

**SCITUATE SCHOOL COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, MAY 4, 2010
TOWN HALL CHAMBERS**

CALL TO ORDER

65-1

The Regular School Committee Meeting was called to order by Chair Umbriano at 7:00 PM.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

65-2

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

65-3

Mrs. Guglielmi moved, seconded by Mrs. Archambault, to approve the minutes of the Regular School Committee Meeting of April 6, 2010. The committee unanimously approved the motion.

CAPITAL RESERVE FUND

65-4

Mrs. Guglielmi moved, seconded by Mrs. Archambault, to approve the Capital Reserve Funds for the month of May in the amount of \$2,445.92. The Committee unanimously agreed.

Mrs. Archambault asked if this was a new capital reserve account.

Dr. Lescault replied the previous year's capital reserve account is being used and starting the new year's capital reserve fund.

Mrs. Archambault asked if the funds are created with specific purchases in mind.

Dr. Lescault stated one was created for general capital improvements and a second one as reserve as a backup on the middle school and high school project.

Mrs. Archambault inquired about the storage container.

Dr. Lescault replied it was for the middle school and high school project; the school department had to pick up some of the expenses because it appears the bond is not going to cover all of the expenses. Issues such as contaminated soil, debris, etc. which required change work orders could not have been foreseen by the building committee.

Mr. LaPlante asked who has access to the Home Depot card.

Dr. Lescault replied only Steve Gormley (Director of Building and Grounds).

**MONTHLY PAYABLES
OLD/NEW BUDGET**

65-5

Mrs. Guglielmi moved, seconded by Mrs. Archambault, to approve the Old Budget Bills for the month of May in the amount of \$135,751.73. The Committee unanimously approved the motion.

Mrs. Guglielmi moved, seconded by Mrs. Archambault, to approve the New Budget Bills for the month of May in the amount of \$320,215.15. The Committee unanimously approved the motion.

GRANT BILLS

65-6

Mrs. Guglielmi moved, seconded by Mrs. Archambault, to approve the Grant Bills for the month of May in the amount of \$128,018.84. The Committee unanimously approved the motion.

CORRESPONDENCE

65-7

1. A letter to Chair Umbriano from Marilyn DiMucco, retiring from position of Principal of North Scituate School, effective June 30, 2010.
2. A letter from Anne T. Fornaro to Dr. Lescault stating intent to retire from teaching position at Hope School, effective June 30, 2010.

65-8

1. Recommendation: Accept the resignation with regret.
2. Recommendation: Accept the resignation with regret.

Mrs. Archambault stated Ms. DiMucco has been with Scituate for approximately 11 years and Ms. Fornaro has been with Scituate almost 20 years; two big losses for Scituate.

Mr. LaPlante moved, seconded by Mrs. Archambault to accept the resignations with regret. The committee unanimously agreed.

Dr. Lescault stated Ms. DiMicco's position has been advertised and a hiring committee has been established (Drs. Lescault and Filippelli, Chair Umbriano, June Guglielmi, Denise Brierly, Karen Cappelli, Diane Scacco, Deb Salzberg and Lisa Guernon, consistent with past practice. On May 13, the committee individually will receive application packets and will rank applicants. On May 14, the committee jointly will compare rankings and identify candidates to interview. Interviews are scheduled for May 27. Background checks will be completed on May 28 with recommendation submitted to school committee on June 1 for an anticipated start date of July 1.

Mrs. Archambault asked if there were any potential internal candidates qualified for the position.

Dr. Lescault stated a few teachers have expressed interest in administrative positions; however that requires backfilling the teacher position during training/shadowing.

Dr. Filippelli stated currently there is one person certified for elementary and two for middle school and high school.

Dr. Lescault explained the interested teacher(s) need to become part of the principals' network and also must be nominated by Dr. Lescault. The teacher would retain 75% salary; however the teaching position vacated also would need to be filled. It's a large commitment.

Dr. Filippelli added the teacher also must commit (via contract) to a minimum of three (3) years in administrative position within the district.

Dr. Lescault added the state of RI is reviewing the existing model as districts simply do not have the funds to retain teacher's salary during training in addition to hiring a teacher to be in the classroom.

Mrs. Guglielmi asked how long the process takes.

Dr. Filippelli responded one full year.

Chair Umbriano asked if requirements were written through RIDE (or

principals' network).

Dr. Filippelli stated one pathway which has been most popular was shadowing where teacher is fully immersed in day-to-day tasks.

Dr. Lescault stated that is a good way to nurture district candidates.

Mrs. Archambault asked how the 75% regulation was established.

Dr. Filippelli stated the district enters into a contract with the university. Rhode Island College initially housed the program; however it has been moved to Johnson & Wales University. There is also an additional fee even with a doctorate. Johnson & Wales is now reviewing model in order to repackage this program.

Mr. LaPlante asked how the 25% is funded as well as the additional fee.

Dr. Filippelli replied Johnson & Wales funds the 25%. Dr. Filippelli added if teacher commits to three to four years, some districts waive the (tuition) fee.

Mrs. Archambault stated that is not the only way to have someone within the system become principal.

Dr. Filippelli replied the other way is to complete Master's or Doctorate in Administration and then shadow. Dr. Filippelli shadowed with Pat Ryans and was required to log in 300 hours and maintain a portfolio while performing teaching duties.

Mrs. Archambault suggested contacting Johnson & Wales regarding cost. If there is a qualified candidate interested in such a position within system, it is worth review.

65-9

REPORT OF COMMITTEE LIAISONS

BUDGET

Mrs. Archambault stated nothing to report.

CURRICULUM

Mrs. Guglielmi stated nothing to report.

FOOD SERVICES AND HEALTH/WELNNESS

Chair Umbriano stated Aramark staff within the schools has changed; picnic tables are now available which can be used for students who earn a pass to eat outside. Also the food counts in the middle school have increased drastically which Chair Umbriano credits to the purchase of a slushy machine in the middle school and a popcorn machine in the middle school and high school.

NEGOTIATIONS

Chair Umbriano stated nothing to report.

POLICY

Mrs. Guglielmi stated nothing to report.

