

**SCITUATE SCHOOL COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 7, 2014
SCITUATE TOWN HALL CHAMBERS**

CALL TO ORDER

139-1

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

Chair Umbriano moved, seconded by Mrs. Gugliemi to adjourn to Executive Session RIGL 42-46-5(a) (2). The committee unanimously approved the motion.

The School Committee Meeting reconvened at 7:00 PM.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

139-2

Led by Chair Umbriano, all participated in *The Pledge of Allegiance* to the Flag.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE REORGANIZATION

139-3

Dr. Lescault accepted motions for Chair of the School Committee. Mrs. Guglielmi nominated Mrs. Marylou Umbriano as Chair; seconded by Mrs. Delmonico; The Committee unanimously approved.

Mrs. Delmonico nominated Mrs. Guglielmi as Clerk of the School Committee; seconded by Chair Umbriano; The Committee unanimously approved.

ROUTINE MATTERS MINUTES AND BILLS

139-4

Chair Umbriano reaffirmed that the committee had met in Executive Session to discuss personnel matters.

Mrs. Gugliemi moved, seconded by Mrs. Delmonico, to approve minutes of the Executive Session of December 3, 2013. The Committee unanimously approved. Motion passes.

Mrs. Guglielmi moved, seconded by Mrs. Delmonico, to approve minutes of the Regular Committee Meeting of December 3, 2013. The Committee unanimously approved. Motion passes.

Mrs. Guglielmi moved, seconded by Mrs. Delmonico to approve the payment of bills for December in the amount of \$634,678.62. The Committee unanimously approved. Motion passes.

Mrs. Guglielmi moved, seconded by Mrs. Delmonico to approve the payment of grants for the month of December in the amount of \$38,046.58. The Committee unanimously approved. Motion passes.

CORRESPONDENCE

139-5

None

REPORT OF COMMITTEE LIAISONS

139-6

Ms. Esposito moved that the committee liaisons be dissolved in accordance with school policy since there have been no reports given for many of the committees over the last 12 months. Ms. Esposito discussed a spreadsheet of the number of times there was any information provided by any of the liaisons.

Ms. Esposito moved to dissolve all liaison committees, and re-establish them as needed. Ms. Esposito finds there is a need to look at what committees are needed and establish them as needed for the students of Scituate.

Ms. Guglielmi shared that it is fine to look at the committees which weren't established as meetings that we needed to attend but when asked to attend would report back to the school committee as a liaison.

Ms. Esposito suggested we take a look at what is needed and perhaps parents become involved. Chair Umbriano discussed that what this appeared to be 10 years ago. We revise these every year and take them off as we don't need them anymore.

Ms. Esposito stated that these are looked at as advisory committees, and liaisons are set up accordingly. If there is a policy somewhere in the manual, I would like to see it, but according to what Ms. Esposito was able to find anything accordingly.

Mr. LaPlante suggested that we all get on the same page and look into it. All of our objectives collectively are to find areas in which each of us individually in addition to our group work can reach out to effectuate change that is good for our town and good for the kids and families.

Ms. Esposito added that when there are reports that the superintendent has met with a member of the scholarship committee, the scholarship liaison should have known about it.

Ms. Esposito added that she is looking for a job description for the liaison and not go about it haphazardly.

Ms. Esposito moved to table the discussion of the committee liaisons until the February meeting. The Committee unanimously approved. Motion passes.

BUDGET	Mrs. Delmonico – Nothing to report.
CURRICULUM	Mrs. Guglielmi - Nothing to report.
FOOD SERVICES AND HEALTH/WELLNESS NEGOTIATIONS	Chair Umbriano – Nothing to report Chair Umbriano – Nothing to report.
POLICY	Mrs. Delmonico – Nothing to report.
RIASC	ALL – Nothing to report.
SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION SCHOLARSHIP	Chair Umbriano – Nothing to report. Jean Esposito - Nothing to report.
SPECIAL EDUCATION	Jean Esposito - Going through the usual duties.
STRATEGIC PLANNING	Mrs. Guglielmi – Nothing to report.
TRANSPORTATION / SAFETY SCITUATE PREVENTION COALITION (formerly SAFE)	Chair Umbriano – Nothing to report Chair Umbriano – Nothing to report

**UNFINISHED
BUSINESS**

139-7
There is no unfinished business for January meeting.

