

**SCITUATE SCHOOL COMMITTEE REGULAR SESSION  
TUESDAY October 7, 2014  
Scituate Middle/High School**

<p><b><u>CALL TO ORDER</u></b></p>	<p><b>150-1</b> The Regular Session was called to order by Chair Umbriano at 7:03 PM.</p> <p>Present were Marylou Umbriano, June Guglielmi, Lillian Jean Delmonico, Jean Esposito and Brian LaPlante. Also present were Paul Lescault, Superintendent, Lawrence Filippelli, Assistant Superintendent and David D'Agostino, Attorney for the School Committee</p>
<p><b><u>PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE</u></b></p>	<p><b>150-2</b> Led by Chair Umbriano;, all participated in <i>The Pledge of Allegiance</i> to the Flag.</p>
<p><b><u>RECOGNITION OF TEACHER OF THE YEAR</u></b></p>	<p><b>150-3</b></p> <p>Chairperson Umbriano asked Dr. Lescault to take over the meeting.</p> <p>Dr. Lescault stated that this is one of the nicer things that we get to do all year. It is always a pleasure to take a few minutes to recognize and honor a teacher of the year. This year is Ms. Tilly Nobrega 2014-2015. I have known and worked with Tilly for the past 27 years in her role as a foreign language teacher and department chair. As a colleague who nominated Tilly and I concur with "through her hard work, she has inspired numerous students over the years to really love studying foreign languages. She has exposed them to cultures outside of their community and made them better prepared for the world and better people." Her work with students and administrators, Tilly is always ready to roll up her sleeves and work on a myriad of committees, including NEASC and the School Improvement Committee. Once again, please join me in honoring Tilly tonight and thank you for everything she has done on behalf of the students of Scituate Middle School and Scituate High School.</p> <p>Dr. Lescault presents Tilly with a plaque.</p> <p>Dr. Lescault stated that this is a new plaque because the one we have, we have these little plates on it and every year we add the name of the Teacher of the Year, but we filled it last year. So, that plaque is going to be on the wall and this is going to be immediately beneath it.</p>

	<p>Maureen Kennedy, STA President, stated that on behalf of the teachers in our district and all of the kids. I met Tilly through my student teaching and I learned two things the day I met her - what a wonderful, wonderful lovely lady, she looks good and she still looks good. She has been a part of so many things in our school district. The NEASC Committee and all our trips to Europe, the Foreign Language fund that you did. So on behalf of all of the teachers, all your colleagues and all of the students you have served so well, thank you and congratulations.</p> <p>Chairperson Umbriano stated that from the Scituate School Committee, we have a plaque for you. It says "SCITUATE TEACHER OF THE YEAR 2014-2015 by the Scituate Public Schools and Scituate Teachers' Association" this is to hang and look at every day.</p> <p>Ms. Nobrega said a few words. She wanted to say thank you. I worked 27 years and I don't know where they have gone. I can still remember asking for directions to come to my interview. I had no idea where Scituate was. Honestly, it was the best decision that I made was accepting this position 27 years ago. There were a couple of times where I considered changing venues and visited other schools and on the drive home it never failed, no. I love Scituate. I love the parents, the school, the students...most of all I love the students. They are a great bunch of kids and I tell all of my friends and family that I have the honor teaching in a public school, but feel like I am teaching in a private school. Seriously, the kids and the parents, they take school seriously. They care. The parents are behind them so therefore my job is made easier. A foreign language is an elective and it is not a requirement for graduation. It shows them that there is world out there. Now with the internet, everything is at their fingertips and we know this because we research things every day on the internet about France and about Spain and South America. Thank you for being who you are, for raising good kids that you raised because you have made my job easier. If I had another 27 years to teach, this is where I would teach. Thank you.</p> <p>Chairperson Umbriano asked if there was anything, if not we are going to take a recess for a couple of minutes for cake and coffee.</p>
<p><b><u>ROUTINE MATTERS MINUTES AND BILLS</u></b></p>	<p><b>150-4</b></p> <p>Mrs. Guglielmi moved for approval of the General Fund October 2014 bills in the amount of \$627,610.64; seconded by Mrs. Delmonico; unanimously approved.</p> <p>Mrs. Guglielmi moved for approval of the Grant bills for October 2014 in the amount of \$21,840.97; seconded by Mrs. Delmonico;</p>

	unanimously approved.
<u>APPROVAL OF MINUTES</u>	<p><b>150-5</b> Mrs. Guglielmi moved to approve minutes of the regular meeting of September 2, 2014; seconded by Mrs. Delmonico; unanimously approved.</p>
<u>CORRESPONDENCE</u>	<p><b>150-6</b></p> <p>1. The following letters to the Superintendent were received requesting home schooling for the 2014-2015 school year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. and Mrs. T for two children</li> <li>• Mrs. D for one child</li> <li>• Mr. T for one child</li> <li>• Mr. and Mrs. A for one child</li> <li>• Ms. V for two children</li> <li>• Mr. and Mrs. B to one child</li> <li>• Ms. T for one child</li> </ul> <p><u>Recommendation:</u> Approve the request, according to the policies and procedures established by RIDE and the school department.</p> <p>Mr. LaPlante moved, seconded by Mrs. Guglielmi to approve the request according to the policies and procedures established by RIDE and the school department. The committee unanimously approved the motion</p> <p>2. A letter to the Superintendent from Tim Brown requesting use of three personal days on 11/24, 11/25 and 11/26 to attend a family event in another state.</p> <p><u>Background:</u> The date requested is contiguous with a holiday. According to the STA contract, the school committee must vote to allow the date requested. Principals Zajac and Sollitto recommend approval of the request.</p> <p><u>Recommendation:</u> Approve the request.</p> <p>Mr. LaPlante moved, seconded by Mrs. Esposito to approve the above request. The committee unanimously approved the motion.</p>
	<b>150-7</b>

	<b>REPORT OF COMMITTEE LIAISONS</b>
<b>BUDGET</b>	Chairperson Umbriano stated that we will be getting together pretty soon for the Budget.
<b>CURRICULUM</b>	None
<b>FOOD SERVICES HEALTH / WELLNESS</b>	Chairperson Umbriano stated that with respect to Health and Wellness, we are having a meeting on October 15 at Clayville School.
<b>NEGOTIATIONS</b>	None
<b>POLICY</b>	None
<b>RIASC</b>	None
<b>SCHOLARSHIP</b>	None
<b>SPECIAL EDUCATION</b>	None
<b>STRATEGIC PLANNING</b>	None
<b>TRANSPORTATION / SAFETY</b>	None
<b>SCITUATE PREVENTION COALITION (formerly SAFE)</b>	None
<b><u>UNFINISHED BUSINESS</u></b>	<p><b>150-8</b></p> <p>At the September meeting, the Committee voted to table a discussion regarding an employee requesting to use sick time as family sick time. The Committee requested additional information. Attached is a letter from the paraprofessional providing the information.</p> <p>Chairperson Umbriano stated that this because the letter came back asking for herself.</p> <p>Mrs. Esposito asked if in that letter, they are talking about the number of hours and days needed to get to November 30, 2014 and that is all covered under the Sick hours, so the total time would</p>

	<p>be covered under the sick hours?</p> <p>Dr. Lescault stated yes. I believe that Mike Zajak is here. Mike can I defer to you for that?</p> <p>Mr. Zajak state yes, that is correct.</p> <p>Mrs. Esposito stated that it is covered?</p> <p>Dr. Lescault stated that it is also worth noting that I should have included that there is a precedent for doing this.</p> <p>Mr. LaPlante moved, seconded by Mrs. Guglielmi to approve the above request. After discussion, the Committee unanimously approved the motion.</p>
	<p><b>150-9</b> <b><u>ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT</u></b></p>
<p><b><u>SCIENCE NECAP TEST SCORES</u></b></p>	<p>As of the writing of this report on 10/1/2014, the NECAP test scores are still embargoed by the Rhode Island Department of Education. RIDE and representatives from Measured Progress, (due to my statewide protests and protests to Commissioner Gist on the decrease in science test scores across the state), are coming to Scituate on 10/2/14 to review all of our student data with me, the principals and some key teachers. They are also visiting Barrington for the same reason on Thursday as well. There is a statewide meeting for central office administrators on Friday, 10/3 to hear the serious concerns districts have with these scores. By the date of our meeting, the embargo on the scores may have been lifted. If that is the case, I will provide my analysis and comment publicly for the 10/7 meeting.</p> <p>Dr. Filippelli stated that as of this meeting, the scores are still embargoed. There is something wrong. They do not know if it is a scoring issue. They do not know if it is a bench marking issue They do not know what the problem is yet, but they had another statewide meeting on Friday at 9:30 a.m. at RIDE where more people voiced their concerns because the scores went down at all levels...4-8-11. They went down in Rhode Island, New Hampshire and Vermont. Essentially what is happening is there are certain release items, either inquiry tasks or construct a response where kids who are normally in the 80% range proficient in Science and 90-100% range proficient in reading are getting scores of 0 in</p>

inquiry tasks and construct and response. As an example, I just want to use Mike Zajak for example. How many out of 124, did we have 94?

Mr. Zajak stated that we had 94 score 0 on inquiry tasks, 94 out of 120 students had zeros.

Dr. Filippelli stated that in Barrington the same thing. At Barrington Middle School it was 97 out of 215 scored zero. So it is not adding up. Wisely, I think RIDE has put the brakes on this. I have already gotten the analysis done and I shared some of that with you, but it cannot be for public consumption until RIDE puts it out officially and the RIDE embargo gets lifted and gets reported in the paper. I cannot report on the scores tonight, but I can report that there is clearly an issue and there is a problem somewhere with that.

Dr. Lescault stated that when we met with Measured Progress, they clearly understood that there is something wrong and they are working furiously to try and figure out that as well. The Commissioner has assured us that she will not un-embargo or release the scores until RIDE is satisfied that they are an accurate reflection of what the students actual achievements are. To be honest with you, I think it is entirely possible that they are going to end up scrapping the whole process because there was something fundamentally wrong with the test , the benchmark assessment. There is something very, very wrong.

Dr. Filippelli stated that we were only able to see our students. When Measured Progress came down they brought a selection of our kids that I chose. I knew that Barrington was going to do Middle School, I chose Elementary School. Fifty-One percent of the students at a particular elementary school were scoring zero and this is a school that has a 94% rate in reading so it was not adding up. They saw that when they came here that there was an issue. They saw it in Barrington as well. The brakes are on for now. If the scores get released, I will report out at the next meeting.

Mrs. Esposito stated that she went back a couple of years and went back to 2013 and 2012. If you look at those two tests, we were lower in 2012. Then we went extremely high last year in 2013. If you are saying that we went down, I want to know if you really think that is a scoring problem and test question problem or was the up year and anomaly and not the two downs?

