

**SCITUATE SCHOOL COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 2, 2010
TOWN HALL CHAMBERS**

CALL TO ORDER

63-1

The Regular School Committee Meeting was called to order by Chair Umbriano at 7:05 PM.

Present were Marylou Umbriano, Brian LaPlante, June Guglielmi and Scott Klimaj. Also present were Paul Lescault, Superintendent of Schools, and Lawrence Filippelli, Assistant Superintendent.

Not present was Patricia Archambault.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

63-2

Led by Chair Umbriano, the Committee and audience participated in a pledge of allegiance to the flag.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

63-3

Mrs. Guglielmi moved, seconded by Dr. Klimaj, to approve the minutes of the Executive Session of February 2, 2010. Mr. LaPlante did not vote (due to absence at meeting). Motion passed.

Mrs. Guglielmi moved, seconded by Dr. Klimaj, to approve the minutes of the Regular School Committee Meeting of February 2, 2010. Mr. LaPlante did not vote (due to absence at meeting). Motion passed.

CAPITAL RESERVE FUND

63-4

Mrs. Guglielmi moved, seconded by Mr. LaPlante, to approve the Capital Reserve Funds for the month of March in the amount of \$20,852.59. The Committee unanimously agreed.

**MONTHLY PAYABLES
NEW BUDGET**

63-5

Mrs. Guglielmi moved, seconded by Dr. Klimaj, to approve the Budget Bills for the month of March in the amount of \$124,780.71. The Committee unanimously approved the motion.

GRANT BILLS

63-6

Mrs. Guglielmi moved, seconded by Dr. Klimaj, to approve the Grant Bills for the month of March in the amount of \$137,883.56. The Committee unanimously approved the motion.

CORRESPONDENCE

63-7

1. A letter to the school department from Dino and Connie Jacavone, requesting an extension of the time their children can attend Scituate schools on a tuition basis.

Background:

Currently this family was granted permission to have their children attend Scituate schools on a tuition basis to the end of January/beginning of February. They are now asking for an extension to June 2010.

63-8

1. Recommendation: Take whatever action the committee deems appropriate.

Dr. Lescault stated the committee previously has allowed Mr. and Mrs. Jacavone's children to attend Scituate schools while their home is being built. The committee extended the deadline twice. The school department is holding the checks (under prior policy, if family was moved into home by deadline established by committee, checks would be returned). The Jacavones are looking for a permanent extension. Dr. Lescault added Scituate has never an

extension which lasted this long; it is at the discretion of the committee. The new policy, starting next year, will allow the school department to cash the checks as all tuition checks will be cashed immediately.

Mrs. Guglielmi asked if the new tuition policy implemented at last meeting will cover this.

Dr. Lescault replied the new policy is for the 2010-2011 school year starting in September 2010.

Chair Umbriano stated the (Jacavone) children entered Scituate schools in September 2009.

Mr. LaPlante stated the new policy was implemented in 2010 for the 2010-2011 school year not 2009-2010.

Mr. LaPlante asked Mr. and Mrs. Jacavone to provide update to committee and asked how much is being paid in tuition.

Mr. Jacavone replied \$2,200 per month for two children.

Mr. LaPlante asked the purpose of not cashing the checks.

Dr. Lescault replied that was the old tuition policy; checks would be returned if family moved in to new home (Scituate) by established deadline. If the family did not move in by established deadline, the checks would be cashed. Mr. and Mrs. Jacavone are now requesting an extension until the end of the year.

Mrs. Jacavone stated they did not anticipate the construction to go on as long as it has. The Jacavones have owned the land since 2003 and have been taxed on the land and recently have been taxed approximately 70% of assessed value (approximately \$5,500). Upon completion, the Jacavones will pay 100% of assessed value in taxes.

Mr. LaPlante asked the status of the house.

Mr. Jacavone stated the house is weather tight but the inside finishes need to be complete including installation of the kitchen.

Chair Umbriano asked if the Jacavones were residing in Scituate currently.

Mrs. Jacavone replied no, but they have been trying to get into Scituate for awhile. Mrs. Jacavone's concern was getting the children into the school system sooner rather than later which is why the Jacavones pushed to get the house completed by winter. Mrs. Jacavone added issues with the heating system and the weather have played a part in delays.

