

Meeting Minutes

-- [Regular Meeting March 11, 2003](#)

MEETING MINUTES

March 11, 2003

Cape Elizabeth, Maine

The regular meeting of the School Board was held on Tuesday, March 11, 2003, at 7:30p.m. in the Council Chambers.

School Board members present were:

Marie Prager, Chair

George Entwistle, 3rd

Jennifer DeSena

Elaine Moloney

Susan Steinman

Kevin Sweeney

Kathy Walsh

Dr. Thomas Forcella, Superintendent of Schools

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by Chair Marie Prager.

Others present included: Nancy Hutton, Tom Eismeier, Claire LaBrie, Pauline Aportria, Sue Weatherbie, Aaron McKenney Elise Moody-Roberts, Elise Moloney

1. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag led by Marie Prager

2. Adjustments to agenda

An Item 13 "Executive session to discuss contract negotiations" was added.

3. Approval of School Board Minutes

The minutes of the regular meeting held on February 11, 2003 were approved as presented.

4. Comments by Student Representatives

Aaron McKenney, one of the High School representatives to the School Board, reported on items of interest from the students' perspective at the High School.

Elise Moloney and Elise Moody-Roberts, updated the Board on student activities at the Middle School.

5. COMMUNICATIONS

5a. Kevin Sweeney commented that he wanted it to go on the record that the School Board did not make a proposal, review a proposal, or support a proposal for admission/parking fees at Fort Williams.

5b. Kevin Sweeney noted that the Municipal Budget reflects that the DARE Program has been cut. He stated that he has always considered that a linchpin of the outdoor experience program and wants to make sure to provide education on substance abuse issues.

6. COMMENTS FROM PUBLIC There were no comments from the public.

7. RECOGNITION

7a. Sue Weatherbie was recently recognized by the National Women in Sports Day in Maine. This is a very prestigious award and quite an honor that Sue was recognized. The School Board presented her with a certificate to add their thanks for her many contributions.

7b. High School Jazz Ensemble - For the fifth year in a row, the Cape Elizabeth Jazz Ensemble won first place in their division at the Northeast Regional Berklee Jazz Festival. State Representatives Janet McLaughlin and Larry Bliss were present to present the group with special recognition from the State of Maine Legislature. In addition, the School Board presented each individual with a certificate recognizing their accomplishment.

8. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

8a. The Superintendent notified that Board that Sandra Burleigh, a special education teacher at the high school, will be retiring after 19 years of service at the end of the current school year.

8b. Dr. Forcella reported that the second semester high school economics class will be traveling to the New York Stock Exchange. There will be two chaperones for nine students and strict guidelines will be enforced.

9. PRINCIPALS' REPORTS

Each of the building principals updated the Board on items of interest from their respective schools.

10. SCHOOL BOARD SUBCOMMITTEES AND REPORTS

10a. Finance Subcommittee

Finance Subcommittee Chairman Elaine Moloney reported that the subcommittee met prior to the school board meeting where they signed warrants, reviewed appropriations reports, and discussed items including details involving the possibility of renting Hamlin School in South Portland to house the kindergarten.

10b. Policy Subcommittee

Policy Subcommittee Chairperson Susan Steinman reported the committee met on March 5 and reviewed and revised policies related to the Code of Conduct. She also reported that the policies on class size and graduation requirements will be ready for a first reading at the April meeting. They also anticipate that policies and guidelines related to hiring will be ready for review next month. The next meeting will be April 2, 2003 in the William H. Jordan Conference Room.

11. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

11a. Consideration of proposed trip of High School Mock Trial Team to National Competition

Kevin Sweeney made a motion to permit the Mock Trial Team to travel to New Orleans for the national competition in April. Kathy Walsh seconded. The motion was approved 7-0.

11b. Consideration of proposal to adjust timeline for building/renovation projects

The School Board request remains the same as presented to the Town Council in February; that is a \$1.5 million addition to Pond Cove and a spring referendum for the High School renovation if that is possible.

12. NEW BUSINESS

12a. Consideration of the Superintendent's recommendations to athletic fee positions

Dr. Forcella recommended the following for high school athletic fee positions for the 2003 spring season: Scott Labbee, Assistant Varsity Baseball; Mark Renner, J.V. Baseball; Tracey Weatherbie, Assistant Track.

Elaine Moloney made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendations to athletic fee positions. George Entwistle seconded. The motion was approved 7-0.

12b. Consideration of two teacher requests for one-year unpaid leaves of absence

The Superintendent presented requests from two high school teachers, Heather Sanborn (social studies) and Kathy Hamblen (special education); each requesting a one-year unpaid leave of absence for child rearing.

Kathy Walsh made a motion to grant one-year unpaid leaves of absence to Heather Sanborn and Kathy Hamblen for the purpose of child rearing. George Entwistle seconded. The motion was approved 7-0.

12c. Consideration of a proposed High School Speech & Debate trip to participate in national competition

Dr. Forcella presented a request from Gretchen McNulty to allow five high school students and three chaperones to travel to Arlington, Virginia in May to be part of a Maine contingent to compete in a national competition. The School Board reviewed the details of the written request and agreed that preparations/fundraising for the trip should proceed. The request will be brought back to the School Board at the April meeting for final consideration.

12. NEW BUSINESS (continued)

12d. Consideration of Proposed 2003-04 School Budget

Elaine Moloney made a motion to approve the 2003-04 school budget in the amount of \$15,328,320. Kathy Walsh seconded. The motion was approved 7-0.

12e. Consideration of proposed 2003-04 school calendar

The Superintendent presented a proposal from the Calendar Committee for the School Board to consider a calendar for the 2003-04 school year that would allow for different start and finish dates for the high school and grades K-8. There was a period of discussion about the pros and cons of the proposal. Parental feedback is being sought. Final consideration of the calendar will be at the April school board meeting.

Chairperson Prager announced dates of upcoming meetings involving the Board and its subcommittees.

13. Consideration of the Superintendent's request to enter executive session to discuss teacher negotiations

George Entwistle made a motion to enter executive session to discuss teacher negotiations. He included in the motion a request for Business Manager Pauline Aportria to join them and that the board would not be returning to public session at the conclusion of the executive session.

Susan Steinman seconded and the motion was approved 7-0.

The School Board adjourned to executive session in the William H. Jordan Conference Room at 8:32 p.m.

Susan Steinman made a motion to adjourn the executive session. Kathy Walsh seconded. The motion was approved 7-0. The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas A. Forcella, Ed. D.

Superintendent of Schools