

**SCITUATE SCHOOL COMMITTEE REGULAR SESSION
TUESDAY, June 3, 2014
SCITUATE TOWN HALL - TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

CALL TO ORDER

145-1

The Regular Session was called to order by Chair Umbriano at 7:05 PM.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

145-2

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

**ROUTINE MATTERS
MINUTES AND BILLS**

145-3

Mrs. Guglielmi moved approval of the June 2013-2014 grant fund bills \$7,769.76; seconded by Mrs. Delmonico; unanimously approved.

Mrs. Guglielmi moved approval of the May 2014-2015 general fund bills \$358,433.05; seconded by Mrs. Delmonico; unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

145-4

Mrs. Guglielmi moved to approve minutes of the executive session of May 13, 2014; seconded by Mrs. Delmonico; unanimously approved.

Mrs. Guglielmi moved to approve minutes of the regular meeting of May 13, 2014; seconded by Mrs. Delmonico; Discussion

Ms. Esposito pointed out clarification of her statement regarding the school calendar and ratification. Ms. Esposito asked for review of the minutes where it was indicated “ Chair Umbriano stated the committee wished to publish the school calendar earlier (November) so that parents and teachers can plan ahead but Ms. Esposito reminded committee stated the calendar must be approved in March meeting (per policy) which is why the revision of the policy is under New Business this evening.”

Ms. Esposito stated that she reviewed the November 2013 minutes that were approved and her discussion about the calendar pertained to the consideration of a change to the Graduation date and not to the school committee calendar.

Dr. Lescault stated she stated that as a matter of policy the school calendar is not ratified until the March meeting.

Ms. Esposito interjected that her discussion in the November minutes referred to the ratification of the graduation date.

Dr. Lescault stated that he did talk about the calendar and the committee could have amended it that night.

Mrs. Esposito stated that what her question was addressed adherence was for the graduation.

Chair Umbriano stated that Ms. Esposito took out the school committee policy manual and read the calendar policy and that the school calendar should not be taken up for a vote until March.

Dr. Lescault stated that the discussion was taking place in November because parents were inquiring about start dates and vacations to plan ahead and March was late.

Ms. Esposito reiterated that her noting policy had to do with a change in the graduation date.

Mr. LaPlante stated that the committee had two issues that night which has nothing to do with the

calendar.

Mrs. Esposito respectfully reminded Mr. LaPlante that he was not present at the meeting so was not there for the discussion. Mrs. Esposito stated that the minutes from the May meeting that she was absent for is what Mrs. Esposito has a concern with that one statement.

Dr. Lescault stated that the term ratification was used incorrectly on the agenda because he brought up the calendar as a discussion item. The term ratification was used for the consideration of a change of school start date. Following discussion so that if a vote was necessary, the vote would be able to be taken at the meeting.

Mrs. Gugliemi asked Mrs. Esposito what she wanted to change.

Mrs. Esposito stated that you are not listening, you are misquoting me. The calendar policy had to do with the graduation.

Chair Umbriano, so noted.

Chair Umbriano moved that a motion had been made and seconded with discussion. Hearing no further discussion, unanimously approved.

145-5

CORRESPONDENCE

1. A letter from Ms. S. requesting home schooling for her child.

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

Chair Umbriano asked Dr. Lescault why only the first initial of the petitioner's name is on the correspondence?

Dr. Lescault indicated that privacy and ACLU concerns.

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.

145-6

REPORT OF COMMITTEE LIAISONS

BUDGET

Mr. LaPlante – Nothing to report.

CURRICULUM

Mrs. Gugliemi – Nothing to report. Dr. Filippelli will report under Assistant Superintendent's notes.

FOOD SERVICES

HEALTH / WELLNESS

Chair Umbriano stated that Health and Wellness met at Clayville to discuss revisions to the Health and Wellness policies. The committee photo copied the diabetic and allergy policies for revision and looked at them to see if we need any changes for the nurses and principal. Procedures for snacks will be reviewed and run the current policies and any changes by everyone so that every school is the same.

Chair Umbriano asked Dr. Lescault the protocol for changing policies regarding health and wellness and food service.

Dr. Lescault stated that there needs to be two readings of the policies at the general meetings.

Chair Umbriano stated that new warmers and pads were purchased.

NEGOTIATIONS Mrs. Guglielmi stated there is ongoing negotiations with custodians that were discussed in executive session. Meetings will continue within the month.

POLICY Mrs. Delmonico – Nothing to report.

RIASC ALL – Nothing to report.

SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION Chair Umbriano – Nothing to report.

SCHOLARSHIP Chair Umbriano – Nothing to report.

