

The regular meeting of the School Board was held on Tuesday, January 8, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

School Board members present were:

Kathy Ray, Chair
Patricia Brigham, Vice-Chair
Karen Burke
Peter Cotter
Rebecca Millett
Jack Kennealy
Linda Winker

Student Representative present:

Kiersten Brown

Alan H. Hawkins, Superintendent of Schools

School Board member unable to attend:

Hudson Eakin, Student Representative

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairperson Kathy Ray.

Others present included:

1. **Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag** led by Kathy Ray
2. **Adjustments to Agenda**
School Report: agenda Item 8 should be removed due to duplication
New Business: two Athletic fee position items - MS girls expansion basketball position nomination; and change to original fee assignment for Asst. Boys Ice Hockey.
Communications: MS staff retirement notification has been rescinded
3. **Approval of School Board Minutes**
Ms. Millett made a motion that the School Board minutes for the meeting held on December 11, 2007 be approved as presented. Mr. Kennealy seconded.
(Approved 7-0)
4. **Comments by Student Representatives**
Kiersten Brown reported briefly on items of interest from the students' perspective at the high school.
Middle School representatives, Piper Otterbein and Mikaela Forde, were not in attendance this evening.
5. **Comments from the Public on Non-Agenda Items**
There were no comments from the public.

6. COMMUNICATIONS

- a. Hayden Atwood, Middle School Librarian, rescinded his letter announcing his anticipated retirement. Superintendent Hawkins announced he was very pleased to accept this change.
- b. Rachel Guthrie, CEHS Technology, has resigned effective January 13, 2008. She will join the staff of Southern Maine Community College.

7. RECOGNITION

- a. **Madden Room Dedication** – Principal Connolly spoke about the dedication of the Rick Madden Conference Room located in the Middle School and how this space had been used by Rick, who was the cornerstone of the Middle School Advisory Program and a champion for middle school students' social and emotional well-being.
- b. **Middle School Visit by Town Council/School Board on January 18** – Principal Connolly spoke that they will be creating a schedule/menu of what's going on in the district classrooms. The Middle School office will have a copy of the day's schedule.
- c. **Joint Meeting with Town Council** – Kathy Ray summarized the items discussed, which included the new school consolidation law as it relates to the budget process, status of newly installed traffic light, status of Jordan Way access to school grounds, status of Hannaford Field bleachers, and that Mr. McGovern updated the group on the status of the general Bond approval process to be issued in Spring of 2008.
- d. **5th Grade Team's Japan Week** – Kathy Walsh spoke on how this idea came about following an inspiring professional development opportunity. Margarite Lawler-Rhoner wrote a MSPA grant so that a Japanese artist from Portland could come into the school for the week. Sally Connolly wrote a CEEF grant to support guest speakers and additional materials. Some of the week's events included an opportunity to learn to paint with ink on rice paper from a Japanese artist living in Portland, enjoying a martial arts demonstration, and a presentation and performance by a master Japanese flutist. Trish Brigham praised the team's efforts as being a great model for teaching kids in different ways.

8. SCHOOL REPORT

Items were addressed under "Recognition".

9. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- a. **Update on State Consolidation** – The Superintendent reported that Commissioner Gendron considered high-performing school exemption for Cape Elizabeth. District's follow-up report was submitted on December 1. State is still reviewing the EPS funding formula. A letter received from the Commissioner on December 14th required a follow-up report be submitted by us. It is due to the State by February 14. Tentative information coming in is that Cape Elizabeth will be considered a high-performing district for at least the next three years. Process for approving budget changing. The deadline for

implementing the community vote/input piece has not yet been set by the State. The school department's budget preparations are already underway. Ms. Millett spoke about a conversation she had with Rep. Cynthia Dill about the vagueness of what the Department of Education was looking for in its December 1 report. Her understanding is that the DOE is looking for assurances that the required cuts in EPS funding wont be made up in educational programming.

Superintendent Hawkins reported that budget workshop meeting dates will appear in the upcoming issue of *The View* and will be on the web site soon.

- b. **Legislative Review** – Superintendent Hawkins noted that Ms. Millett is our Legislative Board member and reported that the Legislature's focus is around consolidation. Tabor II was briefly mentioned as coming down the road. The education funding piece has been removed from this version.
- c. **Introduction of Andrea Fuller as Admin Asst to Superintendent** – Superintendent Hawkins reported that Andrea began work on December 26, having previous experience working in a Portland area law firm and more recently in the central office of a neighboring school department. Andrea will not be present to take notes during Board meetings, but will review the meetings electronically.
- d. **Update on Chinese language program** – Mr. Kennealy acknowledged expressions of community support for this program. He reported meeting with Principals Shedd and Eismeier, along with Foreign Language Department Chair, Angela Schipani, to discuss the feasibility of an application for a guest teacher program sponsored by the US College Board and Hanban (The Office of Chinese Language Council International). Under this program, the Chinese government pays the teacher's international transportation and a stipend. Local school systems provide only local transportation and housing. Principal Shedd plans to put together an ad hoc group for interested stakeholders to consider feasibility as well as optimal timing issues if this is pursued. Superintendent Hawkins reported that there might be more local options available. He reported receiving a resume very recently from a native Chinese-speaking Maine teacher. Additionally, that there are many considerations to take into account with any kind of program change. Student Representative, Kiersten Brown, spoke that she would be interested in having Chinese as an option.

