

**SCITUATE SCHOOL COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 5 2010
MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL SCHOOL**

CALL TO ORDER

72-1

The Regular School Committee Meeting was called to order by Chair Umbriano at 6:00 PM.

The committee was scheduled to adjourn into Executive Session RIGL 42-46-5(a)(8)(ii); however the session was cancelled.

The committee reconvened to Regular School Committee meeting at 6:45 PM.

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

Not present was Brian LaPlante.

**TOUR OF
MIDDLE/HIGH
SCHOOL**

72-2

Principals Zajac and Sollitto, Assistant Principal Sweet, and Steve Gormley, Director of Buildings and Grounds provided tour of the Middle/High School which included overview of recent improvements as well as deficiencies which should be addressed during the next budget cycle.

**PLEDGE OF
ALLEGIANCE**

72-3

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

**APPROVAL OF
MINUTES**

72-4

Mrs. Guglielmi moved, seconded by Dr. Klimaj, to approve the minutes of the Regular School Committee Meeting of September 7, 2010. The committee unanimously approved the motion.

**CAPITAL RESERVE
FUND**

72-5

Mrs. Guglielmi moved, seconded by Dr. Klimaj, to approve the Capital Reserve Funds-Middle School/High School for the month of October in the amount of \$3,826.85. The Committee unanimously agreed.

Mrs. Guglielmi moved, seconded by Dr. Klimaj, to approve the Capital Reserve -North Scituate School for the month of October in the amount of \$3,541.72. The Committee unanimously agreed.

Mrs. Guglielmi moved, seconded by Dr. Klimaj, to approve the Capital Reserve for the month of October in the amount of \$8,989.99. The Committee unanimously agreed.

NEW BUDGET BILLS

72-6

Mrs. Guglielmi moved, seconded by Dr. Klimaj, to approve the New Budget Bills for the month of October in the amount of \$327,135.34. The Committee unanimously approved the motion.

GRANT BILLS

72-7

Mrs. Guglielmi moved, seconded by Dr. Klimaj, to approve the Grant Bills for the month of October in the amount of \$33,306.83. The Committee unanimously approved the motion.

**RECOGNITION OF
SCITUATE TEACHER
OF THE YEAR**

72-8

At this time Dr. Lescault recognized Shannon Donovan, Scituate Teacher of the Year and also showed the ongoing Teacher of the Year plaque to which Ms. Donovan's name has been added.

Ruth Trainor, STA President, read a commendation letter and presented it to Ms. Donovan.

Chair Umbriano also presented Ms. Donovan with a plaque which was given jointly by the Scituate Teachers' Association and the Scituate School Committee.

Ms. Donovan thanked administrators, teachers and department chair for the opportunity to be creative in the classroom and to have received such outpouring of support in way of resources and expertise from the community as well. Ms. Donovan added the students have really gotten a lot out of these experiences/lessons.

At 7:07 PM, the meeting adjourned for refreshments.

Chair Umbriano reconvened the meeting at 7:20 PM.

CORRESPONDENCE

72-9

1. An email to Dr. Lescault from Tom and Sandy Bartlett informing him that they will be home schooling their daughter, Faith, for her kindergarten year.
2. A letter to Dr. Filippelli from Stephen and Ellen Hutchins informing him that they will be home schooling their children for the 2010-2011 school year.

Recommendation for Correspondence 1-2:

Approve the requests according to RIDE regulations and established school department guidelines.

Mrs. Archambault moved, seconded by Dr. Klimaj to approve the requests according to RIDE regulations and established school department guidelines.

72-10

REPORT OF COMMITTEE LIAISONS

BUDGET

Mr. LaPlante was not in attendance.

CURRICULUM

Mrs. Guglielmi stated nothing to report.

FOOD SERVICES AND HEALTH/WELNNESS

Chair Umbriano, Principal Cappelli, and Dr. Filippelli attended the Coalition for Healthy Kids Breakfast on February 22. Chair Umbriano stated the Central Falls district won award last year for achievements in health and wellness; Principal Cappelli will be submitting requirements to put Scituate in the running for award next year.

