

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MINUTES
July 20, 2006
7:00 PM**

PRESENT: Charlie Ellis
Nancy Mizzoni
Mike Fontanella
Paul Avella

ALSO PRESENT: Richard Faherty
John Buckey
Diane Bemis
Kevin Moran

ABSENT: Shawna Stea

CALL TO ORDER (7:00 PM)

- A. Meeting called to order by Chairman Charlie Ellis.
- B. On a motion by Nancy Mizzoni and seconded by Mike Fontanella, it was voted to approve the Consent Agenda. (AYE: Unanimous)

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- A. On a motion by Nancy Mizzoni and seconded by Mike Fontanella, it was voted to enter Executive Session at 7:02 PM to discuss the interim school superintendent's salary negotiations with the intention to return to open session. (Roll Call: Nancy Mizzoni, AYE; Mike Fontanella, AYE; Paul Avella, AYE; Charlie Ellis, AYE)

OPEN SESSION RESUMED AT 7:43 PM

- A. Charlie Ellis addressed the public concerning recent Chapter 70 developments. He referenced a Boston Globe article, "Suburbs big aid winners," July 16, 2006. Mr. Ellis indicated that the School Committee was aware of inbound funds from the state during the budget cycle, although, at the time the exact amount was unknown. As such, the School Committee used a conservative estimate when developing the budget. For now, the School Committee awaits actual increased Chapter 70 disbursement prior to taking any further action.
- B. Mr. Ellis further commented on the increased "per pupil" amounts resulting from the state's increased school funding. While Littleton was among those municipalities receiving a higher percentage than the state average, the town's relative ranking to the six surrounding towns remains unchanged, sixth out of seven.

- C. Mr. Ellis also discussed budgeting priorities, acknowledging the administrative teams' slightly reordered prioritization list for restoring previously announced cuts. The administrative team's original priority list did not include text books. Text books are now listed as their third priority. The added text book requirement results from adding high school courses in Statistics, Connected Math, Writer's Workshop and Facing History in Ourselves. The committee discussed the impact of adding the text books to this list, and will act on the list during the next scheduled School Committee meeting. The restoration of the Middle School Health position was also discussed and deferred to the next meeting.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- A. Rich Faherty reported on Kindergarten enrollment and building enrollment certification. On a motion by Nancy Mizzoni and seconded by Mike Fontanella, it was voted to accept the enrollment figure of 459 on October 1, 1999, at Shaker Lane School. (AYE: Unanimous)
- B. On a motion by Nancy Mizzoni and seconded by Mike Fontanella, it was voted to accept the enrollment figure of 355 on October 1, 2002, at Littleton High School. (AYE: Unanimous)
- C. On a motion by Nancy Mizzoni and seconded by Mike Fontanella, it was voted to accept the enrollment figure of 390 on October 1, 2003, at Russell Street School. (AYE: Unanimous)
- D. Rich Faherty advised the School Committee, that following an interview he and Diane Bemis conducted with Steven Mark, both concurred in hiring Mr. Mark as the Littleton School District's Business Manager. He will assume his duties on August 17, 2006.
- E. Rich Faherty presented an updated new hire list.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Charlie Ellis deferred vote on declassifying Executive Session minutes until all five School Committee members are present.
- B. Charlie Ellis set August 21, 2006 as the School Committee's walk-through of all four school buildings. The Committee's primary objectives: safety, serviceability, functionality, and housekeeping.
- C. Mike Lynn, Athletic Director, briefed the School Committee on the district's "No-Cut" athletic policy, recommending the institution of a "Cut" policy. The School Committee took the recommendation under advisement and will act on it at the next School Committee meeting.

- D. Mike Lynn also recommended adding a JV Boy's Lacrosse team at Littleton High School. Mr. Lynn presented a budget-neutral plan that accommodates approximately 20 students. On a motion by Nancy Mizzoni and seconded by Mike Fontanella, it was voted to approve the formation of a JV Boy's Lacrosse team at Littleton High School. (AYE: Unanimous)

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Paul Avella briefed the School Committee that based on a report by Castagna Construction, and accepted by the Littleton Permanent Municipal Building Committee on July 12, 2006, the Littleton Middle School construction project is on schedule.

ADJOURNMENT

- A. On a motion by Mike Fontanella and seconded by Nancy Mizzoni it was voted to adjourn at 9:28 PM. (AYE: Unanimous)