

**Medway School Committee
Minutes
February 5, 2009**

The Medway School Committee held a meeting on Thursday, February 5, 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, 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. The meeting was carried live on cable television.

A. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Borgatti called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m., noting that all members were present, except for Ms. Wieler who was expected shortly and Mr. Dahl who would not be in attendance.

B. REPORT OF STUDENTS

1. Middle School Students: Science Fair Projects - Seventh and eighth grade students, who were winners at this year's Middle School Science Fair, presented their projects.

2. Report of Student Council - None.

C. APPROVAL OF WARRANTS

The warrants were reviewed and signed.

D. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Ms. Bernstein, seconded by Ms. Rice-Norton, to approve the minutes of January 15, 2009, as amended. All voted in favor.

Moved by Ms. Trindade, seconded by Ms. Bernstein, to approve the minutes of January 22, 2009, as amended. All voted in favor.

Moved by Ms. Rice-Norton to reconsider the minutes of July 10, 2008. There was no second. After a brief discussion, it was the sense of the committee to table the motion to a future meeting until other committee members could review the tape of the meeting.

Ms. Rice-Norton suggested that minutes should not be approved unless there was full compliment of committee members in attendance.

F. REPORTS OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Ms. Rice Norton reported she attended a recent board of selectmen meeting noting the following:

- Mr. Verdolino submitted placeholder warrant articles on the TRANE project for the Annual Town Meeting Warrant
- The finance committee has placed the TRANE project on its February 11 meeting agenda.
- Linda Reynolds presented a budget calendar for Tri-County.
- Discussion was held on the Town's snow and ice budget and possible cuts to the 2010 budget.
- The Open Space committee has an graphic arts logo contest.
- She attended the Middle School Science Fair.

Ms. Wieler reported the following:

- She attended the parks department meeting at which town youth sports programs submitted their various wish lists, including a proposed free-standing backboard at the middle school fields sponsored by the lacrosse group, noting that the school committee will need to be kept in the loop on that.
- She attended the Alcohol Awareness program at the high school and found it to be very informative.
- She attended the TRANE project subcommittee meeting noting that the purpose of the project is to decrease utilities usage and cost, and the project will be paid for through the reductions at no cost to the Tow

G. ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE

1. Report of the Chairman - Ms. Borgatti noted the following:

- The upcoming negotiations subcommittee meeting and the members of that subcommittee are Ms. Bernstein, Mr. Dahl and Ms Borgatti.
- There was a budget subcommittee meeting on February 3 at which various budget scenarios were discussed.
- The district attorney's office is sponsoring a underage drinking conference on April 3 and is open to all school committee members.
- Committee members received a letter from the board of selectmen requesting to meeting in executive session to discuss the financial status of the town.

Ms. Borgatti asked committee members for their thoughts on entering into an executive session with the board of selectmen on February 12. After much discussion, it was the consensus of the committee that it was anxious to partner in discussion regarding town finances; the selectmen asked for a joint meeting in executive session to discuss funds that might be available; both the town's attorney and the attorney for the school committee stated such a meeting would be acceptable; there is no attempt at collusion or unfair labor practices by either or both committees; the parameters of the executive session need to be crafted; the school committee and superintendent would obtain an opinion on open meeting law and the appropriateness for an executive session from the district attorney's office and the labor board. All members stated they would be available on February 12.

2. Report of the Superintendent - Dr. Evans reported the following:

- Medway High School students received tremendous recognition in the 2009 Boston Globe Scholastic Art Awards. One student received Honorable Mention; three students received Silver Key Awards; and three students received Gold Key Awards.
- In response to the NCLB status at the middle school, and in order to meet differentiated instruction requirements, she attended a full-day workshop with teachers and Ms. Senier-LaBarre and that workshop information will be shared with the rest of the faculty.

The superintendent stated that she appreciates the efforts of the school committee to attend meetings as liaisons to other town boards. She thanked Ms. Wieler for bringing back the information regarding a possible sign on school grounds. Dr. Evans also noted that Medway's community education program does everything it can not to conflict with area towns' programs, is very extensive and self-funded. The superintendent also thanked Mr. Dahl and Ms. Wieler for their efforts on the TRANE project; and she thanked the members of the budget subcommittee for their hard work.

H. DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. FY09 Budget Update - Mr. Verdolino gave a brief review of the monthly budget update noting that 43% of available funds have been expended.

2. FY10 Budget

Mr. Verdolino explained the definitions of the foundation budget, required district contribution, Chapter 70 aid, required net school spending.

