

**Medway School Committee
Minutes
February 1, 2007**

The Medway School Committee held a meeting on Thursday, February 1, 2007, at 7:00 p.m., in the School Committee Room, Medway Middle School, 45 Holliston Street, Medway. School committee members in attendance were: Chairperson Susan Connolly, Tina Wright, Steven Dahl, Charles Myers, Dawn Rice-Norton, and Joanne Scheid. Also in attendance were Superintendent Richard Grandmont, Director of Operations and Finance David Verdolino, and Medway Federation of Teachers Representatives Richard Flaherty and Megan Boland. Student Advisory Council Representative Rachel Heller was present. The meeting was carried live on cable television.

A. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Connolly called the meeting of the school committee to order at 7:00 p.m., noting all members were present.

B. APPROVAL OF WARRANTS

The warrants were reviewed and signed.

C. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Mr. Myers, seconded by Ms. Wright, to approve the minutes of November 16, 2006, as amended. All in favor.

Moved by Mr. Myers, seconded by Ms. Scheid, to approve the minutes of January 18, 2007, as amended. Voting in favor: Ms. Connolly, Ms. Wright, Mr. Dahl, Ms. Rice-Norton and Ms. Scheid. Voting opposed: none. Mr. Myers abstained as he was not present for the meeting.

E. REPORT OF STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Rachel reported:

- Students were leaving today for the Quebec trip.
- Peer Counselors sponsor every week a "Warm Wednesday" to boost school spirit and hold freshman suicide screening in memory Katelyn Kennedy.
- Student Council was sponsoring a guest speaker on Aids.
- National Honor Society was sponsoring a collection of items to support the troops in Iraq.
- Peer Counselors were again recognizing "random acts of kindness" with students.

F. REPORTS OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Ms. Scheid stated that she did research with area schools and businesses regarding signs posted on school athletic fields. She reported that businesses entered

into a contract for a fee or bartered for services; the average fee for placing signs or banners was \$300; and all signs posted on a particular field were the same size.

After discussion, it was the sense of the committee to move forward with generating revenue from signs posted on athletic fields and have Ms. Scheid work with the superintendent on the project. The superintendent and Ms. Scheid would work on a contract, a policy that established guidelines for the size and content of the signs, and a plan for what the revenue would be used for.

G. ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE

1. Report of the Chairman – Ms. Connolly reported that on Tuesday, January 30th, two finance committee members, two board of selectmen, two members of the school committee, the superintendent, and director of operations met to discuss and review the school department's FY2006 actual budget, the FY2007 budget, and the proposed FY2008 budget.

The superintendent stated that a report will be prepared showing data from the past budget years and will go out to parents via backpack and will also be placed up on the website. The superintendent reminded the audience that there is a budget binder available for review at each school committee meeting and also in the superintendent's office for anyone interested in coming in to look at the data.

Dr. Grandmont noted that a version of the proposed FY2008 budget that was submitted to the Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee is scheduled to be placed up on the website, hopefully, the middle of next week.

Dr. Grandmont noted that the NEASC Accreditation Report can be found on the district website by going into the school committee page and then clicking "presentations."

Dr. Grandmont noted that budget information can be found on the district website by going to the superintendent's home page and then clicking on "presentations."

2. Report of the Superintendent – Dr. Grandmont noted that committee members had a copy of the "Important Information" document, which contained a list of reductions and critical needs, was scheduled to be sent home with elementary students today and middle and high school students tomorrow. Dr. Grandmont stated that high school students often don't bring home informational items to parents and asked Rachel Heller if she would spread the word at the high school that the information contained in this document impacted students. He encouraged both parents and students read this document. The superintendent also noted that it is up on the webpage and was sent out via email to list-serve subscribers.

H. DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Budget Discussion – The superintendent noted that the new budget reporting document for February was in committee members' packets as well as in the binder available at tonight's meeting and in the superintendent's office.

Ms. Wright noted that she had inadvertently scheduled vacation time during the March 1st Public Hearing on the budget and asked if committee members were willing to move the public hearing to March 15th. After discussion, it was the sense of the committee to keep the public hearing on March 1st, as originally scheduled.

