

**SCITUATE SCHOOL COMMITTEE REGULAR SESSION
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2015
SCITUATE MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL**

<p>CALL TO ORDER</p>	<p>The meeting was called to order by Chair Umbriano at 6:00 pm:</p> <p>Present were Chair Umbriano, Mrs. Guglielmi, Mrs. Esposito, Mrs. Pendergast. Mr. LaPlante was absent. Also present were Dr. Paul Lescault, Superintendent, Dr. Lawrence Filippelli, Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Ed Myers and Attorney David D'Agostino.</p> <p>Motion made by Mrs. Guglielmi to move into Executive Closed Session pursuant to RIGL § 42-46-5(a)(2), sessions pertaining to collective bargaining or litigation, specifically to discuss and act (as needed) on matters related to negotiation strategy for the negotiation of the terms of the collective bargaining agreement between the School Committee and the Scituate Teachers' Association.</p> <p>Seconded by Mrs. Pendergast All in favor: Yes Unanimously approved.</p> <p>Motion by Mrs. Pendergast to Close Executive Session and seal the minutes and reconvene into Open session. Seconded by Mrs. Esposito All in favor: Yes. Motion passed.</p> <p>Motion to reconvene into Open Session by Mrs. Esposito seconded by Mrs. Pendergast. All in favor Yes.</p>
<p>TOUR OF BUILDING</p>	<p>Mrs. Umbriano announced that a tour of the building took place at 6:45 PM.</p>
<p>PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE</p>	<p>Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chair Umbriano.</p>
<p>APPROVAL OF MINUTES</p>	<p>Mrs. Guglielmi made a Motion to Approve Executive and Open Minutes of November 3, 2015.</p> <p>Seconded by: Mrs. Pendergast. All in favor: Yes Motion passed unanimously.</p>
<p>ROUTINE MATTERS MINUTES AND BILLS</p>	<p>Motion by Mrs. Guglielmi to approve the Grant bills for month of November 2015 for \$20,440.95.</p> <p>Seconded by: Mrs. Pendergast</p> <p>Motion passed unanimously.</p> <p>Motion to approve by Mrs. Guglielmi the General Fund November</p>

2015 for \$492,124.86.

Mrs. Esposito questioned the item for truck vs. deer repairs. Dr. Lescault said it was the Assistant Director of Buildings and Grounds that hit the deer and the bill was submitted to the insurance company.

Mrs. Esposito asked about the truck for department usage by the Building and Grounds Director and if it could be taken over state line. Dr. Lescault said he would ask the attorney. Mrs. Pendergast asked why the bill has to be paid up front. She also asked where the accident occurred and asked if a police report was submitted.

Mrs. Pendergast asked about the items on the report for E. Horton for \$2,280.00 and R. Reichert for \$1,260.00 and \$660.00 what are they for?

Mr. Magner, Sp. Ed. Director said that they were behavioral specialist temps, consulting for tuition services.

Mrs. Pendergast questioned the NE Water Solutions service calls. She asked if they were getting someone certified to do the service calls. Dr. Lescault noted that it would be a six month internship with someone certified.

Mrs. Esposito question about Foster Gloucester and asked if they had anyone who could assist with this.

Dr. Lescault said he would check into it.

**Mrs. Guglielmi made a motion to approve.
Seconded by: Mrs. Pendergast
Motion passed unanimously.**

CORRESPONDENCE

1. The following letters to the Superintendent were received requesting home schooling for the 2015-2016 school year:
 - Ms. D for one child
 - Mr. R for one child

Mrs. Esposito asked how many home schooling were there. Dr. Filippelli said there were 13.

**Motion made by Mrs. Pendergast according to the policies and procedures set by RIDE to approve.
Seconded by: Mrs. Esposito
All in favor: Yes
Motion passed.**

2. A letter to Chair Umbriano from the Jennifer Azevedo on behalf of the STA requesting a meeting for the purpose of negotiating a successor agreement to the current contract which expires August 31, 2016.

