

SCITUATE SCHOOL COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING-TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2016
HOPE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

1. Motion by Mrs. Guglielmi to convene into open session at 7:00 PM.

Mrs. Esposito: Second
All in favor: Yes
Motion passes

2. Call of Members – Chair Umbriano

Present were Mrs. Umbriano, Chair, Mrs. Guglielmi, Mrs. Pendergast, Mrs. Esposito and Mr. Laplante. Also present Dr. Lawrence Filippelli, Superintendent, Dr. Michael Sollitto, Assistant Superintendent, and Attorney David D'Agostino,

A. Pledge of Allegiance: Led by Chair Umbriano, the Committee and audience participated in the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. Routine Matters – Minutes and Bills:

Mrs. Guglielmi: Move to approve the Executive Session Minutes of Tuesday, August 2, 2016 in the Town Council Chambers.

Mrs. Pendergast: Second
All in favor: Yes
Motion passes

Mrs. Guglielmi: Made a motion to approve the August 2, 2016 Scituate School Committee Regular Session Meeting Minutes at the Town Council Chambers.

Mrs. Pendergast: second
All in favor: Yes
Motion passes

Mrs. Guglielmi: Made a motion to approve 2016-2017 Budget Capital Reserve in the amount of \$6,139.65.

Mrs. Pendergast: Second

All in Favor: Yes
Motion passes

Mrs. Guglielmi made a Motion to approve the general fund for September 2016 in the amount of \$622,311.26.

Mrs. Pendergast: second

All in Favor: Yes

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Motion passes

Mrs. Guglielmi made a Motion to Approve the Grant Bills for the month of September 2016 in the amount of \$6,921.92.

Mrs. Pendergast: Second
All in Favor: Yes
Motion passes

C. Correspondence:

1. The following letters to the Superintendent were received requesting home schooling for the 2016-2017 school year:

- Mrs. T for one child
- Ms. C for one child
- Ms. N for one child
- Ms. H for one child
- Ms. R for three children
- Mr. and Mrs. N for two children

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

2. A letter to Mr. LaPlante and Dr. Filippelli from John Chaffin with RAD Sports.

Recommendation: No action required.

3. A letter to the Superintendent from Sandra DiCicco requesting that her daughter start school on a tuition basis before the closing on their house on Ashland Road. Ms. DiCicco also enclosed a cashier's check to cover tuition from September 7, 2016 through October.

Recommendation: Allow the student to begin school on a tuition basis.

4. A letter to the Superintendent from Donna Pennacchia informing him of her intention of taking an unpaid leave of absence for the 2016/2017 school year.

Background: See attached Title 16 Education, Chapter 16-13, section 16-13-3.

Recommendation: No action is required as this is allowed under state law.

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Mrs. Pendergast: Move to approve the request for home schooling pursuant to the procedures established by RIDE and the school department.

Mrs. Esposito: Second
All in favor: yes
Motion passes

Mrs. Guglielmi: Motion to approve the request from Mrs. DiCicco to have her child start school prior to the closing on their house on a tuition basis.

Mrs. Pendergast: I know we have had cases in the past.

Mrs. Umbriano: Goes along with our policy.

Dr. Filippelli: Anyone in this situation, the student has to come in on a tuition bases until the closing. Mrs. DiCicco will pay for when her daughter starts until the end of October, if the closing is sooner she will be reimbursed pro-rated. It does not come up often.

Mrs. Esposito: second
All in favor: Yes
Motion passes

Mrs. Umbriano: Letter from Mrs. Pennacchia does not need any action.

Mrs. Pendergast: This provision does not include her position as department head?

Dr. Filippelli: That is correct.

D. Report of the Committee Liaisons:

Mrs. Esposito: Scholarship meetings are resuming in the fall.

Erica McCormick: I have 45 student signed up for SADD and I can only have 25 so I am going to have to cut and maybe start a VASA group and that would be a great option. I have all the data and my URI people will be compiling that data. Two students at a Youth Conference will be working with 12 or 13 other students to do a one day conference.

Calendars: I have the artwork and they are ready to go out as soon as I have a mailing list.

We have an assembly tomorrow night for parents of athletes regarding performance enhancing drugs.