Dr. Filippelli stated that we looked into that, but statewide, it does not make sense because it is all of the same questions. When

	<p>those scores came out on Monday I was making calls freaking out. We are trying to get our heads around what happened. We thought that at the high school level could it be that the kids got disengaged because the Commissioner had announced that NECAP is not going to count anymore. Was that an issue? Nope because the way I had explained to the Commissioner and this is kind of tongue and cheek, is it is kind of like the A Team of scorers randomly scored schools across the state then they had the B Team scorers that had no idea how to score a measured progress NECAP test and that happened randomly. We have Hope, which is a Title I school and does well but is usually at the cusp. They had the increase. I live in Smithfield and when I spoke to them, their high school took a hit but their elementary schools were totally fine. It did not make sense because we have been doing this for 10 years. We got this. We know what is going on. It is so scattered all over the state and they put the brakes on it.</p> <p>Dr. Lescault stated that statistically we know that there is a regression towards the means, and that certainly is part of the explanation. Believe me, Measured Progress has millions of dollars on the line and if it is simple as that they would have thrown that out and hoped that stuck as an answer. They know that is not happening.</p>
<p><b><u>OCTOBER 10<sup>TH</sup> PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT</u></b></p>	<p>On September 9<sup>th</sup>, we held our first professional development day for the year. The elementary teachers were trained on going deeper into the STAR assessments in regards to data analysis and producing and reading reports. The same trainer and delivery method from Renaissance Learning was used as it was on 8/25. The middle school teachers worked on CCSS curriculum alignment. A trainer from Highlander Institute worked with the middle school teachers in a continuation from the work that was begun last year around changing the curriculum to meet CCSS standards as they relate to the PARCC assessments.</p> <p>On October 10<sup>th</sup>, Scituate will hold its second professional development day of the year. We have an incredibly packed agenda for our teachers. There is a two hour session on differentiated instruction in the morning for all secondary regular and special educators, elementary special educators and all support personnel district-wide. The reading teachers will be working all day on the district reading and assessment matrix revision that was begun on 9/9. The school nurse teachers will be</p>

	<p>working in an all-day session developing Student Outcome Objectives, working on the Play 360 Grant, and completing curriculum revisions. The regular elementary teachers will be working in grade levels on CCSS for the first part of the day and then working on the Fall Writing Assessment Scoring for the second part of the day. Middle and High School teachers will utilize the second part of the day to work in their respective departments on CCSS curriculum. And, finally, the special educators will be working with John and Denise on aligning student IEP goals to CCSS.</p>
<p><b><u>NEW GENERATION SCIENCE STANDARDS LIAISONS</u></b></p>	<p>I received correspondence from Peter McLaren, the science and technology specialist at RIDE whereby he was seeking New Generation Science Standards (NGSS) liaisons. I immediately emailed the information to the building principals to see if we could get some of our teacher leaders to fill this role. In years past, with various Science initiatives, Scituate has always been a district involved at the ground level when changes to Science curricula change statewide. I don't want this time to be any different. I had indicated to teachers last year that as soon as Race to The Top was over, I wanted to focus our energies on looking at the Science Curriculum and bringing it into NGSS compliance. The high school has already been working on this for the past year. If you remember four years ago, we completed a revamping of the science curriculum from K-8 with the help of EBEC. As a result, we saw some increases in our science scores in various pockets around the district. I foresee a change in the science testing (going from the current NECAP to something else) in the next few years. RIDE is still going to use NECAP science for the next few years. The current NECAP science test is scheduled to be phased out in 2016 but RIDE is trying to get an extension on that. RI is currently working with the state of Delaware because both states use a Science matrix and the states are using kits as well...just like we do in Scituate. RIDE's plan is to come up with their own gap analysis and then distribute it statewide. Thus, we may need to think about changing the usage of our kits and/or finding a different vendor to support our curricular needs as it relates to the kits we purchase.</p> <p>Mrs. Esposito asked what is the EBEC? I figured out what NGSS was.</p> <p>Dr. Filippelli stated it is East Bay Educational Collaborative.</p>

<p><b><u>J.A.S.O.N. LEARNING PROJECT</u></b></p>	<p>Last April, I met with some middle school teachers regarding a learning opportunity for our students and teachers. The JASON learning project embeds cutting-edge research into award-winning, standards-aligned in and out-of-school curricula. Live webcasts connect students with inspirational STEM role models. Student materials include reading selections with read-to-me functionality, inquiry-based labs, videos, and online learning games. For teachers, JASON provides lesson plans, assessments, and comprehensive professional development for teachers. This project is funded by a grant through the RI legislature. There is no cost to the district for this work. JASON most notably operates out of the Mystic Aquarium and works closely with Dr. Robert Ballard. The mission and goal of this work in Scituate is to augment our work around STEM initiatives at the middle school. The work around this has been a few months in the making and I am excited that the middle school is taking part in this beginning this year.</p>
<p><b><u>MONTHLY ACTIVITIES</u></b></p>	<p>Committee members received a copy of the list of activities for Dr. Filippelli for the month.</p>
	<p><b><u>150-10 SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT</u></b></p>
<p><b><u>Audit Report</u></b></p>	<p>Attached is the Town of Scituate Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the Fiscal Year ended March 31, 2014. The School Unrestricted Fund Balance increased from \$1,587,208 at the beginning of the fiscal year to \$1,609,587 at the end, an increase of \$22,379. \$952,000 of the \$1,609,587 has been designated as revenue in the current budget. If the current budget is fully expended and no additional revenue beyond that budgeted is received, the fund balance will drop to \$657,587 or 2.9% of our current operating budget, at the end of this fiscal year. The school department received \$167,286 more revenue (\$64,643 state aid and \$102,643 other school revenues) than budgeted. We expended \$788,254 less than budgeted, leaving an excess of revenues over expenditures of \$955,540 on a budgetary basis.</p>

<p><b><u>Budgetary Assumptions</u></b></p>	<p>The Committee needs to establish budgetary assumptions for the development of the 2015-2016 District Budget. For 2014-2015, the Committee used 1.85%. For teachers, the actual ranged from 1.60% to 2.18%, with an average increase of 1.96%. I recommend the Committee consider using that percentage for budget planning purposes for groups that do not have a contract including a specific increase.</p> <p>Dr. Lescault stated that he needed direction from the Committee. He needed to know what to use for budgetary assumptions for salaries. Where we have contracts that the salary is specified, budgeting is easy. Where we have contracts where the increase is pegged to the average increase the teachers statewide are going to be receiving in the following year, we have to do our best to project as accurately as we can. During the past year for 2014-2015, we used 1.85%. For teachers, the actual range was 1.6 and 2.18, so the average increase was 1.96%. I am recommending that the Committee use that 1.96% as a percentage for budget planning purposes for any groups that do not have a contract including a specific increase. I need a nod of heads on that.</p> <p>Chairperson Umbriano asked if you need a nod or a vote.</p> <p>Dr. Lescault stated that he just needed a nod and as long as you are comfortable with it. A budget is nothing more than a plan. It is projection of what you think is going to happen. Obviously you have to go with the flow and make adjustments as necessary. We have been pretty good at projecting these amounts.</p>
<p><b><u>Transportation</u></b></p>	<p>The statewide shortage of bus drivers continues to be a problem, particularly for after school athletic trips. Due to a driver absence, First Student was one bus short on September 29<sup>th</sup>. They called all of their backup vendors and we called all of remaining bus companies on our list. No company had a driver available.</p> <p>Dr. Lescault stated that there is a big problem out there with bus driver shortages. We are hoping that there will not be a repeat of this. Ultimately First Student was able to borrow a driver from Metro?</p> <p>Kevin Ryan, Athletic Director stated that he didn't know where the driver was from. I do know he was out of state at the time when he was contacted and didn't think he was going to make it back in time. Fortunately he was a truck driver and made it back and was able to make the trip.</p>

Dr. Lescault stated to Kevin's (Ryan) credit what he did was...while we wanted two busses, we were certainly happy to have one bus, which is better than no busses. They were middle school kids, so they are not as big as the high school kids and he had all of the kids leave all of their materials. He locked them in his office so that it would be safe and they would not be crowded on the bus. We were able to get the kids there on time. They participated. All is well that ends well. This is certainly not a situation that I want kids in when they think they will have a meet and not able to get there.

Mr. LaPlante stated that he had one question. Paul (Dr. Lescault) when we are stung with a response like we got from First Student, with all due respect to First Student, I don't really care what constraints they have. They can offer a \$5,000 instead of \$2,000. The fact is we have a contract. They have an obligation to deliver and they are not complying with that obligation. I understand that we are reasonable folks here and as Kevin (Ryan) did, you have to react and respond in the best way you can. It sounds like he did and it sounds like you are. But when it comes to First Student, I want to hold them accountable. When we have to double up, I don't think we should have to pay the same amount.

Dr. Lescault stated we don't.

Mr. LaPlante stated that not only don't I want to pay for two busses that we do not get, but I think that one bus has been compromised. It is negatively impacted the experience of the kids. They are not doing their job. I am going to look at the contract, like I did before, and I am going to see what relief, if any, we can get. I want to incent First Student to incent the world to drive a bus and they have done it to an extent, but we all know if they put an ad out there for a bus driver for \$100,000 they will be lined up. They are incrementally increasing the compensation....not fast enough. There is heavy demand and they are contractually obligated.

Dr. Lescault stated that he would certainly be interested in your legal opinion as an attorney and whatever recourse we might have. If we can sue them for damages, that would be great.

Chairperson Umbriano stated that we met with them and we sat at the table and discussed all of this.

Mr. LaPlante stated that we do not have to sue them; I think it is simply bill them or ask for a waiver on that particular trip where they

	<p>have inconvenienced us. They made Kevin scramble. They made you scramble. If they are contractually obligated, then we should not have to pay for that at all.</p> <p>Chairperson Umbriano stated that they did not charge us last time.</p> <p>Dr. Lescault stated that sounds good to me.</p> <p>Chairperson Umbriano stated that in the past, that is what has happened. Do you remember that Paul (Dr. Lescault) the last time they could not supply a bus and then they found a bus from somewhere else? They didn't charge us for the bus, just paid the fee to the company from I think South Kingstown?</p>
<p><b><u>Textbook Purchase</u></b></p>	<p>Larry and I have received a request from Principal Zajac to purchase some replacement social studies and literature textbooks for the Middle School. RIDE has been advising districts to delay making major textbook purchases until they are sure the textbook being purchased is well aligned with the CCSS. Purchases have also been delayed because the social studies content area coordinator and teachers have been in discussion with Principal Zajac and Larry for over a year about whether to purchase new social studies (geography) textbooks or to pursue an electronic version. They have decided that at this time too many unanswered questions exist about going the electronic route. The proposed 7<sup>th</sup> grade textbooks, which have CCSS alignment, will replace textbooks with a 2007 copyright. For some reason the textbooks are in poor condition despite not being very old. Principal Zajac's request also includes additional social studies textbooks (history) for grade 8 to replace a civics textbook. Similarly, there are some literature textbooks that need to be replaced. The ELA content area coordinator and teachers have not decided on a specific title but will do so in the next month. Larry and I met with the Middle School social studies, ELA teachers and Principal Zajac. We reminded them that despite tight funding, neither we nor the school committee has ever denied a request to purchase needed textbooks.</p> <p>Dr. Lescault stated that despite the tight funding, he recommends that we purchase these text books. I should not have to say that to you because I can honestly say in all my time in Scituate, Larry's (Dr. Filippelli) predecessor and I have never said no to an actual need on a text book and neither has the Committee denied text books or materials. I am recommending that given your nod of heads that tomorrow morning I am going to cut a purchase order and buy these text books.</p>

Chairperson Umbriano stated that she remembered this discussion from last year. Why didn't they want the electronic version?