Mr. LaPlante asked if the Jacavones hired a General Contractor.

Mr. Jacavone replied he is acting as General Contractor.

Mrs. Jacavone added Mr. Jacavone works in construction.

Chair Umbriano stated with the new tuition policy, this will no longer be a problem.

Mr. LaPlante stated with the new policy, the family will be paying tuition for the duration of time the family is not residing in Scituate. Here, not one dollar

of the checks submitted will be cashed which means the school committee/Town Council will rely solely on their tax payments.

Mr. LaPlante stated it is clear that it is in the best interest of the children to remain in the school system. The monetary piece will be reviewed by the committee to determine something fair. Mr. LaPlante will look into the taxation piece as well so as not to harm the town.

Mr. LaPlante moved, seconded by Dr. Klimaj, to approve the (Jacavone) children remain in North Scituate School and continue to receive tuition payments (uncashed) and add this to the May meeting agenda to allow for further research into the taxes. The committee unanimously agreed.

Chair Umbriano asked if either of these children were in one of the full classes.

Dr. Filippelli replied no.

Chair Umbriano stated the reason the discussion will be made in May is due to the Financial Town Meeting held directly following the April school committee meeting. The April school committee meeting allows time only to reviews the bills and minutes.

63-9

REPORT OF COMMITTEE LIAISONS

BUDGET

Regarding the Aramark dispute, Mr. LaPlante stated the language will include the new amortization period discussed at earlier meeting. Mr. LaPlante stated once the language is completed, the committee has authorized Dr. Lescault to sign the new contract which is for the 2009-2010 year.

CURRICULUM

Mrs. Guglielmi stated nothing to report.

FOOD SERVICES AND HEALTH/WELNNESS NEGOTIATIONS

Chair Umbriano will discuss in May after next Food Services Meeting.

Chair Umbriano stated Dr. Lescault will discuss during the Superintendent's Report.

POLICY

Mrs. Guglielmi stated the committee will have the first reading of the revised Social Networking Policy and the first reading of the Media Relations Policy under New Business which Dr. Filippelli will discuss in the Assistant Superintendent's Report.

RIASC

Mrs. Archambault was not in attendance.

SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION SCITUATE ADVOCATES FOR EVERYONE (SAFE)

Chair Umbriano stated nothing to report.

Chair Umbriano mentioned the credit recovery program on which Principal Sollitto worked and added SAFE contributed monies to continue this program.

SADD is working on mock cocktail and have painted the windows in the middle school with information on the victim selected this year.

BUILDING COMMITTEE

Mrs. Guglielmi stated the students are in the new classrooms but there are issues regarding the parking lot.

Chair Umbriano stated once the parking lot is plowed after these small snow storms, it seems the ground is falling in.

Dr. Lescault stated the proper preparation with sub soils etc. has washed away so that will require extensive work.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Mrs. Guglielmi stated strategic planning will begin in April.

63-10
UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There is no unfinished business for the month of March.

63-11
ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

NECAP ANALYSIS

(Committee members received copies of an analysis of the Fall 2009 NECAP scores.) On page 1, there is data to indicate the achievement level analysis throughout the district by grade. On page 2, there is data to indicate total overall proficiency throughout the grades with a percentage comparison between 2008-2009.

When analyzing the data from page 1, Dr. Filippelli has compared the proficiency levels from 2008 and 2009. Any decreases in levels 3 and 4 (which are proficient (3) and proficient with distinction (4) are highlighted in red. Increases are in black. Any decreases in levels 1 and 2 (which are partially proficient (2) and substantially below proficient (1) are highlighted in light blue. It is VERY important to note that SCITUATE WANTS decreases in levels 1 and 2 because it means that Scituate is moving the kids into the proficient and proficient with distinction categories and shows that Scituate is decreasing the numbers in the partially proficient and substantially below proficient categories. Dr. Filippelli will be having conversations with the building principals about the slight decreases in the other grades in the proficient and proficient with distinction categories. One notable piece of information is the lower scores at grade 6. Dr. Filippelli is not entirely surprised by this because this was the incoming 6th grade with a vast amount of IEP, 504, and RTI needs.

