

ROCKLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS
ROCKLAND, MASSACHUSETTS

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING,
MONDAY, JANUARY 11, 2010, 6:30 PM
HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY

The School Committee met on Monday, January 11, 2010 at 6:30 PM at the High School Library. Committee members present were: Mr. Norris, Mrs. Pezzella, Mr. Mills, Mr. Mullen, and Mrs. Werkheiser. Also present were Superintendent Retchless, Assistant Superintendent Scarpelli, Mrs. Cusick and Kelsea Giannini and Maura Corbett, Student Representatives.

Mr. Sangster, High School Principal, Mrs. Shaw, Guidance Director; Mr. George, Rockland Education Foundation, Department Chairpersons Ms. McDonough, Mrs. Linehan, Mr. J. Casagrande, Mr. S. Casagrande, Mr. Grimmatt, Ms. Burke and Ms. Hanrahan, Rockland Federal Credit Union, were present in the audience.

Representing the press were Mr. Arbuckle, Patriot Ledger, and citizens broadcasting for WRPS/TV.

Chairman Norris introduced Kelsea Giannini and Maura Corbett, High School Student Representatives.

On motion of Mrs. Pezzella, seconded by Mr. Mills, unanimous, the minutes of the meeting of December 14, 2009 were accepted.

The Superintendent commended Devan Dupuis, Middle School student, for his heroic efforts using the Heimlich to rescue Ian Garland during a lunch period. The Committee asked that Devan be invited to the next School Committee meeting.

The minutes of the South Shore Regional School District Committee Meeting of November 18, 2009 were noted.

A request from the Jefferson School PAC to distribute flyers to the elementary and middle school students was approved on the recommendation of the Superintendent. Motion by Mr. Mills, seconded by Mr. Mullen, unanimous.

A request from the Elementary PACs to distribute flyers to the elementary and middle school students were approved on the recommendation of the Superintendent. Motion by Mr. Mills, seconded by Mr. Mullen, unanimous.

On four motions by Mr. Mills, seconds by Mr. Mullen, unanimous, the following December Monthly Reports were approved:

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| 1) Administrators | Mr. Sangster, Mr. Stanish,
Mrs. McGrath,
Mr. Kohn/Dr. Levine, Mrs. Sheehan |
| 2) Guidance | Mrs. Shaw |
| 3) Nurse | Mrs. Ryan |
| 4) Pupil Personnel Services | Ms. Salem |

On five separate motions by Mrs. Pezzella, seconds by Mr. Mills, unanimous, the following Security Trailer Reports for December were accepted:

- 1) Almshouse
- 2) Esten
- 3) Hartsuff Park
- 4) Jefferson
- 5) Memorial Park

The following January Newsletters were noted:

- 1) Esten
- 2) Jefferson
- 3) Memorial Park
- 4) Middle School

Building Rentals for December were noted.

Mr. Dressler, High School Math teacher, gave an overview of the new High School store that is located in the cafeteria. The Rockland Federal Credit Union donated \$5,000 to this project. Students man the store during lunch periods. Five students attended a DECCA competition at the Cape. Marketing skills are also taught as part of this project. Ms. Burke and Ms. Hanrahan from Rockland Federal Credit Union, reviewed the student bank branch program also located at the High School. The branch is open to all students and staff of the Rockland Public Schools. Many students go on to work at the main bank branch.

Mrs. Werkheiser updated the Committee on the activities of the Building Committee noting that the CM at Risk proposals are available at this time. Elections were held and Dr. Rogers was elected to continue as Chairman, Mr. Phelps as Vice Chairman, and Mrs. Werkheiser as Secretary. There will be a general meeting on January 26th for all Town Boards. Meetings have been held with the architect, National Grid, technology department, tv and cafeteria personnel.

There was a general discussion with regard to the Middle School and Jefferson School Principal positions. The Superintendent has notified staff members at each of the schools that a screening committee is being formed. Mr. Mills will serve as the School Committee member on the Middle School Committee and Mrs. Werkheiser will serve on the Jefferson Committee. Mr. Norris and Mrs. Pezzella will serve on the Committee to pick the finalists.

Mr. George, Rockland Education Foundation, announced that a total of \$18,338 in grants was awarded to staff members. An additional donation of \$8,000 was given and a new Math Software program was purchased. Because of surplus money, each elementary school was awarded \$1,000 and the Middle School received \$1,500. The Committee thanked Mr. George for the Foundation's continued support of the school department.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, it was voted to approve the proposed list of Fund Raisers for January through June 2010. Motion by Mr. Mills, seconded by Mr. Mullen, unanimous. The Committee also received a tally sheet of amounts that were realized from fundraisers for September through December 2009. Mr. Retchless commended the PACs and staff for reporting this information and Mrs. Cusick for compiling the list.

Mrs. Shaw, Guidance Director, gave the Committee an overview of the proposed changes to the 2010 RHS Program of Studies. Some of the changes include: courses to be offered in the English, Math, Science, and the library, History/Social Studies department. The Department Chairpersons explained the reason for the changes. On the recommendation of the Superintendent, it was voted to table the approval of the proposed changes until the next meeting. Motion by Mr. Mills, seconded by Mrs. Pezzella, unanimous.

The Superintendent gave an overview of the 2010 Spring Night School Courses. Mr. Retchless commended Mrs. Lamb for her work on this project.

Superintendent Retchless explained the Race to the Top Program and the Memorandum of Understanding that needs to be signed by the President of the teacher's union, the Superintendent of Schools, and the Chairman of the School Committee. There will be \$250 million available for the state of Massachusetts with \$52,000 for Rockland if the school department applies for it. On the motion by Mrs. Pezzella, seconded by Mr. Mullen, unanimous, it was voted to have Mr. Norris sign the memorandum representing the School Committee.

There was a general discussion regarding security cameras that will be installed at the new Middle School. Various types of security measures were discussed. On the motion by Mr. Mills, seconded by Mrs. Pezzella, unanimous, it was voted that proposals for cameras and other security measures will be forwarded to the School Committee for approval.

The upcoming drama production, book club discussion evening, poetry magazine were covered under Community Service announcements. Mrs. Werkheiser wished Mr. Laramee of the Building Committee well and Mr. Norris reminded the public about the election on Tuesday, January 19th.

On the motion by Mr. Mills, seconded by Mr. Mullen, unanimous, the meeting adjourned at 7:49 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas F. Mills, Jr.
Secretary

