

The regular meeting of the School Board was held on Tuesday, December 2, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

School Board members present were:

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

Student Representatives present:

Sara Friedman  
Andrew Pezzullo

Alan H. Hawkins, Superintendent of Schools

Chairperson Kathy Ray called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

1. **Adjustments to Agenda** – ADD: 5e, Kathy Ray’s Term as School Board Chair; 7f, Consideration of certification mentor position; and 7g, Community Services Advisory Commission appointments; and REMOVE: 5b, HS theater club.
2. **Approval of School Board Minutes from November 4, 2008** - Ms. Brigham made a motion that the minutes for the meeting held on November 4, 2008 be approved. Mr. Cotter seconded. (Approved 6-0)
3. **Comments from Student Representatives** – Middle School students, Piper Otterbein and Kisa Tabery, and High School representatives, Sara Friedman and Andrew Pezzullo, spoke briefly on items of interest from the students’ perspective.
4. **Comments from Public On Non-Agenda Items** - There were no comments from the public.
5. **RECOGNITION**
  - a. **Middle School Drama club** – Ms. Brigham recognized teachers Evan Solendar and Steve Price, and all the students involved for a great effort and performance.
  - b. ~~High School Theater club musical~~ - postponed until January 2009 meeting.
  - c. **Interact Group** – Ms. Ray reported that club members have supported a wide variety of Rotary efforts to date.
  - d. **Athletic teams and bleachers update** – Mr. Thoreck provided an update on team competitions and congratulated all student-athletes. The bleachers were completed just in time for use of season’s last football game.
  - e. Kathy Ray’s term as School Board Chair – Superintendent Hawkins expressed his appreciation for Kathy Ray’s service as School Board Chair for the past two years. Ms. Ray thanked the Board for the opportunity.
6. **COMMUNICATIONS**
  - a. **Budget** – Superintendent Hawkins briefly explained about a preliminary state curtailment of education funds amounting to a decrease in this budget year totaling \$421,572. The legislature would have to approve any curtailment. With so much unknown at this point, the budget has been frozen except for salaries, benefits and prior contractual

commitments and district administration is preparing for a variety of possible reduction scenarios. Ms. Millett inquired whether the school's carry-forward balance is available this school year? She requested to have the oil contract re-negotiated using the known 25% dealer margin. Ms. Millett also asked whether an initial analysis on the legal and economic feasibility of school privatization should be pursued? Superintendent Hawkins explained that with privatization comes an immediate three million dollar (+/-) loss of subsidy from the state, and that could be very difficult for many families in this community. Mr. Cotter asked whether contracts are legally allowed to be re-opened; with the thinking that possible contract concessions may be a more welcomed option to job losses. He felt that a meeting regarding the current budget should be scheduled immediately. The Board agreed that the Finance Committee would use its energy—not that of the school business and superintendent's offices—to do some initial research into the feasibility of school privatization.

- b. **Food Services** – Superintendent Hawkins reported briefly on on-going efforts to maintain a balanced food service budget. Ms. Millett thanked the Pond Cove community for their thoughtful and constructive feedback on the food services program and mentioned that lack of time permitted to eat came up often. Ms. Burke commented that MS/PC cafetorium revitalization group would be looking at all aspects around traffic flow. Ms. Millett said that time is of the essence to help the program gain immediate financial stability.
- c. **Energy** - Superintendent Hawkins gave credit to Ernie MacVane for his constant efforts. Classroom appliances have been removed. Energy efficient lighting has been installed.
- d. **CEEF grants** – Ms. Burke reported that CEEF recently approved over \$25,000 in grants.
- e. **Pond Cove teacher medical leave request** - Superintendent Hawkins reported on Holly Forsyth's medical leave request. No Board vote required.

