trips are not lacking. Classes still take their field trips and this will not do much to defray costs.

Mr. LaPlante respects idea of putting money into this line item and it is important for the committee to think about supporting these items monetarily as well but sees more benefit allocating that \$6,000 in other areas, perhaps in new technology, etc.

Colleen Pendergast (Apple Hill Drive) stated field trips are key to children's education. Ms. Pendergast added PTO at the elementary school level does a great job fundraising but believes vast majority of parents will pay for field trips. Ms. Pendergast agrees \$6,000 will not go far in funding field trips and suggested putting the money toward a financial hardship fund for those students unable to afford cost of field trips.

Mr. LaPlante asked what happens in a hardship case.

Dr. Lescault stated teacher and/or principal identify those students and provide funds from specific line item.

Mr. LaPlante would be interested in exploring policy for funding hardships.

Dr. Lescault asked Principal Sollitto about fund used for hardship cases.

Dr. Sollitto stated funds are available for students having financial difficulty; at risk students.

Mrs. Guglielmi stated if a history teacher wishes to take students on a history field trip that student is then taken away from all other classes as well. It is more complex at high school level than in elementary school.

Mrs. Esposito moved to reinstate \$6,000 into budget for purpose of field trips. No one seconded motion; motion was denied.

Mrs. Esposito asked that the budget provide more transparency in terms of reviewing budget (which is also distributed to public). Mrs. Esposito would like to see realignment of budget in categorical form so that all salaries are listed under a general salary category.

Mr. LaPlante asked if there were specific concerns which could be discussed. Comparatively, the history is not here which may be which Mrs. Esposito desires.

Dr. Lescault stated the reason the budget is presented as such is to make it as simple to read as possible. This format follows an old Chart of Accounts; this can be resorted any way the committee desires.

Mrs. Esposito stated it does need to be re-categorized, simply resorted. In addition, Mrs. Esposito would like to see salaries of Assistant Superintendent and Educational Consultant broken out as well and janitors and Director and Assistant Director of Buildings and Grounds.

Chair Umbriano asked if Mrs. Esposito has received a copy of the Chart of Accounts to which Mrs. Esposito replied no.

Dr. Lescault stated Chart of Accounts is an overwhelming report that includes a complete drill down of every item.

Mrs. Esposito would like the public to see the line items broken out.

Mr. LaPlante stated the committee does provide that for the public; this is only one manifestation of the budget.

Rep. Marcello asked if he would need to make a special request to determine the salary of the Superintendent.

Mr. LaPlante stated there has to be some point at which the size of the document becomes reasonable. Mr. LaPlante respects the fact that Mrs. Esposito wants a few items changed.

Ms. Scacco stated during the Financial Town Meeting, the public has the opportunity to question or to respond to any of the line items directly.

Chair Umbriano stated public also has opportunity to attend school committee meeting

and raise questions or concerns at that time as well.

Mr. LaPlante stated there is plenty of opportunity for the public to address budget. To extent that Mrs. Esposito requested just a few changes to this budget is fine.

Mrs. Esposito would like Teachers Salaries category to contain all salaries of all and then General Salaries which would include Superintendent salary, Director of Buildings and Grounds, etc.

Dr. Lescault will make changes and submit revised version to committee.

Ms. Pendergast was shocked that janitors salaries decreased by 2.5% and asked if that was correct to which the committee confirmed.

Ms. Pendergast stated assumption would be that Buildings and Grounds personnel would have taken a 2.5% decrease as well. There is some value to point Mrs. Esposito made. Ms. Pendergast is horrified if custodians received a 2.5% decrease in salary.

Mrs. Esposito moved, seconded by Mr. LaPlante to make changes as proposed regarding salary detail. The committee unanimously approved motion.

**TOWN BUDGET
COMMITTEE/SCHOOL
COMMITTEE BUDGET
MEETING**

As Dr. Lescault stated at the Committee on December 17, 2012, the Town Budget Committee has scheduled a meeting with the School Committee for Wednesday, January 16, 2013 at 6:00 PM to discuss the school district budget for 2013-2014. (Copies of the agenda for the meeting were provided to committee members).

