

**Medway School Committee
Minutes
February 7, 2008**

The Medway School Committee held a meeting on Thursday, February 7, 2008, 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, Dawn Rice-Norton and Debora Trindade. Also in attendance were: Superintendent Richard Grandmont, Director of Operations and Finance David Verdolino, Medway Federation of Teachers Representative Megan Boland and Student Council Representative Jillian Mershon. The meeting was carried live on cable television.

A. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Connolly called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m., noting that all members were present.

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 January 3, 2008, as amended. All in favor.

Moved by Ms. Borgatti, seconded by Ms. Rice-Norton, to approve the minutes of January 17, 2008, as amended. All in favor.

E. REPORT OF STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Jillian reported:

- Student Council was sponsoring a fundraiser tournament based upon the video game, "Guitar Hero."
- Students would be participating in an upcoming Walk-For-Hunger in Holliston and Sherborn.
- The April 5th Ring Dance theme is, "Around the World."

F. REPORTS OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Ms. Trindade reported she attended a recent SPED PAC meeting at which there was a presentation on a program to supplement the Wilson Reading Program. Ms. Trindade also noted that she was researching information on deficit financing and committee members could go on the website Mass.Gov and find information on that subject as it relates to Medway.

Ms. Borgatti noted that the Master Plan Committee had prepared a survey which was sent out to Medway residents as part of the census collecting. She also noted that there was an on-line survey prepared by the Planning Board.

Ms. Rice-Norton noted that, at the recent Special Town Meeting, the Open Space Committee's warrant, regarding the town purchasing land was approved. It will be decided at the Annual Town Meeting what the land will be used for.

G. ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE

1. Report of the Chairman – Ms. Connolly reminded the committee and the community of the upcoming Public Hearing on the school department's proposed FY2009 budget and encouraged community members to attend.

Ms. Connolly reminded committee members of the upcoming MFE Trivia Bee scheduled for February 28th, in the Memorial School cafeteria.

Ms. Connolly welcomed Joanne Rys and Bud Ferris from NESDEC and asked them to present their findings on the superintendent search focus groups.

- **NESDEC'S findings from Focus Groups** – Bud Ferris and Joanne Rys of NESDEC reported on the conclusions and presented a written report on the results of the six superintendent search focus groups, which were scheduled for the school district and community to identify attributes, skills and qualities of the ideal new superintendent and important tasks the new superintendent should focus on.

2. Report of the Superintendent

The superintendent reported that he served as a judge for the Middle School Science Fair, which was held this afternoon and evening. He complimented the students who participated for the quality of their projects and their knowledge of the topics. The superintendent thanked teacher Larry Brown for organizing the science fair and the students who participated.

The superintendent reported that last summer the Medway Police Department retired a cruiser. The superintendent had contacted Chief Saleski and inquired about the possibility of the police department making a donation of the cruiser to the school department. After several months of working out the details, the school department now has that retired cruiser which will be used by Director of Facilities Jim MacLean as he is on-call 24 hours/day, 7 days/week. The truck that Mr. McLean was using will now remain at the school department and be used primarily for plowing, sanding, deliveries, etc. which should reduce wear and tear on the vehicle. The superintendent thanked the police department and the town administrator for their cooperation.

- **Chapter 70 Education Aid Update** – Dr. Grandmont reported that the FY09 Governor's Budget Proposal (House 2) was released as promised on January 23, 2008. The superintendent noted that Medway's Chapter 70 Aid increased from \$8,221,437 (FY08 Cherry Sheet Estimate) to \$9,230,437 (FY09). This represents an increase of \$1,009,000 for Medway.

The superintendent further reported that he attended a joint MASS and MASBO workshop meeting at which the focus was on Chapter 70 Aid. The superintendent stated with a level of certainty that communities can count on the amount of Chapter 70 Aide not decreasing. Dr. Grandmont noted that this was a good starting point for the school district and, based upon this information, the district should not have to consider a level funded budget.

H. DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Budget Update – None.

2. Superintendent Search Update – Ms. Connolly handed out the NESDEC report on the focus groups to committee members. She also noted that committee members had a draft list of the screening committee and a copy of the brochure for the superintendent search.

3. Other – Mr. Verdolino referred committee members to the copy of his memorandum for an RFQ for Energy Management services and stated that he was requesting that a member of the school committee agree to serve on an ad hoc committee that would evaluate responses to the RFQ and make a recommendation to the school committee.

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

2. For Consideration: Approval of 2008-2009 High School Program of Studies – Ms. Connolly noted that the school committee was given the changes to the proposed 2008-2009 High School Program of Studies at the January 17th meeting. The program of studies is now coming before the committee for a vote.

Moved by Ms. Rice-Norton, seconded by Ms. Borgatti, that the school committee approve the 2008-2009 High School Program of Studies presented by Mr. Pearson, as recommended by the superintendent. All in favor.

3. Annual Town Meeting Warrant – Ms. Connolly pointed out that all warrant articles to be considered at the Annual Town Meeting must be submitted to the Town Administrator's office by the close of business on Friday, February 15, 2008. The superintendent prepared an article relative to the Medway Middle School renovation for the committee's consideration.

Dr. Grandmont noted that he, Mr. Verdolino, Mr. MacLean, the Town Administrator, a member of the Board of Selectmen, and a school committee member are scheduled to attend a meeting on March 7th with members of the M.S.B.A. to discuss renovations to the middle school. He stated that he has no way of knowing what the outcome of this meeting will be. The article below is intended to serve as a placeholder for the Annual Town Meeting Warrant. The superintendent noted that if nothing comes to fruition from the meeting with the M.S.B.A. the article can be dismissed the night of the Annual Town Meeting.

After discussion, moved by Ms. Borgatti, seconded by Ms. Trindade, that the committee authorize the superintendent to submit an article for printing in the Annual Town Meeting Warrant and subsequent consideration at the May 2008 Annual Town Meeting, as follows:

“To see if the town will vote to appropriate, and also raise, borrow pursuant to any applicable statute, or transfer from available funds a sum of money in order to fund the renovation of the Medway Middle School, in accordance with the recommendation of the Massachusetts School Building Authority Feasibility Study, or to act in any manner relating thereto.” All in favor.

4. Other - Additional Action Item – Ms. Connolly noted that the Medway High School Student Council is planning a student overnight trip to the Massachusetts Association of Student Councils Conference in Hyannis, MA, on March 12-14, 2008. Logistical trip details were available for committee members to review.

Moved by Ms. Rice-Norton, seconded by Ms. Borgatti, that the school committee approve the Medway High School Student Council overnight trip to the Massachusetts Association of Student Councils Conference in Hyannis, MA, on March 12-14, 2008, as recommended by the superintendent. All in favor.

J. INFORMATION ITEMS

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

K. COMMUNICATIONS

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

L. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- **Public Hearing on Proposed 2008-2009 School Department Budget**
- **Presentation on the K-5 Language Arts Pilot Programs**

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, March 6, 2008, at 7:00 p.m.**

N. ADJOURNMENT TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was a need to adjourn to executive session to discuss contract negotiations as they relate to non-union personnel.

Moved by Ms. Trindade, seconded by Ms. Rice-Norton, that the school committee adjourn to executive session for the purpose of discussing contract negotiations as they relate to non-union personnel, with the understanding that the committee will not be returning to public session. A roll call vote was taken. Voting in favor: Ms. Connolly, Ms. Borgatti, Mr. Dahl, Mr. Myers, Ms. Rice-Norton and Ms. Trindade. Voting opposed: none.

O. ADJOURNMENT

At 8:03 p.m., upon approval of the motion, the school committee adjourned to executive session in the Superintendent's Conference Room, Medway Middle School, 45 Holliston St., Medway.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol A. Villa
Secretary

Approved: **March 6, 2008**