

**SCITUATE SCHOOL COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 3, 2012  
TOWN HALL CHAMBERS**

**CALL TO ORDER**

**94-1**

The School Committee Meeting was called to order by Chair Umbriano at 6:12 PM.

Mr. LaPlante moved, seconded by Dr. Klimaj, to move into Executive Session RIGL 42-46 -5(a) 2. The committee unanimously approved motion.

The regular school committee meeting reconvened at 7:00 PM.

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

Chair Umbriano stated Executive Session RIGL 42-46-5(a)2 discussion related to upcoming negotiations.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**94-2**

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

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE REORGANIZATION**

**94-3**

Dr. Lescault asked for a nomination for the position of Chairperson.

Mrs. Guglielmi nominated Chair Umbriano, seconded by Dr. Klimaj. The committee unanimously approved the motion.

Chair Umbriano asked for a nomination for the position of Clerk.

Chair Umbriano nominated Mrs. Guglielmi, seconded by Mrs. Delmonico. The committee unanimously approved the motion.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**94-4**

Mrs. Guglielmi moved, seconded by Mrs. Delmonico, to approve the minutes of the Executive Session of December 6, 2011.

Mrs. Guglielmi moved, seconded by Mrs. Delmonico, to approve the minutes of the Regular School Committee Meeting of December 6, 2011.

**CAPITAL RESERVE FUND**

**94-5**

Mrs. Guglielmi moved, seconded by Dr. Klimaj, to approve the Capital Reserve Funds – School Improvements for the month of January in the amount of \$5,834.86. The Committee unanimously agreed.

**NEW BUDGET BILLS**

**94-6**

Mrs. Guglielmi moved, seconded by Dr. Klimaj, to approve the New Budget Bills for the month of January in the amount of \$449,708.45. The Committee unanimously approved the motion.

**GRANT BILLS**

**94-7**

Mrs. Guglielmi moved, seconded by Dr. Klimaj, to approve the Grant Bills for the month of January in the amount of \$19,660.18. The Committee unanimously approved the motion.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

**94-8**

1. A letter to the Superintendent from Lillian Travis stating that her son Noah is no longer enrolled in Scituate Middle School and that she will be home schooling Noah.
2. A letter to the Superintendent and an e-mail to Chair Umbriano from Mr. and Mrs. DiCarlo requesting a waiver of school tuition fees paid for their children to attend Clayville School while their home was being built.

Background:

Mr. Dean Lees appeared before the School Committee on behalf of the DiCarlos at the December meeting. The Committee indicated they would like the DiCarlos to attend the next School Committee meeting if they wished to pursue their request for a tuition refund. Mr. Lees was asked to inform the Committee if the DiCarlos would attend. It was agreed that the correspondence would be listed unless Mr. Lees or the DiCarlos called to remove the item. No calls were received through 12/30. (Committee members received copies of School Committee request is Policy #8000.)

3. A letter to the School Committee from the Superintendent's Office Staff requesting a meeting to discuss their current agreement which expires on June 30, 2012.

**94-9**

1. Recommendation: Approve the request according to the policies and procedures established by RIDE and the school department.

Dr. Klimaj moved, seconded by Mrs. Delmonico, to approve the request according to the policies and procedures established by RIDE and school department. The committee unanimously approved the motion.

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

Mr. Lees was in attendance to represent the DiCarlo family.

Mr. Lees stated after reviewing all of the documentation, he told the DiCarlos they should only receive one month tuition reimbursement. Mr. Lees stated the DiCarlos applied for the (building) permit in June; however receipt of permit was delayed by the town for almost one month. Typically, such a request would take one week as the lot was pre-approved, per Mr. Lees. In addition to the month delay in obtaining the permit, almost 75% of the days were met with rain and/or Tropical Storm Irene as well as one week lost due to loss of electricity across the town. Mr. Lees stated once the DiCarlos were able to begin digging for a foundation, they hit ledge and needed to move the foundation. The DiCarlos also had difficulty digging for a well which delayed construction.

Mr. Lees understands the parameters of the policy state October 1 but felt it would be prudent for the committee to meet the DiCarlo family halfway in this request.

Chair Umbriano stated the information Mr. Lees provided last month indicated the building process began in February.

Mr. Lees stated the permit was requested in June.

Mr. LaPlante stated the policy, in which Mr. LaPlante participated in writing, is one which awards the committee complete discretion in reviewing proposals such as this and in granting waivers. Based upon what has been provided by the family and Mr. Lees, Mr. LaPlante is not comfortable returning two month's tuition but is comfortable with

returning one month's tuition and was surprised to hear the family is content with only one month's refund.

Mr. Lees stated the policy was explained to them.