**NORTH SCITUATE
WATER**

Steve Gormley informed Dr. Lescault on December 19 that recently conducted lead and copper water testing at North Scituate Elementary School showed two taps to have unacceptable lead readings. This finding has triggered increased monitoring and public notification. The two taps have been replaced and additional testing will be done in early January. However, Mr. Gormley is concerned that the past and continuing problems with the North Scituate water system may worsen and that Scituate should start conversations with the Town to begin planning for attaching to a public water system. Dr. Lescault asked Mr. Gormley to begin that conversation with Town Engineer David Provonsil and stated Mr. Gormley is available for questions.

Dr. Lescault added previous discussions included bringing in water from Johnston or Smithfield but it was not feasible. Should the water get to the point where the water is not usable, it could result in abandoning that school. This is something the town needs to consider long-term.

Chair Umbriano asked about the new tanks.

Mr. Gormley stated the new tanks are functioning properly; part of the problem is that the well has been chlorinated and Mr. Gormley believes that adding a corrosive to the water system is starting to create leaching in copper. Eventually it will get to point where everything will need to be changed. Approximately \$9,000 was spent last years and another \$2,000 will be spent soon on increased monitoring which includes 20-30 man hours for overnight testing.

Mr. Gormley stated tests continue to produce positive results which further result in alleged violations from Department of Health which are not actual violations. The way the system was set up, it is triggered as a violation although it never passes the well. However, now that there is lead in the sample, it is a substantial concern.

Chair Umbriano asked about the plan to bring water up through Johnston.

Mr. Gormley stated there have been multiple ideas; the town needs to step in.

Mr. LaPlante also spoke to Mr. Provonsil regarding that area in North Scituate and it is quite compromised; leach fields, wells are in close proximity.

Mr. Gormley stated the well has been grandfathered in but there is a storm drain less than 60 feet away.

Mr. LaPlante stated there are solutions and the committee does need to contact Town Council and also contact state leadership to determine how the town can bring water to the area, not just the school.

Mr. Gormley believes there were some federal violations as well.

Chair Umbriano asked if the committee could address this issue at the upcoming budget meeting (with Town Council).

Dr. Lescault believes it will be an abbreviated meeting and understands Town Council is scheduling small blocks of time per department so is uncertain how much time will be allocated to anything beyond budget. Dr. Lescault asked if this is something in which Rep. Marcello could assist.

Rep. Marcello stated a letter would be helpful. Rep. Marcello confirmed the issue is that the chlorine is eating the lead and copper so that it's not passing state test which Mr. LaPlante confirmed.

Dr. Lescault stated it could be a substantial \$5 million price tag.

Rep. Marcello stated there was a Clean Water Act recently passed by voters; this is a town driven issue. Rep. Marcello agrees he does not believe a school can function without potable water.

Chair Umbriano suggested Mrs. Esposito (as a new committee member) contact Mr. Gormley to tour the system.

**CRISIS RESPONSE
TEAM MEETING**

Dr. Lescault asked Dr. Filippelli and Mr. Gormley, who co-chair the Crisis Response Team, to convene a meeting of the CRT committee after the Christmas vacation to discuss potential safety improvements that can be made immediately at the schools, without major new funding. (Committee members received copies of list of those improvements and the projected cost.) Ed Myers has written Senator Jack Reed to pursue the possibility of federal funds to address major, long term structural changes to enhance security at schools (Committee members received copies of letter.).

Dr. Filippelli stated the Crisis Team met and discussed what immediate changes can occur in each of the buildings around the district. One item was updating to an intercom system at each of the schools and including cameras and a DVR so that there is constant recording. Each of the schools has one or both of these presently, but they need to be upgraded. All administrators will be meeting to review safety procedures regarding visitors. There are some building drop off points which may change which will be communicated to the parents. (For example, all drop-offs will be at high school drop off versus middle school entryway.)