Page 2 shows total proficiency across the grades in the district. This is where the district can analyze the real gains or losses being made in each grade. What Dr. Filippelli is most proud of for this district is the double-digit increases in some of the grades. There have been significant increases and minimal decreases across all grades and for that the school committee, administrative team, teachers, student and parents should be proud.

Page 3 indicates Scituate's rank among the other districts in the state. Dr. Filippelli has also analyzed where Scituate was last year to where Scituate is this year. Dr. Filippelli is happy to report that in Reading as a district, Scituate went from 81% proficient in 2008 to 85% proficient in 2009. Thus increasing rank from 12th in the state in 2008 to 10th in the state in 2009. Additionally, note the Math tab on the spreadsheet, as a district, Scituate went from 67% proficient in 2008 to 71% proficient in 2009. Thus increasing rank from 16th in the state in 2008 to 12th in the state in 2009.

XCONNECTS

Mary Anne Fosnaugh had to cancel Professional Development session on February 25 due to inclement weather. Ms. Fosnaugh has rescheduled for March 11.

**SOCIAL NETWORKING
POLICY**

Based on input from the last meeting, Town Solicitor D'Agostino made some revisions to the Social Networking Policy to better reflect the needs of all of

the stakeholders included in the policy. (Committee members received copies of the newly revised policy to be presented for a first reading under New Business.) Dr. Filippelli would like to note that Solicitor D'Agostino did an outstanding job and Dr. Filippelli asks that the committee approve it as a first reading.

MEDIA RELATIONS POLICY

(Committee members received copies of a media relations policy that Dr. Filippelli would like to propose to the committee for a first reading.) On November 3 and 4, Sgt. Pendergast and Dr. Filippelli attended a RIEMA and FEMA training on Communication and Public Information Dissemination in a Weapons of Mass Destruction/Disaster or Terrorism Incident. What came out of this was the realization that Scituate has a need to develop a media relations policy for the district. After researching some existing policies elsewhere in the country, Dr. Filippelli shared draft proposal with Brian LaPlante. After going through a few revisions, the policy presented is the Media Relations Policy for the Scituate School Department. This policy is meant to provide some guidelines to employees of the Scituate School Department when having interactions with the press.

VERIZON TECHNOLOGY GRANT

Dr. Filippelli applied for a technology grant from Verizon. This information came to Dr. Filippelli from Town Clerk Peggy Long and Dr. Filippelli wanted to immediately take advantage of the potential for the district to be competitive for a \$5000.00 grant. Verizon is only awarding five \$5000.00 grants to districts that want to utilize their technology called *Thinkfinity*. This is a web-based program that provides educational resources to teachers, students and parents. In order to be competitive for the grant, Dr. Filippelli had to address current needs based on NECAP scores and outline a plan to try and increase those scores at the needed levels. The request for proposal for the grant took three hours to complete so Dr. Filippelli is hoping Scituate is successful. Dr. Filippelli will know by June 2010, if Scituate is successful in the bid.

DISTRICT SPELLING BEE

Dr. Filippelli was the word announcer at the District Spelling Bee that was held at 6:30PM on February 8th at the Scituate Middle/High School Auditorium. Dr. Filippelli wanted to publicly thank Principal Cappelli for doing such a great job of organizing this event. Dr. Filippelli would also like to thank Principal DiMicco and Principal Mowry as well as teacher judges (Ms. Gould and Ms. Boutiette) for taking the time to judge the competition. The winner this year was Ellen Asermly, an 8th grade student from Scituate Middle School. Miss Asermly will now go on to the state competition.

Dr. Filippelli added Miss Asermly's 6th grade sister also performed well.

WELLNESS

The Shape Up RI program is going very well in each of the schools in the district. There was a Wellness Committee meeting on February 23rd and it was reported that many teachers have taken advantage of this program. Dr. Filippelli will be reviewing the district wellness policy for two reasons: (1) to be sure the current policy in regards to parents bringing in food from home is in compliance with RIDE guidelines; and (2) to be sure wellness guidelines find their way into the District Strategic Plan.