Dr. Lescault stated that for lots of reasons. Lots of unknowns.

Chairperson Umbriano stated that she really thought that was the way we were looking.

Dr. Lescault stated that the expense is one. Because in order to get us ramped up with the chrome books that we would need, the training, we could be looking upward of \$750,000.

Dr. Filippelli stated that not so much for the online version, it's the technology that supports it that is expensive. The problem you run into when you do an electronic copy of that is access. Because if you have a physical text book, then the kids put their hands on it, they take it home and do what they need to do. If a child does not have internet access at home or they do not have the means to get to a computer, then when you have an online base, you are preventing that kid of access. The other thing is a question that is always asked "can't you just get the electronic version and buy some copies of the textbooks and hand them out?" Well the way that the online electronic textbook was going to be was kind of a custom made textbook. I can tell you that don't think for a second you don't have a printed book in your hand that the cost is less for a kind of specific, custom made book than a traditional textbook. It is a little less, but not much.

Chairperson Umbriano stated that I know a lot of the concerns with the parents were the insurance and if they broke or lost them, then a lot of the parents will have to pay. I remember this whole discussion.

Dr. Lescault stated that there would be a charge for the parents in districts that are undoubtedly going this route. It is usually around \$50.00 per kid that they have to pay for insurance, per kid for the machine. The machines get broken, they get dropped, and they get tossed in a book bag.....back of the bus. That is an issue. The other issue that Larry (Dr. Filippelli) and I have talked about is we are not convinced and we have not seen any research or successful evidence that technology is really going to make a difference in terms of the bottom line of academic achievement and that is what we are really all about. In inner city schools the research is showing that it increases engagement of the kids because they are excited about using a computer, but kids in Scituate are pretty engaged to begin with so that is not going to be a major change. There are some districts around us that are looking at those things but let them try it out and see what happens.

Mrs. Esposito stated that since you brought up a topic that is near and dear to my heart – textbooks. I did some analysis on a list that I was given last year. This list is the list that the department chair has to provide every year to RIDE. Math, science, foreign language, social studies. I broke it up into earlier than 1999, from 2000-2009 and 2010-2014. There are 78 titles on this list that are 1999 and older.

Dr. Filippelli asked if it was ELA?

Mrs. Esposito stated that it was all over the board.

Dr. Lescault stated that he was not surprised.

Mrs. Esposito stated the publishing date 47 in that category and only 21 since 2010 to the present. This is not a complete list and there are a couple of questions involved in this discussion that I am going to have. Purchasing this book even though it is 2007 and a tattered book, isn't that a band aid approach to the purchase of a textbook. Shouldn't we as a district have.....

Dr. Lescault stated that it is not the same textbook.

Mrs. Esposito stated that we should have a policy for purchasing textbooks so that we are not doing it because a parent sees a book, it's ripped up and we purchase a book. We do it because we need a book to meet the needs of the students in the classroom. If you look at the math books in 1999, the 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grade math books have a publishing date of 1999. That means they were written for New Standards Reference tests. They don't go with NECAP and far from Common Core. I agree with you that you can't buy a lot of textbooks right now because they are only 40% connected to the Common Core, isn't this a perfect opportunity to get a policy in play where the teachers know they will get this textbook in a short period of time and we will have the students learning for the 21<sup>st</sup> century in mathematics, science, English language arts and other subjects.

Dr. Lescault stated that anyone would have a hard time arguing with anything you have said. We do not have a written policy. The policy has been that coordinators, teachers make their requests to the principals, the principals put it together as part of their budget and make their requests to Larry and I and we in turn bring it to the School Committee. Certainly from the principal to Larry (Dr. Filippelli) to me to you, I do not recall us ever cutting it. I am assuming that the principals are looking to have some sort of multiyear kind of process in mind during which they are going to replace those text books that they feel are most critical. Some textbooks, it would not matter if they were published in 1974, *le petit bourgeois* or whatever, some little type trade book. It has not

changed, it is a story and as long as the book is in good shape it does not matter what the publication date was. A written policy would not be bad.

Mrs. Esposito stated that we could have a rolling five year plan because what I am getting and I am going to be quite frank, what you tell me and what I get from other people in the system, because I still talk to people..... They request a book and what happens in the budgeting process is you are told you have "X" amount of dollars and if other things are of certain need, then the books go to the wayside. Because you could supplement your content area.

Dr. Lescault stated that I am sure it happens. As with anyone's budget, we have priorities but if someone tells me they need a text book we find ways of getting that text book. Last year we were told that some math text books, 8<sup>th</sup> grade elementary.....not sure what it was but between Larry and I, we came up with \$10,000 and we bought them.

Mrs. Esposito asked if we could take that out of the teacher request issue and say "Larry, you're in charge of curriculum, you work with your teachers every day, you know what is needed for a textbook and a certain content area. This year, we will purchase "X" amount that we could afford." Can't we do that? My other issue is also elementary school. I understand from the idea of papers in elementary and doing the paperwork. So my idea now is kind of changing a little bit here, but what I would like at least is a resource kit for the teacher. For example, if a teacher is not a good fraction person, they need a reference and a textbook can be a perfect reference to give you the content, the skill and the way to teach. So the kids may not need it, but at least the teacher has a viable resource that is current and all of them have the same one so you know it is going to be taught probably the same type of way.

Dr. Lescault stated that I can answer for Larry (Dr. Filippelli). Larry (Dr. Filippelli) gets this request on a weekly basis and expenditures for textbooks are not limited to local funds. Larry (Dr. Filippelli) has access to some grant funds and we have never said no.

Dr. Filippelli stated that last year RIDE had put out a, I would not say a freebee, but basically said...hey, I have a Race to the Top money that needs to be spend. We are going to lighten up some of the restrictions because the feds lightened up the restrictions on us and so going along with the grade level SLO content leaders at the elementary level, one of the tasks that they had was to fix all the curriculum and get it to state standards, but the other piece of that that RIDE wrote into its Title II grant and also into the Race to the Top grant last year, were line items for instructional supplies. Today, I just got one from Stephanie Nicholson. I got one from

Lisa LaRose a couple of weeks ago where they highlighted the things that we need. I forward it to Jen Carnevale and she finds the base that has it for the best price and then we buy it and get reimbursed by the grant. So that is happening. Are we looking at a specific kit? I am leaving that up to the content people at the elementary level. I am not even going to pretend to know in depth what they are looking for specific levels for lets say 4<sup>th</sup> grade math. I am relying on them to tell me. I support it by trying to get it through the grants. With that being said, your points all being taken because Title II I will always have so I can always put a little bit of that into Title II, but it is not the well that you can keep going to all the time. So this year I was able to use Race to the Top which was nice for some of that. The rest of it I am using Title II. But there is a saturation point with what you are saying you have a policy or a system of replacement or whatever we are going to come up with. Yet, you do need some kind of thinking of “yeah, I am going to put this much away for this” and then I can offset it with some of the grants. I did that last year with algebra. That is happening. Specific to a kit, no but the materials and supplies, that is happening.

Mrs. Esposito stated that I am assuming that is some type of job that you as Curriculum person would do to set up a review of replacement and purchase type of rolling policy that we can look at and say “we can put away X amount of dollars, and say this is what we need.” It may not happen for three years because you are going to have to review and then replace, but at least you will know what is going to happen in the future.

Dr. Filippelli stated that I can send a request to the Superintendent’s List Serve and see if anyone has an existing policy, not to reinvent the wheel.

Mrs. Esposito stated that my last thing on textbooks.....

Dr. Filippelli stated round three?

Mrs. Esposito stated yes, round three. Do you have a complete list of all of the books that are used in the Scituate School Department?

Dr. Lescault stated yes.

Mrs. Esposito stated that this one was only math?

Dr. Lescault stated that no, we have to supply that to RIDE every year.

Mrs. Esposito stated that it does not have some of the elementary books that are used. There are actually no textbooks that are used

at the elementary school.

Dr. Filippelli stated that it is all.....

Mrs. Esposito stated that I know, I talk to educators and I talked to one in East Greenwich and she said that they are moving away because of the Common Core, but part of me still pulls the content person that wants that .....

Dr. Filippelli stated that I have every confidence in the elementary teachers that if they need resources for something, they are finding it, meeting with colleagues. If they need help with something, I know they are looking for the resources. If they are telling me they need something specific, Jen and I are ordering it, but I would not think for a second that they are not seeking out whatever they need.

Mrs. Esposito stated that because for example, I have to teach logarithms and exponentials. I have not done them probably since the 11<sup>th</sup> grade. I am going to have to pull out a book and know about them.

Dr. Filippelli stated that homework comes home for my kid and there is no explanation on anything...just the sheet.

Dr. Lescault stated that I know that we do have that complete list, including elementary because we got an Access for Public Records Act request for all of the textbooks in the state and so I saw that this afternoon. Unfortunately, the person that put together the list didn't realize that the request was just middle school and high school textbooks, so she had to go back and delete all of the elementary stuff. So we have the entire thing.

Mrs. Esposito stated okay, thank you. I know that having a textbook to me as a parent is really important at home when I might be able to answer a question that my child had that is not readily at the top.

Dr. Filippelli asked if he could clarify the question of the Committee. What do you want to do? I can certainly send a request out to the Superintendent's List Serv. I can start calling some colleagues. I can do whatever you want me to do, but I just want to know what you want me to do.

Mr. LaPlante stated that here is my take. I think that the notation of force-feeding a budgeted amount of instructional material does not make sense to me, fundamentally. I think it should be demand driven. Now, at the same time I respect the fact that maybe some of the teachers in the trenches are so bludgeoned to death over the budgeting years that they have experienced poor response that

they are not inclined to request. So maybe more and better communication has to be made of them to engage in that demanding process. I am concerned about budgeting \$50,000 a year for textbooks just because. Just because we think that is a good idea. I am concerned about that but I will review any policy like that and determine if that is just going to add fat to the budget or if it is going to have some impact. If we are going to have positive impact, then obviously we want to do it.