Mrs. Pendergast: Having to cut students; how do you do that?

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Mrs. McCormick: It is a process and it is treated like a varsity club and I am not going to take all of the same grade level students.

Mrs. Pendergast: Policy Development: Nothing

Mrs. Guglielmi: Collective Bargaining and Negotiations: Nothing, Negotiations with the Custodians this year but that has not started.

Mr. LaPlante: School Space needs: Nothing

Mrs. Umbriano: Nothing. We are going to schedule a health and wellness meeting in October. Colleen is charge of policies. With a new resource officer are you going to look at the policy for the breathalyzer?

Mrs. McCormick: The policy stays the same but the procedure will change.

Mr. Sollitto: If any student is under suspicion of being under the influence then they are subject to a breathalyzer.

Mrs. Pendergast: Policy Development: Nothing

E. Assistant Superintendent's Report:

Dr. Sollitto read his report into the Record (which is attached hereto and incorporated herein by the referenced.)

1. PARCC Results:

Mrs. Esposito: It is troubling when you look at the High School and Middle School. Not too many of our students are in the 5th level. My question is what are we doing with the students that are not meeting proficiency? In Geometry only 10% have met, none have exceeded.

Dr. Sollitto: The effort was not there, they just took the test.

Mr. LaPlante: That is what is driving the difference between high school, middle and elementary schools.

Dr. Sollitto: At the high school, there are subject based tests, not grade based so some of our highest performing students were not even tested.

Mr. LaPlante: The comparative numbers to the state are concerning.

Dr. Sollitto: Poor scores at the high school were in part due to the effort to get the participation rate up and now the next step is to get them to take it seriously.

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Mrs. Esposito: Is the next step to look at the evaluation of the curriculum?

Dr. Sollitto: There has been some indication that the PARCC will no longer be used after this year. A lot of talk is that the SAT will replace this as the state assessment but nothing has been finalized by RIDE. This year, PARCC is only covering grade 9 ELA and Algebra. We are offering PSAT in October and SAT in December, free of charge. The curriculum work is there; the department meets several times to look at the curriculum.

Mrs. Esposito: Are you going to look at the curriculum so you offer algebra I to all students in grade 8?

Dr. Sollitto: We can discuss that. The curriculum is constantly revised and reviewed.

Mr. LaPlante: It sounds like the push was to get kids to take the test and next year taking the test seriously and look at strategies to motivate the students to take the test.

Dr. Sollitto: It appears they are doing away with PARCC testing.

Mrs. Guglielmi: That is the bigger problem the state keeps changing.

Dr. Sollitto: The kids know this and know that they did not have to take them.

Mrs. Pendergast: Good job getting the kids to take it. This is not a reflection of what Scituate is. We have a much smaller base to market to this year. Our elementary schools are moving forward. Middle School and High School: is there anything that can be done?

Mr. LaPlante: Mike is saying that there is nothing to push for anymore. They are going away.

Mrs. Guglielmi: SAT and PSAT are prerequisite for college.

Dr. Sollitto: Parents put value on the SAT and PSAT.

Mrs. Guglielmi: I think making them a requirement for graduation is wrong.

Mrs. Esposito: Can foster an environment that values that testing. Even if it does drop off I would still like that.

Maureen Kennedy:
North Doctors Lane
There is no feedback; it is very difficult.
They do not get results until the following year.

Mrs. Pendergast: Do you think these kids took this seriously?

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Dr. Sollitto: I went into a testing room that had an hour and a half time block and most kids were done in 20 minutes. We can encourage them but that is all.

Mrs. Pendergast: Last year my oldest one did the PARCC and the PSAT and I am looking forward to seeing the result. But there is nothing to compare to. To see their proficiency level.

Mrs. Esposito: PSAT aptitude skill level test; PARCC performance.

Dr. Sollitto: SAT is more aligned with the common core now. It is not an aptitude test like it was years ago.

2. Updates:

Advance Course Network came out with a revised course catalog. Several high schools have dropped their course offerings. We need to roll this out to the students

Mrs. Pendergast: You can do this in grade assemblies.

3. P-Tech:

4. Start of the School Year

No questions/Comments

F. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Filippelli read his report into the Record (which is attached hereto and incorporated herein by the referenced.)

