

**Medway School Committee
Minutes
March 6, 2008**

The Medway School Committee held a meeting on Thursday, March 6, 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, Dawn Rice-Norton and Debora Trindade. Also in attendance were: Superintendent Richard Grandmont, Director of Operations and Finance David Verdolino, Medway Federation of Teachers Representatives Megan Boland and Michael Regan. The meeting was carried live on cable television.

A. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Connolly called the meeting to order at 7:58 p.m., noting that all members were present, except for Mr. Myers.

B. APPROVAL OF WARRANTS

The warrants were reviewed and signed.

C. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Mr. Dahl, seconded by Ms. Rice Norton, to approve the minutes of January 29, 2008,. All in favor.

Moved by Ms. Borgatti, seconded by Mr. Dahl, to approve the minutes of February 7, 2008, as amended. All in favor.

Moved by Ms. Borgatti, seconded by Mr. Dahl, to approve the minutes of February 25, 2008. All in favor.

E. REPORT OF STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

None.

F. REPORTS OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

None.

G. ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE

1. Report of the Chairman – Ms. Connolly reminded committee members of the upcoming meeting with the Finance Committee on Wednesday, March 12, 2008, at 7:00 p.m., in Sanford Hall, to discuss the FY2009 budget.

2. Report of the Superintendent

Dr. Grandmont reported that he, Ms. Connolly, Mr. Verdolino and others were scheduled to meet with the MSBA on Friday in Boston and he would report on the outcome at the next school committee meeting.

The superintendent reminded committee members that there would be a presentation by teachers of the K-5 Language Arts Pilot Programs. There would be two tables set up prior to the school committee meeting for members to peruse the materials.

The superintendent reported that the HVAC rooftop unit was totally installed on the middle school library roof.

The superintendent noted an upcoming meeting for middle school parents on internet safety.

H. DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Budget Update – Ms. Connolly referred to the Budget Status report prepared by Mr. Verdolino. Mr. Verdolino gave a brief review of the status report.

2. Superintendent Search Update – Ms. Connolly reported that the first meeting of the screening committee was scheduled for Saturday, March 8, at 8:30 a.m., in the high school library. The first part of the meeting would be held in public session as it would cover the process. Then the committee would adjourn into executive session to discuss specific superintendent candidates. She noted that all future screening committee meetings would be held in executive session. She noted that the search timeline was posted on the district website. Ms. Connolly stated that the finalist would be presented at the March 20th meeting. Once the finalist were chosen and the school committee started the final process, all the meetings would be held in public session.

3. Other – None.

I. ACTION ITEMS

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

2. For Consideration: Approval of Student Overnight Trip to Effingham, New Hampshire, August 2008 – Ms. Connolly stated that Mr. Pearl has submitted a request for a student overnight trip for the varsity and junior varsity football team to attend Camp Marist in Effingham, New Hampshire scheduled for August 19-23, 2008. Committee members' had a copy of the supporting material for this trip.

Athletic Director Rob Pearl and Football Coach Dave McSweeney gave a brief explanation of the football camp.

Moved by Mr. Dahl, seconded by Ms. Rice-Norton, that the school committee approve the student overnight trip to Effingham, New Hampshire, scheduled for August 19-23, 2008, as recommended by the Superintendent. All in favor.

3. For Consideration: Approval of Donation from the Alexander Handy Memorial & Scholarship Foundation – Ms. Connolly stated that The Alexander Handy Memorial & Scholarship Foundation has expressed a serious interest in remodeling the middle school weight room and noted that committee members had a letter detailing the information. Since the cost of remodeling will likely exceed an amount that the superintendent is authorized to accept under School Committee Policy #41, a vote of the school committee is required.

Moved by Ms. Trindade, seconded by Ms. Borgatti, that the school committee accept the offer from The Alexander Handy Memorial & Scholarship Foundation to remodel the Medway Middle School exercise room, as recommended by the superintendent. All in favor.

4. First Reading: Dedication of the Middle School Exercise Room – Ms. Connolly noted that The Alexander Handy Memorial & Scholarship Foundation has also requested that the middle school exercise room be dedicated in memory of Alex Handy. She noted that a copy of the new School Committee Policy #45 on Naming of Buildings and Facilities was in committee members' packets as a reference.

Dr. Grandmont noted the letter from Ms. Senier-LaBarre in committee members' packets supporting the naming of the exercise room.

Ms. Connolly announced that the second reading of the dedication would take place at the March 20th school committee meeting and anyone wishing to come and speak either for or against the naming was welcome to attend.

Dr. Grandmont noted that Mr. and Mrs. Handy were in the audience and thanked them for the donation and their attendance at the meeting.

After discussion, no votes were taken.

5. For Consideration: Approval of the Last Day of School for Seniors – Ms. Connolly noted that on September 20, 2007, the school committee voted in accordance with Massachusetts Department of Education regulations to set Sunday, June 1, 2008, as the graduation date for Medway High School Seniors. Since seniors may be provided with less than the full 990 hours, the superintendent has recommended that the school committee vote to approve Friday, May 30, 2008, as the last day of school for seniors.

Moved by Mr. Dahl, seconded by Ms. Rice-Norton, that the school committee set the last day of school for Medway High School seniors as Friday, May 30, 2008, as recommended by the superintendent. All in favor.

6. Other – Ms. Connolly stated that high school teachers David Andreoni and Susan Cecchi were planning a student overnight trip to Italy scheduled for April vacation week 2009. She noted that some of the preliminary trip information was detailed in the memorandum from Mr. Pearson.

Moved by Ms. Rice-Norton, seconded by Ms. Borgatti, that the school committee grant *preliminary* approval for the student overnight trip to Italy scheduled for April vacation week 2009, with final approval contingent upon the superintendent receiving no less than thirty (30) days prior to the scheduled trip departure date all logistical details, as outlined in school committee policy #59. All in favor.

Ms. Connolly asked for a sense of the committee to revisit the budget priority list. After a brief discussion, it was the sense of the committee to wait until it had more information from the board of selectmen and finance committee relative to the Town's projected FY09 revenue before making final decisions regarding the list of priorities.

H. DISCUSSION ITEMS - *continued*

1. 1999 Master Plan – Ms. Borgatti shared information regarding recent Town's Master Plan Committee meetings which included: the town acquiring funding to build and maintain school facilities; the need to continually reevaluate the school building needs; and ways to improve maintenance of school facilities. Ms. Borgatti suggested committee members think about any goals or objectives it might want to have in place.

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

- **Superintendent Candidates Finalists**
- **Presentation on the K-5 Language Arts Pilot Programs**
- **Draft of 2008-2009 School Committee Activity Schedule**
- **Dedication of the Middle School Exercise Room**
- **Set School Choice Enrollment Capacity**

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 20, 2008, at 7:00 p.m.**

N. ADJOURNMENT

As there was no need for an executive session, at 8:30 p.m., moved by Ms. Rice-Norton, seconded by Ms. Borgatti, to adjourn. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol A. Villa
Secretary

Approved: **March 20, 2008**