

**SCITUATE SCHOOL COMMITTEE REGULAR SESSION
TUESDAY, MARCH 4, 2014
SCITUATE TOWN HALL - TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

CALL TO ORDER

141-1

The Regular Session was called to order by Chair Umbriano at 7:15 PM.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

141-2

Led by Chair Umbriano, all participated in *The Pledge of Allegiance* to the Flag.

**ROUTINE MATTERS
MINUTES AND BILLS**

141-3

Mrs. Guglielmi moved approval of the general fund bills \$588,588.29; seconded by Mrs. Delmonico; unanimously approved.

Mrs. Guglielmi moved to approve the grant fund bills \$18,819.55; seconded by Mrs. Delmonico; unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

141-4

Mrs. Guglielmi moved to approve minutes of the regular meeting of 2/4/14; seconded by Mrs. Delmonico; unanimously approved.

CORRESPONDENCE

141-5

None

141-6

REPORT OF COMMITTEE LIAISONS

BUDGET

Mr. LaPlante will speak to that under unfinished business and bring everyone up to speed.

CURRICULUM

Mrs. Guglielmi – Nothing to report.

FOOD SERVICES
HEALTH / WELLNESS

Chair Umbriano stated that she has gone to three classes about bringing the Scituate Health and Wellness policy current and adding some of the changes to the federal laws and the RI laws.

NEGOTIATIONS

Mrs. Guglielmi stated that negotiations will be continuing with the custodians. There has been one meeting and two more this month. This will continue until the district gets a contract.

POLICY

Mrs. Delmonico – Nothing to report.

RIASC
SAFETY AND
TRANSPORTATION

ALL – Nothing to report.

Chair Umbriano – Nothing to report.

SCHOLARSHIP

Chair Umbriano stated that Dr. Lescault had some information regarding scholarship.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Ms. Esposito – Nothing to report.

STRATEGIC
PLANNING

Mrs. Guglielmi – Nothing to report.

TRANSPORTATION /
SAFETY

Chair Umbriano stated that Dr. Lescault would discuss the transportation contract.

SCITUATE
PREVENTION
COALITION
(formerly SAFE)

Chair Umbriano – Nothing to report.

**UNFINISHED
BUSINESS**

**141-7
TRANSPORTATION CONTRACT**

A copy of the new transportation contract was distributed to the members of the school committee. Dr. Lescault offered highlights of the contract and are further outlined in the Superintendent's report.

Highlights of the contract are:

- Term is 2 years
- Pricing increase of 1.5% in year 1, and 2.5% in year two. Alternative is, the committee can select no later than June 2014 to elect to have pricing increase tied to increase in CPI.
- Buses used for only one tier will be discounted 18% (currently no discount).
- Pricing increase for late buses same as general bus runs.
- Field and athletic trips mileage rate increases to \$2.15 (currently \$2.11) in year one and \$2.40 in year two.
- Field and athletic trip hourly rate increases to \$21.95 (currently \$21.10) in year one and \$22.75 in year two.
- First Student will eliminate 2 buses for 2014/2015 (saving over \$100,000).

Dr. Lescault that although the hourly rate increase may seem significant First Student still hasn't made up the ground they gave from 3 years ago.

Mr. LaPlante moved that chair Umbriano sign the Transportation Contract; seconded by Mrs. Guglielmi; unanimously approved.

2014-2015 SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET

Dr. Lescault stated that he and Mr. LaPlante had just returned from a meeting with the budget subcommittee for the town council. The district had a very good presentation, and the subcommittee was very supportive of the school department.

The council is facing a major problem of closing a \$650,000 gap. They originally wanted the school department to cut \$200,000, we have agreed tentatively subject to the approval of the full school committee to cut \$50,105 from the proposed capital budget. Dr. Lescault felt that the council was looking for the school department to reduce its capital budget from \$250,105 to \$200,000. So we need to cut the \$50,105 and the council will support everything else. With the exception of the capital budget, the school department got everything it wanted.