The middle school entryway does not have two-way intercom so there is no way to communicate with anyone on the outside of the doors. Once buzzed in through the doors,

person has multi-access points to two buildings. Dr. Filippelli stated changes will be communicated to parents of all schools.

Dr. Filippelli stated some technological items reviewed included access cards, buzzers, access files for faculty, etc. Mr. Gormley priced requirements.

Mr. Gormley stated the package deal, which includes all three elementary schools, the middle school, and high school costs \$22,500. All schools would receive the same system. Some of the items include access control, door monitoring system, door intercom system (rings to phone as well), signage for law enforcement and fire department, replacement door at high school, electronics. Some of the work could be completed by staff and the remaining work would cost approximately \$7,000 for contracted professional to install.

Dr. Filippelli stated Ms. Mowry (Hope School) now requires any late drop-offs be signed in by parent at front office.

Dr. Lescault stated these changes are endorsed by Scituate Police Department which is an integral part of the Crisis Management Team. The Team met yesterday which included several officers including Chief and Deputy Chief.

Dr. Filippelli stated the third prong of the plan includes training. Much of the changes occurred following the incident at Columbine High School which included a change in philosophy. This most recent tragedy at Sandy Hook Elementary occurred in a very similar district. Teachers and staff have been asked what type of training is needed and desired and once that information is received, a plan can be developed and implemented. Dr. Filippelli stated this will help all understand their roles and responsibilities.

Dr. Filippelli stated Scituate School Department has been doing this for years and has a good lock-down plan in place. When looking at the Connecticut tragedy, 20 children lost their lives but at the same time 580 lived which means policies do work. Dr. Filippelli stated Scituate schools are safe; this is to augment its safety.

Referring to the Connecticut incident, Mrs. Guglielmi was surprised glass would be an issue.

Dr. Filippelli stated the Secret Service research on active shooters indicate that anyone willing to trade their life to do what they want to do, it is almost impossible to stop them.

Mrs. Esposito asked about non-front doors (kitchen doors, etc.)

Dr. Filippelli stated that will be addressed during administrative changes which will include which doors will remain locked, etc.

Chair Umbriano stated substitute teachers receive a key for their classroom only after leaving their car or house keys at the front office. Chair Umbriano stated changes need to be carried throughout all schools. Some people are not as active within schools, so perhaps next time an Alert Message gets sent out informing all parents school officials are aware of what is happening and are taking every precaution possible.

Dr. Lescault stated in hindsight things would have been handled differently as he underestimated the anxiety within the community. Dr. Lescault did not wish to overreact but felt perhaps he under reacted in this case. Dr. Lescault stated the school will take whatever measures necessary to ensure schools are safer.

Chair Umbriano stated one parent communicated concern that they were not certain how the school would handle the situation on Monday in school and weren't certain how to

communicate incident with their own children. This parent suggested a meeting where parents could have obtained feedback or advice.

Mr. LaPlante stated it wasn't that parents were relying on the school for parenting guidance rather the coordination of communication.

Ms. Pendergast is thrilled about the change within middle school. Reviewing safety within district, Ms. Pendergast asked if there was someone above the principals who was reviewing the safety of the school.

Chair Umbriano stated Mr. Gormley also participates in many other areas within the town so he brings his expertise to the school as well as does Dr. Filippelli.

Mr. Gormley stated all is reviewed up to the Assistant Superintendent and Superintendent.

Ms. Pendergast stated everyone's lives changed after this event just as they did post 9/11.

Ms. Pendergast stated being very involved with schools, including PTO and acknowledges the fact that officials do not want to panic parents but feels there needs to be more communication and wishes it came in a standardized manner. Ms. Pendergast noted the principal of her children's elementary school sent home a letter while middle school sent an AlertNow message. Making communication uniform helps provide direction.

Ms. Pendergast agreed with discussion of safety plan and having those policies and procedures in place. Ms. Pendergast understands we can't put children in a bubble but wants comfort in knowing that everything possible is being done to ensure the safety of children. Ms. Pendergast stated the additional \$7,000 cost for a contracted professional to come in and provide services would be well spent and the turnaround will be much faster.

