

The regular meeting of the School Board was held on Tuesday, March 11, 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 Representatives present:

Kiersten Brown
Hudson Eakin
Luke Sisselman
Jacob Wasserman

Alan H. Hawkins, Superintendent of Schools

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**
None.
3. **Approval of School Board Minutes**
Ms. Brigham made a motion that the School Board minutes for the meeting held on February 12, 2008 be approved as presented. Ms. Winker seconded.
(Approved 7-0)
4. **Comments by Student Representatives**
Middle School representatives, Luke Sisselman and Jacob Wasserman, spoke about MEA testing, community teams, upcoming student-lead conferences, academic transitions and extra-curricular activities.

Hudson Eakin and Kiersten Brown reported briefly on items of interest from the students' perspective at the high school. Student Affairs group is gathering information on school calendar. At this time it is 2-1 against a change to the school day, largely due to feeling of not having enough time in the day already.
5. **Comments from the Public on Non-Agenda Items**
There were no comments from the public.

6. RECOGNITION

- a. **High School** - Principal Shedd reported that Nate Lavallee recently won the state wrestling title in his weight class competing on the Scarborough team representing Cape Elizabeth. Nate continued on to finish in 2nd place at New England's, and has been invited to National's; HS Jazz Ensembles places third and the jazz combo places fourth at the Berklee Jazz Festival. Senior, Dylan Sherry was honored at the festival by being named a Most Valuable Performer; Libby Cummings has received a Siemens Award Scholarship for outstanding performance on AP exams and SAT tests. Only two students are selected state-wide; Rhys Ainsworth and Una Donegan medaled in U.S. Figure Skating Novice Ice Skating competition; Four Presidential Scholar Nominees - Libby Cummings, Peter Kelly, Charlie Governali and Rhys Ainsworth; CE National Science Bowl Team places first in Northern New England; Basketball team was runner-up Class B, this year.
- b. **Middle School** - Principal Connolly reported on students' Boxes for Baghdad project. Collected about 280 pounds worth of items to send to soldiers who weren't getting care packages; Julia Hintlian, Ethan DiNinno, Olivia Bailey Jensen and Charlotte Ruddy are Maine state semi-finalists in national writing contest. Contest topic was: write a letter to an author who had an influence on your life.

7. COMMUNICATIONS

- a. **MS Visitation Day** - Principal Connolly reported that on February 29 approximately a dozen people attended this open house for School Board and Town Councilors. Ms. Millett reported day was very interesting.
- b. **HS Holocaust Studies Field Trip** - Superintendent Hawkins reported to the Board that Carrie Apanovitch has requested to take her Holocaust Studies students to the Boston Public Library on March 19. No action required from the Board.
- c. **Budget Meeting Schedule Update** - Superintendent Hawkins reported that following his brief update, Ms. Ray would open the meeting to questions from the Board and the public. Following the March 4 School Board Workshop straw poll of budget goals, the Board's discussion resulted in a budget target of 6%, down from the Superintendent's original budget of 13.28%. Over the course of the next three days, the Superintendent met with all the members of the District's Leadership in order to present a 6% budget which equated to cuts of \$1,127,497. The School Board is aware that the Town Council's unofficial straw polling resulted in 4.3% budget goal. Superintendent Hawkins requested that discussion on the middle school athletics begin first, as this was a very late consideration in the budget process and Ms. Weatherbie needed to leave this meeting to attend another very soon. Mr. Weatherbie addressed the Board stating he didn't want to cut expansion or freshman teams. Since some middle school students already participate in Community Services programs, the idea of moving their programs was not a new one. He suggested coming up with the necessary funding for the full time athletic administrator position

through Community Services, and so their budget, to administer the middle school athletic programs. After speaking with Principal Shedd and Ms. Weatherbie, it was suggested that the school fund the coaching. Ms. Weatherbie addressed the audience speaking from the perspective of the community services program. Community Services already provides support to these programs via transportation, facility reservation coordination, and custodial staff arrangements. Principal Connolly spoke that with a tight budget and little time to make changes needed to maintain programs and opportunities for students to participate, this idea seemed reasonable. After having already given up a half-time teaching position, he wanted to try and make sure that cuts to staff wouldn't go deeper.

