

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MINUTES
February 28, 2008
7:30 PM**

PRESENT: Charlie Ellis
Paul Avella
Shawna Stea
Nancy Mizzoni (9:05)
Mike Fontanella

ALSO PRESENT: Diane Bemis
Steve Mark
Marilyn Fedele
Amber Cardoos

CALL TO ORDER (7:32 PM)

- A. Charlie Ellis called the meeting to order.
- B. On a motion by Paul Avella and seconded by Mike Fontanella, it was voted to approve the Consent Agenda. AYE: Unanimous

INTERESTED CITIZENS

- A. Ken Smith suggested that we be more aggressive on the pricing for the Pre-School, Full-Day Kindergarten.

RECOGNITION

- A. The Annual Boston Globe Scholastic Awards were awarded to Alex Berry and Nick Doucette who won Silver Keys; Alex Berry won an Honorable Mention, and Garrett Gaudette won Honorable Mention for two of his photographs.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- A. High School Student Update: The Freshman Class is collecting toiletries for homeless women. The National Honor Society is conducting a blood drive. Next Wednesday is the Faculty vs. Student basketball game with proceeds donated to a charity of the students' choice. The District has decided that we would consider March the Loaves and Fishes Month.
- B. Dr. Diane Bemis gave a personnel update.

- C. Energy Ed RFP: Received one proposal from Energy Education, Inc. The contract has been sent to our legal counsel.
- D. State of the Curriculum: Margie Packer brought the School Committee up to date on Grades K-5. The first set of reports for Grade and GMade are going out to parents next week with the report cards. Nelena Bachman reported on Grades 6 to 12 ELA.
- E. SEPAC Update: Dianna Peterson reported on the viable monthly meetings. Ann Taylor, Chairman of SEPAC brought the Committee up to date for each of the individual schools.
- F. MSBA Update: Team went in to MSBA and listened. Need to complete a compliance contract. Ken Eldridge, Dr. Diane Bemis, and Charlie Ellis have signed the Initial Compliance Contract. We know we will have to have a feasibility study done.
- G. Budget Process: Dr. Bemis reviewed the budget process which started in October and will be complete for the May 5 Town Meeting.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Permanent Municipal Building Committee: It has been an arduous process getting everything signed for the audit by MSBA for the Middle School.
- B. Safety and Security Subcommittee: The Legal Department has reviewed all policies pertaining to student safety.
- C. Policy Subcommittee: Naming the High School Football Field. Advertise in the newspaper for a public forum on naming the field. The first meeting is April 10 at 7:00 p.m., ½ hour before the School Committee Meeting.
- D. Budget Subcommittee: Discussion of the preliminary budget will take place at the next School Committee Meeting on March 13, 2008.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Car Show with Rotary: Rotary to work with the School Committee, SEPAC, and proceeds to be given back to SEPAC for seed money for speakers, etc.
- B. Bi-Weekly Payroll: Instructed the Town Manager and Chairman that all bargaining has to be done through the School Committee's by-law.
- C. 2008 School Committee Draft Calendar: School Committee will be informed of plans to change the bus routes for Election Day in the fall. These plans will allow the school to be open on Election Day.
- D. There was a discussion and review of the new policy from our legal counsel on pregnant students. A second reading will take place at our next meeting on March 13, 2008.

INTERESTED CITIZENS

- A. Ken Smith: Expressed concerns about federal funds and mandates and the main causes for Special Ed increases.

ADJOURNMENT

- A. On a motion by Paul Avella and seconded by Mike Fontanella, it was voted to adjourn at 10:10 p.m. (AYE: Unanimous)