Mr. LaPlante stated anyone who has been through the building process knows there are things out of one's control during construction. The committee encountered one case where the builder was also the homeowner. It was never the intention of the committee to make this policy punitive rather so that the school department was not adversely affected. This case, unlike others, indicates a strong interest of family in moving into property quickly. Based upon these unique circumstances, Mr. LaPlante is willing to provide one month's reimbursement (October). The committee is not bound to the policy; the committee is able to look at each case on its own merits and this isn't a starting point of the committee waiving every tuition for families moving into town or have children try to attend Scituate public schools prior to moving to town.

Mrs. Delmonico asked the difference in tuition for the months of September and October.

Dr. Lescault replied the tuition is calculated on a per diem basis. (There was also a professional development in the month of October).

Mrs. Guglielmi asked why Mr. LaPlante would consider reimbursement for one month over another.

Mr. LaPlante believes this family has a strong interest moving to town and conditions occurred which prevented the family from taking residence prior to start of school year. At the same time, Mr. LaPlante is also putting ownership on DiCarlo family as perhaps they could have utilized other means to speed up the process which is why one month is an appropriate time period. Mr. LaPlante does not believe the DiCarlos could have controlled the building process to have been in the home by September 1.

Mrs. Guglielmi stated these circumstances could occur at any time which is why the policy was instituted; either the committee has a policy or doesn't have a policy.

Chair Umbriano asked why the DiCarlos did not realize they were hitting ledge the first time they dug.

Mr. Lees stated the month to which you refer is the month in which there was a delay with the permit and then with the loss of power for over a week, it created more difficulty.

Chair Umbriano asked if permit was requested in May and granted in June.

Mr. Lees stated the request for permit was submitted in June and granted in July. This was a subdivision and a pre-approved lot.

Chair Umbriano and Mr. LaPlante agreed it was a fairly quick building process.

Chair Umbriano stated surprise the DiCarlos felt their house would be built in three months.

Mr. Lees replied the 'spec' house is a standard colonial; there is no special carpentry required.

Chair Umbriano stated the DiCarlos moved into the house on November 5. The DiCarlos were aware of the policy that tuition would be charged if students are not residing within the town by October 1.

Mr. Lees stated because the DiCarlos experienced such extreme circumstances, Mr. Lees is hoping he committee would meet them half way.

Mr. LaPlante stated the school department does not have a policy that requires the committee to charge tuition when a student resides in another town. The committee has the ability to exercise discretion in such cases. Mr. LaPlante stated when he applies this policy to this case as well as others prior to this one, Mr. LaPlante does not want the town and the residents to be abused and does not want to pay for students who are enjoying the tax structure of another municipality. Mr. LaPlante believes this family wanted to move to Scituate and not infiltrate the school system as others have tried do before.

Mrs. Guglielmi stated it was a policy and the committee changed the policy due to the previous case. The policy change requires tuition payment for anyone who was not a resident by October 1.

Mr. LaPlante agreed with Mrs. Guglielmi.

Mrs. Guglielmi stated either the committee makes a policy and sticks to it or doesn't. Mrs. Guglielmi is glad the children were able to start in the Scituate schools at the beginning of the year.

At this time, Mr. LaPlante read from the policy then stated he believes October 1 forward is discretionary.

Mrs. Guglielmi does not feel that is the way it (the policy) was written.

Mr. LaPlante stated it was never the intention of the committee for this policy to be a taxation mechanism; it was to prevent abuse of our school system and taxpayers.

Chair Umbriano stated there have been other students in similar situation who have paid tuition.

Dr. Lescault replied yes.

Chair Umbriano asked if the committee would go back to those other families now.

Mr. Lees stated since Town Planning did not process paperwork in a timely manner, one month was lost which was a major factor in delay.

Chair Umbriano asked if the DiCarlos registered their children in June.

Mr. Lees stated the DiCarlos had full intentions of being in Scituate; however due to so many unforeseen circumstances, it just kept compounding. If they had the permit in a timely manner, there may not have been an issue as they would have had better weather.

Chair Umbriano stated if the DiCarlos submitted request for permit in August and didn't receive it until September 1 it might be different; however they were issued the permit in July. There was still ample time to assess construction days required.

Mr. Lees stated the developer pulled the permit so whether they started and then waited a week or two is unknown but it shouldn't take 4 weeks to pull a permit.

Chair Umbriano asked for any additional comments.

Dr. Klimaj stated he also built a house in Scituate and it took longer than a couple of

months to start the process. This policy was established to avoid abuses and does not want to set precedence. Dr. Klimaj stated the committee asked for a tax bill to determine what taxes were paid.

Chair Umbriano stated a tax bill was requested but the only additional information was what was provided this evening.

Mr. Lees stated a tax bill was received for a few thousand dollars.

Chair Umbriano asked the difference in tax bill now that the home is complete.

Dr. Klimaj stated willingness to provide some leeway as the tuition was almost \$5,000.