Chair Umbriano added pamphlets went home to parents which included a list of what foods could be brought into the classrooms.

MONTHLY ACTIVITIES

Dr. Filippelli provided list of activities for the month of February to the committee.

63-12
SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

**WAGE FREEZE AND
BUDGET**

At this point, only a representative from NEARI has responded to the request of the school committee and town council for a pay freeze for 2010-2011. (Committee members received copies of letter from NEARI as well as Dr. Lescault's response.) Dr. Lescault stated meeting dates were also requested along with Town Council President and Treasurer. Dr. Lescault invited committee members to attend meeting as well.

Dr. Lescault stated a budget must be adopted which is under New Business this evening. The budget will be submitted with no increase regardless of wage freeze. The budget is up by 2% (\$430,000) and if wage freeze is successful, that will account for approximately half of that amount. Without a wage freeze, the full amount will need to be cut from budget.

As the Financial Town Meeting will be held in 5 weeks, a budget needs to be ready for public consideration and adoption. To that end, and with the committee's approval on February 2, Dr. Lescault has developed two revised versions of the budget the committee adopted on January 5. Version #1 will reflect an across the board wage freeze for all employees. Version #2 will reflect no wage freeze. Both budgets reflect the council's request and school committee's direction to Dr. Lescault to develop a budget that does not include any increase in expenditures.

**ENROLLMENT
PROJECTIONS**

(Committee members received copies of documents from NESDEC displaying the past, present and projected enrollments for the district.) Enrollment has been declining and is projected to continue declining. However, any significant improvement in the economy and the real estate market will likely affect that trend, triggering a resumption of the in-migration the district has historically experienced.

BUILDING PROJECT

The building committee last met on February 9. The committee continues to struggle with issues related to the parking lot construction. The good news is a Certificate of Occupancy for the new classroom wing has finally been received, and students and teachers should be moved into it before the March 2 school committee meeting.

**CROSS WALKS AND STOP
SIGNS**

Chair Umbriano has observed students crossing Rockland Road in the area of Trim Town Road. Upon investigation, Chair Umbriano has found that because of a lack of student parking during the ongoing construction at the Middle/High School, students are parking offsite and walking across Rockland Road to the school. Chair Umbriano is concerned about the safety of those students and has discussed the situation with the School Resource Officer.

Chair Umbriano will also address this issue with the Scituate Traffic Committee on March 18. Chair Umbriano stated cars drive too fast down Trim Town Road. Students are parking down further down on Trim Town Road and walking on the side of the road (no sidewalk or crosswalk) and crossing over to the high school. Chair Umbriano would like to see a four-way stop sign as well as a crosswalk.

Mr. LaPlante agreed the additional stop signs will help; however expressed concern about adding a crosswalk.

Mr. LaPlante stated it is not good that there is off-site parking and subjecting students to what could be a dangerous intersection. Mr. LaPlante stated adding the crosswalk seems to convey the committee is complicit in allowing

this off-site parking.

Chair Umbriano stated it is a temporary situation but believes stop signs should be installed.

**AUTOMATED PURCHASE
ORDERS AND WEB-BASED
PAYROLL UPDATE**

Dr. Lescault is delighted to report that Scituate will be transitioning from the current manual purchase order system to an automated electronic system before the start of next month. Mark DiLuglio has spearheaded this initiative at Dr. Lescault's request. The new system will save both time and money by utilizing technology to streamline the process, while maintaining security and accountability. Scituate is also in the process of updating our payroll system to the latest web-based ADP product, which will also improve efficiency in this area.

COMMISSIONER'S REVIEW

As previously reported, a team of educators visited Scituate High School in December to assess whether the school is in compliance with the new Regents secondary-school regulations. A letter from Commissioner Gist to Dr. Lescault stated as a result of that review process, it was determined that Scituate successfully completed the 2010 review process and has made progress toward meeting the 2012 criteria. (Committee members received copy of letter from Commissioner Gist). Congratulations are due to Principal Sollitto and his staff.

