

The regular meeting of the School Board was held on Tuesday, April 13, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Council Chambers.

School Board members present:

Rebecca Millett, Chair
Kathy Ray, Vice-Chair
John Christie
David Hillman
Mary Townsend
M. Kate Williams-Hewitt
Linda Winker

Student Representative present:

Matt Miklavic
Julia Springer

Alan H. Hawkins, Superintendent of Schools

Chairperson Rebecca Millett called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

1. **Adjustments to Agenda** – update on HS boiler to be included under communication (6F); Add Consideration to approve leave of absence for Carlee Main as item 7D.
2. **Approval of School Board Minutes** –
 - a) **Business Meeting, Tuesday, March 9, 2010** - Ms. Winker made a motion that the minutes for the meeting be approved as presented. Ms. Townsend seconded. (Approved 7-0)
3. **Comments by Student Representatives** – High School representatives, Julia Springer and Matt Miklavic, spoke briefly on items of interest from the students' perspective.
4. **Comments from Public On Agenda Items** –

Erin Salvador (24 Wood Rd) - Thanked the Board for considering to keep social worker position in Pond Cove.

Jeff Preble (9 Channel View Rd) - Supports retaining accelerated language arts classes and retaining team teaching structure in grades 7 and 8.
5. **RECOGNITION**
 - a. **HS Environmental Club receives "Eco-Excellence" Award for composting kitchen waste** – Ms. Williams-Hewitt briefly reported on the students' efforts to reduce, reuse and recycle.
 - b. **HS Science Team** - Principal Shedd shared that the team placed 2nd in the Maine Science Olympiad.
 - c. **HS Math Team** - Principal Shedd briefly shared highlights of the team's state competition. Ethan DiNinno, as top scoring sophomore in the state, will attend the national competition at Penn State in June.
 - d. **Jazz Band** - Principal Shedd briefly shared highlights of the bands' performances at the Berkeley Jazz Festival and State Jazz Festival events.
 - e. **District Theatre Productions** - Principal Shedd announced the group came in first at the regional One Act Festival and received numerous awards at states.

- f. **Chess Team** - Dan Fishbein, parent chess team volunteer, spoke briefly about student state and national tournaments. The Middle School team - Matthew Fishbein, Wesley Parker, Danny Brett, Nick Shedd, Matthew Reale-Hatem, Ethan DuPerre, Leo Wing and Arden Wing - won the state chess tournament this year. The first High School chess team in Cape history also participated and did very well with only freshmen and sophomores making up the team. Matthew Fishbein, a sixth grade student, won the high school championship; the youngest person in state history to do so.
- g. **Middle School student medals in gymnastics competition** - Principal Connolly congratulated Ethan Nestor-Darling who medaled in a recent state-level gymnastics competition. His combined scores place him as the state winner for his age level.
- h. **Maine State Spelling Bee Champion, Lily Jordan** - Principal Connolly reported that Lily Jordan will be traveling to Washington, D.C. on June 2 to represent Maine in the national spelling competition.

6. **COMMUNICATIONS**

- a. **Leave Request for SY2010-11, Middle School teacher Carlee Main** – Superintendent Hawkins announced Carlee Main’s request for a one-year, unpaid leave of absence due to the birth of a child during the 2010-11 school year. *This item will be voted on as Item 7d.*
- b. **Resignation, Middle School teacher, Morigan Burns** – Superintendent Hawkins announced the resignation of Morigan Burns.
- c. **Student Testing** - Superintendent Hawkins reported that state test data is becoming available and that the principals will present their building’s information in May.
- d. **Middle School accelerated ELA program** - A PowerPoint presentation about the English Language Arts program was shown. Principal Connolly stated that program changes are intended to equalize opportunities for all students through differentiated instruction. NWEA and NECAP testing data will be closely monitored.
- e. **Instructional practice of team teaching** - Middle School teacher, Adam Killip, spoke about middle school small team teaching and the numerous positive opportunities to be developmentally responsive. Principal Connolly added that *it’s not about traveling with the same students all day, it is about teachers dealing with 65-85 students per day versus 110-111; and organizing more interdisciplinary learning opportunities; coordinating student and home communication; adolescent learning research; teachers being able to address individual learning needs and provide necessary interventions/support for each student because they will know them better; and students and teachers setting and monitoring student-learning goals together in order to help students achieve at high levels.* Ms. Millett, Ms. Ray, Principal Connolly and Superintendent Hawkins will meet at a later date to discuss the process and goals and will share information appropriately with all stakeholders.
- f. **Board Goals Update** - Ms. Millett reported that the Board’s goals are on display and that Board Committee chairs should be prepared to provide an update on those goals.
- g. **2010-11 School Calendar Update** - Superintendent Hawkins announced that a draft 2010-11 school calendar, including a brief introductory overview, would be posted online for community feedback in the coming days. The calendar will be presented as a new business item at May’s meeting. Board members are invited to send their specific questions to Superintendent Hawkins prior to May’s vote.