Mrs. Delmonico stated going forward this will be on a case-by-case basis; the committee will not be able to rely on the policy.

Mr. LaPlante stated the committee will continue to do what it has been doing; the default policy is to charge the tuition and to mandate the family move by October. If the family is not in new home by that date, an extension can be requested at which time the committee will set the tuition going forward. One thing the committee might want to do is if a family is not in their new home by October 1, the committee may choose to stop that process. This is not a private school which is why the October 1 deadline was established.

Mrs. Guglielmi read the first paragraph of the policy and stated it is certain. It is the second paragraph where the committee has discretion. There was no question when the policy was revised that if someone wasn't a resident; they paid tuition. That was the intent of the policy and that is what is stated. Mrs. Guglielmi stated there are too many questions the committee can't solve such as whether it was raining, etc. There will always be issues that arise so the committee either has or does not have a policy. The way the policy was rewritten was that tuition was paid if student(s) was not resident by October 1. The fact is the policy states "and" by school committee to continue.

Mr. LaPlante disagrees respectfully. The second paragraph (written by Mr. LaPlante) states what occurs after October 1.

Mrs. Guglielmi added that after October 1, the committee didn't want to have students in the school system paying tuition for the duration of the year.

Mr. LaPlante stated the committee at the time discussed whether tuition should be higher or lower which is why is what written as such. The committee would look at this on a case-by-case basis and determine what is appropriate.

Mrs. Guglielmi stated the way the policy reads now is payment of tuition in addition to approval as the word 'and' is underlined.

Chair Umbriano also understood it to read the same way.

Mrs. Guglielmi stated each year the cost of tuition would be different.

Mrs. Delmonico asked when the DiCarlos purchased the land.

Mr. Lees stated the DiCarlos made the agreement with the developer in June.

Mrs. Delmonico asked if the DiCarlos purchased the land in February.

Chair Umbriano also indicated February was what Mr. Lees communicated last month.

Mr. Lees stated the only documentation available this evening is the application for the permit and a copy of the permit. It took four weeks to obtain the permit.

Mr. LaPlante does not believe it is good practice to simply state there is a policy because ultimately if you don't and can't exercise option of discretion than what is the committee doing right now. Mr. LaPlante states the committee's hands are not tied.

Chair Umbriano stated two other families have abided by this policy. Because those two families haven't submitted a letter, should the committee not make the same accommodations for them?

Mr. LaPlante stated it happens every day where people follow a process and do not afford themselves the option of petitioning school committee (or court) etc. This family has come before the committee to discuss their particular situation. Perhaps the other families don't have same facts to support their petition.

Chair Umbriano stated the purpose of the policy is so that the committee is consistent and everyone is treated fairly. If each family is treated individually then what is the point of the policy.

Mr. Lees stated the way the policy is written, it states "at the sole discretion of the school committee." One of the issues mentioned that the committee hasn't discussed is the month delay with the town regarding the permit stated Mr. Lees.

Chair Umbriano does not see a problem with that. Did the DiCarlos call the town to determine if something needed to be corrected or resubmitted?

Mr. Lees stated it is a pre-approved lot; the only requirement was submission of the paper work. It should take only a week, not one month; this is text book. This amount of time was excessive by any means. Mr. Lees stated the tuition policy stated it is up to the discretion of the school committee. Mr. Lees stated he can only speak to the DiCarlos family not to the other two cases. This is a young family with two young children attempting to get their children into the school district. All of the concerns raised by the committee members are valid; however the policy does allow for discretion of the committee members. Under the circumstances, Mr. Lees feels the committee can meet the family halfway so that they are satisfied and the fact that this family is under duress and the embarrassment of even having to ask (for a refund) is bothersome in itself. Mr. Lees does not mean to overcomplicate this but respectfully requests the committee approve request.

Chair Umbriano asked if anyone wanted to make a motion.

Mr. LaPlante is not advocating a position but has seen a lot of injustice within the court system and elsewhere and does not believe it is positive when the listening process is closed. If after listening to the position of this family and you are not moved by it, Mr. LaPlante respects that. However, Mr. LaPlante does not believe the committee should deny the request simply because we have a policy; Mr. LaPlante does not feel that is good practice in a small town.

Mrs. Guglielmi agreed the committee is concerned about people's feelings but believes the committee should revisit the policy and establish one that is clearer.

Dr. Klimaj stated the building inspectors are very thorough in this town so assuming there were no problems with the blueprints, or the contractor did not come prepared, etc. then at that point, Dr. Klimaj would consider reimbursing tuition for the month of October.

Mr. Lees stated the house is part of a pre-approved subdivision.

Dr. Klimaj acknowledged the fact that it was part of a subdivision but added there may have been an issue with a portion of the plans, etc.

