

**SCITUATE SCHOOL COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 5, 2013
TOWN HALL CHAMBERS**

CALL TO ORDER

122-1

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

Mr. LaPlante moved, seconded by Mrs. Delmonico to adjourn to Executive Session. The committee unanimously approved the motion.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

122-2

Led by Chair Umbriano, all participated in a pledge of allegiance to the flag.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

122-3

Mrs. Guglielmi moved, seconded by Mrs. Delmonico, to approve minutes of the Executive Session of February 5, 2013. The Committee unanimously agreed.

Mrs. Guglielmi moved, seconded by Mrs. Delmonico, to approve minutes of the Executive Session of February 5, 2013. The Committee unanimously agreed.

Mrs. Guglielmi moved, seconded by Mrs. Delmonico, to approve minutes of the Regular Committee Meeting of February 5, 2013. The Committee unanimously agreed.

GENERAL FUND

122-4

Mrs. Guglielmi moved, seconded by Mrs. Delmonico, to approve The General Fund for month of March in the amount of \$527,169.38. The Committee unanimously approved motion.

GRANT BILLS

122-5

Mrs. Guglielmi moved, seconded by Mrs. Delmonico, to approve Grant Bills for month of March in the amount of \$40,618.00. The Committee unanimously approved motion.

CORRESPONDENCE

122-6

1. A letter to Superintendent from Sherry McCann requesting to use one personal day without reason and two personal days with reason with May 22, 23 & 24 to chaperone the 8th grade field trip to Washington, DC.

Background: The date requested is contiguous with the Memorial Day holiday. According to the STA contract, the school committee must vote to allow the date requested.

2. A letter to Superintendent from Maureen Kennedy on behalf of a teacher receiving medical treatment, requesting that ten days short term sick leave, three family sick days and three personal days be added to the long term sick leave total.

Background: There is precedence to allow the use of the ten short term sick leave day as well as the three personal days, however, not the three family sick days.

122-7

1. Recommendation: Approve the request.

Mr. LaPlante moved, seconded by Mrs. Guglielmi, to approve the request. The committee unanimously approved the motion.

2. Recommendation: Approve request with exception of the three family sick days.

Mrs. Guglielmi stated in the past short-term has been added to long-term with exception of family sick days.

Mrs. Guglielmi moved, seconded by Mr. LaPlante, to approve short-term sick leave and personal days only. The committee unanimously approved the motion.

122-8
REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE LIAISONS

- BUDGET Chair Umbriano stated Town Council Budget Meeting has been rescheduled to Thursday March 7 in Town Hall Chambers.
- CURRICULUM Mrs. Guglielmi stated nothing to report.
- FOOD SERVICES AND HEALTH/WELNNESS NEGOTIATIONS Chair Umbriano stated nothing to report.
Mr. LaPlante stated negotiations committee has met regarding upcoming teacher negotiations.
- POLICY Mrs. Delmonico stated nothing to report.
- RIASC Dr. Lescault stated an email distributed to all school committee members earlier today.
- SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION SPECIAL EDUCATION Chair Umbriano stated nothing to report.
Mrs. Esposito stated nothing to report.
- SCHOLARSHIP FUND Mrs. Esposito stated the committee is working diligently and the next meeting is scheduled for next week.
- STRATEGIC PLANNING Mrs. Guglielmi stated nothing to report.
- SCITUATE PREVENTION PARTNERSHIP Chair Umbriano stated nothing to report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS **122-9**
There is no unfinished business for the month of March.

122-10
ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

NECAP ANALYSIS
Overall Analysis:
(Committee received copies of the NECAP data analysis from Fall 2012 testing doing a direct comparison of proficiency levels, (for example Grade 6 Reading increased by 14% from 2011 in proficient with distinction category) this is an indicator of how this year's cohort of students compared to last year's cohort of students with essentially same teachers and instruction. For this year, at the request of Chair Umbriano, Dr. Filippelli added another field to the achievement level analysis and total proficiency analysis named "cross grade" which indicates how a specific cohort of children did going from one grade to the next. For example, Mathematics scores from grade 3 to 4 in cross grade analysis; there is an increase of 10%. In 7 out of 10 grades assessed (some were listed as "NA" if there were no direct grade to grade comparison) Dr. Filippelli showed increases in grade to grade comparisons. As noted in previous year's analysis, in areas of below proficient and partially proficient, a decrease in percentage points in levels 1 and 2 is desired. This means Scituate is moving students into proficient and proficient with distinction categories and

decreasing numbers in partially proficient and substantially below proficient categories.