Chair Umbriano stated parents are now able to add money to child's food account online. Parents can also go onto child's account to see if child is purchasing a full meal or a la carte items. Next year, however, each item purchased will be available for parents to view which will be especially helpful for children with dietary restrictions. This additional component does not cost Scituate any money.

NEGOTIATIONS

Chair Umbriano stated nothing to report.

POLICY

Mrs. Guglielmi stated nothing to report.

RIASC

Mrs. Archambault attended the September 25 presentation at RIC where approximately 23 districts were represented. Gary Sasse was main speaker who discussed the state of the economy. Mr. Sasse stated things are improving and noted 33 states have reduced state aid. Regarding (RI) state budget, two thirds of the budget has structural issues and one third has cyclical issues which improve when the economy recovers however the structural will not and that is where improvement is required. Mr. Sasse also provided the following suggestions to school committees: to think as a regent; fiscal help from states to attract business; government should be more positive and taxes should be more predictable; education should build links to workplace; and lastly, to think about the environment.



Mr. Sasse added the stumbling blocks for education will be health care and pension costs.

Mrs. Archambault also provided information on Buy Board which allows school departments to purchase things collaboratively (nationally). Mrs. Archambault stated this provides option to obtain a quote for various equipment and supplies.

Mrs. Guglielmi asked if there was a fee involved.

Mrs. Archambault replied no, but this may be an option in the future.

Dr. Lescault stated all supplies currently are purchased collaboratively through the state bid list so all schools involved receive same rate. However, any other resource is certainly worth reviewing.

Mrs. Archambault stated another possibility is to obtain quote and determine if there is a local vendor and negotiate a better price with local vendor.

Mrs. Archambault stated School Committee 101 will now be held on November 13 and attendance will fulfill six hour mandatory professional development. Superintendents and Assistant Superintendents were also invited to attend.

**SAFETY AND
TRANSPORTATION**

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

**SCITUATE ADVOCATES
FOR EVERYONE (SAFE)**

Chair Umbriano stated the SAFE name has changed to Scituate Prevention Coalition. The name change was required to submit new application to receive \$21,000 to continue to run programs for the Scituate community.

Chair Umbriano stated on October 29 there will be a parade in town starting at 4 PM which is sponsored by SPC.

Chair Umbriano stated SADD has 23 students participating this year and the group has selected as their victim of the year, Kathy O'Toole, mom of six who was on her way home from work when she was killed by a drunk driver on Route 12. The O'Toole children are active in sports activities within the town attend Ponagansett High School. Although a sad event for many, it allows children and community to learn from the tragedy.

BUILDING COMMITTEE

Mrs. Guglielmi stated the building committee will be meeting on Thursday. Mrs. Guglielmi traffic is one way around building which provides an opportunity to look at the new building. The building committee will be meeting also to discuss the dedication.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Mrs. Guglielmi stated nothing to report.

**UNFINISHED
BUSINESS**

72-11

There is no unfinished business for the month of October.

72-12

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

**CURRICULUM
ARTICULATION**

Scituate is continuing this year with some major initiatives towards increasing curriculum articulation in grades 6-12. The work began last year in Science is continuing by contracting with the East Bay Educational Collaborative. Scituate is starting to look at Math articulation across the district by contracting with The Highlander Dunn Institute. The work in the areas of Math and Science will include full-year, imbedded professional development for teachers. Dr. Filippelli praised the district writing committee for the work they have done around K-12 writing articulation for our district. The results of their work is extensive and they will be sharing that work as well as doing some grade level exercises with our teachers on October

8th.