ARBITRATION

NEARI has requested arbitration in response to the school committee denial in February of the STA grievance regarding reimbursement for National Board re-certification expenses. David D'Agostino will represent the committee at that arbitration hearing.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

Committee members received copies of a partial list of the work Steve Gormley and Jay Gasior have been working on during the month of February.

**FUNDING FORMULA
PROPOSAL**

The Board of Regents is scheduled to vote on an education aid funding formula on Thursday, March 4. The proposal was supposed to be embargoed until then, but it was leaked to the press last Friday. (The proposal and FAQs about it were submitted to committee members.) If the legislature ultimately approves the proposal, it will positively impact Scituate with an increase in state aid of nearly 22%. However, that approval is not a foregone conclusion. The proposal is revenue neutral; meaning it redistributes existing aid. Consequently, some districts would receive more aid and some would receive less. RIDE is providing a detailed presentation/explanation of the formula for superintendents tomorrow which Dr. Lescault will attend.

Mrs. Guglielmi asked if the schools that are regionalized will take a hit.

Dr. Lescault stated the Commissioner is suggesting the regionalization bonus be withdrawn from the formula. In the past there was a percentage increase so in places such as Bristol-Warren, the district could lose up to \$3 million. Regionalization bonuses end over a period of time and Foster-Glocester is close to the end of regionalization bonus at this time. The regionalization bonus for construction will continue.

Dr. Lescault added regionalization is not a priority for the Commissioner.

Mrs. Guglielmi asked who was pushing for regionalization earlier.

Dr. Lescault replied the legislature is very interested.

Mrs. Guglielmi asked if there was a particular representative interested.

Dr. Lescault replied House Finance Chair Constantino. There will still be a move toward collaboration such as health care, special education, office supplies, etc.

Mrs. Guglielmi added these are areas which Scituate already collaborates.

Dr. Lescault agreed; Scituate's strength and weakness is its size.

VACATION

Dr. Lescault will be on vacation out of the country from March 7 to March 14 but has arranged to be available by cell phone throughout that week.

MONTHLY ACTIVITIES

Dr. Lescault provided list of monthly activities to committee members.

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PUBLIC COMMENTS

George Kuzmowycz Esek Hopkins Road

Referring to the budget approval process, Mr. Kuzmowycz understands it is tense in Rhode Island and in difficult times; nevertheless, Mr. Kuzmowycz is troubled by the fact that the committee approve a budget which will change or may change. At some point during negotiations, line items may be cut from a budget which previously has been approved. Mr. Kuzmowycz asked how Dr. Lescault anticipates that process taking place keeping in mind Town Council's review as well as public input. There was a similar exercise approximately two or three years when the timing was very bad and all recognized that. For the sake of argument, Mr. Kuzmowycz asked if the Town Council doesn't go along with the proposal and the committee is required to cut \$430,000. The time that should be done is between now and April 5.

Dr. Lescault agreed the detail of the budget cannot be voted on this evening but what is different is that the bottom line is going to be zero regardless of whether a wage freeze is accepted. The budget then goes to voters at the Financial Town Meeting so it is known what the number will be. What is unknown at this point is how that number will be distributed.

Mr. Kuzmowycz asked at what point and in what forum does Dr. Lescault expect to make the decision of what specific line items will be cut to meet the goal the committee will be establishing tonight.

Dr. Lescault stated there will need to be a separate meeting between now and the Financial Town Meeting or a meeting just before the Financial Town Meeting which has been done in the past.

Mr. LaPlante agreed the meeting should be held directly preceding the Financial Town Meeting.

Mr. Kuzmowycz replied interested members of the public will not be allowed sufficient time to respond to budget.

Dr. Lescault stated the budget is always subject to revision by the committee throughout the year. The bottom line is set in stone however the committee can move money from any line item at any time during the year. If a member of the public had major concerns, those concerns could be aired at any point during the next fiscal year and changes could be made to it.

Mr. LaPlante stated that was what happened regarding the music teacher position. If a member of the public comes to the Financial Town Meeting and hears something in the budget to which they have a concern and want a platform to communicate those concerns, it can be communicated at the next

meeting.