Ms. Brigham asked Mr. Weatherbie what the activity costs might be. Mr. Weatherbie said for individual activities could be around \$30; slightly more for larger, team activities. Scholarships will continue to be budgeted for so that, no one would be unable to play due to financial hardship. Currently, there is a \$45 annual participation fee for middle school students involved in sports. This annual fee would go away if this change occurs. Ms. Burke requested clarification on the status of the current MS athletic director position. Superintendent Hawkins reported that is currently being discussed. Ms. Millett asked Principal Shedd about the impact of a shift in staff from foreign language to literacy. He stated that class size would increase, but still within guidelines of Board policy.

Ms. Ray invited the public to speak on this topic.

From the audience:

William Gross (Sea View Ave) - reported having two children who attended CE schools. Currently, he is tutoring a student in physics. The Superintendent's office supplied him with a current list of employees. He counted 278. Upon looking at each school's (core) teachers on the web site he found 102 (core) teachers. To him it seems that 178 employees are doing other things. They are *impedimenta*, or things carried along. Simply logistical/administrative staff. He wonders if all (178) are really needed?

Mary Brett (Stepplebush Road) - believes that paying per sport played will be much more costly to families than the current annual fee. What would the foreign language class size be increased to? Ms. Ray clarified it would be up to 22 students per class. Regarding budget changes to MS supplies, books, equipment, repair and field trips, would field trips go to just Chewonki or Kieve? Mr. Connolly reported that both field trip programs cost the community \$77,000. MSPA raises a large amount of that funding, but that is dwindling. Requests for scholarships are increasing. Currently reviewing feedback from parents, but probably will go to one program only. Supplies/books probably won't be updated. Appears textbooks haven't been updated in 11-year cycle. Looked at doing a 5-year cycle, but ultimately couldn't see cutting staff for textbooks.

Trish Wasserman (Running Tide Road) - three students in system currently. Thanked Board for their work. Prepared to support the budget as it is and supports a better funded school budget.

Peter Cary - thanked the Board and '*impedimenta*'. Please keep excellence in school system.

David Hillman - Believes we've under-funded our school, due to CPI/Tabor, for years. Believes 6% budget is too low. Original budget would have been just about right to correct years of spending caps. Urged Board to keep school system as it is and keep Superintendent's Budget amount.

Dan Fishbine (Salt Spray Ln) - expressed his support for this budget or higher. Would like to continue to have exceptional schools, realizing it is to the whole community's extended benefit.

8. **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

- a. **Update on Consolidation** - Superintendent Hawkins reported that changes in process ongoing relating to funding formula. Validation vote will be required within 10 days of Town council's decision. June 10 vote expected. Process begins with March 20 final School Budget to Town Council.
- b. **Opening: Athletic Administrator and Community Services Director** - Superintendent Hawkins announced that these openings are created by retirements of staff with many years experience. Job descriptions are being finalized and positions will be posted online and in the newspaper this weekend.

9. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- a. Consideration of policies for second reading
 - EB: Safety Program
 - EBAA: Chemical Hazards
 - EBCA: Critical Incident/Crisis Response Plan
 - EBCC: Bomb Threats

- Ms. Brigham reported on a comment made after first reading that these policies might be combined into one policy. After consulting with safety team and reviewing again, would like to keep policies separate. Ms. Brigham recommended acceptance of four policies as presented. Seconded by Ms. Millett. (Approved 7-0)