SCIENCE NECAP TEST SCORES

Dr. Filippelli received the district's Science NECAP scores on 9/17/2010. The results were embargoed until 9/28/2010. (Committee members received copies of the scores from the Science NECAP assessments that were taken in May 2010.) The results of this round of testing were quite impressive across the district. Double digit increases in the amount of students performing at proficient levels were seen in four out of the five schools. Hope lead the way with a whopping 20% increase in proficiency, followed by North Scituate with a 17% increase, the high school with an 11% increase, and the middle school with a 5% increase. At first glance, it would appear that Clayville went down in proficiency by 7 percent. However, it is extremely important to note that when analyzing the data, Clayville only went down by 2% at the proficient level because Clayville was the only school to have a substantial increase in students going from proficient (Level 3) to proficient with distinction (Level 4). That means students are moving instructionally into a very tough realm of proficiency. Clayville was able to move the Level 4 (proficient with distinction) from 0% in 2009 to 5% in 2010.

Dr. Filippelli stated it is equally important to note that Scituate is scoring much higher than the state averages on Science NECAP tests in every school. Naturally, this translates to district success as well. The following are the results from a district perspective:

- At Level 4 (proficient with distinction) the state is scoring at 1%, with Scituate scoring at 2%.
- At Level 3 (proficient), the state is scoring at 43% and Scituate is scoring at 67%.
- At Level 2 (partially proficient) the state is scoring at 36% and Scituate is scoring at 25%.
- At Level 1 (substantially below proficient), the state is scoring at 20% and Scituate is scoring at 6%.

In the Level 2 and Level 1 realm, it is very important to note that Scituate WANTS to be lower than the state numbers here because those are the two areas that are the lowest in proficiency. Scituate wants to continuously be moving students out of the Level 1 and 2 areas and into Levels 3 and 4. By analyzing the percentages, it is clear Scituate is moving in that direction. Dr. Filippelli believes that the first and most important reason this is happening is the quality instruction from excellent teachers. Additionally, Scituate did some district work which Dr. Filippelli initiated in the second semester last year around aligning the Science curriculum and doing a K-8 grade gap analysis of the current curriculum as compared to the NECAP questions strands. The result of that work indicated the need for supplemental, non-fiction texts, and changing the timeline of some of the KITES kits. That work is continuing this year as well so Dr. Filippelli is hopeful that the work will translate into even higher scores across the district. Finally, the quality of the students and the support received at home cannot be negated either. Scituate has good students, supportive parents, high quality educators, and a thorough district vision-wide of where the school department wants to move students instructionally.

Mrs. Archambault asked how alignment is determined.

Dr. Filippelli replied the NECAPS tests the GLEs being taught. The gap analysis in NECAP provides data trends as they relate to the GLEs. If many students are missing questions 4, for example, the teachers are able to align curriculum working backwards to identify why so many students are missing that particular question.

Mrs. Archambault asked if this was also part of Race to the Top.

Dr. Filippelli replied yes. The state retains half of the funding received through RTTT and what the state hopes to do is create a data dashboard (to become model of the country) where one can drill down by question and by student. It will allow for faster receipt of information.

Dr. Filippelli added Chair Umbriano, Ruth Trainor as well as himself and Lescault will be attending a meeting at RIDE to discuss the RTTT.

Mrs. Archambault believed there were additional monies received recently where teachers recently laid off could be rehired.

Dr. Lescault stated \$133,000 was received in education jobs money; however Scituate was informed of the allocation just yesterday and needs to apply for the money. The question is whether the governor will allocate those funds to replace the state aid money. Drs. Filippelli and Lescault began working on the application today.

Mrs. Archambault believed part of the money was for data and the other part for rehiring teachers.

Dr. Lescault stated this is primarily replacing state aid; Scituate lost approximately \$700,000 in state aid. Dr. Lescault stated is gradually being backfilled with ARRA funds, jobs education money, etc.

Mrs. Guglielmi asked if that was for one year only.

Dr. Filippelli replied yes.

**ARRA AND STIMULUS
MONEY**

Dr. Filippelli stated the September 30, 2010 jobs data reports have been uploaded to RIDE on 9/23/10. The federal reports are not due until 10/7. The reporting process was fairly easy this round because there were not a lot of hours to report due to the summer vacation. The reporting process of ARRA and SFSF funds will continue through 2012. Scituate acts as the fiscal agent for NWSER so Dr. Filippelli continues to gather all of their information prior to submitting final ARRA IDEA and ARRA preschool reports.

