

**Medway School Committee
Minutes
March 19, 2009**

The Medway School Committee held a meeting on Thursday, March 19, 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, Carole Bernstein, Steven Dahl, and Dawn Rice-Norton. Also in attendance were Superintendent Judith Evans, Director of Operations and Finance David Verdolino and Medway Federation of Teachers Representative Megan Boland.

A. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Borgatti called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m., noting that all members were present, except for Ms. Trindade. Ms. Wieler was expected to arrive shortly.

B. APPROVAL OF WARRANTS

The warrants were reviewed and signed.

C. REPORT OF STUDENTS

1. Community Education: "Green Team"- Ms. Monahan gave an overview of an after school program for middle school students. The students gave a brief presentation on what the "Green Team" does.

D. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

E. ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE

2. Report of the Superintendent - Dr. Evans reported that she and Ms. Monahan have started discussions on a proposal to start a self-supporting day care for members of the faculty and staff only to be housed in an empty room at the middle school.

Ms. Wieler arrived at approximately 7:20 p.m.

Ms. Monahan gave a brief overview of her proposal describing her research, results of surveys, space availability in the middle school, consultant's recommendation, information from the DESE, proposed schedule.

F. DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Report on Food Service Point of Sale - Eli Norris and his district manager described what a POS station was. Mr. Norris noted that once the program

has been purchased the district will receive an implementation kit which contains information and forms for parents and students. He stated that the POS stations were scheduled to go live at all schools on June 1st.

Mr. Norris also reported that Chartwells is partnering with local restaurants for food and recipes; scheduling a “bring your parents to lunch day”; applying for a grant from Stop & Shop to focus on nutrition; planning to have a booth at Medway Pride Day; scheduled a “Dinner Out” night at the high school; and plans for healthy classroom celebration snacks.

G. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Mr. Dahl, seconded by Ms. Rice-Norton, to approve the minutes of Public Hearing on March 5, 2009, as amended. All voted in favor.

It was moved by Ms. Bernstein, seconded by Ms. Rice-Norton, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on March 5, 2009, as amended. All voted in favor.

It was moved by Mr. Dahl, seconded by Ms Rice-Norton, to approve the minutes of workshop meeting on March 12, 2009. All voted in favor.

H. REPORTS OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Ms. Bernstein announced that the high school musical, “Guys and Dolls” is performing tonight through Saturday night and there might be some tickets available for Saturday night.

Ms. Rice-Norton reported she attended a recent Board of Selectmen’s meeting. The selectmen are preparing for the annual town meeting. She noted the fire chief received a grant that will allow the fire department to present fire education in the schools. The selectmen also appointed the last member to the Education Fund Committee. She reported she attended a recent program at Olin College regarding the restructuring of high schools. She noted the After Prom Party Committee is looking for volunteers to work on the party and be chaperones.

Ms. Borgatti noted that the After Prom Party is an excellent, safe event; parents can go on to the website, click the “quick links’ section, and find information. Ms. Borgatti noted there is a fundraiser for the After Prom Party and Uno’s in Bellingham and Roche Bros. are participating

Ms. Wieler asked parents to encourage their students to participate in the After Prom Party. She noted that the students get locked in but the chaperones can leave.

I. ACTION ITEMS

1. For Consideration: Preliminary Approval of Student Overnight Trip to Orlando, Florida, Scheduled for April 8-12, 2009 – Dr. Evans noted that Mr. Pearson and Mr. Pearl have submitted a request for a student overnight trip by the girls varsity cheerleading team to Orlando, Florida to compete in the Nationals competition. She noted that the trip would be self-funded and no cost to the district.

It was moved by Ms. Bernstein, seconded by Ms. Wieler, that the school committee grant preliminary approval for the student overnight trip to Orlando, Florida, scheduled for April 8 to April 12, 2009, as recommended by the superintendent. All voted in favor.

J. ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE - continued

1. Report of the Chairman - Ms. Borgatti reminded committee members to turn in their evaluations of the superintendent.

She reminded the community that the committee is accepting nominations for the Memorial School Plaque; letters should be sent to the superintendent's office by May 1st.

Ms. Borgatti noted the members received information on District Attorney Keating's office about a workshop on under age drinking, scheduled for April 3.

Ms. Borgatti asked committee members to consider having a booth at Medway Pride Day.

▪ **TRANE Review Committee:** Ms. Wieler provided an update on the TRANE Subcommittee. Ms. Wieler noted that the TRANE contract is an ESCO (Energy Savings Contract) for the purpose of reducing utility usage in the school district. She noted there are multiple benefits to the TRANE project. A review panel has been established to review the contract. The schedule of the meetings and locations and minutes are posted at the town hall and on the school department website and town's website.

K. DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Report on Technology: Richard Boucher - Ms. Boucher gave a Technology Update which included his entry plan, immediate needs, long range plan, focus for spring 2009 and focus for 2010.

