

**Medway School Committee
Minutes
May 7, 2009**

The Medway School Committee held a meeting on Thursday, May 7, 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, 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 Megan Boland.

A. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Borgatti called the meeting to order at 7:11 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

1. Student Report: Economics Class Stock Market Game - High School Economics Teacher Alfred Petrarca and high school students gave a brief presentation on the economics class stock market game and the entrepreneurs show on cable 8.

E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Ms. Wieler, seconded by Ms. Rice-Norton, to approve the minutes of April 16, 2009, as amended. All voted in favor.

F. REPORTS OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mr. Dahl reported that he and Ms. Rice-Norton attended the MASC Day on the Hill today. He stated there was gloomy news with regard to state revenues noting the following: 400 million dollars was cut from Chapter 70 funds; revenue is down; SPED circuit breaker reimbursement is down from 75% to 50% for FY10; 2 billion dollars was cut from the state budget; the state wants towns to look at regionalization of services; revenues to match the 2008 level will not be seen until 2014.

Ms. Rice-Norton reported from Day on the Hill: more FY09 cuts would be offset by the federal stimulus money; towns were encouraged to reserve some of the ARRA funds for the future; and the MCAS history test will not be mandated in 2012.

Ms. Rice-Norton also reported she attended a recent Board of Selectmen meeting noting that the selectmen discussed the excess revenue and free cash going to fiscal stability, roads and the purchase of rugs and doors at the schools.

Ms. Rice-Norton also reported that Dave Tobin of MASBO stated that Medway school department's budget was good, clear, and well thought out.

G. ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE

1. Report of the Chairman - Ms. Borgatti reminded the committee of its meeting prior to the Special Town Meeting scheduled for Monday, May 11, 2009, at 6:00 p.m., in the principal's conference room, Medway High School. She noted the Special Town Meeting was scheduled for 7:00 p.m., in the high school auditorium.

Dr. Evans announced that the community education department has coordinated kid-sitting by National Honor Society students beginning at 6:45 p.m. for families that may need the service so they could attend the meeting.

Ms. Borgatti announced that the evaluation of the superintendent would be deferred until the next school committee meeting.

2. Report of the Superintendent

Dr. Evans clarified that Chapter 70 fund cuts are FY09 cuts and FY10 funding is still in place.

The superintendent reported the following:

- She, Mr. Verdolino and Dr. Rochlin attended an ARRA grant information meeting.
- Some informative and helpful middle school activities include: an internet safety program; guest speaker Travis Roy, former B.U. hockey player; and an expo on music, cooking, art and physical education.
- She expected a report from the Mathematics Curriculum Review Panel, noting that one of the panel's concerns was the lack of technology.
- A school health update on the H1N1 virus and an information sheet on talking to children about the virus were sent out to parents via email with hard copies mailed and put up on the web site.
- Medway peer counselors donated prom gowns to English High students.

- The Education Fund Committee, comprised of four representatives appointed by the Board of Selectmen, met and chose to use the fund for an ESL Community Education program; subsidize driver education programs for shelter students; purchase a new laminator for McGovern Elementary School; and pay for a speaker from “Rachel’s Challenge.”

- National Honor Society Advisor Susan Cecchi extended an invitation to school committee members to attend the National Honor Society Induction Ceremony on Tuesday, May 19, at 7:00 p.m.

H. DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. School Committee Meeting Time: May 21, 2009 - Ms. Borgatti noted there was a conflict with a senior student event at the high school and asked if the committee was agreeable to meet at an earlier time. After discussion, the committee agreed to change the time of the May 21st meeting from 7:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. and the location would be at the high school instead of the school committee room at the middle school.

Ms. Borgatti also noted that the superintendent’s evaluation was not ready and would be brought forward at the May 14th meeting.

2. FY10 Budget - Mr. Verdolino reviewed his suggestions to amend the proposed FY2010 school department budget and the proposed use of the ARRA grant money. Mr. Verdolino noted that the proposed town appropriation and the ARRA grant funding would still put the school department budget at the same dollar amount originally proposed back in January.