Mr. Lees stated as excellent and legitimate of an idea that is, because it was a spec house and there are others on the street just like it there should not have been an issue.

Dr. Klimaj drove through the subdivision and stated there are many houses not the same style and perhaps there aren't two houses exactly alike.

Chair Umbriano stated the DiCarlos received their permit in July and at that time they knew their children were not registered in Scituate so they began to build knowing the policy. The house was completed November 5 and the DiCarlos moved in. Chair Umbriano does not understand how the family believed the process would move so quickly, especially if they hit ledge and had to move the foundation, etc.

Mr. Lees stated that is one of the issues mentioned. Mr. Lees added his family has been building homes since 1889 and stated that is an adequate amount of time to build a spec home. Under these particular circumstances, Mr. Less will respectfully disagree.

Chair Umbriano stated the committee can table the discussion until the DiCarlos present additional information or the committee can make a motion on the matter this evening.

Dr. Klimaj stated his first inclination was to stick with the policy because the committee could face this issue each year. (Dr. Klimaj stated) Mr. Lees stated the town held up the application and if there is some truth to that, then Dr. Klimaj would be willing to go that one month. Dr. Klimaj asked if the committee could follow-up with Mr. Provonsil.

Mrs. Delmonico stated that is part of the problem; each committee member has a different interpretation of the policy. At first, Mrs. Delmonico was also of a mind to abide by the policy but the more it is discussed, it is evident the committee needs to make the policy more clear. At this point, it could be read either way. Under the circumstances, Mrs. Delmonico is willing to refund tuition for the month of October and then work on the policy so that it is clearly stated.

Mr. LaPlante stated some level of reimbursement is appropriate based on what was heard this evening and does not foresee a problem that will overwhelm the committee in doing so.

Mrs. Delmonico does not see any point in delaying this issue further to which Mr. LaPlante agreed.

Chair Umbriano stated Dr. Klimaj suggested refunding the DiCarlos \$500 per child for the month of October (totaling \$1,000 reimbursement).

Dr. Klimaj moved, seconded by Mr. LaPlante, to refund the DiCarlo family \$500 tuition per child for the month of October for a total of \$1,000 based solely on the fact that there was a one month delay in obtaining the permit from the town. Mrs. Guglielmi voted against refund. Motion passed.

Mr. Lees thanked the committee.

3. Recommendation: Work with the staff to set up a mutually agreeable date and time to meet.

Mr. LaPlante moved, seconded by Dr. Klimaj to approve Dr. Lescault to schedule date and time for meeting. The committee unanimously approved the motion.

**94-10**

**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE LIAISONS**

**BUDGET**

Mr. LaPlante stated the committee has a budget meeting with Town Council on Thursday, January 5.

**CURRICULUM**

Dr. Klimaj stated nothing to report.

**FOOD SERVICES AND  
HEALTH/WELNNESS  
NEGOTIATIONS**

Chair Umbriano stated the next meeting is scheduled for later this month

Mr. LaPlante stated the negotiations committee will be meeting with the custodians in January as their contract expires in June. In addition, the committee will also be meeting with the paraprofessionals and Central Office.

Mr. LaPlante asked what has been done regarding the paraprofessionals at this time.

Chair Umbriano stated a request was received to schedule a time to meet. A meeting time is being scheduled.

**POLICY**

Dr. Klimaj stated there will a second reading this evening under New Business.

**RIASC**

Mr. LaPlante stated nothing to report.

**SAFETY AND  
TRANSPORTATION  
SPECIAL EDUCATION**

Chair Umbriano stated nothing to report.

Mrs. Delmonico stated the next advisory meeting is January 25.

**SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

Mrs. Guglielmi stated the scholarship fund committee received a \$25,000 donation from a town resident. The scholarships awarded are based on interests and approximately 60 scholarships are expected to be awarded this year.

**STRATEGIC PLANNING**

Mrs. Guglielmi asked Dr. Filippelli if the strategic plan will be reviewed again this year.

Dr. Filippelli replied yes; it is now simply for the school purposes as this is no longer required by RIDE.

**SCITUATE  
PREVENTION  
COALITION**

Chair Umbriano stated the committee has changed the bylaws and direction of SPC to target more of the town versus specific areas. The \$21,000 grant (distributed monthly) received targets underage drinking. This year the committee will re-enact a crash which will be demonstrated just prior to prom season.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**94-11**

There is no unfinished business for the month of January.