RIASC

Mrs. Archambault asked if school committee members received document from Commissioner (sent to all school committee members and superintendents) entitled Memorandum of Understanding. Dr. Lescault will further discuss in the Superintendent's Report.

SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION SCITUATE ADVOCATES FOR EVERYONE (SAFE)

Chair Umbriano stated nothing to report.

Chair Umbriano stated Ty Sells, an alcohol and drug free comedian, gave performances in both middle and high schools.

Chair Umbriano stated the name of SAFE will change due to new state regulations. Chair Umbriano will be meeting with administrators to review procedure to procure funding for programs focusing on drugs, alcohol, and sexting. Chair Umbriano stated Lynn Blanchette (Scituate resident) brought senior college students in to the middle school to perform a skit on sexting which demonstrated how taking, forwarding, and/or possessing an inappropriate photo can lead to legal ramifications.

Chair Umbriano stated with SAFE funding, Mr. Sweet's leadership program will become the Spartan Leadership Academy. Students will be brought by bus to the community house where Ty Sells will work with these students for a full day focusing on self-esteem, etc. Mr. Sells runs a summer program entitled 'Youth to Youth' based in California, Ohio, and Bryant University. The cost is \$400 per student for four (4) days; however Scituate was able to secure services for \$1600 for one day. Mr. Sells began in Grade 8 as a Youth to Youth member.

Chair Umbriano added an exercise program was provided to teach students opportunity to exercise within short increments during the course of the school day. Due to a shortage of CD players, Chair Umbriano and Principals Sollitto and Zajac held a dodge ball tournament between teachers and students to raise funds for the purchase of new CD players. Over \$500 was raised and the event was well attended.

BUILDING COMMITTEE

Mrs. Guglielmi stated Dr. Lescault will report in the Superintendent's Report.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Mrs. Guglielmi stated nothing to report.

65-10

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. **WAGE FREEZE MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT – PARAPROFESSIONALS**

The Wage Freeze Memorandum of Agreement with the Paraprofessionals was distributed to committee members.

Background: At the April meeting Wage Freeze Memorandums of Agreement with the Scituate Teachers' Association and the Educational Support Personnel were adopted by the committee. The Paraprofessionals Association had not yet ratified their agreement. They subsequently voted not to ratify the agreement.

Recommendation: Either ratify the agreement or take no action.

Mr. LaPlante stated it is not deserving of action given the position of the paraprofessionals was adverse to the memorandum. No action required from the committee.

2. **REQUEST FOR MODIFIED TUITION PAYMENT**

Mr. and Mrs. Jacavone are requesting a modification to the tuition policy to allow tax payments as credit towards their monthly tuition payments.

Background: At the March meeting, the committee approved that the Jacavone children could remain at North Scituate School and that the family would continue to make

tuition payments that would remain uncashed. The committee also agreed to review the amount of tuition paid vs. taxes paid.

Recommendation: Take whatever action the committee deems appropriate.

Mrs. Archambault asked for a brief recap of events regarding the Jacavones request.

Mr. LaPlante stated the Jacavones have requested several extensions due to the incompleteness of their house. Mr. Jacavone is the General Contractor but there are items alleged beyond the family's control to bring the house to completion. Ultimately, what is happening as extensions continue, the family continues to make tuition payments. Up to the last extension, the checks remain uncashed. However, the question now is whether the school department should accept full tuition payments or partial payments (difference from taxes paid to date) and cash these checks or to approve another extension.

Mr. LaPlante suspects there may be the question why the family is still making payments when the money simply will be returned and it's nearing the end of the academic year. The committee also needs to discuss when tuition payments received will be returned to the family.

Mrs. Guglielmi stated with the new policy, there will not be a refund in tuition.

Mr. LaPlante stated the new policy has been adopted; however this family still is operating under the old policy. Mr. LaPlante believed the old policy was written so that refunding the tuition was at the discretion of the committee.

Dr. Lescault stated the original extension was provided by the committee because the Jacavone family believed the house would be completed by November 1. The old policy stated if family was in new house by a date agreed upon by the committee and new homeowner, the tuition would be refunded. The second extension was because the house was expected to be completed in late December or early January.

Mr. LaPlante stated the committee has given several extensions to the Jacavone family. The question before the committee is a deadline has not been established by the committee for the last requested extension. Mr. LaPlante stated the Jacavone family has the right to expect refund for the months of continuances. The committee did reserve right at the March meeting to vote on whether future tuition payments should be deposited.

Chair Umbriano asked if the committee can request tuition payment of \$1500 per child or ask for donation to the school system.

Mr. LaPlante stated the committee can attach conditions.

Mrs. Guglielmi asked if the Jacavones were paying taxes in Scituate.

Chair Umbriano replied the Jacavone family is paying 70% of assessed value. When the house is complete, the Jacavones will be taxed at 100% assessed value.

Chair Umbriano added the committee communicated to the Jacavone family

in the March meeting, this discussion would be on the agenda.

Mr. LaPlante stated the committee has accommodated this family and the children have been attending Scituate schools since the start of the academic year. Mr. LaPlante and Dr. Klimaj also built houses in Scituate with General Contractors over whom they had little control. Mr. LaPlante expressed concern that Mr. Jacavone is the GC for his house and also has employment in construction industry. Mr. LaPlante stated Mr. Jacavone did not communicate delay was due to a force majeure (or labor strike) beyond his control.

Dr. Klimaj stated it will be interesting to see what the 100% tax assessment on house should be versus what has been paid.

Mr. LaPlante stated if the Jacavone family had completed the house prior to November deadline, there would have been a pro rata increase. Based on applicable policy, can the committee move to accept the tuition payments.

Chair Umbriano stated it is not fair to have other residents paying full taxes.

Mrs. Guglielmi stated everybody that has a child in school is not paying house taxes.

Mrs. Archambault stated the homeowners are paying taxes.

Mrs. Archambault asked about the letter Mr. and Mrs. Jacavone sent to Dr. Lescault. Mr. and Mrs. Jacavone are requesting a modification to the tuition policy to allow tax payments as credit towards their monthly tuition payments.

Mr. LaPlante stated the latest request from the Jacavones is to stop making tuition payments.

