

**Medway School Committee  
Minutes  
January 7, 2010**

The Medway School Committee held a meeting on Thursday, January 7, 2010, 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, and Jeffrey DeVolder. Also in attendance were Superintendent Judith Evans, Assistant Superintendent David Verdolino and Medway Federation of Teachers Representative Michael Regan. Student Advisory Council Representative Amanda Presswood and James Davock were also present.

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

Ms. Borgatti called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m., noting that all members were present except Ms. Wielder who was expected to arrive later.

**B. APPROVAL OF WARRANTS**

The warrants were being delivered for committee signature.

**C. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – None.**

**D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

1. It was moved by Ms. Bernstein, seconded by Ms. Trindade, to approve the minutes of the **November 5, 2009**, as amended. All voted in favor.

2. It was moved by Ms. Trindade, seconded by Mr. DeVolder, to approve the minutes of the **November 12, 2009**, as amended. Voting in favor: Ms. Borgatti, Ms. Trindade, Mr. DeVolder and Ms. Wieler. Voting opposed: none. Ms. Bernstein abstained as she was not present for this meeting.

3. It was moved by Ms. Bernstein, seconded by Ms. Trindade, to approve the minutes of the **December 3, 2009**, as amended. All voted in favor.

**E. REPORT OF STUDENTS**

James Davock reported that the high school held its first seminar for seniors on college life from the “eyes of the graduate.” The high school invited back sixteen graduates to speak about topics, including: living with roommate; surviving without parents; time management; controlling social life; dealing with relationships; and selecting your college. He noted that future seminars were planned to cover such topics as: interview skills; car basics and safety; finance and banking; web etiquette. Students are taken out of study halls, not regular classes.

Amanda Presswood noted that the seminar was interesting and the graduates were honest in their comments.

**F. REPORTS OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Ms. Bernstein attended a recent Board of Selectmen meeting at which items discussed included: the H1N1 clinic; a mid-January clinic for all residents with

information published on the town's website; the energy planning assistance grant; the town-wide energy committee; looking into a green community plan which could effect MSBA financing for additional matched dollars.

Ms. Trindade reported she attended the Board of Selectmen meeting in December at which items discussed included: the H1N1 clinics; the budget calendar and policy statement noting that the school department budget was due at the Town Administrator's office on February 19<sup>th</sup>; there was money remaining on the high school bond which must be spend on the high school.

Ms. Trindade also noted the Board of Selectmen were at a recent meeting with Representative Vallee at which members of the Franklin school committee expressed an interest in sharing services.

Ms. Trindade also noted she attended a recent Health Advisory Committee meeting in December at which items discussed included: the new wellness policy and promotion of healthy relationships with food; an upcoming presentation on drinking and social responsibility scheduled for February 4<sup>th</sup> at the high school entitled, "Taylor's Message."

Mr. DeVolder reported he attended the recent Parks Department meeting at which items discussed included: booking of high school field usage and possible changes to the school committee policy.

## **G. ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE**

### **1. Report of the Chairman**

### **2. Report of the Superintendent**

Dr. Evans noted some items of interest, which included:

- A letter to Principal Senior-LaBarre from the Medway Housing Authority thanking students, parents and teachers for their generous donations to the food pantry.
- The Medway Foundation for Education is hosting a Trivia Bee on February 25<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 p.m., and further information can be found on the MFE's website.
- A letter from the DESE Office of Science and Technology/Engineering commending Mette Schwartz for her conference presentation
- Copy of the Education Fund Committee meeting of December 7, 2009.
- Dr. Evans noted that Mr. Verdolino has been working with MASBO on a pilot program on analysis of benefits and compensation; and Medway hosted a meeting at which twelve local districts participated.

- The superintendent noted that a regional support group from the DESE was coming to Medway tomorrow to discuss professional development and resources available to Medway as it is designated a Level 3 district.
- **Interim Assessment of 2009-2010 District Goals** – Dr. Evans presented a mid-year report on the 2009-2010 District Goals noting the district has made substantial progress on most of the goals.

## **H. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**1. FY10 Budget Update** – Mr. Verdolino noted the inability of Munis to prepare a report but the business office hopes to have information in a formal report in February. He noted that the district is expecting the ARRA grant stimulus money will be received and applied retroactively to the beginning of the school year.