Dr. Lescault stated that Mr. LaPlante did a fantastic job, and I couldn't have done it without him there because we wouldn't have had the physical presence to say to them that the committee thought this was important enough to have a member of the committee there in support.

Mr. LaPlante stated, "Paul carried the water... you know how he performs with issues like this, and ultimately a great result because the council is being crunched fiscally with a deficit to address. They wanted to take something initially out of our hide because they were facing tough choices".

Mr. LaPlante moved that the budget be approved with a \$50,105 capital reduction; seconded by Mrs. Delmonico; unanimously approved.

**141-8
ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

NECAP ANALYSIS

Overall Analysis:

Attachments A and B were presented and available for those in attendance. The attachments represent the NECAP data analysis from the Fall, 2013 testing window.

Dr. Filippelli compared the proficiency levels across six years. A direct comparison of proficiency levels, (for example Grade 6 Math, Grade 6 Reading and Grade 11 writing all increased by 11% in the proficient with distinction category) which is an indicator of how this year's cohort of students compared to last year's cohort of students with essentially the same teachers and instruction.

As noted in previous year's analysis, in the areas of below proficient and partially proficient, you actually want to see a decrease in percentage points in levels 1 and 2. This means that the district is moving the students into the proficient and proficient with distinction categories and shows that we are decreasing numbers in the partially proficient and substantially below proficient categories.

To get an understanding of increases or decreases in proficiency by each grade, you would have to look at Attachment A at the percentage point increase or decrease from the prior year. For example, if you look at Grade 8 Reading (10% increase) and Grade 8 Math (7% increase) in the proficient with distinction category, there is an excellent increase from last year's students to this year's students. Scituate realized increases across many of our grade levels as well as some decreases throughout the district. There are pockets in each school where some scores show slight percentage decreases, but they are fairly minor (5 areas of decreases across 17 total tested areas) when you look at Attachment B which indicates total proficiency across the district.

Teachers continue to work hard at moving greater percentages of our 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).

In Dr. Filippelli's opinion, the most important analysis comes from looking at the aforementioned data page entitled *Total Proficiency Analysis for October Testing 2013*. This page gives a snapshot of each of the grades broken up by Reading, Mathematics, and Writing over a five year span. The referenced page indicates the "big picture" of where the students are currently compared to prior year cohorts.

By looking at the state level proficiencies, you can get an accurate representation of our gains as compared to the 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 we can improve.

Big Picture Highlights:

Dr. Filippelli provided information that represents the "big picture" of how each of our schools is doing when compared to other schools and districts in the state. The data presented is from the RIDE website.

HIGH SCHOOL:

Grade 11 students are 93% proficient in reading. That is 12 percentage points higher than the state average. SHS is ranked 5th (we were 12th last year) in the state out of 64 high schools. In Mathematics, our grade 11 students increased by 6% from last year and are 55% proficient. That is 20 percentage points higher than the state average and placed Scituate High 9th in the state out of 64 high schools.

MIDDLE SCHOOL:

Grade 6 and Grade 8 saw nice increases in Math putting them at 19% and 23% higher than the state averages respectively. Grade seven saw a decrease to 74% proficiency, but it still remains 15% higher than the state average.

In Reading, Grade six and seven saw increases of 1 and 4 percent respectively and that places them at 23% and 18% higher than state averages. Grade 8 saw a 2% decrease in reading but they are still 89% proficient and 15% higher than state averages.

In Writing (scored in grade 8 only at the middle level), we saw a 2% increase to 80% proficiency and that puts our 8th graders scoring 24% higher than the state average.

Overall, in Mathematics, Scituate Middle School is ranked 9th in the state out of 68 middle schools and in Reading it is ranked 6th in the state out of 68 middle schools.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS:

The elementary scores are lengthy to analyze and report on. However, Scituate saw excellent scores across most grade levels. We saw some decrease at grade 3 but believe it is an anomaly for this year given how well that grade has performed over our six year longitudinal analysis. Here are some elementary highlights.