139-8
ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

**RTTT and RIDE
UPDATE**

Dr. Filippelli stated that at the last Assistant Superintendent's meeting on December 12th, there was not a great deal of information to be shared about PARCC. There was a panel of districts that were able to get last year's RTTT mini grant who were asked to report out on the various projects they used the money for.

Scituate was not awarded a grant this year by RIDE. As noted in Dr. Filippelli's report last month, Scituate had extra RTTT money left over that had to be reallocated into other areas in order to expend the grant. RIDE, however, offered PARCC training session on January 7th. Dr. Filippelli stated he and all the administrators from the Scituate School district were in attendance including Mr. DiLuglio and Mr. Magner.

**FEBRUARY 14TH
PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT DAY**

Dr. Filippelli stated that in preparation for the February 14, 2014 Professional Development day, contact has been made with the members of the Scituate PD committee to plan out the work for that day. Plans are not finalized yet,

At the elementary level:

- Ms. Cindy Gould will be running a session on PARCC preparation
- Ms. Dina DeCristofaro will be running a session on reading strategies and text complexity as they relate to CCSS
- The grade level CCSS/SLO transition grade level leaders will be meeting with their respective grade levels to work on CCSS curriculum transitions.

At the middle/high school:

- Teachers will be involved in a morning session PD from Highlander on CCSS aligning by subject matter. This is a continuation of the work that was begun in October.

**HIGH SCHOOL
COURSE PROPOSALS**

Last month Dr. Filippelli met with Dr. Sollitto, Ms. Michelle Kelley, and various department heads. Dr. Filippelli put forth one new course proposal. It is Advanced Placement English Language and Composition. This class will cause no increase in sections because currently there are two sections of English Honors. Advanced Placement English Language and Composition will replace one section of English Honors at the high school.

There are some minor revisions to high school course of studies book as well.

- Academic reinforcement class will be included as instructional time. It always was included as such, but as this is a change in the publication in this year's program of studies, the change should be noted.
- Comprehensive course assessments are now added as a graduation requirement. This change will replace the high school portfolio process.
- A state testing waiver policy had been added to fall in line with the new RIDE minimum requirements that proficiency on NECAP (and soon to be PARCC) tests will be used as a graduation requirement.
- The Academic Reinforcement Class has been included in the course of studies.

**MONTHLY
ACTIVITIES**

Committee members received copies of monthly activities for the month.

139-9
SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

APPROVAL OF

Dr. Lescault provided Attachment A which is a first draft of the expenditure and revenue sides of

SCHOOL BUDGETS

the school district budget for 2014-2015 that was forwarded to the Committee via e-mail on December 27th. It is listed for action under New Business.

The proposed budget is up from 2013-2014 by \$907,651 or 4.2%. The increase is somewhat misleading because the budget includes \$250,105 for Improvements to Buildings and Grounds. No funds for that purpose were included in the 2013-2014 budget, but the town is funding \$205,390 of Improvements to Buildings and Grounds out of their Capital budget. Consequently, the proposed school district budget for 2014-2015 is artificially inflated by \$250,105. If the Town continues to fund Improvements to Buildings and Grounds out of their Capital budget, the school district budget will be up by \$657,546 or 3.0%.

A 1.85% increase over current actual 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 2014-2015, with specific rates. The percentage change in many salary lines in the budget is higher than 1.85% because it also includes step increases and the difference between the 0.49% budgeted in 2013-2014 and the actual rate that resulted from negotiations.

The proposed Revenue budget includes a projected increase in State Aid of \$301,548. Rhode Island state aid for education will not be known until the state budget is completed and signed into law sometime in June or July. The \$301,548 increase assumes the formula for state aid for education is fully funded for 2014-2015. The proposed Revenue budget also includes an increase in Local Aid of \$606,103. However, as noted above, that can be reduced by \$250,105 to \$355,998, if the Town continues to fund Improvements to Buildings and Grounds out of their Capital budget.

