

**Medway School Committee  
Minutes  
January 8, 2009**

The Medway School Committee held a meeting on Thursday, January 8, 2009, at 7:00 p.m., in the School Committee Room, Medway Middle School, 45 Holliston Street, Medway. School Committee members in attendance included Chairperson Diane Borgatti, Vice Chairperson Debora Trindade, Carole Bernstein, Steven Dahl, Dawn Rice-Norton and Shelley Wieler. Also in attendance were Superintendent Judith Evans, Director of Operations and Finance David Verdolino and Medway Federation of Teachers Representative Michael Regan. Student Advisory Council Representative Jillian Mershon was also present. The meeting was carried live on cable television.

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

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

**B. APPROVAL OF WARRANTS**

The warrants were reviewed and signed.

**C. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

None.

**D. REPORT OF STUDENTS**

▪ **Memorial School Student Presentation** - Ms. Becker introduced grade 3 students who presented information on a science fair project related to the new literacy program.

Student Advisory Council Representative Jillian Mershon reported:

- The November Homecoming ended early due to some students making poor choices.
- In December, the student council and national honor society held a holiday party for the Medway Shelter.
- Students held a candy cane sale with the proceeds going to the Make A Wish Foundation.

**E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Moved by Ms. Rice-Norton, seconded by Ms. Bernstein, to approve the minutes of November 6, 2008, as amended. All voted in favor.

**F. REPORTS OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Ms. Rice Norton reported that she attended several board of selectmen meetings at which discussion items included: budget policy statements; a report of the assessors outlining a decline in home assessments; discussion on free cash; the amount of possible state aid; auditor's update on improved fiscal status of the Town; the hiring of an human resources person at town hall; a presentation by CIPC.

Ms. Trindade reported that she attended a recent SPED PAC meeting at which Dr. Rochlin spoke about parents' rights, SPED regulations, the upcoming coordinated program review, and a technology grant approved for SPED.

Ms. Rice-Norton noted the upcoming program on substance abuse and underage drinking being held at the high school.

## **G. ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE**

**1. Report of the Chairman** - Ms. Borgatti also noted the upcoming program on substance abuse and underage drinking and strongly recommended parents attend.

Ms. Borgatti noted that she will bring the Master Plan draft forward for discussion at the next school committee meeting.

Ms. Borgatti noted that the bulk of tonight's discussion will be on the budget and thanked the administrators for their hard work on the new format. She noted that the school department budget is different than other town department budgets and more complex further noting that the school department must meet the need of every child in the town between the ages of 3 and 22.

**2. Report of the Superintendent** - Dr. Evans noted the following:

- The district received a letter from Officer Tingley thanking Medway students for the distribution of holiday baskets to needy families.
- The district received an announcement from Verizon that high school teacher Maureen Coutu was selected Thinkfinity Field Trainer of the Month for July 2008.
- The SPED PAC is sponsoring a musical being performed by The Carroll School grade 8 students which will be presented to Medway's grade 4 students.
- The dedication ceremony for the Handy exercise room was held this evening.

▪ **Interim Assessment of 2008-2009 District Goals** – The superintendent briefly reviewed her interim assessment of the 2008-2009 District Goals.

## **H. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**1. FY10 Budget: Initial Presentation** – Dr. Evans noted that her budget presentation includes: Budget Priorities; Enrollment Trends; Personnel and Expense Data; Program Improvement; and Budget Timeline. The superintendent gave more detailed explanations as she specifically reviewed the following:

- District Budget Priorities: FY10
- School District Challenges
- MCAS Comparisons: Area Towns
- Per-Pupil Expenditure Comparisons
- Enrollment Trends PreK-12

- Future Enrollment PreK-12
- Requested FY10 Budget Increase
- Categories of Expense Increases
- Projected FY10 Staffing
- Projected FY10 Staffing Changes
- Projected Class Sizes and Staffing PreK-4: 2009-2010
- Projected 2009-2010 Staffing and Enrollment: Grades 5-8
- Projected Enrollment: Grades 9-12
- Proposed FY11-FY13 Program Improvements: Academic Programs
- Proposed FY11-13 Program Improvements: Technology
- Proposed FY11-FY13 Program Improvements: Furniture
- Timeline/Next Steps

The superintendent concluded that the budget she was presenting was a thoughtful budget that shifts resources to try to make improvements to the district. The superintendent took comments and questions from committee members.