In Reading:

- Grade 3 is 15% higher than the state Average
- Grade 4 is 12% higher than the state Average
- Grade 5 is 19% higher than the state Average

In Math:

- Grade 3 is 12% higher than the state Average
- Grade 4 is 17% higher than the state Average
- Grade 5 is 19% higher than the state Average

Overall rankings:

- **Hope Elementary:** In Math, Hope is ranked 7th in the state out of 178 elementary schools. In Reading, Hope is ranked 5th in the state out of 178 elementary schools.
- **Clayville Elementary:** In Math, Clayville is ranked 23rd in the state out of 178 elementary schools. In Reading, Clayville is tied with Hope at being 7th in the state out of 178 elementary schools.
- **North Scituate:** In Math, NSES is ranked 18th out of 178 elementary schools in the state, and in Reading NSES is ranked 13th in the state out of 178 elementary schools.
- As a district, we are proud of the overall results from the testing this fall. Hats off to the students, parents, teachers and administrators who work hard to insure success for all of our students. They are a talented and dedicated group of individuals.

**PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT DAY**

The professional development day held on 2/14 was a success. Dr. Filippelli thanked all of the teachers and administrators who put so much time and effort into helping him plan for the day.

As a result of the PD day on 2/14, the elementary grades were able to work in grade level groups lead by our grade level CCSS SLO leaders. Each of these grade level leaders sent me a plan of the work they were going to accomplish for the day prior to the PD day.

Dr. Filippelli also thanked Cindy Gould for the excellent activity she did with our teachers around PARCC preparation. The middle school and high school teachers worked in content level areas to further their work on CCSS.

**DISTRICT SOCIAL
NETWORKING AND
SOCIAL
RESPONSIBILITY
SYMPOSIUM**

Dr. Filippelli has organized a district/regional presentation on social networking and social responsibility. It will be held at the high school auditorium on March 19th from 6:30-8:30 PM.

Dr. Filippelli will be presenting on internet safety, social responsibility while using social networking, and cyberbullying. Dr. Filippelli has joined forces with the Scituate Police Department who have been doing a great amount of community outreach on texting while driving.

The district and the police are going to present our topics together on these two important and current issues facing Scituate students. An invitation has been to the stakeholder groups in Smithfield, Foster, Foster/Glocester, and Glocester to take part in this event.

**MONTHLY
ACTIVITIES**

Committee members received a copy of the list of activities for Dr. Filippelli for the month of February.

**141-9
SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

**SCITUATE
SCHOLARSHIP
COMMITTEE**

Bill Lenox, the President of the Scituate Scholarship Committee, informed Dr. Lescault and Ms. Jean Esposito, as school committee liaison, that the Scholarship Committee is in the process of dissolving.

The committee is working with Attorney D'Agostino to insure they do so in accordance with the law. Their intent is to transfer their assets to the Rhode Island Foundation (RIF) for investment. The RIF will provide a lump sum payment to the school department each year for distribution to students as scholarships. Any balance remaining will be returned to RIF for investment.

Under the scenario that the committee and Attorney D'Agostino envision, the school department will have to assume a larger responsibility for the management of the scholarships. Attorney D'Agostino and Dr. Lescault believe that the existing staff members are capable of taking on this additional responsibility.

Mr. LaPlante asked if the Rhode Island Foundation would invest new dollars. Ms. Esposito replied that there may be some, but Scituate will keep local control. The committee that will look at the lump sum amount, there will still be a group of people involved in the awarding of scholarships.

Chair Umbriano asked is any Scituate resident was eligible for the scholarship and how do they apply. Mrs. Guglielmi stated that the applications are online.

**UNIFORM CHART OF
ACCOUNTS (UCOA)**

RIDE audits the school department's compliance in applying expenditures and revenues to the appropriate Uniform Chart of Accounts. Dr. Lescault was pleased to inform the committee that for the first time the school department achieved 100% compliance. Dr. Lescault congratulated Carol Geary and Cindy Thacker on this achievement.

