

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
April 26, 2007  
6:45 p.m.**

PRESENT: Charlie Ellis  
Nancy Mizzoni  
Paul Avella  
Shawna Stea  
Mike Fontanella (Arrived 8:10 PM)

ALSO PRESENT: Diane Bemis  
Steve Mark  
Raina Martinec

**CALL TO ORDER AT 6:53 P.M.**

- A. Meeting called to order by Chairman Charlie Ellis.

**ADJOURNMENT TO EXECUTIVE SESSION WITH THE INTENTION TO RETURN TO OPEN SESSION**

A. On a motion by Shawna Stea and seconded by Paul Avella, it was voted to enter into Executive Session at 6:54 PM for the purpose of discussing Littleton School Department Superintendent's contract (Exempt. #3). (Roll Call Vote: Mizzoni – AYE, Avella – AYE, Stea – AYE, Ellis – AYE.)

**OPEN MEETING RESUMED AT 7:38 P.M.**

- A. Motion to approve consent agenda by Shawna Stea; seconded by Nancy Mizzoni. (AYE: Unanimous)

**INTERESTED CITIZENS**

- A. Bob O'Neill, parent: Concerned with change in number of teachers assigned to 5<sup>th</sup> grade during upcoming school year 07-08.
- B. Mark Levine, Littleton Educators' Association: Expressed concern with Superintendent's plan to include a half-time library media specialist within the computer & technology teacher's portfolio in the middle school upon the retirement of the current technology teacher, effective June 30, 2007

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

- A. Andrea Bell, School Committee Legal Counsel, briefed the committee on her research into EdNet's business practices and services provided to other school districts.

- B. Gail Poulter, High School Math Department Chair, briefed the committee on the state of the curriculum and Virtual High School for advanced middle school children.
- C. Tina Lorenzen, Elementary Math Curriculum Specialist, briefed the committee on the elementary math curriculum.
- D. Raina Martinec, Student Representative, briefed the committee on the National Honor Society Dinner, recent athletic events, Senior Sports Night (May 22), the Rotary leadership program, and graduation (June 1)
- E. Cam Huston, Director, Director, Pupil Personnel Services, briefed the committee on autism. Littleton schools have twice the national average of autistic children, a phenomenon resulting from migration into district.
- F. Anne Taylor, Chairperson, Littleton Special Education Parent Advisory Council, provided the committee with an overview of the Littleton SPED PAC
- G. School Choice openings: Motion by Paul Avella to approve Superintendent's recommended additional school choice slots, by grade; seconded by Nancy Mizzoni. (AYE: Unanimous).
- H. Camera use in school buildings notice signs: Motion by Paul Avella to approve signage/wording as recommended by committee's legal counsel for camera use in school buildings; seconded by Nancy Mizzoni. (AYE: Unanimous).

### **SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- A. Permanent Municipal Building Committee: Paul Avella briefed the committee that the middle school gym is progressing.
- B. Budget sub-committee: No new updates to report.
- C. Safety and Security sub-committee: Charlie Ellis notified the committee of the next meeting, May 1 at 3 PM in the Superintendent's office.
- D. Policy sub-committee: Paul Avella briefed that the Policy sub-committee will process policies for review and further updating beginning in June.
- E. Middle School Dedication: Shawna Stea briefed committee on the planning status, proposed art work for MS entry foyer, and proposed invitation list (includes Governor Patrick, Senator Resor and Representative Hall). No confirmations to date.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Stand for Children rally on the Boston Common, April 25, 2007: Paul Avella briefed the committee on the meetings with elected officials, the rally and Governor's speech.
- B. Suburban Coalition: Paul Avella briefed committee on the organization, and recommended the committee join the coalition. Charlie Ellis will call for a vote at next committee meeting, May 10, 2007.
- C. Lacrosse: Mike Lynn, Athletic Director, briefed the committee on status of the lacrosse program. Program includes 14 students not previously involved in interscholastic athletics. Also noted that the program is revenue neutral when accounting for all costs and income.
- D. Finance update: Steve Mark, Business Manager, briefed the committee on bus registration (also made a public appeal to parents to register as soon as possible), Instant Alert messaging system, and a request for a budget funds transfer.
- E. Budget transfer: Motion by Shawna Stea to transfer \$256K from the SPED – Outside Tuition Account to:

- a. Tutoring Account: \$11K
- b. Occupational Therapy Account: \$17K
- c. Physical Therapy: \$12K
- d. Psychologists: \$216K

Seconded by Paul Avella. AYE (Unanimous)

- F. Former Superintendent's salary. Charlie Ellis corrected information concerning previous superintendent's salary provided by a former school committee member during a previous committee meeting.
- G. High school library media specialist: Charlie Ellis corrected information concerning hiring date provided by a former school committee member during a previous committee meeting.
- H. Charlie Ellis provided initial rationale for examining the feasibility of allowing a bank to open a branch office in the high school. This would be a collaborative effort between the bank and the high school, exposing the students to the banking industry.
- I. Middlesex Assistant District Attorney's determination as to the committee's violation of Massachusetts' Opening Meeting Law: Middlesex ADA determined the Littleton School Committee violated Massachusetts' Open Meeting Law by convening an executive session 25 minutes prior to the posted open meeting time on November 16, 2006; convening in executive session on December 31, 2006 with the superintendent search committee for an improper purpose; and, for failing to follow proper procedure for convening in an executive session on four dates. Charlie Ellis asked committee members to review Middlesex ADA's determination for possible rebuttal since Middlesex ADA made her determinations with incomplete and inaccurate information.
- J. Superintendent briefed the school improvement plan process, applicable Massachusetts' law, current status, and rationale for the process.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

- A. On a motion by Paul Avella and seconded by Shawna Stea, it was voted to adjourn at 10:38 PM. (AYE: Unanimous.)