To get an understanding of increases or decreases in proficiency by each grade, look at percentage point increase or decrease from year prior. For example, Grade 5 writing in proficient with distinction category, there is 13% increase from last year's students to this year's. Scituate realized both increases and decreases throughout district at all grade levels. There are pockets in each school where some scores show slight percentage decreases, but are fairly minor when looking at results which indicate total proficiency across district. Teachers continue to work hard at moving greater percentages of students out of levels 2 and 1 (partially proficient and substantially below proficient respectively) and into levels 3 and 4 (proficient and proficient with distinction respectively).

The most important analysis, according to Dr. Filippelli, comes from looking at the aforementioned data page entitled *Total Proficiency Analysis for October Testing 2012*. This page provides a snapshot of each of the grades broken up by Reading, Mathematics, and Writing over a five year span. This page indicates the "big picture" of where students are currently compared to prior year cohorts. By looking at the state level proficiencies you get an accurate representation of gains as compared to state average in each of those three areas. While Scituate's averages are much higher than the state averages, as always, there are some areas in which Dr. Filippelli believes there is room for improvement.

Chair Umbriano asked if the cross grade analysis was helpful to which they agreed.

Dr. Filippelli stated when reviewing results diagonally, it reviews students going from one grade to the next rather than a different cohort of students going from one teacher to next.

Mrs. Esposito didn't believe that could be completed because standards were at each grade level and it was not the type of the test that provided test of growth over time. It is achievement of standards at that particular grade level.

Dr. Filippelli stated looking at one grade who mastered certain level of skills; the significance is looking to see performance at the next grade level. (Dr. Filippelli noted this particular analysis is for committee only; it is not RIDE-based analysis.)

Mr. LaPlante stated it was important for committee to determine their proficiency levels at each grade.

Mrs. Esposito believed it would be an analysis of 5 years of grade 3 test scores as it is not accumulative.

Dr. Filippelli stated previous reports were from year to year but going forward how the Grade 2 teachers comparing each year can be provided.

Big Picture Highlights:

Dr. Filippelli wanted to provide some big picture highlights and stated all of the data provided is from the RIDE website. The information represents the "big picture" of how each school is doing when compared to other schools and districts in the state.

HIGH SCHOOL:

In comparison to all the other high schools in the state (62 in total) here is how Scituate high school fared. SHS is ranked as 5th in the state (out of 62) in Reading. Grade 11 students are 92% proficient in reading. That is 13 percentage points higher than the state average. SHS is ranked 12th in the state (out of 62) in Mathematics. Grade 11 students dropped slightly from last year and are 49% proficient in Math. However, that is still 13 percentage points higher than the state average.

MIDDLE SCHOOL:

In comparison to all the other middle schools in the state (63 in total), here is how Scituate middle school fared. SMS is ranked as 8th in the state (out of 63) in Reading after combining the scores in 6th 7th and 8th grades. These scores represent a range of 13 to 14 points higher than the state averages and are excellent. SMS is also ranked as 8th in the state (out of 63) in Math after combining the scores in 6th 7th and 8th grades. These scores represent a range of 12 to 21 points higher than state averages and are excellent.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS:

In Reading Hope Elementary is ranked as 6th in the state out of 184 schools! Clayville is ranked as 14th in the state out of 184 schools and North Scituate Elementary is ranked as 17th in the state out of 184 schools. All elementary schools are ranked in the top 10% of the state in reading. These rankings are combined scores for grades 2-5. These scores represent a range of 12 to 13 percentage points higher than the state averages at each of the grade levels. In Math, Hope Elementary is ranked as 8th in the state out of 184 schools! Clayville is ranked as 11th in the state out of 184 schools and North Scituate Elementary is ranked as 19th in the state out of 184 schools. These scores put all the elementary schools in the top 10% of the state in mathematics. These rankings are combined scores for grades 2-5. These scores represent a range of 17 to 18 percentage points higher than state averages at each of the grade levels. The calculations for writing at each level are different than the other NECAP scores and are only measured in grades 5, 8, and 11. Here is the breakdown:
Grade 5 – 73% proficient in writing – that is 14% higher than the state average writing
Grade 8 – 78% proficient in writing – that is 13% higher than the state average in writing
Grade 11 – 53% proficient in writing – that is 3% higher than the state average in writing.