Dr. Lescault stated what Mr. LaPlante suggested was for the committee to step back and think about this. The committee has allowed the children to remain in the Scituate schools for the remainder of the year but the committee needs to discuss how much money has been paid, how much has been paid in taxes and how much it costs per student in Scituate and to determine what is fair. During the March meeting, the committee agreed to continue this discussion at tonight's meeting.

Committee members expressed concern Mr. and Mrs. Jacavone were not present at the meeting.

Chair Umbriano asked if a meeting should be scheduled to further discuss this topic.

Mr. LaPlante stated this is an isolated case and there is a new policy in place starting in September.

Mrs. Archambault stated Mr. Jacavone is asking for a modification going forward (based on letter).

Mr. LaPlante stated the letter is controlling. Mr. LaPlante recalls Mr. Jacavone asking for another extension two (2) months ago. The issue raised was what the committee should do regarding tuition (March-June).

Mrs. Archambault stated information is needed to answer these questions.

Mr. LaPlante stated what has been paid was estimated around \$3000 and there are two children. The last question is how much is the tuition paid.

Dr. Lescault stated \$1200 per month per student.

Mr. LaPlante stated it is beyond the taxation separation Dr. Klimaj mentioned earlier. The fair thing to do is to have the Jacavones pay the difference and reimburse them with tuition received.

Chair Umbriano asked if those checks have been deposited.

Dr. Lescault replied no, the checks are held.

Mr. LaPlante expressed concern over staleness; most banks have a 90 or 120 day grace period.

Mr. LaPlante and Dr. Klimaj will work with the tax assessor. The concept is that the family utilized the Scituate school system as a non-resident. As a resident, the family would be paying an established amount in taxes.

Mrs. Archambault believes the committee owes fairness to other residents as residents are footing the bill.

Mrs. Guglielmi stated taxes are not equitable. Mrs. Guglielmi had six (6) children in the school system and stated her family was getting more value from the school system than someone without children. For the benefit of the (Jacavone) children, Mrs. Guglielmi believes the committee did the best thing.

Mr. LaPlante stated there are other states which have a higher tax rate for those with children. This is a case where the committee can impose some equitable result and believes the committee needs to do so.

Mrs. Archambault agrees.

Mrs. Guglielmi expressed satisfaction that the new policy was established so that this will not be an issue going forward.

Mr. LaPlante stated the new policy empowers the committee to make such decisions.

George Kuzmowycz (Esek Hopkins Road), a meeting attendee and Scituate resident, stated the school department has already collected more for two students' tuition from September through March than what would have been paid to the town in taxes. Mr. Kuzmowycz added the median tax bill in Scituate is under \$5,000.

Mr. LaPlante moved, seconded by Mrs. Archambault for Dr. Klimaj and Mr. LaPlante procure information from tax assessor and provide to committee at June meeting for decision. The committee unanimously approved motion.

65-11

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

SCIENCE ARTICULATION

On March 15th, Dr. Filippelli held a district wide science articulation meeting at the high school. Three main findings came out of that meeting. They are:

- The elementary teachers would like to look at purchasing supplemental texts and trade books to augment work with the Science kits. Dr. Filippelli has been in contact with Mia Flores from Pearson who will attend one of the meetings in order to facilitate purchasing these texts.
- Teachers would like to look at creating a district wide lab reporting process that begins in grade two.
- Dr. Filippelli wants to utilize EBEC to come in and do a gap analysis of our GSEs in Science with the teachers to help with the K-12 alignment. Dr. Filippelli has been in contact with EBEC and Dr. Filippelli will be setting up some dates soon. Dr. Filippelli held a follow up meeting on April 16th and is in the process of contracting with EBEC to help with the science articulation in grades K-8.

XCONNECTS

Dr. Filippelli spent some time at North Scituate School on March 11th with Maryann Fosnaugh, the creator of the XCONNECTS program. It was a morning training for elementary and middle school teachers on how to use some of the new features of the XCONNECTS program in math.

TITLE I AUDIT REPORT

(Committee members received copy of the final edited version of the Title I audit report received from RIDE.) This report is a result of their visit in January. RIDE had only three findings in the audit. All three findings had to do with parental involvement policies at the Title I school. Principal Jan Mowry and Dr. Filippelli have addressed these findings with RIDE and are in the process of fine tuning them in order to be in 100% compliance. It is important to note that these findings are minor in nature. The federal funding components, private school consultations, homeless policies, program requirements, and monetary pieces of Title I in Scituate were all in compliance.

NCLB SCHOOL AND DISTRICT CLASSIFICATIONS

The preliminary NCLB accountability classifications of Scituate have been released. Dr. Filippelli is happy to report that the elementary schools, the middle school, and the high school are all classified as meeting AYP (Average Yearly Progress). In years past, these scores would be utilized to create classifications for schools. These classifications would include high performing with distinction, high performing, high performing and improving, etc. The state did away with these classifications a few years ago and now they only use “met” and “did not meet” AYP. (Committee members received copies of 2010 District Classification from RIDE.)

Mrs. Archambault asked if those were the only categories.

Dr. Filippelli replied yes because the way RIDE originally categorized schools high performing, etc. there was constant competition between districts. After receiving pushback from many districts, RIDE reviewed classifications.

Mrs. Guglielmi added when a school moves closer to the top, it becomes harder to improve.

Dr. Filippelli stated that will be seen next year. In 2008, all Scituate schools were meeting 2011 benchmarks. It does become more difficult to increase those small percentages.

REPORT CARD COMMITTEE

Dr. Filippelli is in the process of establishing a district committee to look at making some adjustments to the current report card system at the elementary level. Dr. Filippelli was able to meet with all of the stakeholders separately to glean valuable input before moving ahead with a full committee. It is Dr. Filippelli's hope to have some drafts for the committee to review before the end of the summer. Thus far, Dr. Filippelli has met with administrators, teachers, and parents regarding the current report cards.

Chair Umbriano asked if students will be able to attend a grade of "4" which is the highest ranking. Chair Umbriano explained two of children never received such grades but when in middle school, the grades were received were "A's."

Dr. Filippelli stated that will be taken under advisement at the upcoming committee meeting.