Mr. Kuzmowycz stated the concern does not lie with himself rather with members who may not be as well-versed in the budgetary process. Part of Mr. Kuzmowycz's role is to represent those people who are not present but are interested and is trying to find out what mechanism they may have for responding to these cuts. A few years ago there was a last minute approval and Mr. Kuzmowycz raised objections to that and everyone said this is the position the town is in and this is the position the Town Council left us in but we'll try to make sure this doesn't happen again and yet here it is happening again.

Dr. Lescault stated the timeline is out of the control of the school committee.

Chair Umbriano stated this process was started months ago with meetings with all of the unions.

Mr. LaPlante stated the committee is to recommend a budget with no increase; it is a budget with just a bottom line number. Mr. LaPlante recalled the issue of the music teacher position which played out after the Financial Town Meeting. The committee is always willing to listen to members of the public and if necessary, to modify the budget. The opportunity to be heard to adjust those numbers is afforded to the public. Mr. LaPlante does not see this as something that is critical with respect to timing.

Dr. Lescault stated the public never gets to vote on the makeup of the budget.

Mr. Kuzmowycz replied the public is allowed to comment on it however.

Mr. LaPlante respects the fact that members of the public want the opportunity to express concern with a specific cut but the public will have that opportunity.

Mr. Kuzmowycz stated the forum for this is at the Financial Town Meeting and stated concern is that although some may be able to review the budget quickly and identify concerns, others may need more time to digest what is being reported. It is the largest meeting which takes place during the year and it is specifically to hear and comment on the spending priorities of the town. Twenty minutes to review the budget is not in keeping with the spirit of review of the process.

Mr. LaPlante confirmed it is the public forum at the Financial Town Meeting where members of the public may wish to be heard (versus a school committee meeting after the fact.)

Dr. Lescault stated because there is no increase, there isn't a comment anyone in the audience could make to change the budget. The budget cannot be reduced because it is already at zero and by law the school department cannot receive less money than received the previous year. No one at the Financial Town Meeting can tell the school committee how to spend the money.

Mr. Kuzmowycz replied the public has the opportunity to comment on the line items.

Dr. Lescault stated there isn't a lot to discuss at the Financial Town Meeting because regardless of what is said, all the committee is asking for is what the school department received last year which by law is required.

Mr. LaPlante understands Mr. Kuzmowycz's concern for prep time to review

the budget but added the committee's doors are always open to the public.

Mr. Kuzmowycz stated the public deserves to review the allocation or reallocation of funds which take place as result of whatever action occurs between now and April 5 and Mr. Kuzmowycz does not see the public having that opportunity.

Maureen Kennedy, meeting attendee, asked to comment on Mr. Kuzmowycz statements. Ms. Kennedy recalled discussion surrounding the school resource officer at a previous Financial Town Meeting and the audience was allowed to speak on the issue.

Mr. Kuzmowycz stated the reason for the discussion was because the (school) budget was increasing each year and moving a reduction in the overall budget but it still would have been higher than in prior years. Mr. Kuzmowycz was hoping to get a reduction on the particular line item but the motion failed.

Mr. Kuzmowycz appreciates the efforts in redrafting the Social Networking Policy and what is trying to be accomplished with the policy. Mr. Kuzmowycz asked if the school is proposing that they can control the speech of students taking place outside of school grounds because that is how the policy reads. Nowhere does it say that the policy refers to school time.

Dr. Filippelli replied it refers to disruption of classroom activity.

Mr. Kuzmowycz asked how that would be defined.

Dr. Filippelli attended a seminar on this topic and stated one example discussed was a case where a student sends a naked picture of an ex-girlfriend to several members of a team who in turn, send it to their friends. Meanwhile a teacher is trying to conduct a class but the class is disrupted due to students discussing this picture. The students involved in the distribution would be responsible.

Mr. Kuzmowycz asked if it was an issue because the photo was being distributed while school was in session.

Dr. Filippelli agreed and stated it also could have been sent prior evening and received during school time and students are interrupting class time to discuss photo.

Mr. Kuzmowycz stated if the photo was distributed previous evening and is the topic all the students are discussing versus discussing the USA-CANADA hockey game, etc. How is that disruption of classroom activity different by virtue of messages being accepted on telephones as opposed to an event that took place?