Dr. Lescault stated some of this can be carried over until next year.

**ASSISTANT
SUPERINTENDENT
CRITICAL FRIENDS
GROUP**

Dr. Filippelli is hoping to continue to participate in the Assistant Superintendents Critical Friends group sponsored by the Rhode Island School Superintendent's Association. They have not set the first meeting yet. Dr. Filippelli would like to thank the committee for allowing him to be part of this group of professionals as so much can be learned from sharing the best practices, successes and challenges of the job.

Dr. Lescault stated the critical friends group is time well-spent. It is a tremendous value to meet with peers; Principal Mike Sollitto is doing same with principals. It is a great opportunity to learn from each other and also not to reinvent the wheel when something is working.

Mrs. Archambault asked if this was solely for Assistant Superintendents.

Dr. Filippelli replied yes, the Superintendents have their own meeting.

Chair Umbriano feels not all Superintendents and Assistant Superintendents work as well together as Drs. Lescault and Filippelli.

Dr. Lescault stated collaboration varies in each district. There is an overlap in skills (between Drs. Filippelli and Lescault) which allows each to work on the same issues.

**MONTHLY
ACTIVITIES**

Committee members received list of the activities Dr. Filippelli has been involved in during the month of September.

**72-13
SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

SCHOOL OPENING

Dr. Lescault stated the opening of the 2010-2011 school year was among the smoothest ever. Very few transportation problems occurred. Those that did arise have been for the most part resolved. Dr. Lescault and/or Dr. Filippelli attended all of the open houses. The schools look great and everything is going very well.

**TRANSPORTATION
CONTRACT**

Drs. Lescault and Myers and Chair Umbriano have met twice with the bus owners and reached a TA on a one-year transportation agreement for 2010-2011. (Committee members received copy of agreement.) It is listed under New Business for committee consideration. It is essentially a rollover of the existing agreement, with no changes in rates. However, the formula for the calculation of the fuel escalator has been adjusted to reflect current fuel costs and usage. Drs. Lescault and Myers and Chair Umbriano think the agreement will serve Scituate well in the next year and recommend the approval of it. Mr. LaPlante has also reviewed it and given the one-year nature of it, is comfortable with it.

Mrs. Archambault asked if the plan is still for the state to take over the bus transportation.

Dr. Lescault replied yes. As other districts have complained about the takeover, Dr. Lescault stated this is something which could be a major problem next year.

Dr. Lescault stated Dr. Myers, Jenn Carnevale, Mr. Blackmore and Mr. Collins spend weeks during the summer planning bus routes to ensure the school department knows where each student is at a given time.

Chair Umbriano stated when there is a problem, administrators get in the car and drive route to address issue.

**BUDGETARY
ASSUMPTIONS 2011-
2012**

Dr. Lescault stated while it seems like Scituate has barely begun the current fiscal year, the development of a proposed budget for the 2011-2012 school year must begin. To do that, the committee needs to agree on budgetary assumptions. Dr. Lescault assumes the best that can be expected on the revenue and the expenditure side is level funding and level spending. Both assumptions may be overly optimistic given the large state aid reductions during the past year and the projected increase in the state pension rate for the next year. It is also unlikely that collective bargaining groups will agree to no increases for the third consecutive year.

Dr. Lescault stated Mrs. Archambault mentioned earlier the two biggest issues facing the school department are healthcare and pension costs. However, Scituate has had a good healthcare experience but pension rate is going to increase by 18% next year. Pension costs are \$2 million in the budget which will become \$2.36 million with increase. Salary freezes have also been in effect in town for two years. The question is whether salary increases will need to be included in budget or will a salary freeze be in effect for another year.

Mrs. Archambault stated there is level funding in most areas but pensions can't be level funded but perhaps health care could be level funded. Is the mean available for teachers at this point?

