

**Medway School Committee
Minutes
March 3, 2011**

The Medway School Committee held a meeting on Thursday, March 3, 2011, immediately following its public hearing on the FY12 proposed school department budget, in the School Committee Room, Medway Middle School, 45 Holliston Street, Medway. School committee members in attendance included Chairperson Debora Trindade, Vice Chairperson Jeff DeVolder, Carole Bernstein and Shelley Wieler. Also in attendance were Superintendent Judith Evans, Assistant Superintendent David Verdolino and Medway Federation of Teachers Representative Michael Regan.

A. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Trindade called the meeting to order at 8:45 p.m., noting that all members were present, except for Ms. Borgatti.

B. APPROVAL OF WARRANTS

The warrants were signed by committee members.

C. PRESENTATIONS

D. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

1. **Public Comments** – None.

2. **Liaison Reports** – None.

E. REPORT OF STUDENTS – None.

F. ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE

1. **Chairman Update**

Ms. Trindade reported she attended a recent Board of Selectmen meeting at which discussion on the school department budget in the MUNIS format and the off-set budget number took place. She noted that no joint meeting with the School Committee, Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee has been set yet but will keep the committee members informed. She also reported that the School Committee team placed third in the recent MFE Trivia Bee, which was a fun and well-attended event.

2. **Superintendent Update**

- Dr. Evans congratulated the boys and girls basketball and hockey teams for a successful season.
- Tickets for the high school musical, Pippin, are now on sale.
- The district is planning several professional development workshops for faculty at the upcoming early release day on March 18th.
- The district is launching the Director of Student Services search.

3. Assistant Superintendent Update – None.

4. Committee Members' Updates

Mr. DeVolder reported that the town-wide Facilities Committee continues to meet.

Ms. Wieler reported that the Energy Committee is working with the Town's Green Communities to achieve its goals.

Committee members discussed a preferred method of email communication. After discussion, it was the consensus of the committee that all email communications should be sent to their First Class email address.

G. REPORTS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Nominations for Memorial School Plaque – Ms. Trindade noted that the district is now accepting nominations for the Memorial School Plaque. The school department would like people sending in nominations to use the new nomination form, which can be found on the district's website.

2. FY12 Budget

Ms. Trindade asked committee members if they had specific concerns or wished to discuss particular issues related to the proposed FY12 budget.

Ms. Bernstein commented that she appreciates parents' concerns and is worried about class size. She cautioned further action until final numbers are in. She feels that Dr. Evans and the administration looked very carefully at the needs of the students and wants the district not to be stagnant but to move forward.

Ms. Wieler commented that no one knows what the real town revenue picture is what state aid will be. She cautioned that bigger caps could come a few years down the road. She further commented that the 5% increase in the budget has gone to special education.

Ms. Bernstein commented that it might be wise to change the town charter and change the annual town meeting from May to June.

Mr. DeVolder commented that the issue is with the Board of Selectmen's policy statement.

Ms. Wieler commented she appreciates parents coming to the meeting to voice their concerns and the school committee shares their concerns. She stated that teachers need support for not only class size but for coaches to guide them in new curricula, technology and training. She stated that parents should advocate not only with the school committee but also with the Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee if they are concerned about the level of education and an appropriate budget.

MFT Representative Michael Regan suggested that the school committee does not know what teachers need until they go into the classroom to talk with the teachers and ask them what they feel are the specific strengths and weaknesses of the district.

Ms. Trindade noted that the Board of Selectmen were exceptionally unhappy about the lump sum reduction number and were looking for specific details.

Dr. Evans stated she has looked at all areas of the budget for possible reductions. She noted that cutting transportation or instituting transportation fees would hit parents very hard. She further noted that other expenses already have been cut significantly and any personnel cuts would have to be made on a seniority basis. She clarified that, in past years, the budget was submitted and reviewed in Excel spreadsheet format and that this year the budget was submitted in the MUNIS format, as requested. She stated the only details the school department can provide at this time are what cost centers would have the reductions.

Mr. DeVolder stated he disagreed with the Board of Selectmen and the school department has provided a great deal of detail in the usual format and in the MUNIS format.

Ms. Wieler agreed with Mr. DeVolder in that the school department has already provided a great deal of detail, asking how could the school department make specific cuts at this time when the Board of Selectmen can not be specific about the Town's revenue. She cautioned about scaring the community. Ms. Wieler stated that the school department's budget is the School Committee's responsibility.

Ms. Bernstein stated that the School Committee should agree to disagree with the Board of Selectmen and not waste any more of the administration's time with another MUNIS report.

3. Other – None.

H. ACTION ITEMS – None.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. It was moved by Ms. Wieler, seconded by Mr. DeVolder, to approve the special meeting minutes of **February 10, 2011**. All voted in favor.

J. INFORMATION ITEMS and COMMUNICATIONS

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

K. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

L. NEXT MEETING – In the School Committee Room (across the corridor from the Superintendent’s Office), Medway Middle School, 45 Holliston St., Medway.

- **Regular Meeting: March 17, 2011, at 7:00 p.m., School Committee Room**

M. ADJOURNMENT

At approximately 9:55 p.m., it was moved by Ms. Bernstein, seconded by Mr. DeVolder, to adjourn the meeting. All voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol A. Villa
Secretary

Approved: **March 17, 2011**