**94-12**

**ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

**RIDE's  
INSTRUCTIONAL  
MANAGEMENT  
SYSTEM**

Dr. Filippelli stated at the December 15 assistant superintendent's meeting, RIDE indicated that they are using RTTT funds to create an IMS system for all districts in RI. The vendor is Global Scholar and it was indicated that they are going to work with all other Student Information Systems districts are using so that the information integration will be seamless. The IMS is intended to be an instructional dashboard where teachers can access an interim assessment engine to access practice items for the upcoming



PARCC assessments in 2014. Student progress monitoring can be uploaded here and districts may use this IMS system as they see fit. There is no requirement to use it on the part of RIDE. One of the bigger questions that comes up surrounding this is professional development for teachers and of course the technological infrastructure that will be needed to allow teachers to access this IMS system. RIDE indicated they would be using a train the trainer model and that they will be training for each district. RIDE indicated that the overall goal of this is to have a one stop shopping for districts to access data, RTI supplements, lesson plans etc.. Districts have local control of curriculum uploads and sharing. The projected launch date of this will be August, 2012. Therefore there will be a fast paced implementation in the next few months. This will all be paid for with RTTT dollars and will not cost anything for the districts to access the information.

**FEBRUARY 17<sup>TH</sup>  
PROFESSIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT**

Dr. Filippelli will be meeting with the district PD committee in the upcoming weeks to discuss what professional development will take place on February 17. As it stands, some of the core members of our district RTTT team are scheduled to be trained on February 10 in the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). The initial plan is to have members of the RTTT district team conduct the professional development on February 17 and get the rest of the teachers trained. Dr. Filippelli has been waiting for RIDE to respond on the particulars. Scituate will be hosting the training at one of our schools. The training is going to combine Foster, Scituate, Gloucester, and Foster/Glocester.

Chair Umbriano asked if the session could be videotaped so those teachers who did not attend could view it in addition to being trained by those teachers who do attend.

Dr. Filippelli can only send twenty people and the session is being hosted in Scituate for fellow districts. Dr. Filippelli does not believe RIDE would allow videotaping but would look into it.

Dr. Lescault agreed it would be a good idea and will look into possibilities.

**SENIORITY BASED  
ASSIGNMENTS  
LANGUAGE FOR  
PARAPROFESSIONALS**

Dr. Filippelli has been in conversations with Jay Walsh from NEARI who represents the paraprofessional union. Language that mirrors the language created with the teachers last year around seniority based teaching assignments is being created. Dr. Filippelli plans to have this language wrapped up prior to the usual job fair at the end of academic year in June, 2012.

Mrs. Guglielmi asked how seniority is determined between part-time and full-time employees.

Dr. Filippelli stated seniority is based on appointment date. Regarding teachers and the new transfer language, Dr. Filippelli stated points are awarded based on criteria which includes professional development (within previous twelve months), Master's Degree, National Board Certification, etc.

**MONTHLY ACTIVITIES**

Dr. Filippelli provided committee members with a copy of monthly activities for the month of December.

**94-13  
SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

**2012-2013 DISTRICT  
BUDGET**

(Committee members received copies of a first draft of the expenditure side of the school district budget for 2012-2013. Copies were also available for members of the public.) The proposed budget is up from 2011-2012 by \$767,269 or 3.6%. Dr. Lescault stated the increase is somewhat misleading because the budget includes \$203,000 for Improvements to Buildings and Grounds. No funds for that purpose were included in the 2011-2012 budget. Consequently, the proposed budget is artificially inflated by that amount.

Dr. Lescault stated a 1.5% assumption is used throughout the budget for potential salary increases for certified and non-certified personnel. This translates into a \$192,957 increase in Teachers Salaries. Despite the recent Legislative changes to the pension system, certified and non-certified pensions increased by \$92,991. Assuming Scituate is able to eliminate two buses next year, transportation costs will increase by \$328,282. This is due in part to the \$100,000 credit Scituate must repay First Student and because the 2011-2012 budget for transportation is under-funded.

Dr. Lescault has not, at this time, provided the committee with a proposed revenue budget for 2012-2013. As noted on page 51 of the Town of Scituate's Comprehensive Financial Report dated March 31, 2011, budgeted Federal and State Aid and Grants fell short by \$613,651 during the last fiscal year. This was an improvement from March 31, 2010, at which point the shortfall was \$813,021. However, it is important to note that even if Scituate assumes level Federal and State Aid, Scituate will be overstating what is likely to be received by more than \$500,000.

Fortunately, during 2010-2011, expenditures were less than budgeted, resulting in a net change in fund balance of \$151,708. Dr. Lescault is currently working on projecting expenditures and revenues to develop an estimate of the 2011-2012 balance. However, that work is not yet complete.

Dr. Lescault stated while the proposed district budget will likely undergo revisions, the School Committee should adopt it or some form of it under New Business in preparation for the meeting with the Town Council on January 5.

Chair Umbriano asked when the budget was presented at the Town Financial Meeting, it was stated it may not be known if the school department would be short until the end of the school year.

Dr. Lescault stated the revenue was short but the school department ended the year with a surplus and then increased the fund balance. The audit isn't completed until October.