SPECIAL EDUCATION Ms. Esposito – Nothing to report.

STRATEGIC PLANNING Mrs. Guglielmi – Nothing to report.

TRANSPORTATION / SAFETY Chair Umbriano – Nothing to report.

SCITUATE PREVENTION COALITION (formerly SAFE) Chair Umbriano – Nothing to report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS **145-7**
There is no unfinished business for the month of June.

145-8
ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

COLLABORATIVE LEARNING FOR OUTCOMES UPDATE Dr. Filippelli attended the final CLO meeting for RIDE on May 21st at CCRI. This was a statewide meeting where districts shared best practices and reported out on our district’s progress towards RTTT.

Dr. Filippelli indicated that as expected, one of the biggest issues was continued support once the RTTT funding stops in September 2014.

Dr. Filippelli stated that RIDE made some commitments to continuing their technical assistance around RTTT initiatives, but no funding commitments could be made.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING On May 23rd, Dr. Filippelli met with the district professional development committee to plan out our professional development days for the Fall.

Dr. Filippelli wanted to get a jump on this planning because the PD days next year are so close together. At the meeting we discussed continuing our work with CCSS at all levels, doing some final training on PARCC assessments, and doing some webinar work on the STAR reading and math assessments which will be replacing AimsWeb this year.

Dr. Filippelli stated that he is finally backing off having Highlander continue their training at the elementary level this year. The teachers and Dr. Filippelli feel that they helped us quite a bit over the last two years, but our teachers are at a place now where we can use our own people and expertise to continue that work.

MONTHLY ACTIVITIES Committee members received a copy of the list of activities for Dr. Filippelli for the month.

145-9
SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

GRADUATION FORMAT At Jean Esposito’s request and with Marylou’s permission, “Graduation Format” is listed under New Business. A copy of Jean’s email to me in which she proposes some changes to the Graduation ceremony and my response to her, which I copied to the committee, is attached (Attachment A).

**AFTER SCHOOL BUS
TRIPS**

Dr. Lescault stated that as a result of concerns raised at the May 13th meeting, Brian LaPlante reviewed our contract with First Student and met with Dr. Myers and Dr. Lescault on May 16th to discuss possible solutions.

Chair Umbriano, Dr. Myers, Dr. Sollitto, Mr. Ryan and Dr. Lescault subsequently met with First Student representatives. Scituate school department indicated that we expected (1) buses will stay with the group and (2) there will be no double runs. Further, it was indicated that if First Student was unable to comply with this directive, that they were to notify us in advance and Scituate would contract with another vendor and bill First Student for the difference in expense.

At Dr. Lescault's request, Mr. LaPlante drafted a letter (Attachment B) pro-bono, which was sent to First Student, memorializing our expectations. We have contacted various transportation vendors around the state, but none have been willing to guarantee that they would be able to provide a bus and a driver at short notice. Therefore, if First Student notifies us they cannot comply with the parameters we provided to them and we cannot secure a backup vendor, the event will have to be rescheduled.

Dr. Lescault asked Chair Umbriano to share her research on the bus situation.

Chair Umbriano stated that when the district sat with First Student they informed us that if the bus contains 12 or fewer students the driver does not have to possess a CDL.

Chair Umbriano shared that there are three classifications of athletic venues: A, B, and C.

- The 'A' facility is a school that is open to the student-athletes as shelter and available restrooms.
- The 'B' facilities will have a building that is not open to student-athletes, but will have shelter and restroom facilities.
- The 'C' facilities will have nothing available to the student-athletes. No shelter or restrooms.

The procedure will be that the buses transporting the student-athletes to the athletic venue could not leave the students at any field that is not an 'A' field (facility). Only at an 'A' facility would the bus be allowed to leave and return for the students.

Chair Umbriano stated that binders will be with all coaches and assistant coaches with a listing of all the fields and their ratings. The binders will also include the protocols for weather conditions. In addition the binders will contain release forms so that if parents wanted to take their student they would be allowed to do so under certain conditions (game cancellation for example).

Mr. LaPlante stated that the parents could take their child if something unexpected came up regarding the facility or game.

Chair Umbriano stated that there are not pre-authorizations for allowing students to go home with their parent. The form would be in the binder and signed at that time.

Mr. LaPlante stated that even though practical it is difficult to have a vendor and you look to another vendor. What about another strategy. Another vendor to do all afterschool activities and results that they can commit for a good solution. If they can't service their bus.

Chair Umbriano stated that Penske now rents out school bus to have one bus available at the school.