SCHOOL CALENDAR

Dr. Lescault proposed a school calendar for 2014-2015 at the November 5, 2013 meeting. The committee voted to delay action on it until the March 4, 2014 meeting; therefore it is listed under new business for that purpose.

A copy of the proposed calendar was attached (Attachment A) and distributed to the committee. While it reflects the calendar adopted by the Rhode Island School Superintendents Association (RISSA) as usual, for the first time it includes an August start. It complies with state law requiring districts to not schedule school for primary or election day. It also restores the day before Thanksgiving as a school day and includes two days for professional development. One of those days is traditionally scheduled for the Friday before the Scituate Art Festival and the other in February. This calendar proposes moving the February day to primary day on September 9. While we cannot schedule school for that day, we can schedule PD for teachers. That leaves June 12 as the 180th day, assuming no snow days, which is unlikely. Snow days would be made up starting the week of June 15th through June 19th.

Chair Umbriano asked Dr. Filippelli to check about the PD days being used on the primary or election days.

**SCHOOL CALENDAR
POLICY**

A first reading of a revised school calendar policy #1090 was listed under New Business. A copy of the revised policy was attached (Attachment B). The only change in the policy is the date on which the committee approves the calendar for the following year. The existing policy indicates that the vote is at the March meeting. The revised policy indicates the calendar will be approved as soon as practicable, but no later than the March meeting.

**TRANSPORTATION
CONTRACT**

Transportation contract was discussed under unfinished business.

BUDGET

Dr. Lescault and the committee met with the Town Council budget committee on February 26 as a follow-up to our presentation of the proposed 2014-2015 school budget to them at the joint TC/SC meeting on January 22. Based on that meeting, Dr. Lescault believes that the Treasurer will be recommending a \$200,000 cut in the school department budget. However, the Budget Committee did not vote to amend our budget on February 26 and has not indicated it supports the Treasurer's recommendation. The Budget Committee will be meeting on Tuesday, March 4th. The budget is listed under Unfinished Business. Dr. Lescault suggested that the committee table this item until we hear from the council.

GRADUATION DATE

Dr. Sollitto recently informed the committee, due to the number of snow days, Scituate may potentially have a compliance issue with the minimum number of required instructional days (171) for seniors. We have currently used 4 snow days, making the 171st day of school June 13th, our current graduation date. If we have another snow day, we may have to look at alternatives and make decisions about the graduation date. Dr. Lescault is investigating those options.

**MONTHLY
ACTIVITIES**

Committee members received a copy of the list of activities for Dr. Lescault for the month of February.

**PUBLIC COMMENT
AND QUESTIONS**

141-10

Harris Kenner, 222 William Henry Road, North Scituate

Mr. Kenner stated that "I heard you mention that scholarships can be used for students who do not attend the high school (Scituate high school). Dr. Lescault stated that was correct. Mr. Kenner asked, "Whether or not that meant that the scholarship could be used for anything other than college tuition?"

Chair Umbriano stated, no it is for students who reside in Scituate and may be attending another high school other than Scituate. Chair Umbriano stated that the scholarships are awarded to high school seniors who are Scituate residents regardless of the high school they attend.

Dr. Lescault stated, for example the student may be attending LaSalle.

Mr. Kenner said, "I was thinking more in terms of junior high school".

Chair Umbriano stated that the student had to be a senior in high school.

Colleen Pendergast, 2 Apple Hill Drive

Ms. Pendergast asked, "When looking at the proficiency for graduation for those students that are Level 3, is that for all the students?"

Dr. Filippelli stated that only the students Level 3 as noted there have been lots of procedures and remediation in place and the number is down to 3. Those three will apply for waivers. All students at Level 2 are OK for graduation.

Colleen Pendergast, 2 Apple Hill Drive

Ms. Pendergast stated, "I think it's great compared to the state averages. Is there any type of analysis that can be done to compare 'apples to apples'?"