Dr. Filippelli stated that may be for a court to decide. However a teacher could squelch a conversation regarding a hockey game much easier than a conversation regarding a naked picture of a student. Logically, even though the teacher commands the discussion to stop and continues to teach, the students will most likely continue to whisper, checking text messages at locker, etc. The attorney at the presentation stated it all relates to the educational process. If the teacher can't teach and if there is any disruption at all, all of those things can come into play.

Mr. Kuzmowycz stated students would be disciplined by something they did off of school property and not on school time.

Dr. Filippelli replied yes. Another example is a student text messages another student not on school time and if the students are bantering back and forth and there are general overt threats, the matter is turned over to the police if brought to the school's attention. It becomes a school issue when the text message contains an overt threat detailing what action may occur; it becomes a safety and security issue. If a note was found on school grounds and stated someone as going to be injured, it would not matter if the note was written off school grounds and not in school time. The note came into the possession of school administrators and disciplinary action will be taken.

Mr. LaPlante stated it all depends upon the classroom activity. The fact that everything connects back to the classroom is key.

Mr. Kuzmowycz asked if what students are publishing material critical of a teacher on a professional teacher and teacher finds that material disruptive yet there are no overt teachers.

Dr. Filippelli stated there was a long-term teacher several years ago where students took a picture and made a fake my-space profile on teacher which included nasty comments regarding the teacher. If the students created the profile at home, there is not much the school can do. However these students sent the information through their email which was retrieved and then disseminated to other students at school using the school's computers. If the students had emailed from home, the school would have been limited as to what action could have been taken.

Mr. Kuzmowycz stated if the teacher is upset by that, it is disruptive to the educational process. What is being alleged in the Social Networking Policy is that the students can be disciplined for that.

Dr. Filippelli replied only according to the student handbook; it is in regards to internet privileges, etc.

Regarding this topic, Mr. LaPlante stated some of the most learned judges have said they don't know how to define it but when they see it they will know what it is.

Mr. Kuzmowycz stated that is concerning because there have been situations in the not too distant past where students were critical of teachers and the educational process. Teachers took exception and severe threats of disciplinary action were leveled against these students. In the end it came to nothing but this is concerning. Where is the red line between being threatening and expressing teenage dissatisfaction and teacher gets annoyed and claims it is disrupting the educational process. Once that is stated, this policy comes into effect.

Dr. Filippelli stated the answer to the first part of Mr. Kuzmowycz's statement is that it is ill-defined and the second part is what needs to be considered a classroom disruption legally has to be pretty substantial. School disruption would include a class which couldn't be taught, a student walk-out, etc. Simply because a student and teacher disagree does not constitute a disruption.

Like any policy, Mr. LaPlante stated it is all about proper implementation and appreciates Mr. Kuzmowycz's concern that there is a lot of discretion afforded in policy but Mr. LaPlante believes there must be because at the end of the say, the job of the committee is to deliver a safe educational environment which supports the educational process which is the intent. The absence of the policy is more risky.

Dr. Klimaj stated last month in Massachusetts there was a case where a student moved from Ireland and was being taunted via text messages, etc. What protection would students have if student was being bullied outside of school in similar manner?

Dr. Filippelli stated the first thing is that administrators need to know these events are occurring; some students say nothing for months until something happens. The school creates a safe environment so that a student feels they can tell an adult what is happening. Also, there is anti-stalking and an anti-bullying policy in place.

Chair Umbriano stated often this happens outside of school and is not brought into school; it all occurs on Facebook or MySpace and is not discussed during school. The parents also need to be responsible to know what is going on at home.

Dr. Filippelli added many parents have said the school needs to take action in those situations yet often the kids are online in the middle of the night or on the weekends. Schools cannot take action until that threat comes into the school.

Dr. Klimaj stated that is the issue being faced with that case right now.

Chair Umbriano stated it is a gray area.

Dr. Filippelli stated legislation regarding sexting is trying to be passed.

Maureen Kennedy North Doctors Lane

Ms. Kennedy agreed the crosswalk painted on Trim Town Road would be a good idea as cars drive too fast around that corner.