Dr. Lescault stated that the bigger problem is not the equipment it is that First Student doesn't have the drivers. They lost about 100 drivers.

Mrs. Esposito state that she liked Brian's idea about how the bus companies now work.

Dr. Lescault stated that First Student is paying more money to their drivers than the local bus companies did. First student is paying other companies more than we are paying them when they need

another company to handle a Scituate run.

Chair Umbriano state that they asked the district for help in putting something out on Schoolspring for drivers.

Mrs. Esposito asked does the interscholastic league have any suggestions?

Chair Umbriano asked for public comments regarding the Transportation (bus) issue only at this time.

Sal Gelsomino (Scituate coach) Rocky Hill Road

Mr. Gelsomino appreciates what the superintendent's office and the school committee has done but the problem happened again after the last meeting. Mr. Gelsomino stated that he did some digging on his own and what they have done is they have cut their drivers because they don't have to pay health insurance for their drivers if they only work so many hours.

Chair Umbriano stated that her contact (Derek) didn't say anything about this. She indicated that First Student is shifting buses.

Dr. Lescault stated that our buses are being used all the time. He is not sure is that they have cut the amount of hours. Drivers usually contact Marylou or him if they are not happy about anything.

Sal Gelsomino (Scituate coach) Rocky Hill Road

Mr. Gelsomino indicated that he could not stay to weigh in on the graduation format because public comment is before the new business. He did state that RIPTA has 18-20 passenger buses if the school wanted to acquire one.

Chair Umbriano stated that was an option but the driver has to have a CDL if there are more than 12 students on the bus. We will look into another means.

Colleen Pendergast, 2 Apple Hill Drive

Thank you. The more this has to do with drivers try to put practical guys and gals they have to do their routes first it isn't minimum wage, however driving a bus with a coach most children behave differently. Market the job to the specific money.

Chair Umbriano asked the same question. What is the most number of students you can transport without a CDL?

Colleen Pendergast, 2 Apple Hill Drive

It could be a retired truck driver and market to that specific driver. If you offer say \$50 for the trip

**KINDERGARTEN
UPDATE**

At the May 13th meeting, Dr. Lescault reported that 62 students have registered for kindergarten, broken down as: Clayville 19, Hope 21, and North Scituate 22. The total is now 66, broken down as Clayville 19, Hope 22, and North Scituate 25.

Dr. Lescault stated that by contract, we can accommodate 69 students with three sessions of kindergarten. That however, will require some selective redistricting. Letters have been mailed to the parents of 6 students currently registered at the North Scituate School, alerting them to the possibility of this redistricting. Some of the 6 were fine and others were adamantly against the idea.

Dr. Lescault stated that if the numbers continue to grow, the district may need to add a fourth session of kindergarten. Dr. Myers, Dr. Filippelli and Dr. Lescault all agree that the district will not know what the actual numbers will be until close to the beginning of school.

**SUMMER INTERN
PROJECT**

Dr. Lescault stated that unless there were any objections, he intends to continue the very successful summer intern project at Scituate High School and Middle School. A maximum of four interns (high school students) will work at minimum wage doing a variety of projects that would go undone without their help. The students would not work more than 20 hours per week during the summer vacation.

NEW BUSINESS

145-10

1. **Graduation Format**

See Superintendent's Report for detail on this item.

Recommendation: Take whatever action the Committee deems appropriate.

Mrs. Esposito read her letter to Dr. Lescault highlighting the format changes she would like to implement and the reasons for the format change.

Mr. LaPlante asked who is the Master of Ceremonies now?

Chair Umbriano indicated that it was the principal, Dr. Sollitto.

Mr. LaPlante asked about the significance of shaking hands.

Mrs. Esposito stated that the presenting of diplomas and Scituate scholarships is looking for changes that there be an honors banquet and that parents be part of a banquet or class night. If you move to that type of format, those donating scholarships can come to present the scholarship. That will develop over the next couple of years.

Mr. LaPlante asked what is the traditional system in other districts?

Dr. Lescault stated that it varies greatly. The board has been a highly visible part of the ceremony for years in Scituate.

Mrs. Guglielmi stated that guidance announces the names.

Mr. LaPlante stated that we shake hands and hand out diplomas.

Dr. Lescault stated that the School Committee chair does it and the superintendent; the chair typically hands the diploma.

Mrs. Delmonico stated that she still remember walking across the stage and shaking hands with everyone. Mrs. Delmonico stated that she enjoys shaking the hands of the student and sitting on the platform.

Chair Umbriano stated that the School Committee is involved.