Dr. Lescault stated that I think it should be noted to this Committees' credit and to the credit of the tax payers for this town that despite the hard times we have had with level funded budgets for several years, and the fact that our school population and local enrolment had declined from over 1800 to a little over 1400 that we continue to fully fund textbooks and instructional supplies. We have devoted between \$50,000-\$60,000, I am not sure of the exact numbers, for textbooks each year and over \$100,000 for instructional supplies every single year. We have never cut a dime from that, despite the fact that the population is going down. We are making an effort. Could we use more? Of course we could but we are making an effort to try and do exactly what Jean (Mrs. Esposito) is asking for, which is to rotate them so you are on that cycle of replacement. Otherwise they get ahead of you.

Chairperson Umbriano asked if anyone had any more questions for Paul (Dr. Lescault) on his report.

Mrs. Esposito stated that I would like to hear from the people here seated on the textbook issue before we go to public comment. We have done that before.

Chairperson Umbriano stated that I know. I think we are going to move on and they can bring it up in public comment so they can give their name and number and in our minutes we will have a record of who is speaking.

Mr. LaPlante stated that it is next.

Mr. LaPlante asked if anyone else had any other questions for the Superintendent on his report?

Chairperson Umbriano stated okay. We will move on to public comments and questions. We ask please that you say your name and your address for the secretary so that she will have a record of who spoke during Public Comments and Questions.

<u>MONTHLY ACTIVITES</u>	Committee members received a copy of the list of activities for Dr. Lescault for the month.
<u>NEW BUSINESS</u>	<b>150-11</b> <b>None</b>
<u>PUBLIC COMMENT AND QUESTIONS</u>	<p><b>150-12</b></p> <p><b>Erica McCormick, 428 Trimtown Road</b></p> <p>I just wanted to give the Committee an update for the Partners for Success (PFS) Grant. For those of you that do not know what it is, it is a block grant that Scituate has been awarded for a five year, \$525,000 block, grant to reduce drug abuse in kids ages 12-17. You have the contract and it is either in the Town Hall as we speak or maybe on its way back to the Department of Health. Once we get it signed off on all of the signatures at the Department of Health, I can start getting the money from it and within the next four months, the first job for the Scituate Prevention Partnership is to do the assessment that I talked about. I have all of the quantitative data, all the numbers that were handed to me from the Epidemiology group at Brown. You will now be looking for the quantitative date, which is involved in during sometimes one on one interview, sometimes focus groups. We will be gathering information from students, from parents, School Committee members, business owners, and clergy in the Town. I had mentioned these things to you guys before. I just wanted to let you know that we have the contract and things are moving forward. I am sure that the School Committee will continue to be supportive. When you get the phone call, we would like you to be a part of the focus group, along with parents, teachers and others in the community. I wanted to make sure you didn't have any questions from us unanswered. Where there any questions that came up recently?</p> <p>Chairperson Umbriano stated no.</p> <p><b>Colleen Pendergast, 2 Applehill Drive</b></p> <p>I did want to follow up on the textbook issue and I appreciate Dr. Lescault bringing that up tonight and Jean (Mrs. Esposito) expanding on it. The books mentioned tonight, the geography book and the literature book coincide with the two books that I took pictures of at the open house that were absolutely deplorable. Shameful is the best word. I see the textbooks in the classroom and the teacher was done with this presentation and I just happened to say "I am hoping that is an extra copy of something</p>

that we do not use” to which I had three parents raise their hands to say “no, my kids came home with books like that”. I have been looking through the budget. Dr. Lescault you state that you spend over \$50,000 a year on books.

Dr. Lescault stated yes, on textbooks.

**Colleen Pendergast, 2 Applehill Drive**

Now the actual I have from 2012-2013 says that we actually spent \$26,000.

Dr. Lescault stated yes, I can explain that. We had \$52,000-\$53,000. There was one content area group that was having a hard time in deciding what new textbook they wanted. By the time they decided to buy it, it got pushed into the next fiscal year. So if you look at the next fiscal year, that fiscal year was inflated by the amount that should have been used in the prior year.

**Colleen Pendergast, 2 Applehill Drive**

Because on the budget it does not have the actual, that makes sense.

Dr. Lescault stated that he understood. I actually got an APRA (Access to Public Records Act) request on multiyear spending, which I was putting together today with someone. I have seen it and that was the explanation. It immediately jumped out at me as well.

Mr. LaPlante asked who made that request?

Dr. Lescault stated that it was Mr. Marcello, Representative Michael Marcello.

**Colleen Pendergast, 2 Applehill Drive**

As a parent and tax payer, I commend all the good work that everybody up there does, but there is a disconnect with the textbook process. We talk about being demand driven and I am speaking now specifically towards middle school, that is where I really found things to be basically horrific as far as textbooks goes. I have come to many School Committee meetings where it has been repeated over and over again that no request for a textbook is ever denied. I am not refuting that. I don't think these teachers want to be teaching with 18 year old textbooks. I don't think these teachers want to be handing out books to students that have no covers, no spines and no backs.

Dr. Lescault stated that they absolutely should not be doing that.

**Colleen Pendergast, 2 Applehill Drive**

The response.....its the word level funding that I keep hearing. Level funding, level funding. So are you denying them for things? No because no one is asking and it is not because it is not demand driven. There is a need for this.

Dr. Lescault stated that he agreed to the extent that we were not aware of that. That is certainly a failure on our part and I recognize that and apologize for that. We can certainly do a better job in the future. I think part of the problem is also that the allocation of textbook money eschewed more at the direction of the high school and the middle school has been sort of short changed. This infusion of money that we are talking about tonight will be spent with the Committees' nod of approval, about \$25,000 tomorrow morning on textbooks for the middle school. We spent \$10,000 last year on unbudgeted textbooks. I think we have taken a major step in the right direction towards improving the textbook situation. Immediately when I saw that textbook and I am glad you pointed it out because unless someone told me about it, I would not have known about it, we agreed additional textbook funds for the Middle School were needed.

**Colleen Pendergast, 2 Applehill Drive**

That is the disconnect.

Dr. Lescault stated yes, that there is a disconnect and I do not go out and check all of the schools textbooks, but I am sorry that I was not aware of that because I would not have a kid taking home a textbook without a cover. We have given out about \$15,000 worth of textbooks to private school kids every year and I would never in a million years hand a textbook like that to a parent and I would be ashamed to do so.

Mr. LaPlante stated that from a policy standpoint that is where Jean's (Mrs. Esposito) idea has traction. The notation that as a policy we have certain base lines that we do not go below. A book in that condition, we get rid of and supply new ones. What I had a concern about was some block fund that goes to textbooks. I agree that some protocol for the type of material we roll out, absolutely a good idea.

**Colleen Pendergast, 2 Applehill Drive**

If I know we talked about the upcoming budget year, your allocations are....I am talking last year. So you have \$32,000 allocated towards the high school and we have about \$8,500 allocated to the middle school. Granted there is big difference.

The other piece I noted in the budget was that this budget year there was a \$4,500 savings on textbooks for out of district students because of the RIDE reimbursement.

Dr. Lescault stated that is correct.

**Colleen Pendergast, 2 Applehill Drive**

It is found money in essence. That is \$5,000 off the top this year that could have been thrown right back into the middle school.

Dr. Lescault stated that you need to understand that \$25,000 that I just got the Committee to nod to agree to, that is not in the budget at all. The budget is just a plan. If we need something, we will buy it.

**Colleen Pendergast, 2 Applehill Drive**

We need to beef up our plan for the middle school.

Dr. Lescault stated that he agreed.

Chairperson Umbriano stated that they need to ask too.

Dr. Lescault stated that I think the fact that we are spending \$25,000 tomorrow and we spent \$10,000 last year that was not budgeted, that \$35,000 is going a long way towards making up the fact that we have been undersupplying if you will the middle school and short changing them at the expense of the high school.

**Colleen Pendergast, 2 Applehill Drive**

I think that is true. They have been short changed. I think that if going forward, that budgeted amount could be increased. I am not saying that it has to be the same as the high school. I think the message needs to get out to these wonderful teachers that they can ask for textbooks. None of them want to be teaching with 20 year old textbooks.

Dr. Lescault stated that it depends on the textbook.

**Colleen Pendergast, 2 Applehill Drive**

There are a very small minority of books that could be but I also know that these teachers are spending countless hours photocopying, and finding resources.....I get the Common Core and changes that are coming out, but we need to put the right supports in place so they can do it.

Dr. Lescault stated absolutely. That is our role to support the

schools and make sure the people have the materials that they need to implement teaching and learning. I do not disagree with a word you have said.

**Colleen Pendergast, 2 Applehill Drive**

Thank you.

Mrs. Esposito asked if she could ask a couple of questions. You said \$32,000 was spent for textbooks?

**Colleen Pendergast, 2 Applehill Drive**

It was allocated.

Mrs. Esposito asked if that was at the high school, over 4 department areas, over 10 department areas?

Dr. Filippelli stated that it covers all department areas.

Mrs. Esposito stated that is given each department \$3,200 on an average.

Dr. Filippelli stated yes, on an average.

Mrs. Esposito stated that for \$3,200, at \$32.00 a book, you are getting a 100 but they are no \$32.00 anymore, they are \$100.00, so you are only getting 32 books.

Dr. Filippelli stated that each department does rotate amongst themselves. When the budget is sent to me, the department chairs allocate based on need. For example this past year, our math department ordered 100 new algebra I books. This coming year in the current budget cycle, I believe Science is going to update their physics books. We bought chemistry books in previous years. We ordered over 100 foreign language books the year before that. There will be some years where foreign language will spend \$9,000 of that \$32,000 and the following year it may be history that spends \$8,000 or \$9,000 of the \$32,000. It is kind of fluid from year to year between the departments. It is not a set amount that each department gets.

Mrs. Esposito stated okay.

**Annie Oster, 3 French Lane**

Just to piggy back on Colleen's idea about the books, my daughter went through middle school and the books were as Jean (Mrs. Esposito) and Colleen (Pendergast) described them, I was appalled at the condition of them. When I questioned it three years

ago we were told by teachers that we don't have them, that the kids have to share and we do not have a budget for them. I am aware that children that do go to private schools that live in Scituate do get a nice stack of very attractive looking books to bring to their private schools. I have three nephews in private schools. I want my children to have the same type of books that my nephews get.

Dr. Lescault stated as do we.

**Annie Oster, 3 French Lane**

I know most of you have heard my issues about the school and I am aware that the school does need a lot of renovations, particularly when it comes to the athletic complex. It is below standards and I am tired of hearing my children say that they have to share fields with football players and also that they have to walk down to Manning Field or catch a ride with a high school student. I work in the insurance industry and do not want my children catching rides with other children. When my daughter starts driving, I am not going to allow her to take students with her. That is a huge liability and the school should provide bussing. I know I have brought this up to many of you and was told that it is covered and they can catch any bus. They can't catch any bus as I have mentioned the practices are at different times.