ARRA REPORTING

As the first quarter of 2010 comes to a close, much of Dr. Filippelli's time has been consumed again with the federal and state reporting that is associated with the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. As reported in prior months, Scituate acts as the fiscal agent for the Northwest Region in regards to the IDEA Part B and IDEA Preschool grants. Dr. Filippelli had to collate all of their information for the final reports in addition to completing Scituate's own reports. Dr. Filippelli is happy to report that the state and federal reports have been successfully completed and uploaded to RIDE and to federalreporting.gov.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

On April 13th, Dr. Filippelli met with the Strategic Planning Committee to complete the strategic plan for the district. Participants included: Jean Angell, Ruth Trainor, June Guglielmi, Paul Lescault, John Magner, Jan Mowry, Diane Scacco, Principal Sollitto, and Principal Zajac. (Committee members received copies of the 2010-2011 Strategic Plan.)

Mrs. Guglielmi stated writing the strategic plan several years ago was a lengthy process; however over the last few years it has taken the committee less time.

MULTI – YEAR NECAP ANALYSIS

Committee members received copies of the multi-year NECAP analysis requested by the committee at the February meeting. The analysis indicates that scores have increased and/or remained stable from 2006-2009 with some pockets of decreases and increases along the way. The two large double digit decreases in grade 8 in 2007 were made up in 2008 and have increased from there. Dr. Filippelli surmises it was a cohort issue with the students. Dr. Filippelli stated Scituate all should look with pride at the overall success of the scores.

Mrs. Archambault asked if there was access to results from other districts.

Dr. Filippelli replied the committee does have access to those results; however RIDE provides results for approximately two (2) years and then the information is removed from the RIDE website. To obtain results from each district, Dr. Filippelli would need to access each district and request the information.

Mrs. Archambault stated there is still a high percentage at below proficiency. Although it has improved, there are still 20% below proficient 11th grade reading.

Dr. Filippelli stated that negative number is actually a gain of 6% (from 26% to 20%) because those below proficiency have moved to partially proficient

and/or proficient status.

Mrs. Archambault acknowledged the work of the teachers and staff and asked how there can still be a below proficiency percentage.

Mr. LaPlante asked about the increase in those who are below proficiency from middle school then to high school the increase becomes more drastic. Is the testing more rigorous at this level or perhaps teaching at different levels

Dr. Filippelli replied no. Principal Sollitto used the professional development days for the staff to review results against curriculum to see what is missing.

Dr. Lescault stated all are working on reviewing data to determine why.

Dr. Klimaj asked how Scituate compares to similar districts.

Dr. Filippelli stated North Smithfield, Lincoln and Narragansett share similar results as all also have similar demographics.

Mr. LaPlante stated the real question is to determine whether this is a state-wide testing issue versus a Scituate issue. If there is a similar cohort drop-off then the testing is probably working. If there isn't a cohort drop-off in other districts, then it is probably a Scituate issue.

Dr. Lescault stated there are many variables to be considered.

Mr. LaPlante added this is an important issue and the committee does see the positive in these results as well.

Dr. Filippelli stated the desire is to obtain a negative number in below proficiency and partial proficiency because it demonstrates the students in a positive direction toward proficiency.

Dr. Lescault stated if the Race to the Top is approved, the big piece will be data warehousing which will provide teachers and staff access to information to determine what is and what is not working. It is an important question.

Mr. LaPlante added the NECAP test is also called into question.

Dr. Lescault stated Scituate's scores continue to rise and are higher than the state average.

MONTHLY ACTIVITIES

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

Mrs. Archambault asked which courses Dr. Filippelli will be teaching at Johnson & Wales this trimester.

Dr. Filippelli replied Ethics.

65-12 SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

NEASC

Great news! On March 28 the New England Association of Schools and Colleges voted unanimously to remove Scituate High School from probation and restore full accreditation (Committee members received copies of notification).

NOVANET

Scituate is in the process of purchasing the NovaNet program for Scituate High School. A combination of special education grant funds and Medicaid reimbursement funds are being used. NovaNet is a web-based virtual program that offers coursework to students in multiple areas. It will initially be used to support and ramp up the Credit Recovery program. Eventually Principal Sollitto plans to use the program to address a myriad of student needs. (Committee members received copies of Principal Sollitto's letter which outlines some of those possibilities requesting Dr. Lescault's consideration of the program.)

Mrs. Archambault asked if after the two (2) years, there will be funds to continue.

Dr. Lescault replied this is a one-time cost. After the two (2) years, Scituate will be paying for each station (approximately \$500) at approximate cost of \$6,000 per year.

Dr. Filippelli described it as twelve portals which would allow many students to access a portal simultaneously.

Mrs. Guglielmi asked if there were an estimate of the number of students doing this now.

Dr. Lescault replied approximately 12-14.

Mrs. Guglielmi asked if this was used for the Credit Recovery Program.

Dr. Lescault replied no, this was not available.

Chair Umbriano asked if this was similar to the Virtual University which cost approximately \$400 per student per course.

Dr. Filippelli stated the program is similar but NovaNet is better.

Chair Umbriano asked if there was a fee required to obtain access (students).

Dr. Lescault replied there is no cost to the student. It can be used as much or as little as desired. There will be a databank of questions which can be used as well as assessments.

Mr. LaPlante asked if there was an application other than the ten described.

Dr. Lescault replied yes.

Dr. Filippelli stated the representative from NovaNet was a retired principal who piloted this program which continues to grow.

Dr. Lescault stated a detailed description of the program was included in the committee's packet. Dr. Lescault added this program does not take the place of teachers. Training is also included in the cost.

Dr. Filippelli stated Scituate is getting in on the ground floor which is web-based and brand new which allowed Scituate to obtain a better price.

Dr. Lescault stated Mark DiLuglio (Technology Specialist) is working on the technological requirements to ensure Scituate has capability to run program.

Chair Umbriano added it is a different avenue for the students to learn.

MUSIC ADVISOR STIPEND

Dr. Lescault, administrators, and Chair Umbriano met with the music department chair and Jason Rivard, as agreed to last fall, to discuss the stipend for the Music Advisor Band (Assistant Band Director). An agreement is trying to be reached to avoid a repeat of the problem faced in September 2009 when no member of the music department was willing to assume the position because of the amount of the stipend associated with it (\$480).

Chair Umbriano stated the committee learned that the band is no longer going to Florida and chorus did not go to Six Flags. Currently, there are more day trips.