Mrs. Esposito stated that the teachers are involved. Principal Sollitto has seen these students from Grade 6. Mrs. Esposito stated that she thinks the committee should have some protocol. If the committee is saying that the Chair typically hands our diplomas that is the protocol.

Mrs. Guglielmi stated that she has seen different people up on the platform to take care of graduate. Does the principal have a plan in mind?

Mr. LaPlante agreed that there should be a level of consistency. To date the ceremony has always been well run; if it is not broken don't fix it. Maybe we aren't including people that would like to be included in the ceremony.

Mrs. Delmonico stated, "standardization with flexibility".

Mrs. Esposito stated that Principal Sollitto runs the show.

Chair Umbriano opened up Public Comments on this issue since the committee wanted to hear feedback from those in attendance about the proposed changes.

Michael Marcello Chopmist Hill

June 13, 1986, Mr. Light, Bob Watson school committee weren't on the stage. Things change. Mr. Bowes (sp) was the advisor and announced the names. Class President and Principal got things together. Mr. Marcello indicated that he was the class president so he remembers it well. Mrs. Delmonico stated that was a change from 1974. She stated the committee members were all on the platform.

Colleen Pendergast, 2 Apple Hill Drive

I couldn't tell you who was on the school board. This is their day. What would the students find most rewarding.

Chair Umbriano stated that many senior events are being planned.

Colleen Pendergast, 2 Apple Hill Drive

It is the students last day and they should have input.

Mrs. Guglielmi stated that last year a diploma was given to mom and dad of a student who had died.

Chair Umbriano stated that Dr. Sollitto is a great communicator. She added that she first got involved with the shake and receive picture.

Peter Cugini (sp-need address)

"I want Russell Furlong who is retiring to give me my diploma".

Chair Umbriano stated that student Peter Cugini should ask Mr. Sollitto if he could talk to him about the possibility of handing him his diploma.

Scott Weller (need address)

Suggested that Peter have Dr. Sollitto receive his request and let's hope for a good night (weather wise).

Chair Umbriano suggested that he make his request to Dr. Sollitto.

Scott Weller (need address)

More teacher show up.

Chair Umbriano stated that there is a limit to the amount of time of daylight so it is hard to please everyone.

Mrs. Delmonico stated that you will never get what you want unless you ask for it.

Tyler Weller (need address)

Dr. Sollitto is who has been controlling us. I want to receive my diploma from him.

Chair Umbriano indicated that there is a class advisor Mr. Reed.

Peter Cugini (sp-need address)

We have never sat down as an entire class and talked about it. The prom in Newport from what I hear it was mostly the student council that wanted to go there.

Chair Umbriano stated you have to stand up for yourself. Money was donated to that the cost wasn't so bad so that everyone could go. She indicated that the cost came down from over \$90 per person to around \$60.

Michael Marcello, Chopmist Hill Road

Is there a policy that is a school policy? Is it (graduation) historically done that way and are they listening to the students.

Dr. Filippelli stated that it is.

Chair Umbriano stated that it is part of the principal's job and the fact that they don't meet with the school advisor is troublesome.

Michael Marcello, Chopmist Hill Road

Did the class advisor meet with the whole class?

**PUBLIC COMMENT
AND QUESTIONS**

145-11

Joe Poccia, 9 Azalea Court

Not entirely about graduation but here to support Scituate athletes cross-country and current State track meet is going on as well as a concert tonight but here to support the team and their coach. This is where my cause and my point is the dedication not only from the student-athletes who are positive mentors for the rest of the track team.

Chair Umbriano stated that the track team came to us and they will be fully funded. Mr. Nehring came to the committee and we accepted them as a club initially but now fully funded.

Joe Poccia, 9 Azalea Court

Mr. Nehring has been wonderful and I'm not sure if my son is going to miss the concert but I appreciate the continuing support for the track team.

Chair Umbriano stated that if they qualify for the Nationals they will now be a team.

Joe Poccia, 9 Azalea Court

Seniors treating members on the team as part of the team regardless of their grade level.

Colleen Pendergast, 2 Apple Hill Drive

I was taken aback by the health insurance cost. The 6% cushion was built in?

Dr. Lescault stated that is from the one line item not the entire budget.