Chairperson Umbriano stated wait, they can get a bus that goes down to Manning Field that will stop and drop off the children that are going to play after school. The concern was the late busses.

**Annie Oster, 3 French Lane**

That not necessarily true. If a game is at 4 p.m. or if practice is at 4 p.m., they need a ride at 4 p.m. there are no late busses at that time. They have to change prior to so they can't catch the bus.

Chairperson Umbriano stated that they did that last year, what happened with this year?

\_\_\_\_\_ (person spoke but did not give their name) Yes, they still do that.

Chairperson Umbriano.....Mr. Ryan?

**Kevin Ryan, Athletic Director**

We have done that for middle school students, providing transportation. There are certain busses that went to Manning Field. Not all the players were using this. Some were grabbing rides with an older brother or sister or even parents.

Chairperson Umbriano stated that I had a mini van and drove them for years and didn't have children playing.

**Kevin Ryan, Athletic Director**

Personally I have had children I have had to transport to practices. My wife has had to make arrangements for rides. I do not feel that it is the athletic department's responsibility. I feel that if the child is participating in the sport, there should be some responsibility either on the child or the parent. I understand not wanting to ride with other individuals.

**Annie Oster, 3 French Lane**

I pay taxes in this town and if my child is participating in a school sport, it should be done right after school, right at the school facility. Not at some field down the street and be told to walk. I want to see anyone of you walk down Rockland Road. I am not risking my child to get kidnapped or hit by a car. The school has to provide bussing and it has to be according to the soccer coaches schedule. Give us a complex where our kids can play sports. There is glass on the field if you walk onto our soccer field.

Mr. LaPlante asked which field?

**Annie Oster, 3 French Lane**

Right at this field here.

Chairperson Umbriano asked if it was Cato?

**Annie Oster, 3 French Lane**

It is whatever you call it. On Cato Field there is glass on it. So whoever did the nice job of adding rocks and glass, I thank you very much but I would like a real field with turf or something that our kids can play on and be proud of. I know it has been brought before the town and it was not approved. That was ten years ago, folks. Let's get it moving. Let's work together and get another bond going where we can have our students play sports at the school where they actually go to school. It is not a parent's job. I have had to call my neighbor to go pick up my daughter to bring her to practice.

Mr. LaPlante stated a couple of points. One, with respect to home practices, home games, your point is that it is not truly a "home" practice or game when it is down the road.

**Annie Oster, 3 French Lane**

No.

Mr. LaPlante asked what accommodations do we have in place right now? We have busses that leave school right after school and will drop the kids off. The problem is they need to get changed for the sport so that does not work. Is that what you are saying?

**Annie Oster, 3 French Lane**

Yes.

Chairperson Umbriano stated that it worked last year. Am I correct Mr. Ryan?

**Kevin Ryan, Athletic Director**

Yes.

Chairperson Umbriano stated that so is the bus leaving earlier? There was no problem with this last year. We met with the bus company. They were willing to do this. They did not charge us anything and it happened.

Mr. LaPlante asked if the kids took advantage of it?

**Kevin Ryan, Athletic Director**

There were individuals who used the bus.

Chairperson Umbriano stated ok.

**Annie Oster, 3 French Lane**

Yes, but they had to leave class earlier to do make it. They also have to go downstairs to their lockers and to make it downstairs, get their backpack, go to the gym and walk down to the gym.....

Mr. LaPlante stated that it is challenging.

**Annie Oster, 3 French Lane**

If they are doing afterschool work if they need extra help, there are no busses for them as well.

Mrs. Esposito asked if athletic practices begin at 2:30 p.m or do they begin at 3:20 p.m. after department night?

Mr. LaPlante stated not necessarily. Random times.

Mrs. Esposito stated that maybe I am old and out of touch with the

fact that I taught here. If I remember correctly, we went through a whole thing about athletic practices/music practices could not begin until 3:15 p.m. when department nights were over? Because then that solves an issue here. That solves a department chair time issue, but it also solves a bus issue. If you have a bus at 3:15 p.m. and the kids would be able to get it. But it does not solve the problem with staggered practices for all the teams that we have. We have many teams practicing and we have a limited amount of space for many teams to practice. Not only do we have this facility problem and I did walk the fields today. I went out there and walked them and I talked to a lot of people that I know and yes, we have some good fields and some really bad fields. Nothing has been done in five years to improve that. We have a lot of teams using them too.

Chairperson Umbriano stated that is not true.

Mrs. Esposito stated No, we don't have a lot of teams using them?

Chairperson Umbriano stated that we just redid Cato Field this summer.

Mrs. Esposito stated that was my question.

**Annie Oster, 3 French Lane**

You can't call that a redo because it has rocks and glass.

Mrs. Esposito stated that she did see.....

Dr. Lescault asked if he could comment on that because there were 12 truckloads of loom that were delivered and spread on that field and the whole field was hydro seeded.

Chairperson Umbriano stated and watered.

Mrs. Esposito stated that I was just going to ask that.

Dr. Lescault stated that we can't have those fields irrigated continually when the school is in session because our wells will only support between 2000-2500 gallons per day. However, in the summer time we were watering those with kind of a jerry rigged watering system. We devoted a ton of resources to making that field playable. I have to tell you it is probably terrible again because it is so overused that it is probably getting worn down to dirt again.

**Steve Gormley, Director of Buildings and Grounds**

I am sure there are rocks down there. We raked out anything that

we saw. We have two people that can do it and the number of man hours was obscene down there this summer just to get grass to grow in August. Where there are a lot of other areas that we normally take care of were put into watering fields four hours a day. As far as the fields go, that was a temporary repair. We did some work to it to make it better and put some grass on it. We spent a lot of money to do it.

Mr. LaPlante asked if you were talking about Cato Field?

**Steve Gormley, Director of Buildings and Grounds**

Yes. Now originally the two fields down the street were done last year, which that \$18,000 was meant to top dress the other field at Manning. So those funds got shifted to the baseball fields. The big picture is would I love a new complex? In the blink of any eye because it takes away these problems with the fields. The misunderstanding of the fields is down here at the school there is no water. You can't water them so we pump water into tanks and shuffle water from the school's drinking water to water fields.

Mrs. Esposito stated that I am a little confused because I don't know what field we are talking about. Cato is the one here? I did see in the budget and our report in September that the football field renovations were completed. In the budget last year we approved \$18,000 for the Cato Field.

Dr. Lescault stated yes.

Mrs. Esposito asked if that was loom and top seeding?

**Steve Gormley, Director of Buildings and Grounds**

that got shifted to baseball.

Mrs. Esposito stated that this field has no sprinklers on it?

**Steve Gormley, Director of Buildings and Grounds**

No, there is a septic system under it.

Mrs. Esposito stated ok. The field down at Manning Field does have sprinkler system, but it does not have a well, doesn't it go into the swamp?

Mr. LaPlante stated that the bottom line is we have major facility needs. That is the reality that has been true since I went to school here and the only way to accomplish it, unfortunately is through an uprising, a major project, a bond...because we do not have the ability to effectuate that change. We have a limited budget. Can

we get behind a project like that? Yes and I think this group would.

Chairperson Umbriano stated that we have in the past.

Mr. LaPlante stated that we are not against it; we are on your team. We have been frustrated by the history, but that does not mean that we cannot accomplish it. We have different groups in town now, SYA.....

Chairperson Umbriano stated that people need to get out and vote for it this time.

Mr. LaPlante stated that I think the dynamics of the town maybe changed. We are also wasting a lot of money and time that Steven is spending on this stuff. I think that there can be some off sets associated with having a new facility. You get rid of the safety issues. I don't think we have safety issues, but the logistics issues associated with getting kids down there. We have a track program that is doing very well.

**Steve Gormley, Director of Buildings and Grounds**

We already have a plan for this. It is already drawn....there is no architect needed.

Mr. LaPlante stated good point. We could just tweak that plan.

Chairperson Umbriano stated that but it is still one complex.

Mrs. Esposito asked if she could ask a question. Paul (Dr. Lescault) can we partner with some of the youth groups in town.

Dr. Lescault stated that we certainly can. We are willing to partner with anybody that can help us.

Mrs. Guglielmi stated that it is possible that the Space Needs Committee, which is a town committee that has members of the school committee on it. So the Town Council .....

Dr. Lescault stated that Brian (Mr. LaPlante) has made an active effort through the SYA and tried to do some of that fundraising and do some of that working together with us. I can't speak for how successful you have been Brian (Mr. LaPlante).

Mr. LaPlante stated that it is getting off the ground. It is going pretty well and one of the targets we have among the many grants.....get the grant monies flowing in. That would be fantastic to supplement the expenditures associated with that project. Now it was how much back then? What was the project scope dollar wise?

Dr. Lescault stated several million dollars.

Mr. LaPlante stated well guess what, it is now double that or triple that.

Dr. Lescault stated that there are all kinds of wetlands and issues that you have to build around it. It will be kind of screwy looking because it has to be built around that.

Mr. LaPlante stated that there are challenges to development.

Mrs. Esposito stated that I am not a construction person but when you are talking about several million that is when there was nothing down at Manning.

Dr. Lescault stated that we are talking about Manning field, but just below Caito field. Right here? Jean (Mrs. Esposito)

Mrs. Esposito stated that was part of the building project right here?

Mr. LaPlante stated yes, right.

Mrs. Esposito stated that several million was part of the building project that added rooms to the school and then improve athletic facilities. It was not just a million dollars. I was talking to someone else today and we were talking about looking at one field in a season and having a professional company come in and just leveling the field, topping the field and hydro seeding the field and getting it in perfect shape. I guess I am on a rolling repair idea tonight. Do one year and one the next year....not put it on Steven.

**Steve Gormley, Director of Buildings and Grounds**

it is an annual thing. That is the problem. The recommendation that I recently made is to make Manning Field the game field and everybody else practices up here. Try and keep grass on Manning that way, by hydro seeding it. That is a discussion that Michael Sollitto and I are having.

Mrs. Esposito stated that is great because I was talking about the fact that we have a beautiful Tasca Field and you guys know better than I. My kids are 35 and 34 and they don't play sports anymore here. You have a beautiful Tasca Field facility; can't we play our home games on there?

Mr. LaPlante stated that is a great idea for soccer.

Mrs. Esposito stated can't we play there and practice here.

Chairperson Umbriano stated no. You can't because of the.....hold on a second. I have already called and asked.