Mrs. Archambault stated it is a lot of responsibility for this position.

Chair Umbriano stated the day trips are better for the Advisor as the Advisor would be getting paid regular salary during the day and then receiving part of the stipend for the time after school versus working school vacation to bring students to Florida. Also, Six Flags costs \$75 per student. All topics were discussed with the new Advisor including the lack of chaperones.

Dr. Lescault stated all would like to see a Florida trip or overnight trip reinstated in the future as it is a highlight of the student's high school experience. Dr. Lescault stated it is also a good incentive for the students. Issues such as liability and lack of insurance have been resolved.

Chair Umbriano stated the enrollment in both chorus and band has remained the same (even with offering day trips only).

Mrs. Archambault stated the communication with all parties appears to have been the key.

Chair Umbriano stated when the committee met with the department heads earlier in the year, the music department was not available, so it was important to schedule time to provide same opportunity to them.

Mrs. Archambault believes the \$480 stipend is insufficient when including all of the additional trips. Understanding the current salary freeze, Mrs. Archambault asked if it were possible to attach a stipend to the existing stipend to compensate for the added responsibility and time. If the intent is to continue with the additional trips, Mrs. Archambault believes there should be some additional compensation in some way.

Dr. Lescault agrees such trips are sometimes an incentive for students. It is also part of the expectation of a music program similar to an English teacher reading essays at the end of the day. One of the offsets for the Florida and overnight trips was that they were timed to coincide with the end of school week and beginning of school week so that a full school vacation was not eliminated for teacher. Dr. Lescault added the Advisor also receives an all expenses paid trip.

Mrs. Archambault asked if these items were pointed out during the meeting.

Dr. Lescault both he and Chair Umbriano were strong in communicating to the music department. Dr. Lescault added these trips also offer the Advisor the opportunity to see students in a different venue and build valuable relationships. Dr. Lescault welcomed opportunity to chaperone if needed.

END OF YEAR PURCHASING

As has been practice for many years, once Scituate had a fairly good idea of what the end of year fiscal situation would be, a small amount of the fund

balance was targeted to meet unmet needs throughout the district. Chair Umbriano has been instrumental in this process and can share with the committee some of the specific items purchased.

With available grant money, Chair Umbriano stated a new HP 307 SuperNatural piano was purchased for the music department which brings total to three (3) pianos. However, the SuperNatural piano includes a memory stick and USB. Two (2) risers were also purchased for chorus.

For the health department, Chair Umbriano presented Ms. Angell with three (3) wiis including a wiiFit and extra controllers.

Chair Umbriano stated Principal Zajac assisted with the purchase of several tubes which attach to a white board and computer which then shines across the white board creating a Smart Board. Also, new hubs were purchased to make the new building wireless.

Chair Umbriano stated also being researched is a large spotlight for school performances as the current lighting is not adequate. If the auditorium were updated, it may be possible to rent out facility (i.e. Swamp Meadow, All Children's Theatre) to other groups to bring in revenue.

Chair Umbriano stated the school department will also be receiving a credit card which would allow the school department to accrue points. It also decreases the need for one to purchase an item for the school department and wait for reimbursement. State law also requires a 1099 must be completed if receiving more than \$600 from school department, etc.

FLOOD

The Great Flood of 2010 impacted three of the schools. The Hope School cafeteria got some ground water and the Scituate High School roof in the gym foyer collapsed. Hardest hit was Clayville School where the seven electric supply boxes were destroyed and a storm pipe under the new parking lot failed causing a sinkhole. All schools were closed on March 31 due to flooded roads, primarily in the southern part of town. That day will likely have to be made up. Clayville School was also closed on April 1 due to the electrical problem. Dr. Lescault has asked for a waiver for that day. In the past, that waiver would have been granted automatically. Commissioner Gist, however, has intimated she opposes granting a waiver.

However, Dr. Lescault stated he became aware that afternoon that Commissioner Gist would be recommending to the Regents on May 6 the approval of the request.

Mrs. Archambault asked if any FEMA funds will be used to cover these costs.

Dr. Lescault stated an insurance claim was filed with Interlocal Trust and the electrical should be covered minus the deductible. Dr. Lescault added there wasn't much damage at Hope School other than cleaning up water which was completed by internal staff. The parking lot will be repaired by DPW through FEMA funds.

TRANSPORTATION

Drs. Lescault and Myers and Chair Umbriano met with the bus owners in April to inform them of the implications of the statewide transportation for their businesses. They discussed David D'Agostino's legal opinion about the applicability of the new law to the Scituate School District (committee members received copies of new law). Unless there is a change, there are no waiver or variance options available. Therefore, at this point, it appears the local bus companies will no longer be able to provide out of district

transportation beginning in the Fall of this year.

Dr. Klimaj asked if bus service costs more through the state, could districts could retain own bussing.

Dr. Lescault stated that is not a possibility at this point though there are some legislative things being considered and that is one of them. Even if Scituate can demonstrate it is a cost savings to district to continue with current bus providers, the state believes once all districts are up and running, it will be a cost savings throughout the state.

Mrs. Archambault asked how this will affect Scituate's bus companies.

Dr. Lescault replied if it includes only out-of-district and special education, it would be a very small percentage of business. The only person who would really be out of business would be Esther Briggs who is only providing private school transportation.

Chair Umbriano stated there is an emissions law which requires busses manufactured prior to 2007 to pay an additional \$2500 per bus.

Dr. Lescault replied the state continues to pass mandates which are expensive for business operating within the state and that will negatively Blackmore and Collins as well. Dr. Lescault stated Mr. Blackmore is feeling impact already operating business at a loss.

Dr. Klimaj asked if state or grant money was available to offset costs.

Dr. Lescault replied no; however, the school department did financially assist the bus companies when the new phones, radios, and alarms were required to be installed on buses following the December 13 2008 snowstorm.

Mr. LaPlante stated surprise smaller bus companies were not joining forces to petition the state.

Chair Umbriano asked who else attended meeting.

Dr. Lescault stated Superintendents, Assistant Superintendents, Special Education Directors and interested parties were invited to attend.