	<p>Motion made by Mrs. Esposito Seconded by: Mrs. Pendergast All in favor: Yes Motion passed.</p> <p>3. A letter to the Superintendent from an employee requesting extended sick leave through the end of December.</p> <p>Motion made by Mrs. Esposito Seconded by: Mrs. Guglielmi All in favor: Yes Motion passed</p> <p>4. A letter to the School Committee from Erika McCormick, SADD Advisor and SPP Coordinator, asking for approval of a trip to Washington, DC with four high school students, February 1-4, 2016.</p> <p>Motion made by Mrs. Esposito Seconded by: Mrs. Pendergast All in favor: Yes Motion passed</p>
<p>REPORT OF COMMITTEE LIAISONS</p>	
<p>BUDGET COMMITTEE</p>	<p>Mrs. Pendergast stated that Mr. LaPlante was not present for budget. She stated that a preliminary budget would be presented in draft for January meeting.</p> <p>Mrs. Esposito asked for a preliminary budget for all schools.</p> <p>Dr. Lescault said he was working on the building & grounds budget with the new Director.</p> <p>Mrs. Esposito asked about the textbook purchasing.</p> <p>Dr. Filippelli said he had a meeting with Dr. Sollitto about what would be needed for Middle and High school.</p> <p>Mrs. Pendergast questioned the Math book bindings.</p> <p>Mrs. Esposito asked about CD for foreign languages.</p> <p>Dr. Lescault said that the Middle school is good but the High School will be a big bump in the budget for High school for textbooks.</p> <p>Mrs. Esposito asked if there will be resources for teachers involving common core in Math in Elementary.</p> <p>Dr. Filippelli said he meets with teachers at Elementary and teachers have not asked but they will get if they need it.</p>
<p>COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AND NEGOTIATIONS</p>	<p>Mrs. Guglielmi stated that they will be starting negotiations soon with STA and have been in contact.</p>
<p>FOOD SERVICE</p>	<p>Mrs. Umbriano said a meeting was held at 10:30 at Clayville Elementary.</p>
<p>POLICY</p>	<p>Nothing to report</p>
<p>DEVELOPMENT</p>	<p>Nothing to report</p>
<p>SCHOLARSHIP</p>	<p>Mrs. Esposito stated she sent an e-mail to the scholarship committee.</p>

TRANSPORTATION	Nothing to report
SCHOOL SPACE NEEDS STUDY	Nothing to report
TRAFFIC SAFETY	Nothing to report
SCITUATE YOUTH ASSOCIATION	<p>Mrs. Esposito said that the SPP thanked Dr. Filippelli and Col. Randall for showing their support and stopping in for Lead & Seed training and acknowledged the students who participated. SADD program will begin in January. SPP will be presenting a “Power of Parent” presentation to fifth graders and parents on Move-up Night in the Spring.</p> <p>SPP thanked the School Committee for the Partnership for Success grant. Mrs. Esposito thanked Mrs. McCormick for her help.</p> <p>Mrs. McCormick announced that she came from State meeting and Scituate stands out for parents being supportive on initiatives.</p> <p>Mrs. Esposito said she sent e-mail to Mr. Lennox regarding scholarships and if it needs to be included in budget.</p> <p>Dr. Sollitto, HS Principal said last year was the first year for the banquet and they would be adding RI Honor Society into the ceremony in the Spring and National Honor Society to a winter ceremony. He noted that the scholarships are in great shape.</p>
HEALTH AND WELLNESS	
ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT	<p>Dr. Filippelli read his report into the Record (which is attached hereto and incorporated herein by the reference.)</p> <p>He noted the PARCC assessments on his report also the state averages. He noted the median incomes of Barrington and East Greenwich. Dr. Filippelli said they had a 95% participation rate in Elementary. Middle school participation 91% and had 47% opt out. However, RIDE was recalculating those numbers as they were reported by publicly RIDE as incorrect. Dr. Filippelli indicated that participations rates were much lower than what RIDE has reported. Lowest test scores were at High School based on opt outs and low numbers of students taking the tests. Noted that the District Elementary did an excellent job on tests.</p> <p><u>Discussion:</u></p> <p>Mrs. Umbriano asked about forming a group for addressing the opt-out rates.</p> <p>Mrs. Pendergast said her only concern was the participation rate. She would like to have a meeting regarding the participation rate with teachers and parents and 2 members of the school committee to move this forward.</p> <p>Mrs. Esposito said that a work group should be formed now. She also asked about the opt-out rates and why the other districts had a better participate rate.</p>