Dr. Filippelli stated that the district can. For example at the high school reading, Scituate is 5th in the state tied with Portsmouth. The data that would be similar includes district such as, Lincoln at #6,

Smithfield #8, Foster/Glocester #9 and Exeter/West Greenwich at #10. These schools are similar to Scituate's demographic and when you lay it out Scituate is right in the mix ahead of these schools.

Dr. Lescault added, Scituate aspires to be in the same numbers as East Greenwich and Barrington and that is clearly what we want, but the socio-economic demographics of the students is not the same.

Dr. Filippelli also added that Scituate's district ranking in reading, we are #6 and tied with North Smithfield, North Kingstown, Little Compton, Kingston Hill Academy and The Greene School in Providence. Interestingly East Greenwich and Barrington are at #3 and Beacon Charter and Navy Career and Tech are at #1 and #2. These last two schools' enrollment is much lower.

Dr. Filippelli discussed Scituate's district ranking in math, we are at #9 tied with Exeter/West Greenwich, at #1 is The Compass School and at #2 Kingston Hill Academy, #3 is Little Compton and at #4 is East Greenwich and Barrington.

George Kuzmowycz, Esek Hopkins Drive

Also discussed the NECAP scores and returning to the math question. "I've got some 'longitudinality' myself. Back 5 – 8 years ago (or back as far as 2004), when the testing was not NECAP but something else (Dr. Filippelli interjected that it was NSRE ended in 2004, that is when they stopped and NECAP came in) there was a lengthy discussion in here where I was raising a concern that those exams would break out math by concepts and problem solving and (I forget the third category), I remember pointing out at that time that our elementary and middle school children had a pretty significant gap in math concepts and what I'm wondering longitudinally speaking isn't the affect that we're seeing here not just the fact that high school math is more rigorous but that the children because of problems at the elementary are entering unprepared and at that time there was some discussion about curriculum changes or methods changes to try to address math concepts in the elementary schools but its fatuous to say this but if the kids don't have the concepts, then they're not going to be able to develop

the higher order thinking skills which they need when they get to geometry. Algebra maybe you can still force their way through, but in geometry is you don't have the concepts down there is just no way you can make that work...I'm wondering are we are preparing, regardless of what the NECAP results say, I don't think they are granular enough at this time at the elementary level, are we, are we preparing the elementary kids for understanding conceptually mathematics at the high school. Just as I had that concern apparently 10 years ago, I seeing that now".

Dr. Filippelli responded that in that ten years (Dr. Filippelli recognized see Pat Charland- math teacher at the middle school) in just that time, going from 1998, it was the New Standards Reference Exam and you get accustomed to that and then the target moves and now its NECAPs and so now all the standards and curriculum were changed to align with the NECAP. GLE (grade level expectations) and GSE (grade span expectations) are most closely aligned with NECAP. Now we've been in the NECAP since 2004, and all of the teachers are teaching the GLEs and the GSEs. Now the district is switching over to Common Core in preparation for PARCC. So you wonder, exactly to Mr. Kuzmowycz's point, if you look next door to Massachusetts they have the MCAS for 15 , 20 year or longer, a long period of time and have been teaching that same curriculum for that length of time. It can't be that the kids in Massachusetts are that much smarter than all the kids in Rhode Island. Dr. Filippelli stated that it has to be something in the curriculum but the problem is that the target keeps moving. Anytime we start to nail it the target gets moved.

Ms. Esposito stated that she had to disagree with Dr. Filippelli's assessment. Ms. Esposito added, "If you look at the 'New Standards Reference Exam', you look at the NECAP standards, and then you look at the Common Core, the basics of mathematics is the same. Those standards are the same so Ms. Esposito agreed with George (Mr. Kuzmowycz) if we don't start looking at a younger level of students

to be proficient in concepts, we're never going to be any better at the high school level unless we're sure that students meet those standards".