The superintendent noted that the district’s percent above foundation will go down and the district can still meet minimal needs without asking the taxpayers for additional money.

Ms. Wieler noted that the proposed budget reflected energy savings that would be realized from the Trane energy project.

3. Memorial School Plaque Nominations - Dr. Evans noted that the nominations for the Memorial school plaque closed on May 1st and she gave a brief review of the process. After discussion, it was the sense of the committee to vote on the nominees right away.

Moved by Mr. Dahl, seconded by Ms. Rice-Norton, to nominate Tracey Wilkinson, Suzanne Grillo, Richard Kahn, Carol Hammond and Margaret Kenney Black for name placement on the Memorial School Plaque. All voted in favor.

4. Trane Energy Project - Ms. Wieler, along with Mr. Foresto and Mr. Faist, of the energy review panel, gave a review of school department internal issues related to the Trane energy project noting that it was asking the school committee to acknowledge and commit to the panel's recommendations. The panel members stated that the review panel had not yet voted on a formal endorsement of the project.

After discussion, Dr. Evans asked the School Committee to come to a consensus of the review panel's recommendations noting there should not be a formal vote as the Trane contract was still being negotiated. Ms. Borgatti, Ms. Trindade, Ms. Bernstein, and Mr. Dahl were in agreement with the panel's recommendations. Ms. Rice-Norton was not in agreement.

At 9:58 p.m., moved by Ms. Rice-Norton, seconded by Ms. Bernstein, to waive the ten o'clock rule. Voting in favor: Ms. Borgatti, Ms. Trindade, Ms. Bernstein and Ms. Rice-Norton. Voting opposed: Mr. Dahl. Abstaining: Ms. Wieler.

5. Other - None.

I. ACTION ITEMS

1. For Consideration: Approval of FY2010 School Department Operating Budget for Printing in the Annual Town Meeting Booklet - Ms. Borgatti noted that the school committee needed to vote to adopt an FY2010 school department operating budget. Mr. Verdolino briefly reviewed the FY2010 operating budget with proposed adjustments based upon expected funding by the ARRA grant.

After discussion, it was moved by Ms. Bernstein, , seconded by Ms. Trindade, that the school committee adopt and submit an FY2010 School Department Operating budget in the amount of \$21,738,875.00 for printing in the Annual Town Meeting Warrant and subsequent consideration at the June 2009 Annual Town Meeting. Voting in favor: Ms. Borgatti, Ms. Trindade, Ms. Berstein and Ms. Wieler. Voting opposed: Mr. Dahl and Ms. Rice-Norton.

2. Other - Mr. Verdolino briefly reviewed his request for a school committee member to serve on an ad hoc procurement committee for the management services of the school lunch program. After discussion, Mr. Dahl volunteered to serve on the ad hoc committee.

Ms. Borgatti announced that the remaining action items would be deferred until the next meeting.

J. INFORMATION ITEMS and COMMUNICATIONS

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

K. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- **Election of Officers**
- **Approval of Expanded Kindergarten Transportation**
- **Submission and Review of School Improvement Plans**
- **Approval of 2009-2010 Early Release Days**
- **Athletics Account**
- **Final Update on 2008-2009 District Goals**

L. 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 is **Thursday, May 14, 2009.**

- **Special Meeting: May 11, 2009, at 6:00 p.m., prior to Special Town Meeting, Principal’s Conference Room, Medway High School, 88 Summer Street, Medway**

M. ADJOURNMENT TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Moved by Ms. Bernstein, seconded by Mr. Dahl, that the school committee adjourn to executive session for the purpose of discussing contract negotiations as they relate to the superintendent’s contract, 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.

O. ADJOURNMENT

At 10:10 p.m., upon approval of the motion, the school committee adjourned to executive session in the Superintendent’s Conference Room, Medway Middle School, 45 Holliston St., Medway.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol A. Villa
Secretary

Approved: **May 14, 2009**