The proposed district budget will likely undergo revisions. However, 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 22 at 6:00 PM

**FULL DAY
KINDERGARTEN**

At the December 2013 School Committee meeting, Dr. Lescault proposed that the Committee consider increasing kindergarten in Scituate from half day to full day. Dr. Lescault noted that only about 60 K students are projected for 2014-2015.

Assuming we can move some students to balance class sizes, only 3 teachers will be needed for All Day K vs. 1.5 for Half Day K. The additional cost of 1.5 teachers (about \$150,000) will almost entirely be offset by savings in mid-day transportation (about \$123,142).

Finally, Dr. Lescault noted that in 2011-2012, 19 out of 35 RI public school districts enrolled 100% of their children in All Day K. For 2013-2014, all but 8 districts provide All Day K.

Full Day K is listed under new business. Dr. Lescault recommends the Committee vote at that time to approve increasing K in Scituate from half day to full day.

**TRANSPORTATION
CONTRACT**

Dr. Lescault informed the Committee at the December 2013 School Committee meeting, that the contract with First Student expires at the end of this school year. The contract provides for up to two one year extensions.

The Committee authorized Chair Umbriano, legal counsel and Dr. Lescault to meet with First Student to discuss the terms of a possible extension. The terms of the contract currently include an annual increase based on the CPI. First Student also offered a contract with a fixed increase.

Dr. Lescault indicated in the meeting with Chair Umbriano that given the drop in school enrollment any extension of the transportation contract would be contingent upon First Student eliminating one more bus. First Student agreed to provide a written proposal to Dr. Lescault prior to the January 7th school committee meeting, but the proposal has not yet been provided.

Mr. LaPlante heard the discussion about starting work on the Kent Dam and is wondering how this will affect bus transportation.

Chair Umbriano is on the Traffic Safety Committee and met with the Chief, the busses will have to go 4.4 miles out of the way of their normal route once the work on the dam begins. There are actually two projects going on and National Grid is putting up new poles on Howard Avenue. As soon as the project with the poles in completed they are shutting down the dam.

Dr. Lescault stated that First Student was aware of the proposed construction and they have a plan.

Mr. LaPlante wants to be sure that any delays are communicated to the parents. Chair Umbriano indicated they didn't want to send out any premature notices in case it didn't start on the anticipated date. They are waiting on the National Grid project first.

Mr. LaPlante wants to be sure that the traffic pattern is communicated to parents that there could be potential delays in their child getting home.

Dr. Lescault and Chair Umbriano echoed that communication to parents is already in the plan.

SKILLED PLUMBER / MAINTENANCE

On December 12, Dr. Lescault informed the Committee that he intended to advertise for someone with a plumbing/general maintenance background to see what was available in the marketplace. Dr. Lescault indicated that if Scituate could attract a certified plumber, the district should be able to save enough on outside plumbing contractors to pay for the position. Dr. Lescault also indicated that Mr. Steve Gormley would be responsible for mentoring this person so that he/she would eventually be able to assist and replace Mr. Gormley in his absence.

Dr. Lescault and Mr. Gormley developed the Posting and Job Description. The position was posted and advertised on SchoolSpring on December 15th. Scituate received eight applications, including 2 candidates who are licensed plumbers.

Dr. Lescault and Mr. Gormley reviewed the applications. Dr. Lescault recommends the appointment of the successful candidate under Resignations and New Hires.

Given the pressing need to increase the maintenance staff, Dr. Lescault received Chair Umbriano's approval to move forward with this plan. A salary of \$45,000 works out to a bargain given the cost of a plumber's hourly rate. The entire committee will have the opportunity to accept or reject this recommendation under Resignations and New Hires.

MONTHLY ACTIVITIES

Committee members received copies of monthly activities for the month.

Mrs. Delmonico inquired about the meeting that Dr. Lescault had with the copy machine company. Dr. Lescault indicated that the copy machine in the superintendent's office is the oldest in the district. In fact they don't make parts for it anymore. The copy company wrote a service contract for it, they need to fix it, or put in a new machine but the district is not paying for it.

Mr. LaPlante asked about the machine at the Hope School. Dr. Lescault stated that the copy company took the machine completely apart and it is fully functional.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

**139-10
Ellen Kenner, 222 William Henry Road**

Mrs. Kenner indicated she was curious about the rationale behind full day kindergarten. Where the push is coming from and the root cause?