**2. Other** - Ms. Borgatti announced that the MFE was sponsoring its annual Trivia Bee and she was looking for volunteers to form a team.

## **I. ACTION ITEMS**

**1. First Reading: 2009-2010 School Year Calendar** –Ms. Borgatti briefly reviewed the proposed 2009-2010 school year calendar, noting that it had been reviewed by the Leadership Team and Medway Federation of Teachers. No votes were taken.

**2. Set Kindergarten Full-Day Tuition Rate** – Ms. Borgatti noted that the superintendent is recommending that the kindergarten full-day tuition rate be increased from \$3,100 to \$3,255 for the 2009-2010 school year. The superintendent noted that this 5% increase keeps Medway’s fees in line with area towns.

After a brief discussion, it was moved by Ms. Trindade, seconded by Ms. Bernstein, that the school committee increase the tuition rate for the full-day kindergarten program from \$3,100 per year to \$ 3,255 for the 2009-2010 school year, as recommended by the superintendent. Voting in favor: Ms. Borgatti, Ms. Trindade, Ms. Bernstein, Mr. Dahl and Ms. Wieler. Voting opposed: Ms. Rice-Norton.

**3. Set Early Childhood Tuition Rate** – Ms. Borgatti noted that the superintendent is recommending that the early childhood tuition rate be increased from \$2,500 to \$2,625 for the 2009-2010 school year.

After a brief discussion, it was moved by Ms. Bernstein, seconded by Mr. Dahl, that the school committee increase the tuition rate for the early childhood tuition program from \$2,500 to \$2,625 for the 2009-2010 school year, as recommended by the superintendent. Voting in favor: Ms. Borgatti, Ms. Trindade, Ms. Bernstein, Mr. Dahl and Ms. Wieler. Voting opposed: Ms. Rice-Norton.

**4. Set Kindergarten Tuition and Athletic Fee Reduced Rate – Ms.**

Borgatti noted that School Committee Policy #66 establishes reduced tuition rates for the full-day tuition-funded kindergarten program, the early childhood tuition program, and athletic fee rate for students who are eligible for free or reduced lunch. The superintendent is recommending a reduction of 80% which is consistent with free and reduced lunch guidelines and past practice.

After a brief discussion, it was moved by Ms. Rice-Norton, seconded by Mr. Dahl, that the school committee set the reduced kindergarten tuition rate, the reduced early childhood tuition rate, and the reduced athletic fee rate for students who are eligible for free or reduced lunch at an 80% reduction from the full cost of these programs, for the 2009-2010 school year, as recommended by the superintendent. All were in favor.

**5. Other – None.**

**L. INFORMATION ITEMS**

Ms. Borgatti noted the various information items in committee members' packets, including the staffing sheet, including the January enrollment.

**M. COMMUNICATIONS**

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

**N. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- **Adoption of 2008-2009 School Year Calendar**
- **Interim Review of Superintendent's Performance**
- **Approval of FY10 School Department Budget Working Draft**
- **Master Plan Discussion**

**O. 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 regular school committee meeting will be held on **Thursday, January 15, 7:00 p.m.**

**P. ADJOURNMENT TO EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Ms. Borgatti noted there was a need to adjourn to executive session for the purpose of union negotiations.

At 9:30 p.m., it was moved by Ms. Rice-Norton, seconded by Ms. Trindade, that the school committee adjourn to executive session for the purpose of discussing contract negotiations as they related to 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. Borgatti, Ms. Trindade, Ms. Bernstein, Mr. Dahl, Ms. Rice Norton and Ms. Wieler. Voting opposed: none.

**Q. ADJOURNMENT**

Respectfully submitted,

Carol A. Villa  
Secretary

Approved: **March 5, 2009**