3. FY10 Budget - Dr. Evans announced that \$1.6 million has been awarded to the Medway Public Schools from the federal stimulus package. The funding will come directly to the school department via a federal grant and is not part of the Chapter 70 Aide. She noted that this money is part of the foundation budget and Medway received this amount because the district is very far below foundation budget. She noted that it was confirmed the district will receive an additional \$671,000 in IDEA money; half will be received in FY09 and the rest in FY10. Dr. Evans stated she would like to discuss with the budget subcommittee the impact of these funds. Mr. Verdolino noted there would be specific reporting requirements for this money.

4. School Committee Activity Schedule for 2009-2010 - Dr. Evans noted that this document is just a starting point and would like to have more updates and presentations. She would like to revisit this document in a future workshop.

5. Coakley Building - Ms. Borgatti noted she was proud of the town's efforts to take the building from a shell and community members rallied to complete the building. Ms. Borgatti suggested a building committee plaque for the building with private fundraising to pay for the plaque.

Ms. Rice-Norton noted that, as a member of the Coakley Building Committee, there was discussion of a plaque but the problem was there was a list of 68 names of people who contributed to the building. There was discussion of how to limit the names without offending anyone. Ms. Rice-Norton suggested that someone who was involved in the building completion process be involved with whatever group was planning a memorial plaque.

Ms. Wieler noted that, while it was valuable to recognize the efforts of the volunteers working on the building, it was important to not take away from the memorial plaque to Mr. Coakley. Segmented banners that appropriately recognized the volunteers was a compromise made at discussions and a banner was hanging in the school committee room.

Ms. Borgatti asked that if the committee was agreeable, further discussion on a memorial plaque could be placed on a future agenda item.

6. Other - Mr. Dahl stated that he would like a complete accounting of all expenditures on the Coakley building, both town department and funds and donations. Discussion on the operation of the building would be a future agenda item.

L. ACTION ITEMS - continued

1. First Reading: Curriculum/Instruction Coach Job Description - Ms. Borgatti noted that this job description is listed as a first reading as this is a new

position for the 2009-2010 school year. Dr. Evans gave a brief explanation for the need for this position.

No votes were taken.

1. For Consideration: Addition of Two Sports Teams to the High School Athletic Department - Ms. Borgatti stated that this item was introduced as a first reading at the March 5 school committee meeting. It is now being brought forward for a vote. It was noted that the athletic fees collected will be sufficient to cover the cost of the program.

Discussion on whether or not these new sports would be considered outside the family cap will be a future agenda item.

After a brief discussion, it was moved by Ms. Wieler, seconded by Ms. Bernstein, that the school committee approve the reinstatement of the Cross Country high school team and coach for the fall and the addition of the Indoor Track high school team and coach for the winter, as recommended by the superintendent. All voted in favor.

2. For Consideration: Permanent Addition of Freshman Level Baseball Team and Coach - Ms. Borgatti stated that for the past several years, Athletic Director Rob Pearl has submitted evidence to the school committee for the need of the addition of a freshman level baseball team and coach. Mr. Pearson and Mr. Pearl are recommending the addition of the freshman level baseball team and coach on a permanent basis instead of on a year-to-year basis. It was noted that the athletic fees collected will be sufficient to cover the cost of the program.

After a brief discussion, it was moved by Ms. Bernstein, seconded by Mr. Dahl, that the school committee approve the permanent addition of a freshman level baseball team and coach, as recommended by the superintendent. All voted in favor.

3. For Consideration: Addition of Third Assistant Spring Track Coach Advisor Position - Ms. Borgatti stated that, due to the large number of students who signed up for spring track again this year, Mr. Pearl is recommending a third assistant track coach to supervise the athletes. A memorandum from Mr. Pearl is in school committee members' packets. The athletic fees collected will be sufficient to cover the cost of the program.

After a brief discussion, it was moved by Ms. Bernstein, seconded by Ms. Wieler, that the school committee approve the addition of a third assistant spring track team and coach, as recommended by the superintendent. All voted in favor.

M. INFORMATION ITEMS

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

N. COMMUNICATIONS

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

O. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- 1) **Evaluation of Superintendent's Performance**
- 2) **Middle School Time and Learning Designation**
- 3) **Set School Choice Enrollment Capacity**
- 4) **Preparation for Annual Town Meeting**
- 5) **Report of Athletic Director**
- 6) **Coakley Building Discussion**
- 7) **Review of Advertising Policy**

P. 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 Finance Committee: March 25, 2009, at Sanford Hall, at 7:30 p.m.**
- **Regular Meeting: April 2, 2009, at 7:00 p.m.**
- **Regular Meeting: April 16, 2009, at 7:00 p.m.**

Q. ADJOURNMENT

At 9:45 p.m., it was moved by Mr. Dahl, seconded by Ms. Bernstein, to adjourn. All voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol A. Villa
Secretary

Approved: **April 2, 2009**