FOOD SERVICES

The School Department has finalized the agreement Mr. LaPlante negotiated with Aramark regarding last year's food service program deficit. Dr. Lescault is also pleased to report that the program has been operating in the black for several months. The goal of ending the year in a breakeven position now looks attainable.

WELLNESS PROGRAM

The Business Managers from the West Bay Health (WBH) Wellness Program Pilot districts and Dr. Lescault met with representatives at the Wellness Institute to discuss the proposed program. Based on the information received, WBH has forwarded a grant application to the Rhode Island Foundation. The Executive Director of WBH believes RIF will fund the grant. If that occurs, an extensive wellness program will be available to school department employees beginning in the Fall.

BID THRESHOLD LIMITS

Dr. Lescault and Chair Umbriano believe the time has come to adjust the district's policy #3060 on purchasing guidelines (committee members received copies of guidelines). Specifically, the bid threshold limits of \$3,000 should be adjusted to reflect the state limits of \$5,000 for Goods, Services and Information Technology, \$10,000 for Construction and \$20,000

for Architects, Engineers and Consultants (committee members received copies of such). Therefore, Dr. Lescault and Chair Umbriano are recommending that under New Business the committee approve a first reading of an amended policy #3060 (committee members received copies of policy).

Chair Umbriano added Ms. Dias from RIDE stated Scituate could increase to the limits mentioned as the state was at the same threshold. Chair Umbriano stated a formal bidding process is still required but this makes the overall process much easier.

Mrs. Archambault asked if there was a written policy where this new policy is reviewed every so many years.

Chair Umbriano stated the committee should be reviewing existing policies periodically unless a specific topic arises sooner.

Dr. Lescault stated establishing thresholds is good business practice because this requires staff to follow purchasing procedure and to avoid corruption (in general). Deals are sometimes made based on relationships or referrals so unless several bids are available to review, it is difficult to know which company may provide the best deal.

Mrs. Archambault stated as times change and items become more expensive, it becomes counterproductive because the bids are so low.

Dr. Lescault stated since the committee is comfortable with the state limits, to reflect the increased numbers. The committee could adjust the policy any time the state numbers change.

EMPLOYEE WAGE AND BENEFIT STATEMENTS

Dr. Lescault needs some direction from the committee on the Employee Wage and Benefit Statements that were provided to employees and the committee during the prior two years. The late school committee chair Marcure felt the cost of preparing the statements outweighed the benefits of providing them. Consequently, after informally discussing the issue with a couple of members of the committee, Dr. Lescault was directed to terminate the issuance of them. Chair Umbriano asked that the topic be raised in Dr. Lescault's report for committee discussion.

Mr. LaPlante stated it may be necessary in a contract year but perhaps not every year.

Mrs. Archambault believes these statements are always helpful.

Mrs. Guglielmi agreed it is valuable information when negotiating contracts. For example, teachers would be run every three years. As contracts for the various unions expire in alternating years, the statements could be run at different times which would help reduce the cost.

Mrs. Archambault stated the first year the statements were provided it was during teacher negotiations and the negotiating committee discussed possible elimination of these statements. Mrs. Archambault brought this topic to the school committee as Committee Chair which the committee then adopted; however former Chair Marcure never mentioned eliminating these statements for employees. Mrs. Archambault believed no single school committee member had authorization to negate a decision after full committee made a decision. Similar to what has happened here, in order to discontinue this practice, the discussion should have been brought to the board. Mrs.

Archambault understands former Chair Marcure was ill during term.

Mrs. Archambault added this is a tool, especially for a school committee whose main responsibilities are transparency and accountability. Mrs. Archambault stated the school department receives the lion share of town budget and the greatest expense of any business (or school) is salaries and benefits. In adopting this practice, what Mrs. Archambault was attempting to show this school committee was engaging in transparency and accountability. Mrs. Archambault stated the committee is very committed and understands the cost of running these statements (approximately \$1,000) may be excessive.

Chair Umbriano stated the school department does not own the necessary software to run these statements.

Dr. Lescault stated these reports must be run through ADP for an additional fee.

Mrs. Archambault asked why ADP does not have capability of running reports easily; it seems to be a matter of extracting.

Dr. Lescault stated ADP has capability but there would be an additional charge. Payroll is provided by ADP who could then provide to Mr. DiLuglio data in specified format to allow Mr. DiLuglio to merge data with existing school database/software to complete reports. Some information is received from ADP, some from Ms. Smith, etc. which then needs to merge and reviewed.

Mrs. Archambault feels the cost is worth it for employees to see what it actually costs an employer for salary and benefits, etc. It could be a helpful tool during negotiations but Mrs. Archambault also feels it is good practice to engage in and it is an issue of transparency and accountability and demonstrates the school committee is participating those and seems to be a small price to pay.

Mr. LaPlante asked if they are delivered to the teachers.

Mrs. Archambault believes a summary copy can be made for committee members to review if desired rather than one for each member and for administration.

Mr. LaPlante asked what the unfair labor practice allegation.

Dr. Lescault replied the allegation was communicating with members rather than through negotiating team.

Mrs. Archambault stated the allegation never went further.

Mr. LaPlante agreed the timing may be relevant and understands Mrs. Archambault's thought that this is a good tool to be used during the year.

Chair Umbriano stated during pay freeze negotiations many members stressed it was not just the pay freeze being requested by the school department but also an increase in co-pay, etc. These statements were very helpful to the negotiating team.

Mrs. Guglielmi stated the committee all agrees it is a useful tool but questions whether this will be a heavy burden for a very small department.

Chair Umbriano stated perhaps this can be run during the summer when things are a bit slower.

Dr. Lescault stated if this is something the committee wishes to do and agrees to the cost, Dr. Lescault will complete. Dr. Lescault's intent was to communicate that this requires more time and effort than simply pressing a button. Dr. Lescault agrees the full committee should have been made aware of the decision.

Mrs. Archambault stated communication is so essential and this is another form of communication and it is helpful as a board.

Mr. LaPlante would like to draft a cover letter to accompany statement to explain why this is being sent.

Dr. Lescault replied a cover letter is submitted along with statement.

Dr. Lescault asked when the committee would like to have statements produced.

The committee asked Dr. Lescault to discuss with Mr. DiLuglio what time works best for the school department.