Dr. Filippelli stated the team is reviewing high school writing scores with Dr. Sollitto and will be checking with RIDE to see if this is accurate data as this score represents a 13% decrease from last year which is very rare. The district has made incredible strides with formation of the district writing committee whose work has spanned grades K-12. Drs. Lescault and Filippelli are proud of the overall results from testing this fall. Dr. Filippelli congratulated teachers and administrators who work hard to ensure success for all students.

Mrs. Esposito asked if Dr. Filippelli compared Scituate to towns with similar demographics to which Dr. Filippelli replied no because there is so much data; however the data can be provided to the committees.

Dr. Filippelli thanked Ms. Carnevale for all of her hard work in compiling the data analysis for the committee this evening.

Mrs. Esposito stated there are 51% students Grade 11} at Level I or II in Mathematics.

Dr. Filippelli stated there are 25 students who scored partially or below proficient on NECAP which will affect graduation. RIDE came in to assess program and stated on Period 9 there will be a NECAP remediation class which will address gaps and target those students to move into next level or proficiency. When reviewing data and percentages, the percentages are all over; this was not a typical year. Collective review of data, Scituate is still performing well. Overall, Dr. Filippelli is very happy with results.

Dr. Lescault stated parents of these students have been invited to meet with Guidance Counselors and Principals. Many students were off by a point or a very small percentage. Dr. Lescault stated confidence in moving these students into proficient level(s).

Chair Umbriano stated RIDE has been incorrect with numbers before so perhaps it is the same this year.

Dr. Lescault stated one of Scituate's priorities has been writing so if those numbers are accurate then that curriculum will need to be reviewed.

2/15 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY

As a result of the PD day on 2/15, the elementary grades were able to work in grade level groups to update their curriculum maps in ELA. Dr. Filippelli stated there are two more follow up days with grades four and five in March and May with Dunn Highlander to complete more of the work. The trainer from Dunn has been assisting with common core transition for two years and is doing an excellent job. Dr. Filippelli's intention is to continue work with Dunn Highlander and spread their curriculum mapping and common core transition work through grade 8.

MONTHLY ACTIVITIES

Committee members received copies of monthly activities.

122-11

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

ADMINISTRATOR REAPPOINTMENTS

Between January 29 and February 28 of each year administrators may request reappointment for the following year or, in the case of a multi-year contract, a rollover of the contract for one year. Dr. Lescault received letters from every administrator, except one, requesting reappointment, which he will be recommending to the Committee under Resignations/Appointments/Reappointments. While Dr. Lescault cannot recommend his own reappointment, he is asking to be reappointed. Dr. Lescault stated he continues to feel privileged and honored to serve as Superintendent of the Scituate Schools.

SCHOOL CALENDAR

The proposed 2013-2014 School Year Calendar was presented for the Committee's review in February. It is now listed under New Business for formal approval.

BUDGET

On February 11, the Treasurer's office asked Dr. Lescault for a Revenue Budget for proposed 2013-2014 Expenditure Budget presented to the Council on January 16. The bullets below outline plan discussed with Treasurer and Deputy Treasurer on February 12 and forwarded to the Committee. As Dr. Lescault noted at that time, the plan:

- does not require any reduction in proposed budget and allows Scituate to reduce reliance on fund balance as revenue by \$200,000
- assumes Town will fully fund Improvements to Buildings and Grounds request out of Town's Capital Improvement appropriation
- moves \$205,390 included in January 16 request from school budget into Town Budget

The Council met on February 26 and discussed level funding school department budget, but took no action. They were scheduled to meet again on March 5, but that has been changed to March 7. In the interim, Dr. Lescault recommends the Committee adopt the budget outlined above under New Business.

Dr. Lescault discussed concerns about a level funded budget on February 28 with Sharon Johnson. Dr. Lescault pointed that level funding the school department budget now will create some major problems in future years, when the school fund balance is depleted. Dr. Lescault explained that if that were to occur the school and town will face a fiscal cliff. It has traditionally been the goal of both the town and schools to maintain a fund balance that is a percentage of their respective budgets. While Dr. Lescault understands the budget committee's position that the fund balance is restricted, Dr. Lescault still believes it is important and prudent for the school department to maintain some level of fund balance. It is impossible to accurately predict some school expenditures. A single family with three special needs students moving into Scituate can result in \$300,000 of unbudgeted expenditures. Scituate needs to have flexibility to respond to situations like that. The model used has worked and the school department has never run a deficit and never spent more than was needed. Rather, unspent funds are rolled over each year and

used to reduce amount requested from taxpayers. That is message shared with Treasurer.