Dr. Evans noted that Governor Patrick's budget message is hopeful for Medway for FY10 and FY 11. She stated she was looking for a recommendation from the school committee as to what form the budget document should take.

After much discussion, it was the consensus of the committee to not revise the budget with cuts at this time; to go ahead with the budget as presented; to have the public hearing on the budget; wait to see what the revenues will be; have the budget subcommittee formalize possible areas of budget cuts if needed.

Ms. Borgatti encouraged members of the community to contact their state and federal legislators to tell them how important education is to them.

3. Proposed Changes to Elementary Schools Start/End Times for the 2009-2010 School Year - Dr. Evans presented proposed changes to the start and end times to the elementary schools explaining that the present configuration presents several challenges for parents, students and teachers. The superintendent stated she would be looking for a vote on the proposed changes to the start and end times for the elementary schools at a future meeting.

4. Other - None.

I. ACTION ITEMS

1. TRANE Energy Project - Mr. Verdolino stated he was looking for action by the school committee and referred them to the Trane Energy Project Presentation Outline Points. Mr. Verdolino reviewed the project background, energy services contract procurement, pursuit of project financing and selected utilities analysis 1999 to present. He stated that the Town would not incur any additional costs, TRANE would be paid through the school department's energy bills savings, and the school department will realize savings in the future. He further noted that the school committee's action tonight would upgrade the "placeholder" warrant article to "official" warrant article status.

At 9:57 p.m., it was moved by Ms. Rice-Norton, seconded by Ms. Wieler to waive the ten o'clock rule. All voted in favor.

Ms. Wieler noted that the TRANE subcommittee will give a presentation at the February finance committee meeting and a future board of selectmen meeting.

After discussion, it was moved by Ms. Wieler, seconded by Mr. Dahl, to submit an article for printing in the February 24 Special Town Meeting Warrant to gain approval for financing of the TRANE Project through bond financing, to read as follows: **"To see if the town will vote to transfer from available funds, and/or borrow a sum of money pursuant to General Laws Chapter 44, Section 7, and/or any other enabling statute or law, for the purpose of funding an energy management services contract between the Medway Public Schools and TRANE US, Inc., or act in any Manner relating thereto."** All voted in favor.

2. For Consideration: 2009-2010 High School Program of Studies - Ms. Borgatti stated that Mr. Pearson had presented his proposed changes to for the 2009-2010 High School Program of Studies in a memorandum. Dr. Evans stated that Mr. Pearson was not available to give an overview of the proposed changes. The superintendent stated that next year she would like to take a harder look at the program of studies and allow more time for discussion. Dr. Evans reviewed the proposed language revisions to program of studies.

After discussion, it was moved by Ms. Bernstein, seconded by Ms. Rice-Norton, that the school committee approve the 2009-2010 High School Program of Studies, as submitted by Mr. Pearson, as amended, and as recommended by the superintendent. All voted in favor.

J. INFORMATION ITEMS

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

K. COMMUNICATIONS

None.

L. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- **FY10 Budget Discussion**
- **Discussion of Coakley Building**
- **Update on Friends of Medway Athletics**
- **Establishment of School Committee Policy Manual Subcommittee**
- **Update on School Improvement Plans**

Ms. Borgatti stated she was looking for 3 people to make a team for the MFE Trivia Bee, scheduled for February 26, the snow date being March 2. Dr. Evans, Ms. Trindade, Ms. Rice-Norton and Ms. Bernstein volunteered.

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 meetings are as follows:

- **Joint Meeting with the Board of Selectmen and potential executive session: February 12, 2009, at 7:00 p.m., in the School Committee Room, Medway Middle School**
- **Public Hearing on Budget: March 5, 2009, at 7:00 p.m., in the School Committee Room, Medway Middle School**
- **Regular Meeting: March 5, 2009, 7:30 p.m., in the School Committee Room, Medway Middle School**
- **Joint Meeting with Finance Committee: March 11, 2009, at 7:00 p.m., Sanford Hall, Town Hall**
- **Workshop Meeting: March 12, 2009, at 6:00 p.m. Superintendent's Conference Room**
- **Joint Meeting with Finance Committee: March 25, 2009, at Sanford Hall**

N. ADJOURNMENT

At 10:25 p.m., it was moved by Ms. Rice-Norton, seconded by Ms. Wieler, to adjourn. All voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol A. Villa
Secretary

Approved: **March 5, 2009**