Dr. Lescault stated that the Common Core standards for the goals for our Kindergarten teachers are such that the teachers need the full day.

Mr. LaPlante stated and offered credit to Mrs. Guglielmi for discovering that we are spending over \$120,000 per year to bring the students back and forth for ½ day kindergarten. If we get rid of the half day transportation session, then we can have a \$120,000 savings dump it into teacher salaries, it will cost us about \$27,000 to give our kindergarten students a full day of school.

Ellen Kenner, 222 William Henry Road

Ms. Kenner asked, “What are the arguments against full day Kindergarten?”

Mr. LaPlante indicated that there really aren’t any. The ability for young people to learn in a longer day inclusive of breaks and learning activities as opposed the learning being compromised.

Mrs. Guglielmi added that since the State change the date of birth for Kindergarten entrance and have to be five by the end of August, lot of the kids are older than they used to be and can adjust to the full day. Speaking with Mr. Magner director of Special Education, they have a little problem adjusting at the beginning but by Thanksgiving they are ready to go.

Ellen Kenner, 222 William Henry Road

Ms. Kenner asked if full day Kindergarten is mandatory, or if parents can choose.

Dr. Filippelli replied that it would be a mandatory full day for all kindergarten students.

Ellen Kenner, 222 William Henry Road

“I just worry about the competition of privatization and having a private school run full day as opposed to parochial schools; I would like the teachers to be able to have autonomy. Where is the push coming from? Is it the unions? Who is benefiting?”

Dr. Lescault and Mr. LaPlante simultaneously, “The kids are benefiting.”

Ellen Kenner, 222 William Henry Road

“We all look to serve the kids”.

Mr. LaPlante stated that this benefits the kids. A lot of energy has gone into this starting with Mrs. Guglielmi in the final analysis we find that the full day kindergarten is beneficial to the kids. Mr. LaPlante added that the school committee hasn’t had much communication with the union at all about this.

Dr. Lescault stated that the Scituate kids are at a disadvantage when the rest of the State has been moving in the direction of full day Kindergarten. Scituate is catching up

Mr. LaPlante stated that his own kids couldn’t do the half day and the teachers who have children in the first grade are trying to fill the gap for those children who only had the half day of kindergarten to those students who had a full day kindergarten at a different school.

Janet Farrar, 735 Central Pike

Mrs. Farrar stated that she is a Kindergarten teacher at the North Scituate Elementary School. This is my 14th year of teaching kindergarten ½ day program and in between second grade. She stated that “a 2- ½ hour day is described as Dr. Lescault and Chair Umbriano indicated. Every day there is an itinerant and it takes about 15 minutes just to get the students out of their jackets and boots because of many self-help skills. Now with the demands of the Common Core there is too little time and is virtually impossible to complete with a ½ day. With what is expected to teach in a ½ day but stretch out to a full day. It is exciting to think what we could accomplish in a full day given what Mrs. Farrar sees them do in a ½ day.

Mr. LaPlante stated that it seems that the district will reap the benefits over the next 5 to 10 years. As these kids are going through our system Scituate will see improved skills.

Janet Farrar, 735 Central Pike

You will see those improved skills with early intervention in all ways. If there is the time and opportunity, the kindergarten students will go on to First grade so much more prepared.

Chair Umbriano asked Mrs. Farrar that with full day kindergarten, first and second that the teachers would know by third grade what additional interventions are necessary?

Dwight Farrar, 735 Central Pike

Mr. Farrar wanted to talk about the benefits of the buses off the road for the multiple trips taking the kids around town and the cost difference and also cut down on pollution, traffic and the mere safety factor of it. You won't have these kids busing around town. It is a win/win all the way around. The cost of \$27,000 is minimal to what the district will gain with full day kindergarten.

Ellen Kenner, 222 William Henry Road

Ms. Kenner stated, "I'm passionate about kids learning at a young age, that's not the issue I'm addressing. My own kids I'd go to the library. I taught them by the Montessori method. I'm not sure how many people are familiar with that. I taught them how to read and do math at a very young age it's more the State mandated and cost to the taxpayers and we have kids leaving high school and we have a lot of catching up work to do nationally.