1. Fields and Construction Update:

Dr. Filippelli: This is specific to the practice field; after publicly opening the bids, they came in much higher than we anticipated. We are hearing from the construction companies the necessity of getting this done before the end of October could be a hindrance as to why some companies did not bid on the project. We could hold off until the spring because one of the things we are hearing from the construction folks is that they do not have enough time to get it in before the first frost. I do not know if the time constraints are the trouble with the bids. There are lots of moving parts. That is the information I got from Glen. More to come and I will be seeking direction from the Committee as to whether or not we have another meeting with the Town Council and I can bring my recommendation to the council at that time. We could also wait until spring to get a lower bid if the committee wishes to go in that direction.

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Mrs. Pendergast: What was the amount?

Dr. Filippelli: The company who did the estimate for the project had projected \$94,000 to do Caito and we added another \$25,000 for fences and \$25,000 on irrigation which puts us at about \$146,000.00. The bids that came in are way out of line for what David and Glen came up with.

Mrs. Umbriano: Can't you break it out and it might come up a lot cheaper.

Dr. Filippelli: That is what these other companies are going to do.

Mrs. Umbriano: Yes but they are going to charge for it. If Glen managed the project and broke it out to different companies and save money.

Dr. Filippelli: If a project is over \$10,000 it has to go to bid. Unless we go to MPA and then Town Council.

Mrs. Umbriano: How much to put in sprinkler; how much for turf?

Mrs. Pendergast: We do not want to piecemeal. Historically we have gone with the least expensive way and it has not gotten us anywhere.

Dr. Filippelli: So MPA and then Town Council President?

Mrs. Umbriano: Yes

Dr. Filippelli: This area is a 3 foot differential from end to end. It is not as involved as Caito would be.

Mrs. Umbriano: 5 step process instead of going to the town council. I hate paying more money than we have to.

Mrs. Pendergast: Can Glen handle that?

Dr. Filippelli: We were surprised by the numbers and the first time around we did not get any bids. The biggest issue is the time line.

Mrs. Esposito: Can you break up the time line that you graciously sent to me and get individual bids.

Dr. Filippelli: Yes, but the contractors want control over both the sod and the irrigation for scheduling purposes. The sod has to be down by first frost. Also, PE could be there in the spring.

Mrs. Pendergast: Nothing to do with RIDE?

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Mr. LaPlante: The vendors are not coming to us.

Dr. Filippelli: Exercise the option of NPR.

Mrs. Pendergast: Bids are in the newspaper.

Dr. Filippelli: Yes it was in the newspaper.

John Mahoney
Mahoney Drive

\$198,000 what did entail?

Dr. Filippelli: Explained the details of the steps.

Mrs. Esposito: All from one company?

Dr. Filippelli: No. We had more than one company submit bids.

John Mahoney: Can I stop in the office?

Dr. Filippelli: Come by tomorrow and I will provide them for you.

Dr. Filippelli: Stage one process of our review, so I sent emails today to NESDEC and RGB because I need all those parts working in order to get stage one done so we are moving forward. I am going to stay on them weekly.

Mr. LaPlante: Worth the time to call the bidders and talk through their bids. Just say that you want to understand their thought process.

Dr. Filippelli: Glen was uncomfortable with that as it could substantially change the bidding process.

Mr. LaPlante: A lot of flexibility built in but not communicating about the component parts. Dave D'Agostino can weigh in on the reaching out.

Dr. Filippelli: He did weigh in on extending the bidding time and he was ok with it.

Mrs. Esposito: Was the RFP itemized like it was for us.

Dr. Filippelli: I will have to check it but I believe it was.

2. All Hands Meeting:

3. School Resource Officer M.O.U.:

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Mrs. Umbriano: When the money changed from the school to the police department Chief Randall was concerned about that so thank you for doing that.

4. School Opening:

Mrs. Pendergast: Thank Ed for all his work.

G. Public Comments

Tim McCormick
428 Trimtown Road

In the past I have suggested the group establish a peer group to talk about testing. I consider the state test meaningless. A peer group of 6 or 8 schools is better.