Mr. LaPlante stated historically Town Council bonded school improvement funds however they are no longer doing that.

Dr. Lescault stated Town Council has not bonded for those expenditures for the past few years.

**TOWN  
COUNCIL/SCHOOL  
COMMITTEE BUDGET  
MEETING**

Dr. Lescault informed the committee on December 7, 2011 that the Town Council has scheduled a joint Town Council/School Committee meeting for Thursday, January 5, 2012 at 6:00 PM to discuss the school district budget for 2012-2013. (Committee members received a copy of the agenda for the meeting.)

**MONTHLY ACTIVITIES**

Dr. Lescault provided committee members with a copy of activities for the month of December.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**94-14**

**George Kuzmowycz Esek Hopkins Road**

Mr. Kuzmowycz congratulated Dr. Filippelli on receiving a 116% increase in travel expenses. Mr. Kuzmowycz acknowledges the monetary amount was extremely low.

Mr. Kuzmowycz stated even though Dr. Lescault stated the overall budget was \$766,000, 40% of that is due to the bus contract and asked how much of that was anticipated when the committee went into the contract with First Student.

Dr. Lescault stated until bids were received, the cost was unknown.

Mr. Kuzmowycz asked if once the bids were received and reviewed, the cost was known.

Dr. Lescault replied yes.

Without having variance reports to review, Mr. Kuzmowycz stated there is a fairly large increase in electricity from the previous year. It seems it would be prudent to level fund this line item.

Dr. Lescault stated five years were reviewed in determining those numbers in conjunction with Buildings and Grounds. Dr. Lescault believes the numbers are prudent.

Regarding technology support, Mr. Kuzmowycz stated the budget is indicating a 25% increase. Mr. Kuzmowycz stated it is interesting the committee is going into a second reading of the policy and yet this is Year 10 of not having a technology support contract. In the past, there was a public committee which supported some of the work in that although that committee has not met in over a year and wonders if the appropriateness of continuing without a contract if the school is getting good value for the money. Mr. Kuzmowycz stated there is concern of increasing that line item without putting that out to bid.

Dr. Lescault stated Mr. Kuzmowycz makes a valid point and will ensure the technology advisory committee meets and hopes Mr. Kuzmowycz will continue to be a member of that as well. Dr. Lescault acknowledged Mr. Kuzmowycz's technological expertise. It was believed that the school was receiving very good value in the past. Dr. Lescault noted this includes three individuals and the job has become considerably more complicated than ever, particularly in the area of information technology. With requirements from RIDE in addition to other technological updates, the position has simply exploded but Dr. Lescault will take those suggestions under advisement. Dr. Lescault added this is a discussion which occurs annually with the auditor who also signed off on this agreement. If the school department had to seek outside bids, Dr. Lescault would encourage the committee to make these individuals employees of the school department because the knowledge basis is such that it requires more than knowledge of technology only.

Mr. Kuzmowycz stated \$55,000 is being spent on a school resource officer which is more than is being spent on school textbooks or library books. In today's budgetary circumstances, this is a misplacement of priorities; it is a shame and Mr. Kuzmowycz will continue to oppose it.

Referring to the bid process for the buses, Chair Umbriano stated the bid for First Student was \$1.2 million. Chair Umbriano stated that was for in-district; the additional amount was for out-of-district.

Dr. Lescault stated the out-of-district transportation costs are an area over which the school department has no control; it is mandated by the state that all towns/cities participate. This particular piece increased significantly and those numbers were not available at the time of the bid process. That amount is now reaching \$250,000 and happens to also be First Student who is handling the out-of-district bussing which is totally separate.

Chair Umbriano stated the committee has met with First Student several times reviewing costs of field trips, fuel, etc. and negotiated each line item so that the in-district cost would not increase, or at least not significantly. At the start of the school year, everything was status quo to prevent any disruption; however all routes, are being reviewed within first few months to help streamline processes to help bring down transportation costs next year.

Dr. Lescault stated the point is the school department didn't have a choice; the school department accepted the lowest bid and was mandated to participate in out-of-district bussing. The fact is Scituate received a tremendous bargain for many years which is evident why Blackmore and Collins went out of business; they had an awful time attracting and retaining employees. One of the first things First Student had to do was to increase salaries to be competitive. Looking at any other transportation company, one will see 'Help Wanted' signs in the window all year. One could walk in and apply for a position and be trained starting almost immediately because the industry is so hard-pressed to find employees.

Mr. LaPlante confirmed if the committee went with Collins Bus Company, the committee still would have been mandated to participate in the out-of-district portion.

Dr. Lescault replied yes.

**Dr. Ellen Kenner 222 William Henry Road**

Dr. Kenner stated she is trying to learn more about these processes and understands many items are mandated by the state. Based on the fiscal collapse we're facing, Dr. Kenner asked the committee what would be cut from the budget if necessary.