Mrs. Guglielmi stated it is a win/win. We aren't saving money if we don't do it and from an educational standpoint we are gaining.

Ellen Kenner, 222 William Henry Road

As a parent teaching their kids some of the responsibility needs to go back to the parents. There is no reason why parents can't take a more conscious effort with their children's education. I would like to see it changed culturally, and see parents invested more in their kids."

Chair Umbriano added that we are very lucky here in Scituate and parents are involved in their children's education and make them breakfast. We have very few children on the breakfast service. We have good parents in this town that really do help with the children and take care of their children.

Chair Umbriano asked if there were any other public comments.

NEW BUSINESS

139-11

1. Initial Approval of 2014-2015 School District Budget

Recommendation: Approve the budget as proposed or as modified by the School Committee for presentation to the Town Council on January 22, 2014.

Motion by Mr. LaPlante to approve the proposed budget for presentation to the Town Council; Mrs. Delmonico seconded. The Committee unanimously approved. Motion passes.

2. Full Day Kindergarten

Recommendation: Approve Full Day Kindergarten for the 2014-2015 school year as recommended in the Superintendent's Report.

Motion by Mrs. Gugliemi to approve full day Kindergarten beginning with the 2014-2015 school year; seconded by Mr. LaPlante. The Committee unanimously approved. Motion passes.

3. Transportation Contract

Chair Umbriano tabled the transportation contract until February meeting.

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

**139-12
APPOINTMENTS**

1. Paula Barlow; Grade K SLO/Common Core Transition Leader
2. Lisa LaRose; Grade 1 SLO/Common Core Transition Leader
3. Laura Pesare; Grade 2 SLO/Common Core Transition Leader
4. Paula DiLuglio; Grade 3 SLO/Common Core Transition Leader
5. Stephanie Mikkelsen; Grade 4 SLO/Common Core Transition Leader
6. Susan Marchetti; Grade 5 SLO/Common Core Transition Leader
7. Michael Gaudreau; Middle School Newspaper Advisor
8. Nicole Leonhardt; 4 Special Education Teacher, Scituate High School, effective 1/8/14
9. Edward Toohey; Skilled Plumber/Maintenance

Ms. Esposito asked if there has been a need for a full time plumber.

Dr. Lescault indicated that the position is full time maintenance but that Mr. Toohey is a licensed plumber as well.

Motion by Mr. LaPlante to approve the appointments; seconded by Mrs. Delmonico. The Committee unanimously approved. Motion passes.

TRANSFERS

1. Steve Blais; 34 hour Custodian, North Scituate Elementary School; effective 12/23/13

Mr. LaPlante motion to approve the transfer; seconded by Mrs. Delmonico. The Committee unanimously approved. Motion passes.

TERMINATIONS

1. Julie Shipman; Paraprofessional, Scituate Middle/High School; effective 12/3/13
2. Brenna Carnevale; Bus Monitor

Motion by Mr. LaPlante to approve the terminations; seconded by Mrs. Delmonico. The Committee unanimously approved. Motion passes.

ENROLLMENT

139-13

Chair Umbriano indicated that the January enrollment figures are 1443 students.

**COMMITTEE
REMARKS**

139- 14

MRS. DELMONICO

Glad to see 2013 go! Welcome to 2014!

MRS. GUGLIELMI

Mrs. Guglielmi expressed that she was delighted that Scituate will now have full day kindergarten and looking forward to the next school year.

JEAN ESPOSITO

Nothing to report

MR. LAPLANTE

Nothing to report.

CHAIR UMBRIANO

Chair Umbriano thanked committee members and the public for their attendance.

139-15

ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Delmonico moved to adjourn; seconded by Mr. LaPlante. The Committee unanimously approved. Motion passes.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. Guglielmi, Clerk

Minutes prepared by Susan M. St.Amand, Recording Secretary. Neither the Clerk nor the Recording Secretary is the designated Public Records contact for the Scituate School Committee or Scituate School Department under the RI Access to Public Records Act ("APRA"). For all APRA inquiries, please contact the Superintendent's office.