Dr. Filippelli added that the students are meeting those standards at the elementary, middle, and high school levels.

George Kuzmowycz, Esek Hopkins Drive

Are those testing results testing results showing what I was talking about then (2004)?

Dr. Filippelli stated that they were. What they will do on the item analysis the report will tell you what you are missing. For example the report may tell you that the students are missing algebraic expression.

Dr. Filippelli stated that results tell you what you are missing and then go back to the curriculum and see how that can be adjusted to address it. At the grade 11 at 55 percent, yes it is 20 percent higher than the state but the state is the entire state. It's getting to that group of kids those number of kids they are hurting the score more than anything and it amounts to 15 – 20 kids out of the entire class, because if those students are scoring in 1 and 2 they are hurting the score. No question it warrants more looking at. My fear now is PARCC, a whole new test that the students have to get used to and entirely online.

Chair Umbriano asked don't you think that in the past when NECAPs weren't tied to graduation that the kids just didn't take the test seriously? Now all of a sudden the test is important and it counted for graduation.

George Kuzmowycz, Esek Hopkins Drive

My point is obviously not to 'beat-you-up' about the scores because 20 percent above the state average is admirable. Just trying to figure out if we are seeing a long running issue that needs to be addressed at a point different than what we are looking at. Having seen that for some time, that's all I'm throwing out there.

Dr. Filippelli stated that the district is at the highest it has been since 2008 when we were at 46 percent. In 2009 we were at 42 percent; 2010 at 47 percent; 2011 at 51 percent; 2012 at 49 percent and 2013 at 55 percent. By contrast the students in East Greenwich are at 70 percent proficient and we are tied with Classical and Westerly at 55 percent.

Dr. Lescault added that the point that both Ms. Esposito and Mr. Kuzmowycz are making is good and something that the district needs to take to heart. Is that why East Greenwich is at 70 percent? They may be having the same problem with math concepts and aren't getting where they need to be. Is that why the state as a whole is having such a major problem with math scores?

Ms. Esposito stated that what Mr. Kuzmowycz is saying about the need to have a horizontal articulation of the curriculum but also a vertical review of the curriculum.

Dr. Filippelli stated that the district does do that. That's what the district has been doing over the last two years to bring common core together for K-12.

Ms. Esposito stated that tied with the data analysis hopefully it will tell us where we are weaker in terms of those concepts that are necessary for higher level thinking skills necessary in other courses.

Chair Umbriano asked if Mr. Kuzmowycz had any other questions or comments.

Mr. Kuzmowycz stated he did not and thanked the committee.

Chair Umbriano recognized Ms. Pat Charland in the audience and asked if she had any questions or comments. Ms. Charland did not have any questions or comments.

NEW BUSINESS

141-11

1. Ratification of School Calendar for the 2014-2015 School Year

The recommended revised school calendar was distributed. Dr. Lescault recommended ratification of the school calendar recognizing that there was still an error for which he apologized.

Mr. LaPlante moved to approve the revised school calendar as further revised; seconded by Ms. Esposito; unanimously approved.

2. First Reading of Revised School Calendar Policy #1090

The recommended revision to the school calendar policy was distributed and available for the public. Dr. Lescault recommended approval of the first reading.

Mr. LaPlante moved to approve the revised calendar policy; seconded by Mrs. Guglielmi; unanimously approved.

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

141-12

APPOINTMENTS

1. Meg Shewchuk; Girls' High School Basketball Volunteer Assistant Coach.
2. Raffi Merjik; School Dentist.

Mr. LaPlante moved that the appointments be approved; seconded by Mrs. Delmonico; unanimously approved.

RE-APPOINTMENTS

None

RESIGNATIONS

1. Laurie Audet; Paraprofessional, Clayville Elementary School, effective 2/10/14

Mr. LaPlante moved to accept the resignation of Laurie Audet; seconded by Ms. Esposito; unanimously approved.