Chair Umbriano stated she would work the budget, if possible, to ensure nothing would be cut. The school department has been level funded for the past three years.

Dr. Kenner stated there was a recent article in the paper which discussed how some areas are teaching students online and/or via ebooks. Parents may need to carpool children to school for instance. Looking down the road, can some of these state mandates be challenged?

Chair Umbriano stated when the virtual high school was first introduced; it made quite an impact in this town because teachers felt if a class was being presented on Algebra it would take away from the position of a teacher.

Maureen Kennedy, STA members and teacher, stated that was not the only reason. These types of programs require self-discipline and focus. It is not something for all students.

Dr. Filippelli stated the Credit Recovery Program is an online program.

Mr. LaPlante stated a lot has been invested in technology and the committee is very lean in budgeting so that draconian cuts aren't necessary at this time. As the school department is level funded, there is concern but thankfully the committee is not at a point where such drastic measures are necessary.

Dr. Kenner stated according to the article, it appeared Scituate was at the lower end of the scale and the school system is one of the major costs (to a town) and many within the town do not have school children in the system and they are paying for it.

**"John"**

John did not wish to be identified for the record as he felt it was a way the committee intimidates the public.

John asked why virtual academies would not be desired in Scituate; is it lacking quality?

Dr. Filippelli stated one of the concerns of the virtual academies is that it doesn't have the same quality impact as compared to face-to-face instructional time with a teacher. However, there are some students who are self-motivated and do not have IEP needs who

will do very well in this environment. There are other students; however who will not succeed in an unstructured classroom. Dr. Filippelli stated it also depends upon the subject matter; for some subjects the additional classroom support is necessary for success. At the high school, the Credit Recovery Program is entirely virtual. Dr. Filippelli stated it will be a good augmentation but not a replacement. It needs to be a balanced approach.

John asked if a virtual academy would not be a good choice for children in Special Education.

Dr. Filippelli replied not necessarily. There are some applications on an iPad which can replace technology for significantly less than what the school would pay for (assistive) technology.

John asked if for example, a Special Education student with autism has an IEP because the student can't follow directions, than this type of program may not be beneficial. If that is the case, then why are Special Education students being sent to facilities that use these programs and do not require teachers?

Dr. Filippelli stated if a Special Education student is in a facility utilizing this type of technology, a teacher will still be in the classroom assisting the student with the technology. There will still be face time with an individual to facilitate the learning.

John stated if for average students it is not a good idea, why for below average students it is a good idea.

Dr. Filippelli stated he is saying the opposite.

John asked why Scituate is sending students out to schools with less teachers and that rely upon technology.

Dr. Filippelli stated that is something determined on a case-by-case basis by the Special Education Department along with the parents.

John stated students are being sent to the Northern RI Collaborative where the principle means of teaching consists of computers rather than teachers.

John asked the cost of transporting students from Scituate to Bishop Hendricken.

Chair Umbriano stated transportation includes students from other districts as well such as Foster, Gloucester, etc. Chair Umbriano will research and provide information at the next meeting.

Chair Umbriano stated the reason the committee asks individuals to identify themselves is so that they can be identified in the minutes.

John stated it is one's right not to identify oneself in public.

Chair Umbriano asked if when reading the minutes, wouldn't John wish to know who was speaking.

John stated he is not concerned about who reads the minutes; he is only concerned about his own rights.

John stated he'd also like to agree with Mr. Kuzmowycz regarding the school resource officer.

**Mark Horner 81 Trimtown Road**

Mr. Horner asked if any of the bills for Manning Field have been received via certified payroll.

Dr. Lescault stated nothing was received in Central Office.

Mr. Horner wants to ensure who was supposed to be paid got paid.

Mr. LaPlante stated the committee does not have them here this evening but if they were received the bills would have been paid.

Chair Umbriano asked if the bills are public record. If the bill was received by Buildings and Grounds, it would have been signed off by Mr. Gormley and then submitted to Central Office and the bill would have been paid.

Dr. Lescault replies yes, they are public record and a copy also must be maintained.

Mr. Horner agreed and asked the total cost of the project.

Dr. Lescault stated the bill for the contractor will be approximately \$28,000 but the project is not yet complete. Lights also have been added to the project; Dr. Lescault is estimating the project at \$30,000.

Mr. Horner asked about the placement of the buses. All of the bus drivers and monitors park at Manning Field. Mr. Horner asked the committee how 40 cars and all the buses will fit in that area without parking at the Little League.

Chair Umbriano stated currently there are four buses sitting there due to tomorrow's weather forecast. There are four extra buses due to the cold weather; if it becomes so cold and a bus won't start, additional buses are available. Per Chair Umbriano, Mr. Provonsil and Mr. Gormley stated every bus will fit in that area. The reason they are parking there right now is because there is no activity; however when Manning Field becomes active, those cars will not be parked there.