- h. **High School Boiler** - Superintendent Hawkins reported that some discussions with engineers have begun. Asbestos abatement will be needed and could cost approximately \$12,000. Replacement cost for the boiler could be approximately \$275,000. Both boilers are about 40 years old. If one goes, the other may work alone for a time period. Portable boilers, for a temporary time period are also an option. Boiler work is best done when school is not in session due mostly to noise factor. Asbestos removal couldn't happen until after June 17 (when students are out). With natural gas coming to the town soon, the town manager would like to see a bond to cover both.

7. **NEW BUSINESS**

- a. **Consideration and action to adopt Superintendent's 2010-2011 Budget** - Ms. Ray briefly summarized the process to get to the budget to be adopted by the board at this meeting. The budget presented was based on the original midpoint budget option and the March 25 and April 5 meeting adjustments. Resulting in a 3.36% increase. The total revenues are 3.36%. The mills for education came to a 2.75% increase.

The proposed adjustments at Pond Cove, were to put ~~back~~ in a guidance counselor position (*and retained regular education social worker position*), an ed tech II position in the computer lab, half an ed tech I position in library/media center, .5 librarian position (*resulting in retaining one full time position*), and to reduce the ed tech III in the library/media center, and reduce a technology integrator position from an ed tech III to an ed tech II level. At the High School the adjustments proposed were: retaining the achievement center teacher position, a .2 math teacher position, a .1 theater teacher position, an administrative support for attendance position, retaining the \$3,000 stipend for mock trial, eliminating a .5 executive skills teaching position and a .2 mandarin teacher position. District wide proposed adjustments were: retaining the administrative support position in the health office. Ms. Townsend asked where the increase in parking fee appeared. Ms. Ray pointed out that parking appears under revenue line. Reductions in the contingency line were \$142,396, a reduction of \$42,000 in legal fees line was made, and a teacher and administrative salary donation of \$25,000 resulted in the addition back in to the budget of \$472,026.

~~Assuming that the Town Council adopts the budget proposed by the town manager, the school department's expenditures would be \$20,676,971 (a \$671,885 increase over last year) or a 3.4% increase. For school revenues, the amount would be \$3,346,636 (an increase of \$87,554 over last year) or a 2.7% increase. Net to taxes for the 2010-11 budget would be \$17,330,335 (an increase of \$584,331) or a 3.5% increase. Resulting tax rate would move from \$12.54 to \$12.89 per thousand. A \$0.35/thousand or 2.8% increase. Total town tax rate for a median home would be increased 1.7% or \$77.23. Mr. Christie asked Ms. Ray to clarify for the public what the midpoint budget, 2.75% initially, net to taxes impact would be of the budget they were discussing. Ms. Ray explained, looking at the pro forma and assuming the Town Council adopts the budget presented by the Town Manager, the proposed 10-11 expenditure budget is \$20,676,971 which is a 3.36% increase over 09-10. Revenues include \$925,170 in Federal ARRA Stimulus funds which is an increase in Stimulus funds of \$226,050 over 09-10. The mills raised for education if the proposed budget is approved will be \$12.89 per thousand, an increase of 35 cents per thousand over 09-10. If the town and school budget is approved as currently proposed the total town and school tax rate increase for a median home would be \$77.23 or a 1.7% increase.~~