10. **NEW BUSINESS**

- a. **Consideration to vote on adoption of Cape Elizabeth School Board's 2008-2009 Budget** - Ms. Brigham made a motion to consider adopting a budget with a 7.5% increase. Ms. Burke seconded. Ms. Brigham reading from a prepared statement, thanked the community for their participation in this budget process and that she's not sure that everyone clearly understands the resources required. Inflationary limits imposed for years have only allowed schools to maintain the basic needs to run. State and Federal legislative mandates on everything from curriculum, graduation, teacher certification, emergency preparedness, health care, special education, testing, nutrition, and even organizational structure have been imposed. Most don't come with the funds required to implement them, but instead require the Town to pay -

including the cost of the upcoming required vote on the School Budget. Doesn't feel that supporting a 6% budget will result in a quality education for the students of the district.

Ms. Burke, reading from a prepared statement, thanked the community and school board for their participation in this budget process. Acknowledged wide range of responses to budget, including increasing pressure from the economy and family finances, to concern of lack of support from the Town to adequately support high quality educational opportunities. The 13.28% Superintendent's Budget was an earnest response to requests from board members to hear from district leaders just what they believed would be required to move our schools into the future and energize our schools. Frustrated and disappointed by Town's meeting to propose spending target. After countless hours spent on school related committees and before budget workshops are even over, the Council told us what we should spend - 4.3% or the current CPI-U. Feels this is a misguided approach and it undermines hard work and judgement of all elected officials. School Board's straw poll came to compromise of 6% budget increase. Three things we're doing to slowly erode quality of education in Cape Elizabeth: First, we are not adequately investing in innovative educational programs and the infrastructure that educators have been requesting for several years to provide the most appropriate tools to succeed in our global economy. This would include, investments in technology (Read Gary Lanoie's technology report on Town web site.), educational support for all students, and student wellness. Secondly, while everyone in Town benefits from good schools, we're shifting economic burden from all taxpayers to tax payers with children in schools. Thirdly, under the Town's web site, under *Financial Benchmarks for Year Ended June 30, 2006* (http://www.capeelizabeth.com/town_documents.html), we compare ourselves with area cities and towns, low tax rate, high percentage going to direct instruction and schools, low school operations and transportation costs. However, Yarmouth also received an exemption from the state for being a high performing and cost-effective school. They spend approximately \$2000 more per student than Cape Elizabeth. Are we being still being cost-efficient or have we stopped investing in our schools? I would support a budget of 7.47% that would include 5.2% for changes in enrollment, salary and benefit increases, and increased energy costs and 2.27% to go toward some innovative educational programs and staff requests, and costs associated with capital improvements, field trips, contingency, technology, textbooks, classroom supplies and other essential services.

Hudson asked the Board whether class size/student load would be changed to help address budget. Ms. Ray said this has been discussed. This would involve policy changes, which would first be addressed through the Policy Committee. Superintendent Hawkins said reductions staff and athletics would not be required for a budget over 7%. Ms. Ray motioned for those in favor of a 7.5% budget increase. (Defeated 3-4; Kennealy, Ray, Winker, Cotter opposed). Ms Millett made a motion for approval of a 6% School Board Budget. Mr. Kennealy seconded. Ms. Millett spoke that education provides an excellent

investment. Keeping budget to CPI is shortsighted and harmful. Previously, supported a 7.2% budget increase. Support earlier statements made by Ms. Brigham and Ms. Burke. In the spirit of compromise, with reservations I'll support the 6% budget. Ms. Ray clarified that any cuts mentioned tonight are to what is proposed (13.28% budget), not from current budget. Worried about state funding, oil and gas prices. Agreed with fellow board members earlier comments, but unsure that this is the year to do it. Earlier in favor of 5.2% increase to meet needs of changes to enrollment (estimates), and salary and benefits and energy costs. Not currently in favor of 6% budget. Hudson and Kiersten did not want to see valued staff/teachers cut. Keirsten mentioned Kieve and Chewonki were very valuable experience for her. Mr. Kennealy hoped the budget process could be improved in the future. Feels amount spend not reflective on end result. Mr. Cotter echoed Mr. Kennealy's frustration with the process. Stated current support for 5.2% budget. Ms. Winker mentioned concern over state funding shortfalls falling to town taxpayers. Ms. Winker supports 5.2% budget.