Dr. Klimaj began this practice in own business and stated it has become a valuable tool. Dr. Klimaj asked if this would be completed for all employees (versus only teachers).

Dr. Lescault replied it would be done for everyone.

Mrs. Archambault stated it needs to be across the board.

Chair Umbriano stated it is important this is completed each year and not only at time of negotiations.

Mrs. Archambault stated this is important also to ensure topics such as this are brought back to the committee for discussion due to open meetings law. This fell off the radar which is unfair to all committee members.

Dr. Lescault fully agreed.

STATE AID

State aid for the balance of this year and next year remains an unknown at this time. If the House version of the supplemental budget had been approved by the Senate, Scituate aid for April – June, would have decreased by about \$100,000.

RACE TO THE TOP

Dr. Lescault stated the state's first application was denied; however a decision on the second application will be determined in June. Dr. Lescault still feels RI is still in the running for Race to the Top and unless there is objection from the committee, Dr. Lescault and Chair Umbriano will sign and submit the second application.

Dr. Klimaj asked if the second round would result in less money than first round.

Dr. Lescault replied the second round is approximately \$75 million versus \$40 million.

Dr. Filippelli stated the first round which Scituate was denied was

approximately \$44,300 per year for four (4) years.

Dr. Lescault stated this provides full access to infrastructures the state is putting into place which includes professional development. The state will receive \$35 million of the \$75 million and will bring in professional developers from all over the country and make that available to each district willing to participate. Dr. Lescault added Scituate staff will be trained for free in setting up data, data networks, reporting, etc.

Mrs. Archambault asked if this is something the school committee, superintendent and STA president are being asked to sign.

Dr. Lescault replied yes. At this point, STA still hasn't signed; however the second round application now includes in Item 10 language which addresses many of the concerns STA had.

At this time, Dr. Lescault read Item 10 from the application.

Dr. Lescault stated this document now states it doesn't matter that the new evaluation is going to be required; it still needs to be determined how this will work. If teachers will be required to attend professional development, it still needs to be determined how will teachers be paid, how much, etc. Dr. Lescault is hopeful that once NEA realizes that language is included, all will come together. The application deadline is May 13.

Chair Umbriano asked if the application is not signed and is awarded anyway doesn't Scituate need to comply anyway.

Dr. Lescault replied yes. Dr. Lescault stated Scituate needs to remain in loop and take advantage of cutting edge technology within RI or rapidly fall behind.

AIR QUALITY AT MIDDLE SCHOOL

Dr. Lescault stated staff and students in the middle school reported an odor upon returning to school last Monday. Upon inspection by air quality expert, it was determined that the building was closed for the humid weekend and a (harmless) gas was emitted from the ceiling tiles which produces an odor. All of the required testing was completed and it was determined there are no health issues and the recommendation was to open windows and to keep ventilation system running. A final report of findings will be submitted to Dr. Lescault in a few weeks.

CLAYVILLE REDISTRICTING

Dr. Lescault stated each year redistricting in sometimes required to equalize class sizes within elementary schools. Based on a memo from Dr. Myers, several students scheduled to attend Clayville School will need to be redistricted. Drs. Lescault and/or Myers will meet with each of the parents affected to explain reason for redistricting.

Mrs. Archambault asked if these students were Kindergarteners.

Dr. Lescault replied yes, the students affected are Kindergarteners though none with siblings within Clayville.

Chair Umbriano asked if some of those children from Kindergarten who were redistricted have the opportunity to return to Clayville if desired.

Dr. Lescault stated it could be reviewed on an annual basis but that typically does not occur.

Mrs. Archambault asked which school the students will attend instead.

Dr. Lescault replied Hope School although three (3) students have requested North Scituate School and those requests will be honored. Currently, North Scituate has 37, Hope has 29 and Clayville has 26 so the logical place would be Hope School as well as transportation to Hope overlaps with some of the Clayville district.

VACATION

Dr. Lescault will be on vacation out of state from May 19 to May 25; however, will be available by cell phone and email.

MONTHLY ACTIVITIES

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

65-13

PUBLIC COMMENTS

George Kuzmowycz Esek Hopkins Road

Regarding the purchasing policy, Mr. Kuzmowycz asked about the rationale for the thresholds for goods and services versus consulting services. From Mr. Kuzmowycz's perspective of bidding and purchasing, it seems backwards to have the lowest bid threshold for goods and services which are most objectively quantifiable and the highest threshold for consulting services which are least objectively quantifiable and have the most room for differences of opinion. Mr. Kuzmowycz can't understand why it is \$5,000 for one and \$20,000 for the other. Mr. Kuzmowycz would have reversed the two.

Dr. Lescault stated the school department is mirroring state threshold requirements.

Mr. Kuzmowycz asked if the school department was required to mirror the state.

Dr. Lescault replied no but this was recommended by the Chief Operating Officer of RIDE.

Referring to the music trips, Mr. Kuzmowycz wished to echo some of the comments made earlier. Having had three (3) children within the Scituate school system active in music throughout high school, Mr. Kuzmowycz stated the motivational factor really drove the music program during those years. Logistically, it can be difficult; however there is a great deal of value outside of the obvious in those types of trips and hopes that over time, those issues can be worked out because while not every student becomes a band geek, for some it is their life in high school. Many students rise to their best behavior to take advantage of this type of opportunity and Mr. Kuzmowycz hopes Scituate takes advantage of this.

Regarding NovaNet, Mr. Kuzmowycz asked about outsourcing responsibilities to a profit-making entity such as Pearson; Pearson is in the business of making money for its stockholders and the school is in the business of serving the children within the community.

Dr. Lescault stated many publishing companies are also profit-making companies but NovaNet is a resource that provides benefit to the students so if this is something which can be used to assist these students in becoming proficient when they may not otherwise do so, it makes sense.

Mr. Kuzmowycz said this is different than buying a textbook.

Dr. Lescault does not see it that way; it is another tool or resource to provide

to the students to become successful.

Dr. Filippelli stated one of the biggest pushes with RIDE is multiple pathways so what needs to be considered are students who may benefit from a program that may not be traditional. This offers an alternative pathway to those students who may have a health/medical reason or academic reason or whatever the issue may be for not attending class. This was another area which factored into the decision as well.

