

**Medway School Committee  
Minutes  
March 20, 2008**

The Medway School Committee held a meeting on Thursday, March 20, 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 and 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 7:01 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 Mr. Dahl, seconded by Ms. Rice-Norton, to approve the public hearing minutes of March 6, 2008, as amended. Voting in favor: Ms. Connolly, Ms. Borgatti, Mr. Dahl, Ms. Rice-Norton and Ms. Trindade. Voting opposed: none. Mr. Myers abstained as he was not present for the meeting.

Moved by Mr. Dahl, seconded by Ms. Rice-Norton, to approve the regular meeting minutes of March 6, 2008. Voting in favor: Ms. Connolly, Ms. Borgatti, Mr. Dahl, Ms. Rice-Norton and Ms. Trindade. Voting opposed: none. Mr. Myers abstained as he was not present for the meeting.

**E. REPORT OF STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL**

None.

**F. REPORTS OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Ms. Rice-Norton reported she attended the evening on internet safety at the middle school sponsored by the Metropolitan Law Enforcement Council. She noted that Officer Grimes may be conducting classes on My Space and Face Book through the Community Education Department. She noted that the night program on internet safety was well-attended.

Mr. Myers reported he attended the high school musical, "Beauty and the Beast", noting that it was an outstanding production. He noted that the musical is not supported just by high school parents but also by many members of the community.

Ms. Dawn Rice-Norton noted that the board of selectmen and planning board will be meeting to develop an advertising policy for the town.

## **G. ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE**

### **1. Report of the Chairman – Superintendent Search Update – Ms.**

Connolly reported that the school committee has scheduled an interview workshop with NESDEC on Monday, March 24, 2008, at 6:00 p.m. She also noted that interview dates will be the week of March 31 to April 4. There were also two interviews scheduled for Saturday morning. She also noted that the April 3 school committee meeting would have to be moved from 7:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Ms. Connolly noted that once the interview dates and candidate schedule have been finalized, they will be posted to the district website.

Ms. Borgatti announced that the superintendent search screening committee had finished its interview process and had forwarded the names of five candidates to the school committee for consideration. They are: Dr. Peter Azar, current Superintendent of Schools for Winchendon Public Schools; Dr. Barbara Dunham, current Interim Superintendent of Schools for Sharon Public Schools; Dr. Judith Evans, current Assistant Superintendent of Schools for Shrewsbury Public Schools; Ms. Susan Horn, current Assistant Superintendent of Schools for Acton and Acton-Boxborough School Districts; and Mr. Paul Soojian, current Superintendent of Schools for Northbridge Public Schools.

Ms. Borgatti recognized the members of the screening committee and thanked them for the time and effort they put into the task.

## **H. ACTION ITEMS**

**2. For Consideration: Dedication of the Middle School Exercise Room** – Ms. Connolly noted the letter from The Alexander Handy Memorial & Scholarship Foundation that was submitted to the school committee at the March 6<sup>th</sup> meeting for a first reading. The foundation is requesting that the middle school exercise room be dedicated in memory of Alex Handy.

Mr. and Mrs. Handy noted some of the donations the foundation has made to the school include: RIF program, safety programs, Free Spirit awards, college scholarships and a golf tournament.

Ms. Rice-Norton noted that information on the foundation can be found at [projectalex.net](http://projectalex.net).

After discussion, moved by Ms. Trindade, seconded by Ms. Rice-Norton, that the school committee name the middle school exercise room the “Alexander Handy Exercise Room”, in accordance with school committee policy #45, and as recommended by the superintendent. Voting in favor: Ms. Connolly, Ms. Borgatti, Mr. Dahl, Ms. Rice-Norton and Ms. Trindade. Voting opposed: Mr. Myers.

**G. ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE - *continued***

**2. Report of the Superintendent**

- **Presentation on the K-5 Language Arts Pilot Programs** – The superintendent noted that the teachers and consultants of the two English language arts programs from Rigby's *Literacy by Design* and Harcourt's *Story Town* would make a brief presentation.

Ms. Claudia Peters gave a brief overview of the pilot program process and the literacy study committee.

Representatives from Rigby' Literacy by Design and Harcourt's Story Town each made a brief presentation followed by a question and answer period.

Teachers Elayne Casey and Susan Driscoll spoke of their experiences with the pilot programs.

Dr. Grandmont noted that teacher assessments of these programs would be available to the school committee at the first meeting in May.

Dr. Grandmont stated that the DOE had published its report on graduation rates in the newspapers noting that Medway's graduation rate is 98.1% and tied for seventh place out of 281 districts reported.

- **MSBA Update** – The superintendent gave committee members a brief report from the meeting that was held in Boston with MSBA officials on March 7, 2008, regarding the potential repairs to the Medway Middle School. Dr. Grandmont stated that the district would have to define the scope of the specific repair and how it would materially extend the useful life of the school; the district would have to develop an RFP and procure an engineering firm to develop cost estimates. He also noted that the MSBA reimbursement rate is 50.79%. The superintendent stated that since the process would take several months, there would be nothing ready for the Annual Town Meeting.

The superintendent stated he was looking for direction from the school committee on how to proceed.

After discussion, it was the sense of the committee for the superintendent to obtain sample RFP's for an engineering study from the MSBA; have the committee review those samples; have the superintendent and Mr. Verdolino develop an RFP over the summer; and send out an RFP in the fall. The money to pay for the engineering study would have to be identified and procured through a Special Town Meeting or at an Annual Town Meeting.

- **Prom Safety Grant** – The superintendent noted that Medway High School was awarded a Prom Safety Grant of \$250 this year from the Norfolk County District Attorney's Office.

- **Draft of the 2008-2009 School Committee Activity Schedule –**

The superintendent noted the copy of the 2008-2009 School Committee Activity Schedule for school committee review. He noted that this schedule is presented only as a guide for the committee and is subject to change.

#### **H. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**1. Budget Update –** The superintendent reviewed the changes from his FY09 budget priorities, dated 12/6/07 to his revised budget priority list, dated 3/20/08.

The superintendent stated that the most important item for the school committee to decide at the next school committee meeting is the dollar amount to submit for the Annual Town Meeting. No votes were taken.

**3. Other –** None.

#### **I. ACTION ITEMS - *continued***

**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.

#### **K. COMMUNICATIONS**

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

#### **L. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- **Vote to Approve the FY09 School Department Operating Budget**
- **Preparation for Annual Town Meeting**
- **Deliberate Budget Priorities**

**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, April 17, 2008, at 7:00 p.m.**

**N. ADJOURNMENT**

As there was no need for an executive session, at 9:30 p.m., moved by Mr. Dahl, seconded by Ms. Rice-Norton, to adjourn. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol A. Villa  
Secretary

Approved: **April 3, 2008**