Sports field-Contract v. bid bonding activity and they are very busy and they do not need the work.

On the decision to move forward with doing the practice field instead of Caito. The access to Caito field is the practice field.

Mr. LaPlante: What are the barriers to go directly onto Caito.

Tim McCormick: A lot of money spent on the practice field, but you may damage it if you need to get onto Caito East field. You need an access point instead of going over a new field.

Mrs. Umbriano: Come in through the elderly complex or the road.

Tim McCormick: That is another option.

Joseph Maggiacomo III
195 Howard Avenue

The memorandum of understanding what do you consider the use of force is?

Dr. Filippelli: By their use of force you mean school resource officers? You have a student who is acting up and refuses to leave the classroom. Administrators need to get the student away from the other students so the other students can continue their education in a safe location. Administrators with deal with them first and if need be the officer would come in and make decisions in conjunction with the school administration.

Mr. Maggiacomo: Breathalyzer test: we are seeing this nationwide. An adult needs to be there? Are we administering the test without the consent of parents or an adult present to make a decision?

Dr. Filippelli: They have to present to us that they are impaired and then we would contact the parent.

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Mr. Maggiacomo: Do you have to have a parent there?

Dr. Sollitto: We do not administer without the parent present. It is not in the handbook but that is our procedure.

Mr. Maggiacomo: Could be detrimental down the line for this child. If the child applies for college etc. now we are talking forced compulsion. It may be necessary however you can ask the person to leave the premises. It can be detrimental down the line for a child.

Dr. Filippelli: Are you talking 18 and over.

Mr. Maggiacomo: A juvenile 18 and younger. One lack of discretion can affect a child years down the line.

Dr. Filippelli: You do not make this a random breathalyzer issue.

Mr. Maggiacomo: If you single someone out. In children the frontal lobe is not fully developed until between 17-27 years old.

Dr. Sollitto: Policy is that administration contacts parents.

Mrs. Esposito: Something we need to review.

Mr. LaPlante: Perhaps we should contact the Providence, Pawtucket...to see what their policy is.

Dr. Sollitto: If the student is impaired, most of the time the student admits to it and a breathalyzer is not necessary.

Mr. LaPlante: Not a bad idea to look at our policy.

Mr. Maggiacomo: Mark on a student's record.

Mrs. Esposito: Does the student handbook have those procedures?

Dr. Sollitto: Yes, drug, alcohol, tobacco but the breathalyzer is not in the handbook.

Erika McCormick: I believe it is the school's intention not to have a student arrested. Chances are this is not the first time. We have identified the student and that child needs help. Other schools use a breathalyzer as a deterrent you pick a random chip at the entrance of a dance and if you pick the right color you have to have a breathalyzer test.

Mr. Maggiacomo: There are ways of knowing when a child is impaired. As a parent I would want to have to give consent before a breathalyzer is administered.

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Mr. Amaral
Read Schoolhouse Road

What happens if they refuse to take the test?

Mrs. Umbriano: The police are called into this.

Dr. Sollitto: If the student refuses to take the test and appears to be under the influence that it is automatic suspension.

Mr. Amaral: So if they refuse what is the suspension?

Dr. Sollitto: Suspension for 3-5 days depending on the circumstances.

Mr. Amaral: So either way there would be a suspension?

Dr. Filippelli: Yes and a 45 day suspension from social activities.

Dr. Sollitto: The student's disciplinary file is only requested by schools for severe disciplinary issues.

Mrs. Kennedy:

The first day of school was great new start.
People are wearing their pins and every administrator was there. There is a lot of positive support for the new administration.

Mrs. Umbriano: I am sure both of you will be in the school instead of just in the office.

Mrs. Pendergast: Newsletter will be helpful.

H. New Business

1. Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent contract ratification:

Mr. LaPlante: Move to ratify the contracts that were provided to us.

Mrs. Guglielmi: Second

Discussion:

Mrs. Pendergast: Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent. There was discussion the new principal received the written contract was for 3 years not 2 years and we did not know if that was a clerical error.

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Mrs. Umbriano: The committee brought forward the recommendations and negotiations with Paul Lescault.

Mrs. Pendergast: Dr. Lescault confirmed that he negotiated a 3 year contract. This is nothing against Mr. Hassell. We have offered a 2 year contract to other administrators.