Ms. Pendergast is disappointed that it seems this is the first time the school committee has met to discuss these issues and this incident occurred over a month ago. Ms. Pendergast asked if a parent is involved on the crisis team.

Dr. Filippelli stated there are no parents on the crisis team due to the level of confidentiality, the specific building plans, lock down plans, etc. The decision is intentional; however the school nurse, fire officials, police officials are on the team. However, members of the team are also parents of students in Scituate.

Chair Umbriano stated the Superintendent does communicate information with the crisis team and with the committee as well.

Dr. Lescault stated a lot was learned as a result of this crisis and a great deal of sensitivity was gained as well. Unfortunately, it is possible we may encounter a similar event and will be able to perform a better job based on lessons learned stated Dr. Lescault.

**CIVIL RIGHTS
COMPLIANCE
FACILITIES REVIEW**

RIDE conducted a civil rights compliance facilities review at Scituate High last August. Dr. Filippelli and Mr. Gormley created a Voluntary Correction Plan that was submitted to RIDE and forwarded to the US Office of Civil Rights (OCR) on September 28. (Committee members received copies of Summary of Findings and Voluntary Compliance Plan.) While the plan calls for immediate response to many of the cited violations, full implementation was spread out over several years. This was done because of huge scope and cost of work needed. OCR is now indicating that Scituate must provide a plan that results in all violations being remedied within two years of December 28, 2012. Dr. Lescault does not believe that timeline is appropriate or even possible. Full compliance may require hiring an architect, and/or other design professional, establishing a building committee, and securing approval of a school bond. Dr. Lescault asked Dave D'Agostino

to review correspondence from RIDE and to help develop a response to it. Dr. Lescault's hope is that Mr. D'Agostino, through legal action, will be able to secure some relief from the OCR compliance timeline. No action is required by the Committee at this point. However, Drs. Lescault and Filippelli and Mr. Gormley wanted the Committee and Town Council to be aware of this issue and the enormous compliance costs involved.

MONTHLY ACTIVITIES

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

117-14

Rep. Michael Marcello (Chopmist Hill Road)

Rep. Marcello welcomed Jean Esposito as new school committee member.

Rep. Marcello stated there was some discussion at the last meeting regarding amount of state aid Scituate School Department would receive.

Chair Umbriano stated someone questioned a postcard sent by Rep. Marcello's office.

Dr. Lescault was asked if the amount was correct and Dr. Lescault suggested that person contact Rep. Marcello's office for further information. Dr. Lescault cannot confirm amount being received as it was not known if amount was referring to a one year period, over a five-year period, etc.

Rep. Marcello stated school department did receive \$601,307 as a result of school funding formula. FY 2012 was first year of funding which included increase of \$242,420 over FY 2011. FY 2013 includes increase of \$358,887 over FY 2012. (Rep. Marcello provided copy of letter with Dr. Lescault.) Rep. Marcello stated FY 2013 included acceleration of one and one half year of extra funding. Rep. Marcello clarified Scituate did receive over \$601,000.

Dr. Lescault stated there were no doubts Rep. Marcello did not have accurate figures. However, Dr. Lescault was unable to confirm or deny figures until funds were received.

Rep. Marcello believes Scituate will be funded again this year as well.

Ms. Scacco added that person asked (during a past meeting) to see the check received. Dr. Lescault informed him that the school would be receiving funding over a period of time.

Maureen Kennedy (North Doctor's Way)

Ms. Kennedy thanked committee for allowing public to discuss topics during discussion.

Ms. Kennedy asked who currently sits on the curriculum committee and how one would become part of that committee.

Mrs. Guglielmi stated a member of the school committee acts as liaison in reviewing curriculum. Over 20 years as a school committee member and as a policy-making group, the committee has responsibility of approving curriculum but Mrs. Guglielmi believes it should be left to the experts to decide what should be done.

Mrs. Kennedy asked if this was a monthly committee.