Ms. Brigham asked what the median household difference would be at 6% increase versus a 5.2% budget increase. A 6% budget would result in approximately \$198/year. For a 5.2% budget it would be approximately \$170/year. Ms. Ray motioned for vote on 6% budget increase. (Approved 4-3; Ray, Winker, Cotter opposed)

b. Consideration of extra-curricular athletic fee position nominations -

Superintendent Hawkins recommended approval of the extra-curricular positions as presented. Noted that three listed will be held until required fingerprinting is complete. Mr. Weatherbie said that returning coaches have been evaluated. Ms. Millett made a motion to approve High School recommendations as presented. Mr. Kennealy seconded. (Approved 7-0). Ms. Millett made a motion to approve Middle School recommendations as presented. Ms. Brigham seconded. (Approved 7-0)

c. Consideration of policies for first reading

- IHBA: Individualized Education Programs (IEPs)
- IHBAA: Referral/Pre-referral of Students with Disabilities
- IHBAA-R: Admin Guidelines-Referral/Pre-Referral
- IHBAC: Child Find
- IHBGB: Model Supplemental Statement of Rights for Private School Students with Disabilities
- IKA: Student Assessment - *recommendation for deletion*
- IKAB: Student Progress Reports to Parents
- JFC: Dropout Prevention Student Withdrawal from School
- JKF: Disciplinary Removal of Students with Disabilities
- JKF-R: Admin Guidelines-Disciplinary Removal Students with Disabilities
- JKGA: Time Out Rooms and Therapeutic Restraint

- JKGA-R: Admin Guidelines-Time Out Rooms and Therapeutic Restraint

Ms. Millett clarified that staff listed under 'Instructional Support' are not *impedimenta*, but required teachers and staff formerly under the 'special education' designation. No action required for first reading.

11. 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.

Finance Committee - Ms. Millett reported that kilowatt energy savings program appeared to be leveling off.

Calendar Committee - Ms. Brigham thanked public for feedback to date.

12. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

There were no comments by the public.

13. SCHOOL BOARD AGENDA REQUESTS

Mr. Kennealy requested consideration for holding a school budget process committee, made up jointly of town and school board members and citizens be considered at future workshop. No vote necessary.

14. ANNOUNCEMENTS OF UPCOMING MEETINGS

Ms. Ray announced the following Committees' meeting dates:

- **Personnel Committee** – Thursday, March 13 at 8 a.m. in the Jordan Conference Room.
- **Communications Committee** - Wednesday, March 5 at 3:10 p.m. in the Pond Cove Media Center.
- **Finance Committee** - Wednesday, March 26 at 8 a.m. in the Superintendent's Office.
- **Sports Done Right** – Monday, March 10 at 7 p.m. in the HS Library.
- **Calendar Committee** - Thursday, March 20 at 2:45 p.m. at the MS Conference Room
- **Wellness Committee** – Monday, April 7 at 3:10 p.m. in the Fire Station Meeting Room.
- **Extra Curricular Committee** – Tuesday, March 4 at 3:30 p.m. in the Jordan Conference Room.
- **School Board Meeting** – Executive Session Tuesday, March 18 at 2:30 pm in the Jordan Conf Rm; Regular Meeting Tuesday, April 8 at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers.
- **School Board Workshops** - March 25 at 7 pm in HS Library
- **Strategic Planning Committee** - no meeting in March.
- **Policy Committee** – Tuesday, March 18 at Noon in the Jordan Conference Room.

There being no further business, Ms. Winker made a motion that the meeting be adjourned. Ms. Millett seconded. The motion was approved 7-0. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Alan H. Hawkins
Superintendent of Schools