Ms. Millett asked if the Board they had any final questions for administrators. Mr. Christie asked about the retiring middle school librarian position. Would the savings to reintroduce a full time librarian as opposed to a half time librarian, cost be half of salary of current librarian or less due to hiring someone with less experience. Superintendent Hawkins stated it would likely be less. Mr. Christie asked if a salary estimate was available. Current librarian is at top of pay scale. (Some back and forth with Business Manager in the audience, out of range of microphone.) Mr. Hillman asked in order to get a full time librarian with the retirement, net change, but added half time librarian is about the same or at a slight savings? Ms. Aportria believes that wouldn't necessarily be the case. Ms. Millett stated that the amount spent to replace the retiring librarian could be about equal to the cost of the current librarian because of changes to the benefit package.

Ms. Williams-Hewitt asked an RTI question, directed to Principals Eismeier and Connolly, relating to the need for more teacher collaboration time. If Pond Cove had an additional educational technician III, with the loss of literacy person, could assist with streamlining the process? Mr. DePatsy explained that the RTI process is a moving target and a continuing review of resources will need to happen. Ms. Williams-Hewitt clarified that she believed that an ed tech assigned to reach across all grade levels would seem to have an effect on a larger population than one literacy position.

Ms. Ray clarified with Ms. Millett and Ms. Aportria that the amounts proposed in Ms. Millett's motion were, to increase the amount taken from contingency by an additional \$24,862 (originally was \$142,396). Mr. Hillman asked about the amount of special contingency funds set aside for next year's cliff. Ms. Millett stated the amount was approximately \$300,000. Mr. Hillman stated for the public that this money was set aside in anticipation of and preparation for the loss of stimulus (ARRA) funds close to \$900,000.

Ms. Ray expressed concerns for taxpayers affected by the economy and those on fixed incomes having to pay higher taxes, and the parking fee collection anticipating the burden of enforcement on the backs of administrators; regarding ARRA funds if we don't take hits now, concerned we will take larger ones next year. Ms. Ray would like to see the boiler replacement work done sooner rather than later. She would like to see a committee put together to review the reading recovery program to see if that or another program is the best for our district.

Ms. Townsend spoke in support of Board's work on mid-point budget, with amended changes. Believing that the Board explored all suggested cuts, while being responsive to all stakeholders. In more than 15 hours of public meetings, much was learned; every cut hurts and our schools are lean. Comfortable that when cuts are possible, cuts have been made. Many valued programs have been lost over the years and unlike other communities Cape has not had equal opportunities for educational improvement. For example, high school students don't have access to the one-on-one computing program, despite targeted fundraising for new textbooks many classes still must use aging books, and funding for professional development for our teachers has been cut by almost 2/3 in the last five years. Parents have stepped up quietly by paying additional fees or assuming additional responsibilities. The message heard over again at public hearings was that our schools are not near the tipping point, but at the tipping point and that further cuts would only compromise an already compromised ability to be competitive. Recognized that given the economic climate, some cuts were necessary. This budget, with amendments, continues to provide some

key services and programming without dismantling some prized educational foundations and looks to future preservation. The Board has chosen to set aside about \$300,000 to prepare for next year's projected shortfall. This is a fraction of the two million dollars the town sets aside in contingency for emergencies. Believed that there was no doubt this budget was a community effort, with teachers offering up to a day's pay contingent upon the median homeowners tax increase, parents will, again, face increased athletic fees at the high school, and high school students will pay \$50 a year to park instead of \$25 for a four-year pass. Thanked everyone for the hours involved in developing this budget.

Mr. Hillman spoke about the process and the three scenarios initially considered - no tax increase, a mid-point, and a maintenance budget - keeping programs and teachers but no additions/cutting about \$300,000. The Board rejected the no tax option as too devastating. Settling on a compromise between the maintenance and mid-point options. Stating he felt a very thorough, line-by-line review was done with every administrator. No fat. No waste in this budget. Would have preferred a larger tax increase, but compromise was necessary. Stated that schools need more and we can't afford to spend any less than we do now.