**Diane Scacco, 19 Crestview Drive**

As a parent and as a tax payer and as an active member in Scituate Youth Soccer Organization for 9 years, I am going back 8 years ago we realized just like everybody else that the fields are crappy. So what we did was had a nice meeting with the town and we did a lot of grant writing like we talked about in SYA. You have to get those federal grants so we go get the grants. However, in addition, SYA has put in thousands of dollars (you will have to talk to our treasurer for exact amounts)....I don't want to give out numbers. We have literally spent thousands and thousands of dollars of Scituate soccer money to upgrade, to put the sprinkler systems in, to redesign the fields, to top soil. I am selling raffle tickets, I am doing golf tournaments, I am standing on my head. We accommodate over 450 children in the town. Now, our fields too like these are on a constant cycle. You know they could have easily have overuse. We work strongly hand in hand and again, it is a lot of town council meetings, land trusts meetings.....I have learned more about grass than I really every wanted to know.

Chairperson Umbriano asked if there was a deed for the field?

**Diane Scacco, 19 Crestview Drive**

Going way back, we did the research and talked to Mr. D'Agostino. Again, it was an 8 year process and basically the land trust is involved along with the town and Scituate Youth Soccer.

Mr. LaPlante stated I don't care who is involved. Why wouldn't the field be available for home games for soccer? Do you think you have exclusive rights?

**Diane Scacco, 19 Crestview Drive**

Absolutely not, but we do have a vested interest.

Mr. LaPlante stated I get that. It would have to be respectful use.

**Diane Scacco, 19 Crestview Drive**

Right now, our same problems like you are talking about top soil and dressing. This year, we have a \$15,000 bill and we have gone through three sets of landscapers. You know that pile of dirt in the back? Well sometimes we have to go out and shovel it onto the field to get rid of the divots. We have literally worked with three different landscapers. Please come to one of our meetings where

there is an executive board of 12-15 people who could go into more depth than I can. They (the landscapers) do not even come and do the work when you have paid for it. We have had a nightmare with different contractors. We put it out there. It is a struggle to have the field the way we want it. Our plan is to have tournaments on it to raise money for our programs.

Mrs. Esposito stated that doesn't the Youth Association play on the high school fields?

Dr. Lescault stated no, not soccer.

Mrs. Esposito asked about baseball and football?

**Diane Scacco, 19 Crestview Drive**

I am not involved with baseball so I can't answer that.

Mrs. Esposito stated that if they are going to play on our fields.....I applaud Youth Organizations, don't get me wrong.

**Diane Scacco, 19 Crestview Drive**

We will take it to a Town Council meeting, Conservation meetings, but it is written in.

Mr. LaPlante stated that I will let Sal (Gelsomino) speak to it too. Jean (Mrs. Esposito) what happens with baseball and softball is we have tried to get those groups to step up. For example, the soft ball group....the youth league did the field over. They paid a lot of money for that. There is a cooperative effort in place with most of the leagues.

**Diane Scacco, 19 Crestview Drive**

Overuse is a concern. Again, we start our season on fields that are open, on March 1. We have practices for competitive. We go right into tournaments and then we have a little bit of a summer rest, about 2 weeks, and then we go into summer camp and then tryouts. Again, we have 450 people playing. A game here and there, absolutely no problem. But we can't have overuse either. We are trying to build something nice.

Mrs. Esposito stated that I was not talking about practice there.

**Diane Scacco, 19 Crestview Drive**

I totally agree with you and I have had children go to the high school and one of mine is now in high school, but to get to the field is even more dangerous.

Mrs. Esposito stated not practice, I am talking about a home game for Scituate boys and girls at the varsity level. That is 8 games as I look at it.

**Diane Scacco, 19 Crestview Drive**

There are 20 something just for the girls.

Mrs. Esposito asked if you played that many games?

**Diane Scacco, 19 Crestview Drive**

Home games.

Mrs. Esposito stated you play a 30 game season? How many games? Varsity. Don't they play them at the same time?

Dr. Lescault stated no, one after the other.

Mrs. Esposito stated yes, on the same day.

Mr. LaPlante stated that they could play at two different locations.

**Diane Scacco, 19 Crestview Drive**

I was just throwing that out there. Say there is a game, a varsity game. What do I tell my 150 people who are practicing for their fall rec?

Mrs. Esposito asked if they played at the same time?

**Diane Scacco, 19 Crestview Drive**

They practice from 3:30-7:00 p.m. or until it gets dark. Believe me, could we use more fields. Absolutely. I am only on Scituate Soccer so I can only speak for them. However, I do have a high school child here. Going back to what you said about transportation, yes it is dangerous but I guess my questions is.....now that the students are in high school, how many of our sophomores, juniors and seniors are bringing their own cars to school. The parking lot is full. I do not know if they will make use of bus transportation. Maybe the freshman, but I know that the junior and seniors are parking.

Dr. Lescault stated that this has been going on for 31 years without incident, by the way too.

Chairperson Umbriano asked if there were any more questions.

**Kevin Ryan, Athletic Director**

I just wanted to mention that I had not heard anything about the glass. I knew about the rocks. We have 6 PE teaches out there using the fields during the day. We have 5 different teams using the fields and none of the coaches have addressed any issue with glass. Actually, this is the first time I am hearing about it.

**Annie Oster, 3 French Lane**

Parents that see it, pick it up and we give it to the coaches. The coaches are aware of it. Again, it is just a breakdown of communication. I am not trying to ruffle any feathers. What I want to do, what my vision is....some day we are all going to be gone. You (the Committee) are going to be replaced, we are all going to go to a greater place and I ask each one of you, what is your legacy. What are you leaving behind? Are you leaving behind a bunch of unfinished work or do you want to leave something for our students. Right now, we do not have a complex to be proud of.

Mr. LaPlante stated that is true.

**Annie Oster, 3 French Lane**

We do not have a sport program that is fully supported by our own town's people. I would like to make something happen, something persuasive and influential and I would be willing to work alongside any one of you to help you embark on this.

Chairperson Umbriano stated thank you.

**Sal Gelsomino, 107 Rocky Hill Road**

I want to go back to the bus issue for a second. Kevin (Mr. Ryan) was very instrumental in helping the middle school teams get a bus down to the field. Whether we want to realize it or not, there are safety concerns down Rockland Road. There are no sidewalks. There is a gentleman who has cameras all over his house. If a kid goes on that, he is calling the school department and it's just a headache all around. There are definite dangerous issues. Cars drive up and down that road at 90 miles an hour. There is a police sign that is there and once in a while there is an officer that is there. It is a safety issue. Now the fact that First Student was nice enough to not charge us, there are 9 busses that go back and forth to that field every single day. So, if First Student had the audacity to say we are going to charge you to drop off students off at Manning Field, then we really need to look at that contract.

Chairperson Umbriano stated that was not suggested. We talked to them about hiring a whole bus.

**Sal Gelsomino, 107 Rocky Hill Road**

They going to give you the whole bus at no charge?

Chairperson Umbriano stated that we asked about hiring a bus to just wait for our students and the suggested that we didn't need to do that. We go by the field and we would be glad to drop the students off. That was their suggestion.

**Sal Gelsomino, 107 Rocky Hill Road**

I am suggesting as an alternative to that would be, if you are not going to hire one bus and put it at the end. When I come here and coach baseball, there are about 20 busses lined up. The last bus has got to be on a ten minute delay compared to the first bus. Kids come down to the field, who is pulling up their pants as they are running, who is coming with one shoe on. The middle school kids are torturing their teachers and getting out of class early and that is not the answer either. As a teacher the last thing I want to do is have my kids say they have to get out ten minutes early in the middle of a lesson when I am trying to wind it down. If there is a ten minute delay there is no reason that last bus could be a bus that goes by Manning.

Mr. LaPlante stated the designated Manning bus?

**Sal Gelsomino, 107 Rocky Hill Road**

It may have to wait 2-3 minutes but it will get all the kids down there. I should take that back as I am going based on last year's schedule. That is a potential solution. With the field issue, while I understand the fields.....my frustration with the fields are there is no contingency plan. For example, Johnston built a brand new stadium. I am not comparing us to Johnston, but they had to take all their homes games and move them. They played away for the year until their stadium was built. We do not have a contingency plan. I appreciate and respect soccer and understand that they have their field and they dump a lot of money into them, little league dumps a lot of money into their field, softball dumps a lot of money into their field, softball bought a \$4,000 groomer to keep the fields up and make the fields look nice. The fact of the matter is, we are a small town. Regardless of any organization, Tasca is a town field. If we need to use it, we need to see the powers that be. I don't want to overuse it on them.

**Diane Scacco, 19 Crestview Drive**

It is in the conservation commission and land trust.

Mr. Gelsomino stated that it is a town field and it is paid for with town money.

**Diane Scacco, 19 Crestview Drive**

The grass is cut by the town, but everything else is paid for by Scituate Youth Soccer.

Mr. LaPlante stated that it is real simple. There is no restriction on the use of that field solely for Soccer Youth Association. There is zero restriction.

Chairperson Umbriano stated we understand that, so let's carry on with t his conversation. Sal (Gelsomino) can you continue please.

**Sal Gelsomino, 107 Rocky Hill Road**

Regarding the contingency plan, the more I am getting involved with SYA and talking with Brain (Mr. LaPlante) and other people, there is money out there. NFL360 has a plan, but we snubbed Tri-Town Titans on several occasions, so we have to go back and kind of mend that fence so we can get that going again and get the field. They can help us write a grant and get us millions of dollars from NFL. There is a Champlain Foundation out there that has over 600,000 worth of money and the gentleman that runs it is a Scituate resident himself. We can knock on those doors. There are ways to go out there and get money. What is aggravating and bothersome, is we are not doing this. We are not going out to get the money. I am not blaming anyone out there.

Chairperson Umbriano stated that SYA should do it. Go after it. The problem that happened with the Titans was because Cato field was being overused by the schools for gym and our teams. With them using it on top of our football team, it was mud. So there was no time to seed it or do anything. We made a rule that when Tasca field was being refurbished, we made a rule that we would not allow any of the recreation groups come and use our school fields because they are already overused. That is what happened with the Titans. It was 4 years ago.

**Sal Gelsomino, 107 Rocky Hill Road**

The contingency plan is that there are fields out there. For example, we put all that money into Manning and into the baseball and softball field, a groomer was bought and my understanding is that the tractor can't pull the groomer. It is too small for the groomer, so the groomer is not being used.

Steve Gormley stated correct.

**Sal Gelsomino, 107 Rocky Hill Road**

That it is stupid. It is mindless things like that, that are frustrating. We have done all this work and we are trying to keep it up. We fixed Caito field at the end of July, beginning of August. When you plant grass in July and August, you grow weeds. So you plant grass in August and get weeds and of course, football starts up at the end of July so as soon as we plant the grass, what do you think is going to happen. So even in September that grass is not going to be ready and mature. It is done for nothing.

Chairperson Umbriano asked Steven Gormley to respond to that.