	<p>Dr. Filippelli stated that other districts made it mandatory to take the test but that even with mandating it; they too had to grapple with student not giving effort.</p>
<p>SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT</p>	<p>Dr. Lescault read his Report into the Record (which is attached hereto and incorporated herein by the reference.)</p> <p>Dr. Lescault noted that the accident with the truck took place in Scituate and a police report was filed. Also was waiting for a reply on the truck usage beyond state lines. Noted that the new Building & Grounds Director will be meeting with other districts at state Maintenance Directors meeting on the water and other issues.</p> <p><u>Discussion:</u> Discussion took place regarding Caito field and Attachment A. It was mentioned that a meeting with the town should take place. Dr. Lescault met with professional turf management company and got several quotes on possible solutions. Unfortunately, all involved a need for water for irrigation and the need to close the field for at least one year.</p> <p>Mrs. Esposito asked if a RFP was put in the budget for repairs of the field. She asked if a committee should be put together to discuss solutions for the fields. She would like to see some professional analysis on the fields.</p> <p>Mrs. Pendergast stated there should be a short term solution for the field and allocate funds for Spring to continue to use the fields for PE. Asked if the fields could be split in half.</p> <p>Mrs. Umbriano said the short term was to rake the field, which was done. Now the winter months to work with URI and find out what the solution would be for the field. We need to form a committee to address this issue with the town.</p> <p>Mr. McCormick stated that a committee has not been formed yet and it will take time to repair the field. The committee should focus on the short term solution for now and meet with the town to find the best solutions going forward for the town and school department.</p> <p>Mrs. Umbriano said everything needs to be looked at for all the fields, not for just Caito.</p> <p>Mrs. Esposito asked if an outside source should be looked at for short term solution for Caito field. Mrs. Esposito also asked about the water solution for the field.</p> <p>Mrs. Umbriano said they will be working on the issue.</p>
<p>PUBLIC COMMENTS & QUESTIONS</p>	<p><u>Mr. Tim McCormick 428 Trimtown Road Scituate</u></p> <p>Suggested that there should be a short term solution for the fields that should be done then look for a long term solution with the Town to correct deficiencies for all fields.</p>

	<p>End of discussion.</p>
NEW BUSINESS	<p>1. Second Reading and Adoption of the revised District Wellness Policy #4050.</p> <p>Motion to approve: Mrs. Pendergast Secoded by: Mrs. Esposito All in favor: Yes Motion passed</p>
	<p>2. First Reading of the revised District Attendance Policy #8010.</p> <p>Motion to approve by Mrs. Esposito Amended the first paragraph to say: Have completed five years of life: Secoded by: Mrs. Pendergast All in Favor: Yes Motion passed</p>
	<p>3. Ratification of Northwest Special Education Region Collaborative Agreement.</p> <p>Motion to approve by Mrs. Pendergast Secoded by Mrs. Esposito</p> <p><u>Discussion:</u> Mrs. Pendergast asked if there were any changes to the agreement. Mr. Magner said he keeps the Superintendent informed.</p> <p>All in favor: Yes Motion passed</p>
	<p>4. Retroactively approve the salary increases discussed (and approved) at the November 2014 Executive Session, per the recommendation by the RI Attorney General following a review of the matter, Marcello v. Scituate School Committee, OMA Complaint.</p> <p>Mrs. Esposito asked to see the review from the RI Attorney General. Dr. Lescault said he thought Dave D'Agostino had sent that to the members of the School Committee. Dr. Lescault said there was a violation and he will ask David to send the committee a copy immediately.</p> <p>Motion to table by Mrs. Esposito Secoded by Mrs. Pendergast All in favor: Yes Motion passed unanimously</p>
	<p>5. PARCC Participation Work Group</p>