## **7. NEW BUSINESS**

- a. **Consideration of Ted Jordan's proposed AP Government class trip to Washington, D.C. (March 29-April 1, 2009)** – Principal Shedd spoke briefly about this educational opportunity. Due to some school funding historically provided, this trip may not happen this year. Ms. Brigham made a motion for approval. Ms. Winker seconded. (Approved 6-0)
- b. **Consideration of the following policies for second reading** –
  - **JJB: School Sponsorship of Social Activities** - Ms. Brigham moved that the policy be approved as presented. Ms. Millett seconded. (Approved 6-0)
  - **JRA: Student Records and Retention** - Ms. Brigham moved that the policy be approved as presented. Ms. Millett seconded. (Approved 6-0)
  - **JRA-R: Student Records and Retention-guidelines** – no vote required
  - **JRA-E: Student Records and Retention-notice** – no vote required
  - **JLCC: Communicable Diseases** - Ms. Brigham moved that the policy be approved as presented. Ms. Winker seconded. (Approved 6-0)
- c. **Consideration of the following policies for first reading**
  - FF-R: Naming of School Facilities-Guidelines
  - JIB: Student Involvement in Decision Making
  - JLCB: School Immunization Policy
  - BIA: New Board Member Orientation

Ms. Brigham briefly reviewed each policy. - No action required for first reading.

d. **Consideration of Superintendent's recommendation for Middle School athletic fee position** –

Middle School Nordic - Jayne Thomas

Ms. Burke made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation for Middle School Nordic coaching position. Ms. Winker seconded. (Approved 6-0)

e. **Consideration of Superintendent's recommendation for High School extra-curricular fee position** – Principal Shedd reported that this is essentially a department chair position.

High School Research Coordinator – Joyce Bell

Ms. Winker made a motion for approval of the Superintendent's recommendations. Ms. Brigham seconded. (Approved 6-0)

f. **Consideration of Superintendent's recommendation for mentor position for 2008-09**

– Certification Mentor (.5) – Gretchen McNulty

Ms. Brigham made a motion for approval of the Superintendent's recommendation for Gretchen McNulty to serve as Roz Gross's mentor. Ms. Millett seconded. (Approved 5-1; Cotter)

g. **Consideration of Community Service Advisory Commission appointments** –

Superintendent Hawkins reported that there are two commission openings for which the School Board is responsible for making appointments. Frederic Sturtevant and Carolyn Flaherty have submitted letters of interest. Janet Hoskin clarified her belief that these individuals are appointed by the School Board to act as representatives of the school. She expressed her belief that these community members would be an asset to the advisory commission. Ms. Millett requested that, going forward, the Town provide the Superintendent's Office with as much advanced notice as possible of any future commission appointments the Board would be required to make. Ms. Brigham made a motion for approval of Frederic Sturtevant and Carolyn Flaherty to the Community Service Advisory Commission. Ms. Winker seconded. (Approved 6-0)

**8. Committee Reports** –

Sports Done Right –Ms. Burke reported that she and Janet Hoskin, Jeff Thoreck, Jim Stephenson, and Ken Pierce would meet soon to develop an agenda for a January meeting.

**9. Public Comment on Agenda Items** – None

**10. School Board Agenda Requests** – None

**11. Announcements of Upcoming Meetings** – Ms Ray announced the committee meeting dates are posted on the web site.

- **Personnel Committee** – No December meeting. Will be re-scheduled in January. ~~Thursday, December 11 at 8 a.m. in the Jordan Conference Room.~~
- **Policy Committee** –Tuesday, December 16 at noon in the Jordan Conference Room.
- **Finance Committee** – Wednesday, December 17 at 8 a.m. in the Superintendent's Office.
- **Extra Curricular Committee** – Wednesday, December 3 at 7:30 a.m. in the Jordan Conference Room.
- **School Board Meetings** – Special Meetings: Wednesday, December 10 at 7:30 a.m. in Town Council Chambers, and Friday, December 12 at 8:00 a.m. at McKernan Center, SMCC; Workshop Meetings: Tuesday, December 16 at 7 p.m. in the HS Library.

- **Wellness Committee** – Monday, January 5 at 3:15 p.m. in the Fire Station Meeting Room.

**12. Adjournment** - Ms. Winker made a motion for approval. Mr. Cotter seconded. (Approved 6-0) The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Alan H. Hawkins  
Superintendent of Schools