Dr. Klimaj asked who will be guiding the students.

Dr. Filippelli stated Principal Sollitto is selecting a team of teachers who will be trained during the summer and the program will be implemented in September.

Chair Umbriano asked if this should be a mandate eventually (from RIDE).

Dr. Filippelli replied most likely because RIDE is moving in the direction of virtual learning.

Chair Umbriano stated two years the committee looked at a similar program which was approximately \$400 per student per course. This company does not charge students a fee for access.

Mr. Kuzmowycz is thinking long-term picture and where Scituate is on spectrum of outsourcing everything to a Pearson, etc. or have public education a profit-making enterprise which Mr. Kuzmowycz does not believe it should be. They're not in the business of serving the kids of Scituate but are in the business of serving Pearson's stockholders. Mr. Kuzmowycz doesn't see it as buying another textbook or buying additional software.

Several years ago Mr. Kuzmowycz stated concern over poor proficiency regarding NECAP results. The answers provided at that time included redesigning curriculum among others and here it is six years later and it seems no one is any closer to answering that question now and that is not encouraging.

Mrs. Archambault can't understand why there is still a small percentage below proficiency especially after all the hard work of the staff and teachers.

Mr. Kuzmowycz doesn't believe in unanswerable questions and doesn't believe things have fundamentally changed in terms of high school students.

Dr. Filippelli stated that students are not widgets on an assembly line; they are human beings and human beings change from year to year. Some years there may be a cohort of kids who knock it out of the park and some years there could be a cohort of kids who don't. At high school, only Grade 11 is being reviewed whereas at the elementary level, grades 3-8 are being reviewed. Dr. Filippelli stated students may perform low on Earth Science in the Science NECAP because the last time those students had the subject was in 7th grade. Curriculum-wide, these items need to be addressed. The high school structure of science classes does not address Earth Science at all, rather Biology, Chemistry, etc. Dr. Filippelli surmises there to be some disconnect between curriculum and what is being tested.

Colleen Warburton Tunk Hill Road

Regarding NovaNet, Ms. Warburton stated students are more apt to go to a computer to learn because they do not wish to be embarrassed in front of their

class if they do not understand a concept. There is a reading program at the elementary level which students can access at home and the students cannot wait to get online and work on the program.

Chair Umbriano stated there is a similar program in Spanish in the high school where students can take quizzes online and also has an online language lab.

Ms. Warburton stated many teachers have sent passwords home to allow parents to access programs from home especially over the summer. It is unbelievable how the reading scores have increased not to mention it is also fun for the students.

65-14
NEW BUSINESS

1. **FIRST READING – AMENDED PURCHASING POLICY #3060**

A copy of an Amended Purchasing Policy (#3060) is attached for the committee's review and a first reading.

Recommendation: Approve the first reading of the amended purchasing policy and schedule it for a second reading and formal adoption at the June 2010 meeting.

Mr. LaPlante moved to approve the first reading of the amended purchasing policy. Mrs. Archambault seconded the motion and the committee unanimously agreed.

2. **SECOND READING – SOCIAL NETWORKING POLICY**

The Social Networking Policy is attached for a second reading and formal adoption by the committee.

Recommendation: Approve the second reading and adopt the Social Networking Policy.

Mr. LaPlante moved to approve the second reading and adopt the social networking policy. Dr. Klimaj seconded the motion and the committee unanimously agreed.

3. **SECOND READING – MEDIA RELATIONS POLICY**

The Media Relations Policy is attached for a second reading and formal adoption by the committee.

Recommendation: Approve the second reading and adopt the Media Relations Policy.

Mr. LaPlante moved to approve the second reading and to adopt the media relations policy. Dr. Klimaj seconded the motion and the committee unanimously agreed.

4. **DISPOSITION OF UNUSABLE EQUIPMENT**

Attached are requests from Principal Cappelli, Principal Mowry, Principal Zajac and Director Magner asking for the disposition of various pieces of broken/unusable school/office equipment.

Recommendation: Approve the disposition of the broken/unusable school/office equipment according to established school department



policy.

Mr. LaPlante moved to approve the disposition of the broken/unusable school/office equipment according to school department policy. Mrs. Archambault seconded the motion and the committee unanimously agreed

5. **ADOPT RESOLUTIONS OPPOSING 2010 S2603 AND H7581**
Draft resolutions in opposition of 2010 S2603 (requiring that expired contracts continue under the same terms and conditions) and H7581 (requiring mandatory binding arbitration for school employee contracts) are attached for committee review.

Background: The Rhode Island Association of School Committees has asked all school committees to adopt the attached resolutions.

Recommendation: Take whatever action the committee deems appropriate.

Mr. LaPlante moved to approve adopt resolutions opposing 2010 S2603 and H7581. Mrs. Archambault seconded the motion and the committee unanimously agreed

65-15
RESIGNATIONS/APPOINTMENTS/TRANSFERS

Dr. Lescault recommended approval for the following resignation: Donna M. Pennacchia, Senior Project Coordinator, effective the last day of the 2009-2010 school year; William J. Bryant, Head Hockey Coach, effective immediately.

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

Mrs. Archambault asked if Ms. Penanacchia recently became senior project coordinator.

Dr. Lescault stated Ms. Pennacchia became Department Chair and will not be performing both jobs.

65-16
COMMITTEE REMARKS

MRS. GUGLIELMI

Mrs. Guglielmi stated nothing to report.

CHAIR UMBRIANO

Chair Umbriano stated everything is running smoothly regarding code of conduct which resulted from Life of an Athlete program.

On May 19, Scituate Preservation Society is offering a free presentation at 7 pm at the Grange by the Providence Grays Baseball Team. Hotdogs and refreshments will be available.

MRS. ARCHAMBAULT

Mrs. Archambault stated nothing to report.

BRIAN LAPLANTE

Mr. LaPlante stated nothing to report.

SCOTT KILMAJ

Dr. Klimaj stated nothing to report.

65-17

DISCUSSION OF FUTURE BUSINESS

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

65-18

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. LaPlante moved, seconded by Mrs. Guglielmi to adjourn meeting at 9:25 PM. The Committee unanimously approved the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. Guglielmi, Clerk