	<p>Mrs. Umbriano asked Mrs. Pendergast to be a part of the Work Group along with Mrs. Esposito and Dr. Filippelli and Maureen Kennedy. This would be a work group and not a committee.</p> <p>No votes taken.</p>
RESIGNATIONS/APPOINTMENTS/TRANSFERS/NON-RENEWALS	<p><u>REAPPOINTMENTS</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Patricia Charland; Co-Advisor, Middle School Student Council 2. Paula Sullivan; Co-Advisor, Middle School Student Council 3. Laurie Enright; Girls' High School Cheerleading Head Coach <p>Motion to approve by: Mrs. Esposito Seconded by: Mrs. Guglielmi All in favor: Yes Motion passed</p> <p><u>RESIGNATIONS</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Robert Sasso; Girls' High School Softball Coach <p>Motion to approve by: Mrs. Esposito Seconded by: Mrs. Pendergast All in favor: Yes Motion passed</p>
COMMITTEE REMARKS	
Mrs. Esposito	<p>Mrs. Esposito asked if ClerkBase would be up for the January meeting. Dr. Lescault said that they had met and should be online. Mentioned that they need to set up a Search Committee for January for Superintendent vacancy.</p> <p>Jean said there should have a discussion of restructuring at Central Admin. Level and they should have 2 people instead of 3 people.</p> <p>Mrs. Guglielmi stated that they already downsized.</p>
Mrs. Guglielmi	Nothing to report
Mr. LaPlante	Absent
Mrs. Pendergast	Nothing to report
Chair Umbriano	<p>Thanked the Custodians for raking all of Caito field. Thanked Jenn for the revisions to the agenda on Thanksgiving day. Mentioned that the holiday concert was on December 15th at the High School and December 12 at Middle School.</p>
DISCUSSION OF FUTURE BUSINESS	Nothing to report.
ADJOURNMENT	Mrs. Pendergast moved to adjourn; seconded by Mrs. Esposito. The Committee unanimously approved the motion at 9:00pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Mrs. Guglielmi, Clerk

*Minutes were prepared by Dorothy DeRemer 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.*

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

December 1, 2015

1. PARCC RESULTS

Clearly there were some issues surrounding the PARCC assessment in Scituate. I will begin this report with some of the positive highlights concerning Scituate and how our district fared on the PARCC assessment. As we all know the PARCC assessment was vastly different than the NECAP test that we were all used to taking for the past 11 years. Instead of 4 different performance levels on the NECAP, the PARCC has 5 different performance levels. They include from lowest to highest the following levels:

1. Did not yet meet expectations
2. Partially met expectations
3. Approached expectations
4. Met Expectations
5. Exceeded Expectations

For the purposes of reporting, RIDE is only counting the two highest levels to determine student/school/district proficiency rates.

Elementary Mathematics Analysis:

The state average proficiency rate for elementary school performance on the PARCC math test was 29.9%. Clearly the bright light in our scores are at the elementary level. Data from the Rhode Island Labor and Training website is rich with data on median family income. There are numerous studies that indicate that student academic achievement is very closely related to socio-economic status. For example, East Greenwich has the highest median family income in the state. The Labor and Training website lists their median family income at \$128,836. The second highest median family income in the state is in Barrington at \$127,552. Scituate's median family income is \$94,205. That means our median family income is \$34,631 lower than East Greenwich and \$33,347 lower than Barrington. Thus, Barrington and East Greenwich, with the two highest socio-economic statuses in the state, are often held up as often having the best test scores. This is well documented not only in data sets but also in numerous articles in the ProJo. While it is inappropriate to compare Scituate to these two districts because of the large disparity in median family income, I felt it was important to do so because of the performance of our elementary schools on the PARCC assessment. On the PARCC Mathematics assessment, Clayville Elementary School was 56.9% proficient. That is 27% higher than the state average. What I find most interesting is Clayville had a 77% participation rate of students that were tested due to some opt outs. Even with the opt outs and a lower percentage of students taking the test, Clayville was able to beat out Eldredge Elementary School in East Greenwich (which

had a 98% participation rate), Hampden Meadows Elementary School in Barrington (which had a 96% participation rate), and George Hanaford Elementary School in East Greenwich (which had a 96% participation rate).

Hope Elementary School had an overall proficiency rate of 43.9% in Mathematics which was 14% higher than the state average. Hope Elementary (our Title I school) had a 95% participation rate and also beat out George Hanaford Elementary School in East Greenwich (which had a 96% participation rate).

