

**Medway School Committee
Minutes
November 15, 2007**

The Medway School Committee held a meeting on Thursday, November 15, 2007, at 7:00 p.m., in the School Committee Room, Medway Middle School, 45 Holliston Street, Medway. School Committee members in attendance included Susan Connolly, Diane Borgatti, Steven Dahl, Charles Myers and Dawn Rice-Norton. Also in attendance were: Superintendent Richard Grandmont, Director of Operations and Finance David Verdolino, Medway Federation of Teachers Representative Megan Boland, and Student Advisory Council Representative Jill Mershon. The meeting was carried live on cable television.

A. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Connolly called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., noting that all members were present except Debora Trindade.

B. APPROVAL OF WARRANTS

The warrants were reviewed and signed.

C. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Ms. Borgatti, seconded by Ms. Rice-Norton, to approve the minutes of November 1, 2007. All in favor.

E. REPORT OF STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

None.

F. REPORTS OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Ms. Borgatti reported that she attended a recent Planning Board meeting at which the Master Plan Committee was reinstated. She noted that items relative to the school department and the planning board might become future action items for the school committee.

Ms. Connolly reported that she and Ms. Rice-Norton attended a recent social host liability parent information night at the high school, which she found very informative and helpful.

G. ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE

1. Report of the Chairman – Ms. Connolly reported that there were 41 recipients of the John and Abigail Adams Scholarship this year. She noted that this

scholarship recognizes high academic achievement on MCAS test and entitles the recipient to four years of free tuition at a University of Massachusetts campus, or participating Massachusetts state or community college.

2. Report of the Superintendent – The superintendent reported on the special Veterans Day Program held at Medway Middle School on November 9th.

The superintendent reminded the committee of the upcoming Special Town Meeting scheduled for Monday, November 19th, at 7:30 p.m., at the Medway Middle School. He noted that committee members had a copy of the warrant in their packets and the school committee's article was #3.

Dr. Grandmont reported that he attended a recent Finance Committee meeting on November 14th to explain the school committee's article for the Special Town Meeting warrant. He noted that the Finance Committee will support this article.

The superintendent reported that the other Special Town Meeting originally scheduled for Monday, December 3rd, has been changed to December 4th.

Ms. Borgatti reported that on the original date of the Special Town Meeting scheduled for December 3rd there was previously scheduled a college financial aid night for parents. She wanted to note for the record that the high school was very accommodating to the board of selectmen and rescheduled that event for another night. She asked that, in the future, the board of selectmen think about school district events before they schedule special town meetings.

Student Advisory Council Representative Jill Mershon arrived and reported that the Homecoming Dance was scheduled for Tuesday, November 20th, at 7:00 p.m., at St. Joseph's Parish Center.

H. DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Budget Update – Ms. Connolly noted that Mr. Verdolino had provided copies of the realigned FT2008 budget.

2. Capital Projects Update – Ms. Connolly referred to the Capital Projects Status Report, dated November 15, 2007, and asked Mr. Verdolino to give a brief review of the report.

3. Superintendent Search – Ms. Connolly noted that a copy of the advertisement as it appeared in the Milford Daily News, and a regular copy of the RFP, were in committee members' packets. She noted that the deadline for submission of proposals was November 21st. Dr. Grandmont stated that one response packet had been received as of this day.

4. FY09 Budget Discussion – Dr. Grandmont stated that his FY09 Budget Priority list was based upon the direction given to him by the school committee at its last meeting. The superintendent noted that the document provided to the school committee was stamped "draft" and was based upon his best estimate of funding at this point.

He also noted that the document listed the description, cost, rationale, a cumulative total, and was broken down first by a status quo budget, then a list of priorities. He further noted that the list of priorities was not necessarily "all or nothing items". The document also included a sheet of "Unmet Budget Needs" without a dollar amount listed.

After discussion, it was the sense of the committee to have Dr. Grandmont invite the administrators to the next school committee meeting to provide further detail of the rationale and breakdown behind each priority and answer questions.

Mr. Myers asked why there was no note of a curriculum coordinator in the priority list and who will be implementing the K-5 language arts program if it was voted upon favorably by the committee.

Dr. Grandmont stated that he purposely left that position off the priority list because, after requesting to fill that position for the past three years, the school committee had not seen it as a top priority or demonstrate adequate support for the position in the past.

After discussion, it was the sense of the committee to have a part time curriculum coordinator somewhere in the mix of the FY09 priorities.

The superintendent noted that the process by which this initial priority list was developed and has unfolded was very productive and welcomed the further explanation of rationales at the next meeting.

Dr. Grandmont also noted that, based upon information he has received to date on Chapter 70 Aid, the district may not see more than approximately \$800,000, which will just cover the status quo budget and not address the priority items 5 through 13. He said the district would have to wait until the Governor's House 1 Budget comes out in January.

5. Other – None.

I. ACTION ITEMS

1. Staffing – Ms. Connolly noted the staffing sheet in committee members' packets.

2. Other – None.

J. INFORMATION ITEMS

Ms. Connolly noted the various information items in committee members' packets, including the November 1st enrollment.

K. COMMUNICATIONS

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

L. FUTURE AGENDA

- **SPED PAC Presentation**
- **FY09 Budget Presentation**

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, December 6, 2007, at 7:00 p.m.**

N. ADJOURNMENT

As there was no need for an executive session, moved by Ms. Rice-Norton, seconded by Ms. Borgatti, to adjourn. All in favor.

O. ADJOURNMENT

At 7:50 p.m., upon approval of the motion, the school committee adjourned

Respectfully submitted,

Carol A. Villa
Secretary

Approved: **December 6, 2007**