Ms. Kennedy believes the current 8th grade may have gone up 1% in one category in the NECAP scores. If tracking the same students (from grade to grade), students have increased quite a bit.

Mr. LaPlante would love to see the trending regarding the NECAP.

Regarding the Media Policy, Ms. Kennedy asked if there would be a penalty for not following this process. Often, the media comes in to interview teachers. Ms. Kennedy wished to call the media for the upcoming Honors breakfast and wouldn't have thought to contact Central Office.

Dr. Lescault stated this allows the topic or event to be on Dr. Lescault's radar as well should the media follow-up with him for comments.

Tim McCormick Trim Town Road

Mr. McCormick stated support of Mr. Kuzmowycz's concerns regarding the budget process and in future sessions, there should be more time allowed to comment. There may be some down the road draconian cut that could happen at a Financial Town Meeting and no one would have the opportunity to deal with it as it does not preclude them from increasing the budget.

63-14

NEW BUSINESS

1. **FIRST READING – REVISED SOCIAL NETWORKING POLICY**

See Assistant Superintendent's Report for detail on this item.

Recommendation: Approve the first reading of the revised Social Networking Policy.

Mr. LaPlante moved, seconded by Dr. Klimaj, to approve the first reading of the proposed policy. The committee unanimously agreed.

2. **FIRST READING – MEDIA RELATIONS POLICY**

See Assistant Superintendent's Report for detail on this item.

Recommendation: Approve the first reading of the Media Relations Policy.

Mr. LaPlante moved, seconded by Dr. Klimaj, to approve the first reading of the Media Relations Policy with change to last section of Part II (Applicability) section of policy to include 'employment.' The committee unanimously agreed.

3. **APPROVAL OF 2010-2011 PUPIL SCHOOL CALENDAR**

The 2010-2011 School Year Calendar is listed for approval. The calendar is substantially the same as previous years, except that school is scheduled to start before Labor Day, to allow enough days in June to accommodate make up days.

Recommendation: Approve the calendar as presented.

Mr. LaPlante moved, seconded by Dr. Klimaj, to accept the school year calendar as submitted. The committee unanimously approved.

4. **REVISED BUDGET**

See Superintendent's Report for detail on this item.

Recommendation: Table adoption of a revised budget, but vote to direct the Superintendent to develop a budget with no increase in expenditures that reflects the collective bargaining units response to the committee's request for a wage freeze.

Mr. LaPlante moved, seconded by Dr. Klimaj, to authorize Dr. Lescault to revise budget with no increase but not to identify specific items due to lack of information due to negotiations. The committee unanimously agreed.

63-15
RESIGNATIONS/APPOINTMENTS/TRANSFERS

Dr. Lescault recommended approval for the following resignation:
Beatrice I. Wood, Paraprofessional, Hope School, effective February 26, 2010

Mr. LaPlante moved to approve appointments, seconded by Dr. Klimaj. The motion was unanimously approved

Dr. Lescault recommended approval of the following appointments:
Sabra Integlia, Extended Day Teacher, Clayville School, January to June 2010; Kevin Venturini, Middle School Softball Coach; Austin Hagaman, Assistant Boys' Volleyball Coach, pending receipt of certification

Mr. LaPlante moved to approve appointments, seconded by Dr. Klimaj. The motion was unanimously approved.

63-16
COMMITTEE REMARKS

MRS. GUGLIELMI

Mrs. Guglielmi stated nothing to report.

CHAIR UMBRIANO

Chair Umbriano stated nothing to report.

MRS. ARCHAMBAULT

Mrs. Archambault was not in attendance.

BRIAN LAPLANTE

Mr. LaPlante stated nothing to report.

SCOTT KILMAJ

Dr. Klimaj stated nothing to report.

63-17
DISCUSSION OF FUTURE BUSINESS

April 6 Financial Town Meeting
May 4 School Committee Meeting Town Hall Chambers
June 1 School Committee Meeting Town Hall Chambers
June 4 8th Grade Dance at Cranston Country Club
June 4 Senior Prom at Alpine Country Club

63-18
ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Guglielmi moved, seconded by Dr. Klimaj to adjourn meeting at 8:25 PM. The Committee unanimously approved the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. Guglielmi, Clerk