Dr. Lescault replied as of August 15, 1.12% is mean.

Mrs. Archambault asked that the increase be included in first draft of budget. Mrs. Archambault asked if Town Council has said anything regarding budget as of yet.

Dr. Lescault replied no.

Mrs. Archambault asked if the budget needs to include the increases which did not occur during the pay freeze as well.

Dr. Lescault stated increases do need to be made up; however the only increase which occurred during that period is the 1% because so many have taken pay freezes or pay cuts.

**DISPOSAL OF
EQUIPMENT**

Per school committee authority granted to Dr. Lescault, Dr. Lescault has approved the disposal of broken/not working equipment. (Committee members received list of disposed items.)

**MONTHLY
ACTIVITIES**

Committee members received list of activities Dr. Lescault has been involved in during the month of September.

Mrs. Archambault appreciated Drs. Lescault and Filippelli for attending the open houses.

Mrs. Archambault asked about the meeting with STA regarding health benefit.

Dr. Lescault replied there will additional discussion with the committee on that topic.

**BUILDINGS AND
GROUNDS**

Committee members received list of activities Steve Gormley and Jay Gasior worked on for the month of September.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

72-14

Diane Scacco 19 Crestview Drive

Referring to Dr. Lescault's report on opening day of school, Ms. Scacco thanked Principal Zajac and Assistant Principal Sweet for offering a wonderful middle school experience. Parents are calling saying the students are so happy and enthusiastic. Ms. Scacco also thanked them for the parent meeting held on October 4 as well as for providing Ms. Scacco the opportunity to bridge the middle school and high school PTOs.

Chair Umbriano asked what the new name of the PTO groups will be.

Ms. Scacco stated SPARTA (Scituate Parents Alumni Retiree Teachers).

Chair Umbriano believes bridging the gap between the two is a great idea.

Ruth Trainor 416 Trim Town Road

Ms. Trainor reminded Dr. Lescault the teacher co-pay for healthcare increases to 13% after the freeze and to include that in budgetary assumptions.

Dr. Lescault will do.

Diane McCall 129 Danielson Pike

Regarding the bus transportation, Ms. McCall stated she has been a bus driver for some time and stated the first day went very smoothly. Ms. McCall also praised the intercom system between the buses as well as between the buses and the school.

Ms. McCall stated several bus drivers have been encountering situations where parents have not been home to collect their children at drop off. What happens currently is the bus drivers continue route and the parents catch up to them at some point along the route to pick up their child. Ms. McCall stated it makes the bus drivers uncomfortable to make an on-the-spot decision whether to wait a few minutes while school is trying to contact parents and (at times) stopping traffic. Ms. McCall stated parents must develop a back-up plan so that someone is available to collect children at time of drop off. Not only does it put the bus drivers on the spot, it also puts the bus owners on the spot if the student(s) need to be brought back to the bus yard. Ms. McCall stated it is important that the parents not abuse the system.

Dr. Lescault will follow-up on Wednesday. Dr. Lescault asked if Ms. McCall felt the situation was worse this year.

Ms. McCall did the out-of-town runs for the last two years. Ms. McCall stated it's also important that parents realize First Student will not do that; the children will be dropped off at house regardless if parents is waiting.

Dr. Lescault stated there seems to be much more chatter on intercoms this year than in years past.

Ms. McCall stated once parents realize the children will stay on the bus; the parents seem to think it provides extra time for them to return home. One parent was not at home four times in last month.

Dr. Lescault asked if children are taken back home at completion of run.

Ms. McCall stated in that case, Ms. McCall waited until parent returned. However, waiting even just a few minutes at one stop or more delays the route and the parents who are at home waiting to collect children may have a scheduled event they need to make. The same applies at pick-up in the morning. The policy is for students to be outside waiting for the bus five minutes prior to pick-up time. If, for example, there are two students out with the flu, Ms.