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

145-12

APPOINTMENTS

- Sara Radtke; Grade 2 Teacher, North Scituate Elementary School; one year only

RE-APPOINTMENTS

- Tara Bergeron; Grade 4 Teacher, Clayville Elementary School
- Patti Bettez; Grade 4 Teacher, North Scituate Elementary School
- Lori Boutiette; Grade 5 Teacher, Clayville Elementary School
- Dina Colantonio; 1.0 Special Education, North Scituate Elementary School
- Bethanne Colvin; Grade 3 Teacher, Clayville Elementary School
- Janet Farrar; Grade K Teacher, North Scituate Elementary School
- Roxanne Forgue; Reading Teacher, Clayville and Hope Elementary Schools
- Nancy Fraser; Grade 1 Teacher, Hope Elementary School
- Abbie Groves; 1.0 Special Education Teacher, Clayville Elementary School
- Diane Guay; .90 Librarian, Hope and Clayville Elementary Schools
- Lisa Hughes; 1.0 Special Education Teacher, Hope Elementary School
- Michelle Lancellotta; Grade 2 Teacher, Hope Elementary School
- Denise Leonetti; Grade 3 Teacher, Hope Elementary School
- Christine Luchun, .50 Pre School Teacher, Clayville Elementary School
- Susan Marchetti; Grade 5 Teacher, Hope Elementary School
- Stephanie Mikkelsen; Grade 4 Teacher, Hope Elementary School
- Marissa Palumbo; Grade 5 Teacher, Hope Elementary School
- Kristen Pontarelli; Grade 5 Teacher, North Scituate Elementary School
- Lynn Rose; 1.0 Special Education Teacher, Hope Elementary School
- Jennifer Roy; Grade 3 Teacher, Hope Elementary School

- Jennifer Scucces; Grade 4 Teacher, North Scituate Elementary School

Mrs. Delmonico moved that the reappointments be approved; seconded by Mr. LaPlante; unanimously approved.

INVOLUNTARY TRANSFERS

- Lisa Guernon; 1.0 Grade K Teacher, Clayville Elementary School
- Amanda O'Grady; 1.0 Grade 2 Teacher, North Scituate Elementary School

Mr. LaPlante moved to approve the involuntary transfers; seconded by Mrs. Delmonico; unanimously approved.

TRANSFERS

- Ray Potenza; 40 hour Custodian, Scituate Middle/High School, effective 5/29/14

RESIGNATIONS

- Kristy Antonelli; National Honor Society Advisor, Scituate High School
- Jessica Rego; Girls' Volleyball Head Coach, Scituate High School
- Michelle Kelley; Guidance Department Chair, Scituate Middle/High School, effective 6/26/14

Dr. Lescault stated that Michelle Kelley's resignation is as department chair. Ms. Kelley will still remain as a guidance counselor in the school.

Mr. LaPlante moved to approve the resignations; seconded by Mrs. Delmonico; unanimously approved.

145-13

COMMITTEE REMARKS

MR. LAPLANTE

Mr. LaPlante thanked Mr. Poccia for his time and comments regarding the track coach and athletes. He appreciated that he chose to come to the meeting to share his thoughts and praises of the program.

Joe Poccia, 9 Azalea Court

They are a fantastic group of students (track team).

MRS. DELMONICO

None

MS. ESPOSITO

Mrs. Esposito stated that she wants communication and clarification. The public could have known more to the public we as a committee could open up more lines of communication such as a *School Committee News Briefs*.

Mrs. Gugliemi stated that Mrs. Esposito should be the head of the committee for that.

Mrs. Esposito stated that she is still a neophyte. Do we have a roll in internal discussion, operation or do we simply set the policy?

Mrs. Delmonico ask Mrs. Esposito what she meant.

Chair Umbriano stated that when students have an issue or receive an email, she brings it to the administration and they handle it.

Mrs. Esposito stated that the administration solves the problem?

Chair Umbriano stated that the 8th grade dance sponsored by health and wellness put together a dance to promote positive behaviors. The activities at Hope Pond with different colored tee-shirts. Ideas are presented and carried out.

Mrs. Esposito asked about a more specific situation and administrators are doing their jobs with an internal discipline issue?

Chair Umbriano stated that if appeals are done that is when the committee deals with it.

MRS. GUGLIELMI

None

CHAIR UMBRIANO

Chair Umbriano shared that she and Mrs. Esposito attended a breakfast on May 30th with the top 10 seniors and was sponsored by an anonymous donation to the students with a gift with their name on it.

Chair Umbriano stated the senior prom was held as expected and the committee and school received positive feedback for the event.

Chair Umbriano shared a booklet with names and pictures of winners from the various schools.

JULY MEETING

145-14

Mr. LaPlante moved that unless an unexpected situation should arise causing the committee to convene that the July scheduled school committee meeting be cancelled; seconded by Mrs. Esposito; unanimously approved.

ADJOURNMENT

145-14

Mr. LaPlante moved to adjourn; seconded by Mrs. Guglielmi to adjourn at 8:38 PM. The committee unanimously approved motion.

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.