North Scituate School had an overall proficiency rate of 42.7% in Mathematics which was 12.8% higher than the state average. North Scituate Elementary had a 94% participation rate and also beat out George Hanaford Elementary School in East Greenwich.

In our score comparisons, I often use our neighbors in Smithfield and North Smithfield because our demographics and median family income are very closely aligned. All of our elementary schools, when you look at them as an individual elementary school, did better than the elementary schools in Smithfield and North Smithfield. For example LaPerche Elementary School in Smithfield did slightly better than North Scituate, but did not do better than Clayville and Hope. There are numerous examples of this in comparing these two similar districts to ours, but I didn't want to go into the lengthy detail on it. The point I am trying to make is that our elementary school fared better than our two closely aligned neighbors.

Elementary ELA/Literacy Analysis:

The statewide proficiency average in ELA/Literacy was 37.5% proficient on the PARCC assessments. Again Clayville Elementary School was at the top with 68.6% of their students being proficient. This makes Clayville 31.1% higher than the state average. Again, was accomplished with a 77% participation rate. So by way of comparison to what are perceived as the two best districts in the state (Barrington and East Greenwich), Clayville beat out the following Elementary Schools in those districts:

- Eldredge Elementary in East Greenwich with a participation rate of 98%
- Nayatt Elementary School in Barrington with a participation rate of 100%
- Primrose Hill Elementary in Barrington with a participation rate of 95%
- Hampden Meadows Elementary in East Greenwich with a participation rate of 96%
- Sowams Elementary in Barrington with a participation rate of 100%
- Hanaford Elementary in East Greenwich with a participation rate of 96%

Congratulations to Clayville for such an outstanding performance on ELA/Literacy!

Hope Elementary school had a proficiency level of 58.3 percent. This is 20.8% higher than the state average in elementary schools. This was accomplished with a 95% participation rate. Hope Elementary School was also able to beat out Sowams Elementary School in Barrington with a 100% participation rate and Hanaford Elementary School in East Greenwich with a 96% participation rate.

North Scituate Elementary School had an overall proficiency rate of 46.2%. This is 8.7% higher than the state average. While they were not able to best any of the elementary schools in Barrington and East Greenwich, they were able to attain higher scores than one elementary school in Smithfield (Old County Road School) and two elementary schools in North Smithfield (Dr. H.L.H. Memorial and North Smithfield Elementary).

Again, all of our elementary schools, when you look at them as an individual elementary school, did better than the elementary schools in Smithfield and North Smithfield. For example Clayville did better than all of the elementary schools in both of those districts, Hope did better than 6 elementary schools in both of those districts and as noted, NSES did better than 3 elementary schools in both of those districts. Again, the point I am trying to make is that our elementary schools fared better than our two closely aligned neighbors.

Scituate Middle School

As of the writing of this report, RIDE has acknowledged (both to us as a district as well as publicly to news outlets) that there was a problem with the data set for middle school participation rates. They indicated that our middle school had a participation rate of 91%. We know this to be not accurate because we had 177 opt-outs at the middle school. Thus, we are expecting a participation rate of around 49% at the middle school on PARCC. RIDE indicated in an email to me when they first discovered this that our overall proficiency scores that were publicly reported at the middle school should not be affected by this adjustment. With this in mind and going by what RIDE has indicated to me, Scituate Middle School was 28.1% proficient in Mathematics. This is 7% above the state average for math proficiency which was 21.1%. In ELA/Literacy, Scituate Middle School was 27.0% proficient. This is 9.1% below the state average of 36.1% proficient. Again, the high number of opt-outs had a significant impact on the performance of the school and because of the low number of students tested, it is difficult to correctly ascertain the proficiency levels.

Scituate High School:

It is not a secret that the lowest scores in the district came out of the high school. In my opinion, this has nothing to do with proficiency level but has everything to do with participation rates. For example, Scituate High School scored dead last in the state at 0.0% on the Mathematics portion of the PARCC assessment. We had a participation rate of 25%. Considering the low number of students who actually took the assessment as well as those who may have started it and then stopped once they saw their peers opting out, I cannot see how RIDE can even call this data set valid with such low numbers of students taking the assessment.