McCall will be at the next pick-up five minutes prior to normal pick-up time. Each stop takes approximately 1:30-2:30 minutes.

Mrs. Archambault stated it seems often that she'll see school buses waiting for children. Even when a child comes running out the door, the bus still waits for a minute or two.

Ms. McCall states the drivers do try to pull off to side of road when possible to allow traffic to pass. However, if an accident were to occur while a car is passing, the bus driver is the one charged with the accident. Ms. McCall hopes when parents have knowledge of policies and procedures, it may help them understand.

Chair Umbriano asked if the name of the parent(s) could be provided to Dr. Lescault for follow-up.

Dr. Lescault stated a letter will go out to parents first and if parents continue to abuse system, follow-up can be made directly with each parent.

Chair Umbriano stated a contract for bus rules is signed for children attending private schools. Is similar done for all schools?

Dr. Lescault replied yes, it is done for each school.

Ms. McCall added a phone call was made to one parent from the office and since that phone call, the parents has been outside each day.

NEW BUSINESS

72-15

1. RATIFY ONE YEAR EXTENSION OF TRANSPORTATION CONTRACT

See Superintendent's Report for detail on this item.

Recommendation: Approve a one year extension of the contract.

Mrs. Archambault moved, seconded by Dr. Klimaj, to approve a one year extension of the contract. The committee unanimously approved.

RESIGNATIONS/

72-16

APPOINTMENTS/

Dr. Lescault recommended the following resignations for approval:
William Bennet, Boys' Basketball Assistant Coach; John Wignot, Boys' Middle School Basketball Coach; Jaime Rodrigues, part-time (20%) Music Teacher, Scituate Middle School

REAPPOINTMENTS/

Mrs. Guglielmi moved, seconded by Mrs. Archambault to approve the resignations. The committee unanimously agreed.

TRANSFERS/NON-RENEWALS/LAYOFFS

Dr. Lescault recommended the following appointments for approval:
Linda Parente, part-time (18 hrs/wk) teacher assistant, North Scituate School (Wednesday 9:45-3:15, Thursday and Friday 8:15-3:15); Heidi Svitil, part-time (40%) Math teacher at Scituate High School (this appointment is in addition to her current position of 60%); Stacey D'Allesandro, Girl's Basketball Coach; William Bennett, Boys' Basketball Head Coach; Tara Marchant, Assistant Girls' Basketball Coach; Abby Thorp, Girls' Middle School Basketball Coach; Lynn Francazio, Middle School Cheerleading Coach; Lynn Francasio, Competitive Cheerleading Head Coach; Sharon Terceira, Competitive Cheerleading Head Coach; George Maris, Boys' Hockey Head Coach (pending receipt of BCI)

Mrs. Archambault moved, seconded by Mrs. Guglielmi to approve the appointments. The committee unanimously agreed.

72-17

COMMITTEE REMARKS

MRS. GUGLIELMI Mrs. Guglielmi several open houses and noted Clayville has already begun setting up their annual Thanksgiving presentation. Last year, approximately 400 visited.

CHAIR UMBRIANO Chair Umbriano stated the bus owners hold an annual fundraiser which is scheduled for October 23rd and tickets are \$23 pp.

MRS. ARCHAMBAULT Mrs. Archambault inquired about the mandatory athletic orientation held in September.

Principal Sollitto stated two athletes had excused absences from the presentation yet have already completed requirements to play; otherwise it was a fantastic turnout. One thing to consider going forward is to have presenter come every other year versus every year.

BRIAN LAPLANTE Mr. LaPlante was not in attendance.

SCOTT KILMAJ Dr. Klimaj congratulated the teachers for the great NECAP scores.

DISCUSSION OF **72-18**
FUTURE BUSINESS November 9 School Committee Meeting at Hope School
December 7 School Committee Meeting at North Scituate School

ADJOURNMENT **72-19**
Mrs. Archambault moved, seconded by Dr. Klimaj to adjourn meeting at 8:25. The Committee unanimously approved the motion.
Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. Guglielmi, Clerk