Mrs. Umbriano: He was offered a 3 year contract at Smithfield and it was a bargaining tool to get him here.

Mrs. Pendergast: It was not a clerical error; the error was with Dr. Lescault. You do not have the right to ratify a contract that was not approved by the committee. In good faith I feel Mr. Hassell should be afforded the contract he came here for.

Mrs. Esposito: Problem is a 3 year contract that has not been afforded to other administrators. Once this contract is over he would be given a 2 year term to any subsequent contract if offered.

All in favor: 4 yay 1 nay (Jean Esposito)
Motion passes

3. Approval of all Administrators' raises:

We all voted across the board 1.5 % raise.

Special Ed director \$124,750 with some of his funding from a grant and the remainder divided by 3 because we share him with other districts.

Assistant Special Ed director at \$114,000 and she is 100 % funded from an IDEA grant.

Mr. Laplante: Move to approve or ratify all of those increases.

Mrs. Pendergast: Second

All in favor: yes

I. RESIGNATIONS/APPOINTMENTS/REAPPOINTMENTS/TRANSFERS/NON-RENEWALS:

RESIGNATIONS

1. Brittany Whittemore; 27.5 hour Paraprofessional, Clayville Elementary School
2. Eric LaPrade; Middle School Boys' Soccer Coach
3. Meg Shewchuk; .90 PE/Health/APE Teacher; Scituate Middle/High and Hope Elementary Schools
4. Kathryn Fisher; part time Paraprofessional, Scituate Middle School, effective 8/5/16

Mr. Laplante: Move approve the resignations

Mrs. Pendergast: Second

All in favor: yes

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Motion passes

APPOINTMENTS

1. Leeann Brown; High School Girls' Cross Country Head Coach
2. Kristin Rainha; 27.5 hour Paraprofessional, Clayville Elementary School
3. Nicholas Cinquegrana; 1.0 Grade 4 Teacher, North Scituate Elementary School
4. Nora Pace; Freshman Class Advisor
5. Sal Gelsomino; Athletic Director
5. Brittany Terra; .90 PE/Health Scituate Middle/High and Hope Elementary Schools – **pending completion of paperwork**
6. Derrik Gouveia; High School Girls' Volleyball Assistant Coach – **pending completion of paperwork**
7. Hedy Brown; Bus Monitor
8. Anne Pedro; High School Unified Volleyball Coach (unpaid position) - **pending completion of paperwork**

Mr. Laplante: Move to approve appointments

Mrs. Esposito: Second

All in favor: Yes

Motion passes

REAPPOINTMENTS

VOLUNTARY TRANSFERS

1. Heather Dailey; High School Math Department Head
2. Tina Mahoney; 19.92 hours Paraprofessional, Hope Elementary School
3. Karen Adams; 17.0 hour Paraprofessional, Scituate Middle/High School
4. Heather Burlingame; 17.0 hour Paraprofessional, North Scituate Elementary School

Mr. Laplante: Move to approve the transfers

Mrs. Pendergast: Second

Discussion

Mrs. Esposito: It is not a transfer, it is a partial transfer.

All in favor: Yes

Motion passes

INVOLUNTARY TRANSFERS

1. Desiree Santiago; .75 Middle School Math Teacher; one year only
2. Jennifer Park; 1.0 High School Math Teacher; one year only

Mr. Laplante: Motion to approve the involuntary transfers

Mrs. Esposito: Second

All in favor: Yes

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Motion passes

TERMINATIONS

None

Committee remarks:

Mrs. Esposito: Nothing

Mr. LaPlante: Nothing

Mrs. Guglielmi: The floor looks wonderful.

Mrs. Pendergast: I did not see much of the school but these floors look great.

Dr. Filippelli: All of the schools look like this.

Mr. LaPlante: Motion to adjourn

Mrs. Esposito: Second

All in Favor: Yes

Motion passes

The Committee unanimously approved the motion at 9:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted

Mrs. Guglielmi, Clerk

Minutes were prepared by Theresa C. Yeaw, 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 ("ARPA"). For all APRA inquiries, please contact the Superintendent's Office.