**2. FY11 Budget** – Dr. Evans noted there have been two Budget Subcommittee meetings with representation from the Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee. She has also been meeting with the leadership team to discuss budget options. The superintendent noted that major cost drivers of special education out of district tuition; special education transportation, special education contractual services, the transportation contract and building cleaners contract are not unexpected and she is recommending minimal new funds for program improvement. She anticipates the overall budget increase will not be substantial.

Ms. Borgatti asked committee members to voice their priorities for the FY11 budget.

**3. Capital Improvements** – Mr. Verdolino reviewed his capital improvements status report which included recommendations for next year.

At approximately, 8:29 p.m., Ms. Wieler arrived.

**4. Building Projects Update** – Mr. Verdolino gave an update, including information on the solar panel project.

**5. Other** – None.

## **I. ACTION ITEMS**

**1. First Reading: 2010-2011 School Year Calendar** – Ms. Borgatti noted the copy of the enclosed proposed 2010-2011 school year calendar has been reviewed by the leadership team and the Medway Federation of teachers. No votes were taken.

**2. Set Kindergarten Tuition and Athletic Fee Reduced Rate** – Ms. Borgatti noted that this item As outlined in School Committee Policy #66 (attached), the school committee will establish a 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. Trindade, seconded by Ms. Bernstein, 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 2010-2011 school year, as recommended by the superintendent. All voted in favor.

**3. For Consideration: Naming of High School Library** – Ms. Borgatti noted that the proposal to name the high school library “The David I. Driscoll Library” was brought before the committee at the December 3<sup>rd</sup> school committee meeting.

After a brief discussion, it was moved by Ms. Wieler, seconded by Mr. DeVolder, that the school committee name the high school library “The David I. Driscoll Library,” as recommended by the superintendent. All voted in favor.

**4. For Consideration: Preliminary Approval of Student Council Overnight Trip to The Annual State Convention in Hyannis, MA, on March 10-12, 2010** – Ms. Borgatti noted that Mr. Pearson has submitted a request on behalf of advisors Stephanie Woodall and Diana Rodgers for students to attend an overnight trip to the annual Massachusetts Association of Student Councils State Conference in Hyannis, MA on March 10-12, 2010.

After a brief discussion, it was moved by Ms. Bernstein, seconded by Mr. DeVolder, that the school committee grant preliminary approval of the student council overnight trip to the student council annual state convention in Hyannis, MA, on March 10-12, 2010, with final approval contingent upon the superintendent receiving no less than thirty (30) days prior to the scheduled trip departure date all logistical details, as outlined in school committee policy #59, as recommended by the superintendent. All voted in favor.

**5. For Consideration: Race to the Top Memorandum of Understanding** – Ms. Borgatti noted that committee members received a copy of the D.E.S.E. Race to the Top information and Memorandum of Understanding. Dr. Evans gave a brief overview of the program.

After discussion, it was moved by Ms. Bernstein, seconded by Ms. Wieler, that the school committee entered into a Memorandum of Understanding agreement with the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education on the implementation of an approved Race to the Top grant project and authorize the chair to execute the document, as recommended by the superintendent. All voted in favor.

**6. Other** – None.

## **J. INFORMATION ITEMS and COMMUNICATIONS**

Ms. Borgatti noted some of the information and communication items in committee members’ packets, including the new open meeting law and the upcoming MFE Trivia Bee.

**K. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- **Adoption of 2010-2011 School Year Calendar**
- **Interim Review of Superintendent's Performance**
- **Approval of FY11 School Department Budget Working Draft**

**L. NEXT MEETING** – The next regular school committee meeting will be Thursday, January 21, 2010, 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.

**M. ADJOURNMENT TO EXECUTIVE SESSION** – Ms. Borgatti noted there was a need to adjourn to executive session to discuss contract negotiations as they relate to union personnel.

Moved by Ms. Wieler, seconded by Mr. DeVolder, that the school committee adjourn to executive session for the purpose of discussing contract negotiations as they relate to union and/or non-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. DeVolder and Ms. Wieler. Voting opposed: None.

**N. ADJOURNMENT**

At 9:06 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: **January 21, 2010**