CORRECTED APPOINTMENTS

1. Michael Nehring; Boys Outdoor Track Head Coach
2. James Haney; Girls Outdoor Track Head Coach

Mr. LaPlante moved to approve the corrections of Michael Nehring as Boys Outdoor Track Head Coach and James Haney as Girls Outdoor Track Head Coach; seconded by Ms. Esposito; unanimously approved.

141-13

COMMITTEE REMARKS

MR. LAPLANTE

None

MRS. DELMONICO

None

MS. ESPOSITO

Ms. Esposito stated that up at Wachusett she met someone whose daughter is a teacher in New Hampshire. They don't count snow days as a missed day of school and therefore have no snow days to make up. The teachers communicate with their students online. The district could inquire about these types of solutions.

Dr. Lescault stated that he would ask the Superintendents' Association about that idea.

MRS. GUGLIELMI

Mrs. Guglielmi shared that she had heard earlier in the evening from someone that the way the administrators handled the crisis at the high school was perfect, and this came from a person who teaches crisis management.

Dr. Lescault added that it was a team effort as always. Dr. Filippelli and the team worked hard all day and everyone was pleased that we were successfully able to resolve it by the end of the day and kept people informed. Dr. Lescault apologized if any members of the school committee who haven't been receiving alerts up to now, this will be taken care of. The intention was to get it to Mr. LaPlante as a member of the school committee even though the alert didn't go out to elementary parents.

CHAIR UMBRIANO

Chair Umbriano stated that she was in favor of no meeting in April and the clerk will be sure to remove it from the schedule. Mrs. Guglielmi stated if we have to pay the bills then it is a meeting. Dr. Lescault stated that what has been done in the past, the clerk reviews the bills so that they may be processed and then the bills are approved retroactively at the following meeting.

Chair Umbriano stated that we won't meet beforehand and just all go to the town financial meeting. Dr. Lescault stated that is of course unless there is something that comes up that requires immediate action.

Chair Umbriano stated that on May 6th, the first Tuesday in May, she will be at the National Honor Society ceremony and asked if it would be agreeable to move the meeting to May 13th.

Mrs. Guglielmi stated that she thought there was something in the school committee policy that would allow the meeting date to be changed by a majority vote.

Dr. Lescault stated that the policy allows a change to the date and time of the meeting with a majority vote of the members.

Mr. LaPlante proposed a motion to move the May meeting from May 6th to May 13th; seconded by Mrs. Delmonico. Ms. Esposito asked if the calendar needs to be changed. Dr. Lescault said he would take care of it. The committee unanimously approved motion.

The school committee sent an edible arrangement to the central office staff and those at the high school for a fantastic job in handling the situation on Sunday (3/2).

Dr. Filippelli stated that on March 20th, a local author of who works at NASA. *A Ticket to the Stars* is coming to speak to the students. Kim Kowal, a Scituate alum, class of 1993 is the author.

Ms. Esposito asked Dr. Filippelli "Don't you think a unified textbook that elementary teachers could use as a reference is useful?"

Dr. Filippelli responded that he would have to speak to the experts.

Ms. Pat Charland, middle school math teacher, there is really nothing out there really because we are waiting on the recommendations that are aligned with common core. Could something better come along, sure, but we don't have the textbooks so we are copying everything we need. We are using *Big Ideas in Math* and the teachers love it. This book has everything that common core needs right now. The teachers have the teachers' manual and a student handbook is working out really well.

Mr. LaPlante asked would it be helpful for the teachers to have textbooks? Ms. Charland stated we're just waiting to see about common core. Chair Umbriano asked Ms. Charland, "Have you ask for textbooks?" Dr. Lescault stated that the teachers should see him, that there is money available for that if the need is there.

141-14

ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Guglielmi moved to adjourn; seconded by Ms. Esposito to adjourn at 8:22 PM. The committee unanimously approved motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. Guglielmi, Clerk

Minutes prepared by Susan M. St. Amand, Recording Secretary. Neither the Clerk nor the Recording Secretary is the designated Public Records contact 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.