Mrs. Guglielmi stated the position is that of a liaison, there isn't a formal committee and there is no monthly meeting as there are with Health and Wellness, for instance.

Chair Umbriano stated Health and Wellness is a committee; policy was written by Chair Umbriano and Superintendent. Dr. Filippelli, Chair Umbriano, Pete Ceprano, and Mrs. Cappelli are on the committee.

Mrs. Kennedy asked how one joins the curriculum committee; is it just teachers and when do members meet.

Dr. Filippelli stated curriculum planning is done at the school level and when the committee presents a report, if any, then Mrs. Guglielmi will report status. It's not a planning committee by any means.

Mrs. Guglielmi stated scholarship liaison is part of a committee which meets monthly; strategic planning committee meets once per year. There is no general plan for liaisons.

Regarding Race to the Top, Ms. Kennedy stated there is an overwhelming burden placed on district and believes the district is doing best job possible. The time, money and technology is not there. Ms. Kennedy stated the growth model will be introduced and used as part of teacher evaluation; however teachers need to pare down curriculum because common core curriculum is overwhelming and teachers need time to work on it. Administrators are working hard to get these evaluations and plans in place. Ms. Kennedy noted Dr. Sollitto is required to observe 52 teachers three times and follow-up with reports on a system which continually fails or times out.

Ms. Kennedy wanted the committee to be aware of level of work required from everyone.

Dr. Lescault stated RIDE stated it was going to be simple to facilitate but it is a nightmare from a technological standpoint.

Dr. Filippelli stated RI was awarded RTTP funds and Scituate will comply with mandates. There will be no more funding in 2014 so what RIDE has in place will need to work well because there will not be any additional funding to continue to support what has been built. Dr. Filippelli's concern is how to continue to grow Scituate. Each quarter Dr. Filippelli is required to report on goal attainment; there are some districts having difficulties. Although everything was rolled out, not every item must be completed; some are voluntary.

Dr. Lescault stated all administrators, including other districts, are taking approach that each can only do their best and to approach this with common sense as it is overwhelming.

Mrs. Kennedy stated there are numerous samples of common core textbooks and not all of them are accurate. Curriculum has to change and it has to change before the test in 2014.

Dr. Filippelli stated concern of PARCC.

Diane Scacco

Ms. Scacco provided update on Washington DC field trip (in May) stating the committee met with Grade 8 parents and discussed possibility of fundraiser to defray cost individually as well as a whole and to put aside money for any student facing hardship.

Mrs. Guglielmi stated the students will need to be in DC during the week to have opportunity to see any representatives. Mrs. Guglielmi stated Con. Langevin indicated interest in meeting with students and Jack Reed's office was contacted as well.

Ms. Scacco stated the students will be visiting Smithsonian Institute on that Friday.

Rep. Marcello asked Chair Umbriano to provide dates of trip and he will follow-up.

Ms. Scacco stated cost is \$425 per student so anything we can do to help defray the cost.

George Kuzmowycz Esek Hopkins Road

Regarding Assistant Superintendent's Report and PARCC, Mr. Kuzmowycz stated many of these standardized tests are a profit making enterprise. Is the new program costlier than what it is replacing and where in the budget would costs of test materials be found?

Dr. Filippelli stated test is administered by RIDE; it does not cost the town anything.

Dr. Lescault stated RIDE wants test to be completed via computer and wants entire class to take simultaneously which would require 150 computers at middle school and high school. Currently, Scituate does not have that equipment so it's possible computers will need to be purchased in 2014. Dr. Lescault is not certain how each district can be mandated to do so.

Mr. Kuzmowycz stated the approximate cost toward the district could be \$250,000. Will that be non-negotiable requirement?

Dr. Lescault replied yes at this time.

Mr. Kuzmowycz asked if testing administration is costlier to which Dr. Filippelli replied no. There are two hours blocked each day where teachers are administering tests. There will be paraprofessionals required for any student with IEP or 504 needing assistance which would incur additional cost, but 98% of instruction will not cost district.