In regards to the ELA/Literacy results at the high school, the situation is better, but the same as with math. We only had a participation rate of 27% in ELA PARCC at the high school. This made us 13.1% proficient in ELA. Clearly, the high number of opt-outs prior and during the PARCC assessments significantly impacted the high school PARCC results. There is a question of test validity based on the low numbers of students who took the test and I have brought this up to RIDE and have not received a response on how they are going to proceed with districts that had such high opt-out numbers.

The opt-out situation should come as no surprise to the committee as I reported on my concerns about the high opt-out numbers as well as our PARCC status in my monthly reports at the following school committee meetings:

- March 3, 2015
- May 5, 2015 (no reports during April meeting with reports)
- June 2, 2015
- September 1, 2015
- November 3, 2015

District Results:

There can be no question that our elementary schools carried the day for Scituate in regard to the district results comparing us to the other districts in the state. Here is the breakdown:

In ELA/Literacy, the state average was 35.8% proficient. As a district, and even with our test refusal rate so high at the middle and high schools, we scored 41.7% proficient which was only 5.9% higher than the state average. Our overall district participation rate was only 72%. Even with that, we beat our neighbors in Foster-Glocester who had an overall participation rate of 90%. Certainly these district

scores are nothing to brag about, but we also must consider that we had the highest numbers of opt-outs in the state.

The news is slightly better with our district Mathematics scores. The state average in mathematics was 24.8% proficiency. Scituate's proficiency level was 36.7% or 11.9% higher than the state average. Even with approximately 34% of our students opting out, our district math scores put us as one of the top 15 districts in the state (we ranked 12th) for Mathematics. Again, there is no question that the elementary schools were the heavy hitters in helping us with this state average and they should be commended for that. Even with our participation rate at 76% for PARCC math (again, the lowest in the state), we were able to best Lincoln, Smithfield, North Smithfield, Westerly, and Foster-Glocester with our district results in Math.

Overview:

So what does this tell us? For one thing, we need to get our participation rates up at all levels. Second, the PARCC is a new test and we knew statewide that there was going to be a dip in the scores as the new test was rolled out. I am sure the committee saw the letter I sent out on November 9 to all the parents in the district with my predictions of what our PARCC scores would look like. I only received three emails from that letter. Two were positive emails from parents of high school students and one was a positive email from Committee-woman Esposito.

What we can also glean from these results, especially at the elementary level, is that our Common Core Curriculum is working. Evidence of this was our scores despite the heavy dips in participation rates at SMS and SHS. We can also glean that we have a lot of work to do at our middle and high schools not so much in the way of curriculum alignment to the Common Core, but in the way of getting our parents and students energized about taking the PARCC assessment. I have already met with some teachers and administrators on strategizing how to go about doing this in preparation for our Spring PARCC assessments. I will most likely be hosting a parental forum on PARCC in the spring for parents who have questions and concerns about PARCC.

I have made all of the scoring breakdowns available to you as Attachment A of my report. I must give credit to Jenn Carnevale from my office for helping with the data production for all of the sheets in your packet.

2. ATTENDANCE/TARDY POLICY REVISION

Attached to my report (Attachment B), you will find the proposed revisions to the district Attendance/Tardy Policy. This policy was updated with the input of all district administrators. The last time this policy was updated was when I was assistant principal of the middle/high school in 2003. I commend Dr. Sollitto for taking the lead on this and soliciting the input from other administrators to update this policy. The first change in the policy is under the section of "Appointment of Truant Officer". It was changed to read that the SRO will act as the truant officer for the district. In the event that there is no SRO for the district, then the school committee shall appoint one. The second change is under "Philosophy". Here you will note that the revised policy cites RIGL 16-19-1. The third change is under "Student Attendance Policy" and here the requirements for excusing a student by a parent are less cumbersome. The major change here from the older policy is that the current policy includes a student ID code assigned to parents which we don't use any longer. All of the other aspects of excusing a student remain in place as does the student/parent appeal procedure. In regards to the Tardy Policy, you will notice that the language has been cleaned up and simplified dramatically over the previous policy. The reason for this is because this policy is now a district-wide policy for all schools. The intent is to have each school craft their own tardy to class policy for their buildings. I have checked in with Dr. Sollitto and Mr. Zajac and the tardy policy at each of those schools are clearly communicated in the student handbook. The elementary schools generally do not have a problem with students being tardy to class or school so those principals may or may not decide to create a tardy policy specific to the elementary schools. I did check in with the elementary principals and as expected, they currently track all absences and tardy to class/school.