Mr. Christie spoke briefly of the budget process and the lose of teacher support at Pond Cove, choral music and Mandarin teachers at the high school, department head and athletic stipends, and ed techs in instructional support. Believes the Board has done the best it can to be sensitive to the points that Ms. Ray articulated well while preserving the quality of the education in the schools.

Ms. Winker noting similar concerns that Ms. Ray spoke about, expressed that this year's three budget scenario was very challenging and sometimes frustrating. Believes that parking fees as a revenue source are unreasonable at this point in time. Supports increased athletic high school fees. Concerned with how any increases in taxes will affect every individual in this community.

Ms. Williams-Hewitt spoke about team teaching as the whole school community working together. Agreed with Ms. Ray that user fees are more of a family choice. Parking fee and past due lunch account collection will be challenging. Appreciated community feedback. Supported budget.

Ms. Millett spoke that the budget process for her began at the curtailment workshop, where the public's input was sought and provided. Believes this budget is reflective of that feedback. The teachers have stepped up, we are increasing non-tax revenues through participation fees and the taxpayers will be asked to pay a moderate increase. Believes this is a balanced approach and will support this budget.

- Mr. Christie motioned for approval to adopt the 2010-2011 school budget in the amount of \$20, 676, 971, which includes \$925,170 in Federal ARRA stabilization funds. Ms. Townsend seconded. Mr. Hillman proposed amending the motion to approve budget as set forth, with the total amount, with specific changes set forth in the mid-point budget as modified and dated April 5, 2010. Ms. Townsend seconded Mr. Hillman's amendment. Ms. Millett proposed amending the budget adjustments proposed, to add back in the .5 Middle School librarian position and to maintain all technology integrators at ed tech II levels, taking the necessary amounts from contingency so there will be a zero impact on taxes. Mr. Hillman seconded Ms. Millett's motion. Ms. Millett explained that her thinking behind this motion was that the Middle School librarian's work might be incorporated into the computer lab work, similar to the Pond Cove Media Center's model. (Approved 7-0)

- b. **Consideration to approve the following extra-curricular position recommendations** - Mr. Christie motioned for approval as presented. Mr. Hillman seconded. (Approved 7-0)

Brett Brown	Boys' Asst Lacrosse (booster funded)
Malcolm Weatherbie	Asst Softball (booster funded)
Mitchell Ouellet	Gr 8 Baseball
Alexandra Sawyer	Gr 7 Girls' Lacrosse
Bryant Nicholson	Gr 7 Softball
Christopher Drake	Gr 7 Boys' Lacrosse
Kathy Raftice	Gr 8 Track
Kim Sturgeon	Gr 7 Track

- c. **Consideration to approve the job description for School Counselor** - Ms. Winker motioned for approval as presented. Mr. Hillman seconded. (Approved 7-0)
- d. **Consideration to approve leave of absence for 2010-2011 school year for Middle School teacher, Carlee Main** - Ms. Winker motioned for approval. Mr. Hillman seconded. (Approved 7-0)

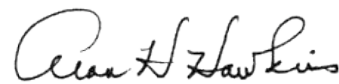
8. **Committee Reports** – Due to the late hour, reports were postponed until May’s meeting.

Teaching & Learning ~	Mary Townsend, Chair
Human Resources ~	Linda Winker, Chair
Finance ~	Kathy Ray, Chair
Legislative ~	David Hillman, Chair
Wellness ~	Kate Williams-Hewitt, Chair
Communications ~	Mary Townsend, Chair

- 9. **Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items** – none
- 10. **School Board Agenda Requests** – none
- 11. **Announcements of Upcoming Meetings** - Ms. Millett reminded the audience that all committee meetings agendas and minutes are available on the school web site.
- 12. **Adjournment** – Ms. Winker made a motion for adjournment. Ms. Townsend seconded. (Approved 7-0)

The meeting was adjourned at 10:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Alan H. Hawkins
Superintendent of Schools