Dr. Sollitto stated the only increase in cost in Grades 9-12.

Dr. Filippelli stated moving to PARCC is mandatory.

Regarding budget, Mr. Kuzmowycz was surprised to see decrease in certified pensions.

Dr. Lescault stated it was over budgeted and rate decreased due to legislative change.

Mr. Kuzmowycz asked if Dr. Lescault was confident that it wasn't risky to reduce that number to which Dr. Lescault replied the numbers were reviewed several times.

Mr. Kuzmowycz doesn't wish to minimize Connecticut tragedy and understands \$22,000 is small amount but wants to keep in mind that twice in many in US were killed by lightning than were shot in schools. There comes in an environment, whether reaction to 9/11, Columbine or Sandy Hook, where emotions take over and measures are taken which later prove to be regrettable. One person got on an airplane one time and tried to light his shoes on fire and now everyone is asked to take off their shoes for safety measures. Mr. Kuzmowycz stated it is important to keep in mind the risks of certain events.

Ms. Scacco stated one of the things the high school parents have been thankful for in the past few weeks is that there is a resource officer in the school.

Mr. Kuzmowycz replied Columbine had two armed guards.

Colleen Pendergast thanked the school committee for their service and stated disappointment in low turnout at the meeting. Ms. Pendergast asked if the school committee meeting schedule could be added to the principal's newsletter each month.

Chair Umbriano stated meetings are posted in The Observer, on website, at school department, etc.

Ms. Pendergast stated many parents she's spoken to pretend the Sandy Hook event didn't occur, in some way, whether it be for self-preservation or security, etc. Going forward, everything that can be done within reason should be done.

Chair Umbriano stated it took this event for schools in Warwick to lock doors. If there is a problem within the district, the meetings may have a larger turnout. However, there is great communication with the school committee and administrators to the teachers and staff.

Mrs. Guglielmi stated the school department works hard and keeps things under control so that if problems do arise they are handled quickly.

NEW BUSINESS

117-15

1. Initial Approval of 2013-2014 School District Budget

Recommendation: Approve the budget as proposed or as modified by the School Committee.

Mr. LaPlante moved, seconded by Mrs. Guglielmi to approve budget with modifications to salary category as discussed. The committee unanimously approved motion.

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

117-16

Dr. Lescault recommended the following appointments for approval: Michael Rizzo; 17 hour custodian, Scituate Middle/High School; Jacqueline Pincins; Bus Monitor; Ashley Valentine; Substitute Bus Monitor

Mr. LaPlante moved, seconded by Mrs. Guglielmi to approve appointments as set forth. The committee unanimously agreed.

117-17 COMMITTEE REMARKS

MRS. DELMONICO

Mrs. Delmonico welcomed Mrs. Esposito to the school committee and also noted that the school committee meeting date for the month of February has been changed to February 5.

Dr. Lescault stated for the first time in 27 years, he will be unable to attend this meeting due to change in committee's schedule.

MRS. GUGLIELMI

Mrs. Guglielmi welcomed Mrs. Esposito to the school committee.

JEAN ESPOSITO

Mrs. Esposito is happy to be a part of the school committee.

MR. LAPLANTE

Mr. LaPlante stated nothing to report.

CHAIR UMBRIANO

Chair Umbriano stated the committee is happy to have Mrs. Esposito on the board.

**DISCUSSION OF
FUTURE BUSINESS**

117-18

February 5 School Committee Meeting
March 5 School Committee Meeting
April 2 School Committee Meeting
May 7 School Committee Meeting
June 4 School Committee Meeting
July 2 School Committee Meeting
August 6 School Committee Meeting
September 3 School Committee Meeting
October 1 School Committee Meeting
November 5 School Committee Meeting
December 3 School Committee Meeting at **Scituate High School (6:00 PM)**

ADJOURNMENT

117-19

Mrs. Esposito moved, seconded by Mrs. Delmonico to adjourn meeting at 9:35 PM. The Committee unanimously approved the motion.



Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. Guglielmi, Clerk