**Steven Gormley, Director of Buildings and Grounds**

It is the same story. This field is used from the snow melting until the snow falls. It does not stop. It is not used in late July and August and that is my time to get grass on it. I have requested that the teams play other places and it just does not work out scheduling wise or for whatever reason. We know that weeds grow when you grow in July and August, but weeds are better than nothing. Again, we are putting band aids on stuff. This field needs to be closed for a year. Where do I put every gym class, soccer, lacrosse.....

**Annie Oster, 3 French Lane**

You improvise. Talk to the students, walk through the schools, have an open forum meeting with students to find out what their concerns are. I only learn this from my children. If you are on a committee and you never interact with the people you are serving, shame on you.

Chairperson Umbriano stated that I do interact with them. I have a Facebook with all of them on it. We talk all the time. I am always in our schools. So, I do interact with them.

**Steven Gormley, Director of Buildings and Grounds**

I will do whatever solution you tell me to do. The problem being is that we need to have a place to put the kids.

Mrs. Esposito stated to begin to find a solution to this problem, can we ask the Space and Needs Committee to reconvene so that we can get a group effort? Now I would like to make sure that it is asked to reconvene because what I have found the notes that there was a request, I don't know if it ever met. This was last year. I would really like to make sure that the Space and Needs Committee meets and have some type of powwow to address the

problem that is here at the high school and the community sees as a problem.

**Maureen Kennedy, 10 North Doctors Lane**

We have some passionate people here tonight. I wanted to address the textbook issue that was brought up earlier, as a middle school teacher, as a parent, as a human. I appreciate what Paul (Dr. Lescault) was saying about noticing some flaws in the system. We had \$32,000 for the high school as opposed to the \$8,000 for the middle school and some of that needs to be addressed. When the technology textbooks were looked at in the past, but I really hope that you guys concentrate on what you said over here. Somebody said that if they don't ask, then how we know. Brian (Mr. LaPlante) I appreciate that you said that you have been hearing for six years "level funding, level funding...there is no money." You keep hearing there is no money, so what are you going to ask for. I appreciate that you recognize that. I also like the discussion that you had about a policy being put in place. I do not think it should be that each department gets \$10,000 and then they have to spend their money. It should be a pooled resource that is on a cycle so it goes through each department, each contact area, each building and is used when needed, but not just thrown into a bucket and used haphazardly because it is there.

Chairperson Umbriano stated that you don't want it abused.

**Maureen Kennedy, 10 North Doctors Lane**

There needs to be something in that budgeting process to make communication better and more clear of what monies there are. I also think and I have said this before that everybody in this room should be storming the Town Council meetings.

Chairperson Umbriano stated thank you.

**Maureen Kennedy, 10 North Doctors Lane**

We need the money. We have been level funded for 6 years, 7 years.

Dr. Lescault stated that we received \$300,000 more from the Committee last year for the first time.

**Maureen Kennedy, 10 North Doctors Lane**

Someone needs to get on that because all these issues are really budgetary.

Dr. Lescault stated that if you could see behind the scenes what

folks at this table, including me did to get that money, you would be aghast.

**Maureen Kennedy, 10 North Doctors Lane**

All the people need to be in an uproar. It is not going to get any better without some support of some kind. All these ideas are good ideas of things to do but without financing.

Chairperson Umbriano stated that when they roll, people have to stay and support them, not just feel that it is obvious it is going to happen. You have to stay with the group and push it forward.

Dr. Lescault stated that in all honesty, the other issue is there are 10,000 people in this community and 1,400 kids in the school system. The majority of the people in this town do not have kids in the school system and therefore, are not interested in funding the schools at a level that they have in the past. There are lots of other needs in this town that need to be addressed. Colleen (Pendergast) I am sure your husband tells you on a daily basis that the police station is hopelessly out of date and inadequate and not consistent with what contemporary policing standards should be.

Chairperson Umbriano stated that they have been looking for a complex for a long time.

Dr. Lescault stated that there are lots of needs that we are competing with in the town. I do not disagree with what you are saying.

**Patricia Patterson, 274 Gleanor Chapel Road**

My issue that I am here for tonight is completely unrelated to anything that we have spoken about. My daughter is in the elementary school and I am in law enforcement and I am very concerned about what I have been hearing today on the radio about the threat that came into Johnston.

Chairperson Umbriano stated that we were briefed on that too. Why don't we let Paul (Dr. Lescault) talk. Is it you want us to address what we are doing about it.

**Patricia Patterson, 274 Gleanor Chapel Road**

I want to know how Scituate is addressing it and what measures are being taken in the elementary schools, particularly. I am contemplating whether I should send my daughter to school tomorrow.

Chairperson Umbriano stated that we were just briefed on it today

of what has happened in the other districts, so I am going to let the Superintendent bring you up to speed with this.

Dr. Lescault stated that I contacted Col. Randall by email this evening and as well as Resource Officer Pendergast to ask them to increase police presence at all of the schools tomorrow. I have also emailed all of the principals and alerted them to what is occurring and asked them to certainly increase their oversight of what is going on. I spoke to Larry (Dr. Filippelli) who chairs our Crisis Response Team. We are looking at having an emergency meeting of that group tomorrow morning to talk about further steps. We are aware and on top of this.

Mr. LaPlante asked what he was talking about. It is a pretty vague threat for Johnson, Cranston.....

Dr. Filippelli asked if you would like him to read it?

Chairperson Umbriano stated go ahead.

Dr. Filippelli stated "police are investigating threats against school....."

Mr. LaPlante asked from whom?

Dr. Filippelli stated "police in Johnston, Cranston and Warwick are investigating threats made against elementary schools in all three areas for the next three days. Johnston Police said that they received an anonymous letter in the mail and the threat made references to Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. According to Johnston Police, parents received a text message from their respective school districts about the anonymous letter. Johnston Superintendent, Bernard DiLullo said that they are making sure all the schools safety procedures are being followed. Our main concern is the ongoing safety of all our students. DiLullo sent a message that Johnston Police are increasing their presence at the schools for the next three days. Lt. Mathew Moynahan of the Cranston Police Department said they received a letter too and their department will assign an officer to each school in Cranston. The investigation as to who sent the letter is ongoing. Apparently the letter was poorly written. The letters are the same." They went to Providence, Warwick, Johnston and Cranston so far, but it is not limited not only to Rhode Island is what we are hearing at this point.

**Patricia Patterson, 274 Gleanor Chapel Road**

The letters actually threatened.....did you read the letter?

Mr. LaPlante stated that it had kind of an ISIS reference.

Dr. Filippelli stated that the information you may be privy to, the rest of the public are not. I got the same info but we have been asked to keep it confidential.

Dr. Lescault stated that for the record, we received no threat in Scituate. We are simply concerned and raising these red flags based on the fact that we are contiguous with some of these other areas. There has been no threat received in Scituate.

**Steven Gormley, Director of Buildings and Grounds**

I sat in on a meeting on Friday with the Fusion Center about the Art Festival and at that time there were no ISIS threats in the country at all. They are all home grown stuff and none in the New England area. Whether it is or isn't, that is what the Fusion Center was saying last night.

**Patricia Patterson, 274 Gleanor Chapel Road**

Do we plan on having officers in the school?

Dr. Lescault stated no, because the schools are locked and pretty secure. We are more concerned with kids coming in the morning and leaving at the end of the day. Similar response to what we did after Newtown.

Chairperson Umbriano asked if there was anyone else?

**Andrea Olson, 43 Spruce Valley Drive**

Stated that there is a problem with transportation. I know nobody wants to admit it, but we have not had an accident thank god. It is problematic. The soccer season is going to be over in a few weeks and it will not affect my daughter until next year. I really think as a School Committee, this is a school sport and I really think it is your job to think about this. If we could speak to First Student and get a bus to hang around for 10 extra minutes, I think that is better than them riding over with Seniors. I am not comfortable with that. I have to let my daughter do it on the days that I work. I do not like it. I sit at work a nervous wreck hoping my phone does not ring. I think is someone going to rear-end them on the way over there. I have seen the way they drive out of the parking lot here. Also, we do need sports initiative. We can't just say okay, SYA can work on it. We all need to work on it. It is a school wide sport system. The School Committee needs to be present. The students are embarrassed of their fields. They are not in great shape. Maybe we can't have a new sports complex, but we can definitely do something to help the kids. I think as a School Committee it is your job to drive the force and not leave up to the non-profits to put their

heads together. I think everybody together could make a difference, even if it is just getting the bus to take the kids down to the soccer field. That is one step in the right direction, as far as I am concerned.

Dr. Lescault stated that we have two principals here, both the high school and middle school principal here tonight. I think Sal's (Gelsomino) suggestion was an excellent one. To the extent that you could facilitate that, we can certainly do that. That seems like a reasonable cost and if it will buy the kids 10 minutes, we can certainly do that.

**George Kuzmowycz, Esek Hopkins Drive**

I have some history here. I don't want to be the skunk at the garden party, but I just need to point out that the athletic conditions that are being described here are not some lighting striking type of calamity, but they are the direct result of conscious actions on the part of lots of people. The lack of an athletic complex is because the voters voted down the bond issue that included that. My recollection is that it really was not close. Maybe it was wrong to combine that with the reconstruction bond, I don't know. Hindsight is great, but an athletic plan was put together. It was presented and the voters said "no thanks." So that is a conscious decision on the part of lots of people. The overuse of the field is because the School Committee voted to include in the scheduled sports for which it did not have the facilities. In the last ten years you have added football and you added lacrosse. They use the same field as soccer and to some extent, the same fields as baseball and softball. Maybe the school committee was anticipating that there would be facilities but there are not. Now you have too many sports trying to use too few fields. That again was a series of conscious decisions that were made with completely foreseeable results. I just wanted to provide a reality check.

**Annie Oster, 3 French Lane**

That was ten years ago. It is time to revisit it. We have new blood in this town where parents are passionate and we want things to change. If we have to go door to door to the residents of Scituate to get them to come out and vote and make them aware of a bond that is separate and only for the school, we can do that.

**Kristen Polseno, 29 Wilkinson Road**

I think I mentioned this before at a School Committee meeting years ago, and I do agree with the woman in front that says maybe we should revisit this bond idea. I use to work at Cumberland High School. At the time when I was working there, we started a group called Save Our School. To make a long story short, a parent

group also formed at the same time and it was called Education Excellence Committee. Most of those members are on the School Committee now in Cumberland. Basically when you say that we marketed this to the town a few years ago for the bond and it was not passed and it was not even close. That is something we can think of too. What can we do to make it closer? You can't just throw it out there and say vote on it. We made a documentary and we made it for free. The kids did it on their computers in my classroom. They made a documentary. Our issue was a little bit different. It was a cafeteria, but it was millions and millions of dollars. They made this documentary. They had viewings at the library, at the school. We did take parents on a tour of the facility itself. We educated the public. Like the Superintendent who said the 10,000 people who do not have children in the School District. We educated them. We scooped meatballs and macaroni at the Senior Center in Cumberland. I had 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders doing that. It passed. So maybe it won't in Scituate, because Scituate is different than Cumberland. I am not claiming that they are similar towns, but we can certainly try. Maybe there needs to be a meeting of every interested party, PTO, School Committee, Town Council, SYA, so everybody gets together and decides which direction you are going to go. Are we going to go with grants or a bond? I think nobody wants to do anything because nobody knows where to start.