Mrs. Guglielmi stated having a fund balance at the end of the year is also included in town's borrowing opportunities as it greatly affects the rate.

Dr. Lescault stated it has been policy for school and town to retain a fund balance. The Town's feeling now is that they would carry 10% of the full balance on their side, eliminating fund balance from school department as the school department is restricted so those funds could not be used for anything other than school-related costs.

Chair Umbriano stated concern with that proposal and questioned availability of funds should a septic issue arise.

Dr. Lescault stated if budget is fully expended, approximately \$579,000 would remain and only about \$700,000 would be put into fund balance. If \$1,152,000 is needed for revenue, the fund balance then decreases to less than 1%. Historically, on the town side, Dr. Lescault stated that number would be divided by total budget which would be an approximate 33% fund balance where the school department would be approximately 1% of fund balance.

Chair Umbriano asked if feedback was received from the Town when communicating this.

Mr. LaPlante stated the committee always works respectfully with the town though this does seem like an issue of control. Mr. LaPlante feels the school committee has proven it can effectively manage its own funds.

MONTHLY ACTIVITIES

Committee members received copies of Dr. Lescault's monthly activities.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

122-12

George Kuzmowycz Esek Hopkins Road

Regarding NECAP results, Mr. Kuzmowycz is concerned by consistent and dramatic drop in proficient with distinction from Grade 8 to the Grade 11 in both Math and Writing. In some cases, there were four students in Grade 8 who were proficient with distinction but by Grade 11 there were none. Mr. Kuzmowycz asked Dr. Filippelli for insight as to why that would occur.

Dr. Filippelli stated the difference in rigor in a Grade 8 curriculum needs to be considered. Only about 25% of Grade 8 students was taking Algebra which may be the most difficult class being taught that year. All of the other students are taking Grade 8 math and as they transition into higher grades, they are encountering more difficult courses in addition to more difficult test questions.

Mr. Kuzmowycz does not wish to rain on parade but the percentage is very low and is very concerning.

Dr. Filippelli stated there are approximately two students in the proficient with distinction in those categories; however in other categories, Scituate is right where we should be. Dr. Filippelli stated there is definitely room for more improvement.

Mr. Kuzmowycz did not have copy of statewide results and was curious how Scituate compared to similar demographics. Mr. Kuzmowycz stated parents inquired about students in AP classes and test scores; the scores for those students were not encouraging in the past. Mr. Kuzmowycz understands those in lower levels need to be moving into proficient level but believes those in higher grades also need to be improved.

Dr. Filippelli will provide results to Mr. Kuzmowycz.

Diane Scacco Crestview Drive

Ms. Scacco stated Grade 8 NECAPS were sent home today and asked if there was a breakdown of students who are so close to the line of the next level (proficient with distinction, proficient, etc.)

Ms. Scacco stated 113, of which 87 are students will be attending Washington DC field trip. Ms. Scacco added fundraising has been successful as well. (Ms. Scacco stated any students facing financial hardship met with Mr. Zajac.)

Dr. Filippelli stated one parent donated funds for one student to attend trip (anonymously).

Ms. Scacco stated those not attending already visited DC with their parents and did not wish to make the trip again.

Mrs. Guglielmi added the students will be meeting with Senator Reed.

Joanne Desrosiers, STA Representative

Ms. Desrosiers stated STA also reviews scores and upon analyzing results identified seven students who were only one point away from proficient with distinction. Although the numbers may not appear as though great improvement is being made, the difference in some cases in one point so the decrease is negligible.

Regarding Professional Development, Ms. Desrosiers stated the day was busy and overwhelming. It is a monumental shift in transitioning to the common core and so the teachers appreciate more time and funding to work with colleagues.

NEW BUSINESS

122-13

1. Approval of the School Calendar 2013-2014

Recommendation: Approve the calendar as proposed

Mr. LaPlante moved, seconded by Mrs. Esposito to approve the school calendar. The committee unanimously approved the motion.