2. Other – Dr. Grandmont noted that one of the areas for consideration if a level-funded budget is required was elimination and/or reduction of bus services. He stated that Mr. Verdolino contacted Holmes Transportation and asked for data to present for committee consideration. Mr. Holmes stated that the earliest he would have information would be the end of January or early February. The superintendent hopes to have information available at the next meeting.

I. ACTION ITEMS

1. Staffing Update – Ms. Connolly noted there were no staffing sheets in committee members' packets.

2. For Consideration: Increase Pre-School Tuition Rate – Ms. Connolly noted that a comparison of the annual pre-school tuition rates for several towns in the area was enclosed in members' packets. The superintendent is recommending that the tuition rate for pre-school be increased from \$2,250 per year to \$2,400 per year.

Mr. Myers noted that costs in the district were going up and that both the pre-school and full-day kindergarten tuition rates should also go up.

Moved by Mr. Myers, seconded by Ms. Wright, seconded by that the school committee set the tuition rate for the pre-school program at \$2,500 per year, beginning with the 2007-2008 school year, as recommended by the superintendent. All in favor.

3. For Consideration: Increase Full-Day Kindergarten Tuition Rate – Ms. Connolly noted that a comparison of the annual kindergarten tuition rates for several towns in the area is enclosed in members' packets. The superintendent is recommending that the tuition rate for the full-day kindergarten program be increased from \$2,800 per year to \$3,000 per year.

Moved by Mr. Myers, seconded by Ms. Wright, that the school committee set the tuition rate for the full-day kindergarten program at \$3,100 per year, beginning with the 2007-2008 school year, as recommended by the superintendent. All in favor.

4. For Consideration: Approval of 2007-2008 High School Program of Studies – Ms. Connolly stated that the school committee was given the changes to the proposed 2007-2008 High School Program of Studies at the January 18th meeting.

Mr. Myers stated that he would like to see items, such as Popular Music in America, not broken out to imply that additional FTE would be needed, as they were co-taught by the same faculty member.

Moved by Mr. Myers, seconded by Ms. Rice-Norton, that the school committee approve the 2007-2008 High School Program of Studies presented by Mr. Pearson, with the understanding that his suggestions for change would be incorporated in the program, and as recommended by the superintendent. All in favor.

Mr. Myers stated that he would like additional effort put forth enrolling students in the virtual high school classes.

Dr. Grandmont noted a recent article on the virtual high school in The Milford Daily News and that Mr. Pearson had noted enrollment was up by four students, totaling fifteen.

5. Other – None.

J. INFORMATION ITEMS

Ms. Connolly noted the various information items in committee members' packets.

Dr. Grandmont stated that committee members had two versions of the 2007-2008 school year half calendar noting that one version was for parents/guardians and the second version was staff.

K. COMMUNICATIONS

Ms. Connolly noted the various communication items in committee members' packets.

The superintendent noted that committee members had a copy of a memorandum to all Medway teachers from himself and Mr. Flaherty, Mr. Regan, Ms. Boland and Ms. Melcher regarding changes to highly qualified teacher status effective July 1, 2007.

Dr. Grandmont stated that the teachers were the backbone of the district and he was very proud and grateful to have them in the district.

L. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Ms. Connolly noted the following future agenda items:

- **Budget Discussion**
- **Interim Review of Superintendent's Performance**
- **Public Hearing on 2007-2008 School Department Budget**
- **Advertising on Athletic Fields**

M. NEXT MEETING – All meetings are scheduled to begin at 7:00 p.m., in the School Committee Room (across the corridor from the Superintendent's Office), Medway Middle School, 45 Holliston St., Medway, unless otherwise noted. The next school committee meeting will be held on **Thursday, February 15, 2007**, at 7:00 p.m.

N. ADJOURNMENT

As there was no need for an executive session, at 7:40 p.m., moved by Ms. Wright, seconded by Ms. Rice-Norton, that the school committee adjourn. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol A. Villa
Secretary

Approved: **February 15, 2007**