3. PROVIDENCE COLLEGE COURSE UPDATE

I have been in contact with Shannon Dolan from PC since our last meeting. Right now, we are planning to possibly run an advanced music theory class for dual enrollment. This course is still in the process of being approved by the Dean and the Provost at PC, but I have high hopes that it will run. It is a good starting point, and I believe it will garner a good amount of interest from our students. I will keep the committee updated as to the progress of this as it happens.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

December 1, 2015

1. Caito Field

As I previously reported to the Committee, I requested that our insurance company, The RI Interlocal Trust, conduct a liability and risk assessment of the Caito Field. Ken Fogarty, a risk assessment specialist, conducted an onsite evaluation of the Field on November 10. He offered four available options (suggestions only), which I have listed below.

1. Have the field evaluated by a licensed and certified athletic field consultant with all necessary improvements implemented. This option could result in a total re-constructing of the field at a significant cost to the town.
2. Install a synthetic field that reduces maintenance. This option will come at a significant cost to the town.
3. Limit the use of the field. One of the main reasons for the present condition of the field, per the maintenance employees, is that the field never gets a chance to "rest" and establish a proper grass rooting system. It was reported to me that the field is used continuously except when snow covered. I would limit the use of the field to one sports season per year and not to be used by gym classes in order for the field, in its current state, to revitalize.
4. Close the field. Due to the "threat" of potential law suits as presented at the school committee meeting. This is obviously a drastic option especially considering the lack of viable playing field options in the town.

As a result of concerns raised by a school committee member on Sunday November 15, Larry and I walked the field again on November 16 and found a small amount of glass and other construction debris. The pieces were for the most part very small and not sharp enough to cause injury. However, in an abundance of caution, we suspended Physical Education on the Field.

On November 17th Asst. Director Jay Gasiar, Plumber Ed Toohey and Groundskeeper Gene Kirby fan-raked the entire field. They dug down a few inches in an attempt to get all of the debris out of the top soil. They provided all of the debris they found to Principal Sollitto, who tells me it amounted to about an inch in the bottom of a 12 inch bucket. With that being done and a consistent walk-thru of the field prior to the football games on November 21 and 26, we were confident the fields were safe for play, particularly given the protective gear students wear for football.

I also met with Town Engineer David Provonsil for advice on the field. He suggested that I ask a professional landscape company to assess the field and offer short and long term solutions. Fair Play Turf Services, which did the renovation work at Tasca Field was recommended. Brian Walters of that company inspected the field on November 17. Subsequently, we discussed his findings. He said that while the raking was a good short term solution, that without grass on the field, each time the dirt is disturbed, additional debris will migrate to the surface. He said that in his opinion, the field should be topped off with good quality top soil, reseeded, fertilized and left unused for up to one year. We discussed the challenge of growing grass without an irrigation system and he agreed that would be a problem. He did not recommend an artificial turf field, unless we are prepared to invest considerable time and money in maintaining it. Attached is a proposal he provided to me outlining three options for improving the field. I hope that they will help inform a discussion of possible short and long term solutions.

I received an email on November 4 from Jean Esposito asking that I include in the 2016-2017 budget an allocation that would cover an RFP for short term and long term improvement analysis of the athletic fields at SMS and SHS. The purpose of this RFP would be to review and analyze existing facilities and recommend short term improvements and long term expectations, coordinating with the parent group formed with regard to field improvements. Marylou asked that I put this request in my report for discussion with the Committee at the next School Committee meeting.

The Town Council voted to form a committee to study this issue. They are seeking seven members for the Investigative Committee for the Renovation/Construction of Town Sports Fields. They will be responsible for reviewing and formulating a plan for proposed renovations to existing fields and/or new construction of fields.