2. Approval of Revised School Department Budget 2013-2014

Recommendation: Approve the budget as proposed.

Mrs. Guglielmi moved, seconded by Mrs. Delmonico to approve the school budget. The committee unanimously approved the motion.

Mrs. Esposito pulled copy of budget from January and noticed a \$205,000 difference.

Dr. Lescault stated it was moved to town side but nothing was lost.

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

122-14

Dr. Lescault recommended the following appointments for approval:
Jane Fish; Boys' High School Volleyball Head Coach; Sandra Perrotti; Part time, 17 hour Paraprofessional, Scituate Middle/High School, Monday and Tuesday 7:30 AM – 2:30 PM and Wednesday 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM; effective 2/14/13; Ann Baumlin; Part time, 17 hour Paraprofessional, Scituate Middle/High School, Monday and Tuesday 7:30 AM – 2:30 PM and Wednesday 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM; effective 2/25/13; David Hanson; Boys' High School Baseball Head Coach' Rick Cabral; Boys' High School Baseball Assistant Coach; Lori Boutiette; Extended Day Teacher, Clayville Elementary School; Cindy Gould;



Extended Day Teacher, Clayville Elementary School; Celeste Leveillee; Extended Day Paraprofessional, Clayville Elementary School; Tammy Gardner; Extended Day Paraprofessional, Clayville Elementary School; Linda Silva; School Based Coordinator, effective 3/11/13

Mr. LaPlante moved, seconded by Mrs. Esposito to approve appointments as set forth. The committee unanimously agreed.

Dr. Lescault recommended the following reappointments for approval: Bryan Byerlee; Principal, North Scituate Elementary School; Karen Cappelli; Principal, Clayville Elementary School; Michael Sollitto; Principal, Scituate High School; Michael Zajac; Principal, Scituate Middle School; David Sweet; Assistant Principal, Scituate Middle and High School; Lawrence Filippelli; Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction; John Magner; Director of Special Education Region; Denise Brierley; Assistant Director of Special Education Region; Paul Lescault; Superintendent

Mr. LaPlante moved, seconded by Mrs. Esposito to approve reappointments as set forth. The committee unanimously agreed.

Dr. Lescault recommended the following resignations for approval: Jane Fish; Boys' High School Volleyball Assistant Coach

Mr. LaPlante moved, seconded by Mrs. Esposito to approve resignations as set forth. The committee unanimously agreed.

Dr. Lescault stated appreciation to committee for entrusting administrators once again for another year and this team will continue to work hard for the committee and community.

122-15 COMMITTEE REMARKS

MRS. DELMONICO

Mrs. Delmonico believes meeting went well and hopes they all continue to do so.

MRS. GUGLIELMI

Mrs. Guglielmi is looking forward to negotiations.

JEAN ESPOSITO

Mrs. Esposito stated gratitude for being here and thanked Drs. Lescault and Filippelli for a quick reply to a recent email and is happy with results.

MR. LAPLANTE

Mr. LaPlante stated Jimmy Scacco, Scituate student shadowed Scituate High School alumni for a day and Mstr. Scacco selected Mr. LaPlante. Mr. LaPlante was very impressed with Mstr. Scacco's professionalism and politeness.

CHAIR UMBRIANO

Chair Umbriano stated there will be a Mr. Spartan contest which will include door prizes etc. on March 8 at the High School. Proceeds to benefit The Tomorrow Fund.

Ms. Scacco stated this contest was a senior project and these students are learning a lot about giving back as well.

**DISCUSSION OF
FUTURE BUSINESS**

122-16

- April 2 School Committee Meeting
- May 7 School Committee Meeting
- June 4 School Committee Meeting
- July 2 School Committee Meeting
- August 6 School Committee Meeting
- September 3 School Committee Meeting
- October 1 School Committee Meeting
- November 5 School Committee Meeting

December 3 School Committee Meeting at Scituate High School (6:00 PM)

ADJOURNMENT

122-17

Mrs. Guglielmi moved, seconded by Mrs. Esposito to adjourn meeting at 8:05 PM. The Committee unanimously approved the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. Guglielmi, Clerk

Minutes prepared by Laura Field-Swallow, Recording Secretary. Neither the Clerk nor the Recording Secretary are the designated Public Records contacts for the Scituate School Committee or Scituate School Department under the RI Access to Public Records Act ("APRA"). For all APRA inquiries, please contact the Superintendent's office.