Mrs. Delmonico stated that she has been in the Town a long time and I grew up in Scituate and I was in sports in school when I was there. There have been many, many sports issues that have come up that have been turned down by the voters. The ones that do succeed, most of them were driven by the passionate parents. That is where it all came from. I think your analogy of that is pretty close. It has to be from the parents doing something for their children. We can only do so much up here. It is the parents that really need to get going and do what they want, do what you're asking. Start a committee. You guys start a committee. Get out there. Do not rely on someone else to do it. Go, start your own Committee and do it. If you want it, you guys have to do it.

Mr. LaPlante stated that I think it can be collaborative. We can assist.

Mrs. Delmonico stated absolutely we can assist with it. I am just saying that the only programs that ever went through in Scituate were turned down by the voters. The parents were the ones that started it and got it going and then got the support from anyone else.

Chairperson Umbriano asked if Ms. Polseno was done.

**Kristen Polseno, 29 Wilkinson Road**

Yes.

Dr. Filippelli stated that he wanted to give an update. I just got a call from the Deputy Chief. There is going to be extra police presence at all the schools tomorrow. They are calling in some extras just to have the police presence in the day and night. No specific threats to Scituate but because our neighboring towns, Johnston, Cranston got specific letters, we are treating it seriously. Expect to see that tomorrow morning.

**Kevin Ryan, Athletic Director**

There are several issues. One of the issues is we do not have good facilities for the amount of teams we have. These teams were requested by the parents and by student athletes to increase their participation in sport. Many of them before I started. The fact that we are doing a middle school and high school program on the same facilities is something that other schools do not have to deal with.

Chairperson Umbriano stated that we tried to build a new middle school.

**Kevin Ryan, Athletic Director**

Again, as Dr. Lescault pointed out, 1400 students within the district, we have probably 250 students in the high school that participate in sports. There is a great majority out there that do not have interest in athletic facilities when it comes to a bond referendum.

**Steven Gormley, Director of Buildings and Grounds.**

If you ladies want to put it together, I would gladly help with the planning side of your committee. These are frustrating issues.

Mrs. Esposito stated that we should also be part of it. I think it is a collaborative effort from the Town Council to the School Committee to the Community itself and to the educators here who work hard for our kids. I really think we need to move and have a joint effort in that movement in letting everyone know that this is what our community needs. I have no kids and I would be willing to fund it.

Chairperson Umbriano asked if there was anyone else that had questions or comments?

**Mr. Zajak, Principal**

I would like to apologize for the condition of the books. The

	<p>teachers are incredible with technology. There are a lot of resources out there that makes history live. It is changing every day. We have looked at other resources, including an online textbook that would be developed by our own teachers. When we started looking at the details and the issue of access, we had to abandon it. We were not prepared at that point to forward a recommendation for textbooks at that time. We looked at grants to buy tablets with the grants. We had to look at all the logistical pieces but we had to let it go. There is a major benefit to it but we had to make sure that all students had access to all the technology. I apologize for that.</p> <p><b>Colleen Pendergast, 2 Applehill Drive</b></p> <p>You do not have to apologize for that. I get that you're the captain of your ship but these are the big captains. If the message is not coming from up here that we have the funds to do this, your teachers are not going to ask you. This is why we are asking for a policy and procedure so there will be a change and the teachers will feel comfortable asking.</p> <p><b>Mr. Zajak, Principal</b></p> <p>I did not bring a proposal for it so this is on me. I will take responsibility.</p> <p>Chairperson Umbriano stated that when we have been asked to fund the, we did fund them.</p> <p>Mr. LaPlante stated that this has already been discussed.</p> <p>Chairperson Umbriano stated we are going to move on.</p>
	<p><b>150-13</b></p> <p><b><u>APPOINTMENTS</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Caroline Lomastro; 17 hour Custodian, Scituate Middle/High School, effective 9/22/14</li> <li>2. Maureen Kennedy; .05 ARC Math Remediation, Scituate Middle/High School, effective 9/23/14</li> <li>3. Donna Pennacchia; .05 ARC Math Remediation, Scituate Middle/High School, effective 9/23/14</li> <li>4. Peter Samos; Bus Monitor, effective 9/5/14</li> <li>5. Sharon Vredenburg; 19.6 hour Paraprofessional, North Scituate Elementary School, effective 9/15/14</li> <li>6. Frank Pisaturo, III; .20 Music Teacher, Scituate Middle/High School, effective 9/11/14</li> <li>7. Lucia Fratantaro; .30 School Psychologist, Clayville Elementary School, effective 9/16/14</li> </ol>

8. Jason Melucci; 40 hour Custodian, Scituate Middle/High School, effective 9/11/14
9. Michael Daigle; 20 hour Custodian, Hope Elementary School, effective 9/22/14
10. Jacqueline Pincins; Bus Monitor, effective 9/5/14

Mrs. Guglielmi moved to accept the appointments; seconded by Mrs. Esposito; the Committee unanimously approved this motion.

#### **REAPPOINTMENTS**

1. Ralph Apici; Boys' High School Basketball Head Coach
2. Mike Forte; Boys' High School Basketball Assistant Coach
3. Tim Brown; Boys' Middle School Basketball Head Coach
4. Stacy D'Allesandro; Girls' High School Basketball Head Coach
5. Tara Marchant; Girls' High School Basketball Assistant Coach
6. Meg Shewchuk; Girls' High School Basketball Volunteer Coach
7. Sal Gelsomino; Girls' Middle School Basketball Head Coach
8. Bill Bryant; High School Ice Hockey Head Coach
9. Steve Olink; High School Ice Hockey Assistant Coach
10. Sharon Terceira; High School Competitive Cheerleader Head Coach
11. Ashley Cinquegrana; High School Competitive Cheerleader Volunteer Coach
12. Laurie Enright; High School Competitive Cheerleader Volunteer Coach
13. Lynn Ricci-Francazio; High School Competitive Cheerleader Volunteer Coach and Middle School Cheerleader Head Coach

Mrs. Esposito moved to accept the reappointments; seconded by Mrs. Delmonico; after discussion and Mr. LaPlante stated that he would like to withhold his approval of the Girls' High School and Assistant High School Basketball Coaches re-appointment.

Mrs. Umbriano – Yes; Mrs. Guglielmi – Yes; Mr. LaPlante – Withhold; Mrs. Delmonico – Yes; Mrs. Esposito – Yes.

#### **RESIGNATIONS**

1. Norman Ramos; High School Fast Pitch Softball Head Coach, effective 9/4/14
2. Caroline Lomastro; Bus monitor, effective 9/20/14
3. Margie Clyde; Co-Advisor, Middle School Student

	<p>Mrs. Esposito moved to approve the resignations; seconded by Mr. LaPlante; the Motion was unanimously approved.</p> <p><b><u>TRANSFERS</u></b></p> <p>1. Mike Rizzo; 34 hour Custodian, Scituate Middle/High School, effective 9/2/14</p> <p>Mrs. Esposito moved to approve the transfers; seconded by Mr. LaPlante; the Motion was unanimously approved</p>
	<p><b>150-14</b></p> <p><b><u>COMMITTEE REMARKS</u></b></p>
<b>MR. LAPLANTE</b>	<p>I appreciate everyone coming out tonight. Lots of new faces and the fact is we have a lot of talent in the audience, a lot of good people who care about important things. We might have differences of opinion, but ultimately we have a common goal, which is to protect our kids, make this school and the town the best it can be for our kids and for our families. That is true not only of the parents here, but it is true and we are fortunate that our administrators share that same goal. Although we kind of focus on differences a great deal, we should focus on the commonalities and move forward in some of the ways we talked about tonight.</p>
<b>MRS. DELMONICO</b>	<p>I don't think anyone needs to be reminded but the Art Festival is this weekend and a lot of these children and school programs use it to get funds.</p> <p>Chairperson Umbriano stated that the Booster Club for Athletics is looking for volunteers for the Art Festival. They raise money for the kids' sports. If anyone has any time.</p>
<b>MS. ESPOSITO</b>	<p>I have three remarks. One, I do not think an apology was necessary for the text books. I accept it, but I do not think it was necessary. Two, I look forward to a textbook policy penned and coming to the School Committee in the future. Three, I look forward to jointly working with those people in the community to work towards improving the buildings and fields for our kids, beginning with the athletic fields that are here at the district. It will only be a plus for our students.</p> <p>I would like to thank the principals, the elementary principals and the high school principals, middle school principals for announcing the School Committee meeting in their newsletters. I was really happy to see that go through.</p>
<b>MRS. GUGLIELMI</b>	<p>I was able to go to the elementary school open houses and to the middle and high school open houses. It was really fun and nice to see the kids and the teachers. At the North Scituate School I</p>

	<p>actually went into one of the classrooms, so that was kind of fun because my grandson is in the 2nd grade there. When I was at Clayville they were having a meeting prior to the open house about their Thanksgiving Program. They do an outstanding job. If you have not had a chance to get to that celebration that they have. The kids in that school prepare as part of the Social Studies program, and look forward to it each year as they progress from one grade to another. The 4<sup>th</sup> grade kids are doing the Indians and the 5<sup>th</sup> grade kids are doing the pilgrims and they have a meal and they also have the outdoor classroom where they are acting the parts just like Plymouth. Now it has gotten to the point where bus loads of kids from out of state and out of town come on a field trip to see these kids perform. It is before our next School Committee meeting, on the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday in November and their rain date is the next day. If you get a chance, you will just love it. It is wonderful. Even though their principal is only there her 2<sup>nd</sup> year, she got right into it the first year and she is looking forward to it again. It is wonderful and I recommend it.</p>
<p><b>CHAIR UMBRIANO</b></p>	<p>None</p>
<p><b>DISCUSSION OF FUTURE BUSINESS</b></p>	<p>Dr. Lescault stated that the next School Committee meeting normally it is the first Tuesday of each month, but the first Tuesday in November is Election night so we won't be meeting that night. The following Tuesday is Veteran's Day so we won't be meeting then. As of now, unless the Committee changes it, the next meeting will be on November 18, 2014 at the Hope School.</p>
<p><b><u>ADJOURNMENT</u></b></p>	<p><b>150-15</b></p> <p>Mr. LaPlante moved to adjourn; seconded by Mrs. Esposito to adjourn at 9:25 P.M. The committee unanimously approved motion.</p> <p>Respectfully submitted,</p> <p>Mrs. Guglielmi, Clerk</p> <p><b><i>Minutes prepared by Susan J. Hartley, 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.</i></b></p>

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