Mr. Horner recalls the committee moving to First Student to save money.

Chair Umbriano stated if the buses were parked on our own land, it would eliminate the rental cost for storing buses.

Mr. Horner stated with all of the transportation costs increasing, where are the cost savings?

Mr. LaPlante stated the committee never said moving to First Student was for cost savings.

Chair Umbriano stated \$326,000 includes out-of-district transportation which the school department is mandated to cover. First Student just happens to be the provider for both in-district and out-of-district.

Dr. Lescault stated Mr. Horner is correct in pointing out that statewide busing mandated by the state was to save each city/town money according to RIDE. That is what legislature told towns.

Chair Umbriano stated towns were also told if it resulted in additional costs, the towns would be made whole at the end of the year. Also, with combination routes, for example, the buses are starting routes at 5AM in some places to pick up students traveling out-of-

district. The state believed it would be a cost savings to combine surrounding towns and school drop offs (for example, Bishop Hendricken, Cranston Vocational).

Mr. Horner asked why the new buses aren't here.

Dr. Lescault stated Scituate was promised brand new buses and agreed the committee is also upset about the situation. They were due to be in place by the end of November. Dr. Lescault stated to First Student executives this wasn't acceptable and submitted a legal letter requiring resolution. First Student will need to compensate Scituate for the use of the old buses when new buses were to be used.

Chair Umbriano stated the committee meets with First Student monthly. It was a similar situation with Aramark. Chair Umbriano added the committee is taking action.

#### **Maureen Kennedy North Doctor's Way**

Ms. Kennedy noted two Scituate teachers became Nationally Board Certified and wanted to recognize them.

Dr. Lescault stated they were recognized at last month's meeting; Scituate has a total of three Nationally Certified teachers.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **94-15**

##### **1. SECOND READING OF REVISED PURCHASING PROCEDURES**

Recommendation: Adopt the policy as written.

Mrs. Guglielmi moved, seconded by Mrs. Delmonico to adopt the revised Purchasing Procedures as written. The committee unanimously approved the motion.

##### **2. INITIAL APPROVAL OF 2012-2013 SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET**

See Superintendent's Report for detail on this item.

Recommendation: Approve the budget as proposed.

Mr. LaPlante moved, seconded by Dr. Klimaj to approve the budget as proposed. The committee unanimously approved the motion.

### **RESIGNATIONS/ APPOINTMENTS/ REAPPOINTMENTS/ TRANSFERS/NON- RENEWALS/LAYOFFS**

#### **94-16**

Dr. Lescault recommended the following appointments for approval:  
Nicole Barnett, 17.5 hour Paraprofessional, Scituate Middle School; Monday and Tuesday (7:00 AM-2:15 PM) and Wednesday (7:00 AM – 11:00 AM) – effective 1/19/12 for the remainder of the 2011-2012 school year; Steven Olink, Assistant Hockey Coach; Kimberly Preziuso, 19.6 hour Paraprofessional, North Scituate Elementary School; Monday – Friday 8:15 AM – 12:10 PM, effective 1/3/12; Jessica Shiel, Adaptive PE Teacher

Mr. LaPlante moved, seconded by Mrs. Guglielmi to approve appointments as set forth on the appointment list. The committee unanimously agreed.

Dr. Lescault recommended the following resignations for approval:

1. Mike Deffley, Middle School Baseball Coach; Scott Deware, Adaptive PE Teacher for the Northwest Special Education Region

Mr. LaPlante moved, seconded by Dr. Klimaj to approve appointments as set forth on the appointment list. The committee unanimously agreed.

#### **94-17**

**COMMITTEE REMARKS**

**MRS. DELMONICO** Mrs. Delmonico is looking forward to 2012 and the challenges that may come.

**MRS. GUGLIELMI** Mrs. Guglielmi stated nothing to report.

**DR. KLIMAJ** Dr. Klimaj stated nothing to report.

**MR. LAPLANTE** Mr. LaPlante believes the school committee is one of the least intimidating groups in town and Mr. LaPlante appreciates fellow school committee members for open communication and being good listeners. Mr. LaPlante stated the committee serves the town well.

**CHAIR UMBRIANO** Chair Umbriano stated nothing to report.

**DISCUSSION OF  
FUTURE BUSINESS**

**94-18**  
February 7 School Committee Meeting  
March 6 School Committee Meeting  
April 3 School Committee Meeting  
May School Committee Meeting  
June 1 – Grade 8 Dance  
June 5 School Committee Meeting

**ADJOURNMENT**

**94-19**  
Mr. LaPlante moved, seconded by Dr. Klimaj to adjourn meeting at 8:35 PM. The Committee unanimously approved the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. Guglielmi, Clerk