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a. **Consideration of Policies for Second Reading** – Ms. Brigham presented the following policies for second reading. She also reported for the public that current policies are located on the School Board page on the school web site.
 - ILA: Assessment System – with Section six removal, due to redundancy. Ms. Brigham made a motion to accept the policy as amended. Mr. Kennealy seconded. (Approved 7-0)
 - JHB: Truancy – Ms. Brigham made a motion to accept the policy as amended. Mr. Kennealy seconded. (Approved 7-0)

- JICFA: Student Hazing (for deletion) – Ms. Brigham made a motion to accept the policy as amended. Ms. Winker seconded. (Approved 7-0)
- JICIA: Weapons, Violence, Bullying and School Safety – Ms. Brigham recommended acceptance of the policy as amended. (Approved 7-0)

11. NEW BUSINESS

- a. **Consideration of Policies for First Reading** – Ms. Brigham presented the following policies for first reading:
- JG: Student Placement
 - JG-R: Pond Cove Placement
 - JG-R: Middle School & High School (including accelerated) Placement
 - ACCAA: Harassment

No action was required for first reading.

- b. **Consideration of Proposal for second John Hopkins Model UN Conference Trip** – Gretchen McNulty is requesting this approval. Principal Shedd added that students would be missing two days of school and the majority of those attending have not attended a conference this year. Ms. Burke made a motion to approve as presented. Mr. Kennealy seconded. (Approved 7-0)

- c. **Hannaford Field Presentation** by School Board Representative – Ms. Winker reported on the brief meeting held last week on the Gallivan Company proposal information, including: foundation, 1431 seat bleacher installation, score/press box understructure (steps, landing and foundation), site preparation and permits. The total cost is estimated at \$315,500. Proposed funding is 50% from the Town, up to \$150,000, with the balance coming from privately raised funds. All privately raised funds must be in the possession of the Town prior to the signing of a contract with the vendor. If Town support of bleachers negatively impacts its financial support of education, support for bleachers will be rescinded. Some questions that came up from board members were around the maintenance of the structure. Ms. Winker reported that, according to the vendor, with regular maintenance it should last 20-30 years or more. Attendance is expected to increase. Ms. Brigham and Ms. Ray questioned whether a reduction in bleacher size would be more cost effective. Ms. Millett questioned whether it was the School Board's place to question the seat size given the funding agreement and had additional comments/questions related to size and placement. Ms. Ray clarified that the Hannaford Field Committee's recommendation goes to the School Board, which then makes its final recommendation to the Town Council. Mr. Cotter reported that the School Board could make a motion to change or amend the

HF Committee's recommendation to the Town Council, but cannot advise the Town on their funding of the bleachers. He also reported that more Planning Board hearings are to come, which will include public discussions on visual size/placement and permitting issues. Mr. Kennealy expressed concern that this could, somehow, affect the school budget. Ms. Ray proposed amending seating to approximately 1,000. Mr. Bill Homer, a senior VP from Hannaford, spoke on his and Hannaford's commitment to this community field to date and urged the Board to think long-term and approve the full seating proposal. Board member Brown expressed her support for the original 1,500 seating option. Principal Shedd echoed Miss Brown's sentiments that alumni memories often include shared community experiences and expressed his support for the larger seat option.

Ms. Winker made a motion to approve HFC recommendation, with amended seating recommendation for approximately 1,000. Mr. Cotter seconded amendment.

Ms. Winker made a motion to withdraw her motion for amended seating. Mr. Cotter seconded that motion.

Ms. Ray made a motion to approve HFC recommendation, with 1,431 seats.

Ms. Winker seconded amendment. (Approved 6-1; Cotter)

d. **Action on Chinese Program** – Mr. Kennealy requested that no action be taken until further discussion by interested stakeholders can happen.

e. **Athletic Fee Positions** – The Superintendent spoke on the following:

- Note: payment to one Asst Boys Ice Hockey coach, so it's not a shared stipend this year
- Requested approval for Darci Holland as Middle School Girls Expansion Basketball coach

Ms. Millett made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendations for middle school athletic fee positions as presented. Ms Winker seconded. (Approved 7-0)

12. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Chairperson Ray announced that committee reports are posted on the web site and invited committee members to speak if there was anything essential to report at this public meeting.

Ms. Winker reminded board members to bring completed self-evaluation forms to the Board Retreat Workshop on Friday.

Calendar Committee - Ms. Brigham thanked everyone who completed the survey and encouraged continued community feedback. She wanted to note that during Committee meetings, the group finds that it's challenging to meet the needs of every school but they will do their best to meet most of the needs of all of the schools.

13. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments by the public.

14. SCHOOL BOARD AGENDA REQUESTS

There were no agenda requests.

15. ANNOUNCEMENTS OF UPCOMING MEETINGS

Ms. Ray announced the following Committees' meeting dates:

- **Personnel Committee** – Wednesday, January 9 at 8 a.m. in the Jordan Conference Room.
- **Communications Committee** - Thursday, January 10 at 3 p.m. in the Pond Cove Media Center.
- **School Board Retreat/Workshop** – Friday, January 11 at 8 a.m. at SMCC's McKernan Center.
- **School Board Workshop** - Tuesday, January 22 at 7 p.m. in the HS Library.
- **Finance Committee** - Wednesday, January 23 at 8 a.m. in the Superintendent's Office.
- **Sports Done Right** – Monday, January 28 at 7 p.m. in HS Library.
- **Calendar Committee** - Thursday, January 31 at 3 p.m. at the MS Conference Room
- **Wellness Committee** – Monday, February 4 at 3:10 p.m. in the Fire Station Meeting Room.
- **Extra Curricular Committee** – Tuesday, February 5 at 3:30 p.m. in the Jordan Conference Room.
- **School Board Meeting** – Tuesday, February 12 at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers.
- **Policy Committee** – Tuesday, January 15 at Noon in the Jordan Conference Room.

There being no further business, Ms. Winker made a motion that the meeting be adjourned. Ms. Millet seconded. The motion was approved 7-0. The meeting was adjourned at 9:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Alan H. Hawkins
Superintendent of Schools