

**ROCKLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS
ROCKLAND, MASSACHUSETTS**

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MONDAY, JANUARY 25, 2010, 6:30 PM
SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY**

The School Committee met on Monday, January 25, 2010, at 6:30 PM in 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, and Mrs. Cusick.

Representing the press were citizens broadcasting for WRPS/TV.

Mr. Sangster, High School Principal, Mr. Stanish, Middle School Principal; Ms. Bohn, Middle School Assistant Principal; Mr. Harden, Music Department Chairperson; Ms. Davidson, Guidance Counselor; Mrs. Phelps, Middle School Physical Education teacher; Devan DuPuis and Ian Garland, Middle School students and parents; Mrs. Shaw, Guidance Director, members of the Esten, Jefferson, Memorial Park, and Middle School PACs, Mr. Chiocca, Town Administrator, Mr. Johnson and Mr. Chaffee, Rockland Selectmen, were present in the audience.

On motion of Mr. Mills, seconded by Mr. Mullen, unanimous, the minutes of the Budget Sub-Committee meeting of January 11, 2010 were accepted.

On motion of Mrs. Pezzella, seconded by Mr. Mills, unanimous, the minutes of the regular School Committee meeting of January 11, 2010 were accepted.

Superintendent Retchless gave an overview of the choking incident that occurred at the Middle School cafeteria in December. Mr. Norris presented Devan DuPuis with a certificate from the School Committee commending him for his heroic actions. Ian Garland thanked Devan DuPuis for his efforts.

Mr. Retchless commented about the recent article in the Patriot Ledger regarding technology in the schools including smart boards and document cameras. The Superintendent commended the Energy Committee for submitting a Solar Panel Grant to the Department of Energy Resources for the Esten School. The \$150,000 Window Replacement Project at the Esten School will begin during the summer. It was noted that the deadline for applications for the Jefferson and Middle School Principal positions will close on January 29th. Screening Committees will meet next week.

The Superintendent read a letter from Ms. Janice McCarthy, Rockland Health Agent, commending the school nurses for their assistance at two H1N1 clinics held recently.

A request from the Rockland Youth Softball to distribute flyers to 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 Rockland Memorial Library to post a flyer at the Pre-School and Elementary Schools was approved on the recommendation of the Superintendent. Motion by Mr. Mills seconded by Mr. Mullen, unanimous.

A request from the Rockland Memorial Library to post a flyer at the Middle School and High School was approved on the recommendation of the Superintendent. Motion by Mr. Mills seconded by Mr. Mullen, unanimous.

On eight separate motions by Mr. Mills, seconds by Mrs. Werkheiser, unanimous, the following Financial Reports for November and December were accepted:

- 1) School Department
- 2) High School Student Activities
- 3) Middle School Student Activities
- 4) Cafeteria

On thirty-two separate motions by Mr. Mills, seconds by Mr. Mullen, unanimous, the following November/December Monthly Reports were accepted:

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| 1) Art | Ms. Gibson |
| 2) Athletic | Mr. Graziano |
| 3) Day Care | Mrs. Veiga |
| 4) Deans | Mrs. Schipper/Mr. Damon |
| 5) English | Ms. McDonough |
| 6) Family Consumer Sci./Tech Ed. | Mr. Graziano |
| 7) Foreign Language | Mrs. Palmer |
| 8) Library/IMC | Mrs. Linehan |
| 9) Math | Mr. Casagrande |
| 10) Music | Mr. Harden |
| 11) Radio/TV Station | Mr. Cable-Murphy |
| 12) Science | Mr. Casagrande |
| 13) Social Studies | Mr. Grimmett |
| 14) Special Education (8-12) | Mrs. McGonnigal |
| 15) Technology | Mr. Wells |
| 16) Middle School | Ms. Bohn |

Ms. Bohn, Middle School Assistant Principal, gave an overview of the bullying initiative that has been implemented at the Middle School. Ms. Davidson, Guidance Counselor, and Mrs. Phelps, Health teacher, reported on some of the details of the program including: Relational Aggression, the meaning of perception, "Speak Out Now", Mix It Up, and the Principal Roundtable.

Mrs. Werkheiser updated the Committee on the progress of the School Building Committee noting that there will be a meeting at the Selectmen's office to discuss the PLA and a meeting for Town Department Heads at the high school auditorium. The CM at Risk applications will be reviewed. The Superintendent noted that the website with regard to the building project is being updated all the time.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, it was voted to approve the proposed changes to the 2010 RHS Program of Studies. Motion by Mrs. Pezzella, seconded by Mr. Mills, unanimous. The Committee commended the Department Heads for their efforts regarding new innovative classes for students.

Mr. Harden, Music Director, gave the Committee an overview of the proposed changes to the Music Department which included offering music to elementary students every week with a schedule change for the teachers, instrumental lessons being offered starting in the fifth grade, and to create a chorus at the high school. On the motion by Mr. Mills, seconded by Mrs. Pezzella, unanimous, it was voted to approve the changes to the Music Department.

On the motion by Mr. Mills, seconded by Mrs. Pezzella, unanimous, it was voted to approve Saturday, June 5, 2010, as the date for the 2010 graduation.

On the motion by Mr. Mills, seconded by Mr. Mullen, unanimous, it was voted to transfer \$81,000 from Instructional Services to Separation Benefits, Unemployment.

Superintendent Retchless presented the Preliminary Budget FY11 for the Committee's review. The presentation included the Budget Process, the budget summary, the outlook, and two routes on which to proceed. The summary included the fact that the override and salary freeze eliminated the need for staff cuts for the first time in eight years and that Professional Development has been expanded. After a general discussion, it was voted to approve a preliminary FY11 budget of \$19,419,696 which is a 2.3% increase. Motion by Mr. Mullen, seconded by Mr. Mills, unanimous.

Mr. Retchless announced that Dr. Levine, North River Collaborative Representative, has resigned his position. It was noted that of the seven districts that make up NRC, all representatives are School Committee members. On the recommendation of the Superintendent, it was voted to table the appointment of a member to serve on the Board of Directors. Motion by Mr. Mills, seconded by Mr. Mullen, unanimous.

Mr. Scarpelli announced the recent 2010 Adult High School graduation list for the South Coastal Adult Learning Center. Graduates included Katelyn May Boutiette, Ryan P. Damon, Corey F. DelPrete, Jacuelyn Fisher, Cory P. Johnson, and Ali K. Soufan. It was noted that five of the six students are now enrolled at Massasoit Community College.

The Committee heard a letter from the Massachusetts Secondary Schools Athletic Directors Association honoring Peter Tolan. Mr. Tolan is the recipient of the Joao Rodrigues Distinguished Service Award for volunteering their services to the school.

Superintendent Retchless reviewed personnel activity for November/December 2009 and January 2010 highlighting the retirement of Mrs. Osborne, Memorial Park Grade 3 teacher and Mr. Stanish, Middle School Principal. The Superintendent commended Mr. Stanish for his contributions to the building project and for his years of service to the Rockland Public Schools.

The Superintendent thanked Mr. Scarpelli for his efforts regarding the preparation of the FY11 School Budget.

It was announced that the deadline for senior items to be included in the yearbook is approaching. Mrs. Werkheiser commended the High School Guidance staff for their excellent work preparing college applications for members of the senior class. It was noted that the turnout for the Little League breakfast was very good.

On the motion by Mr. Mills, seconded by Mr. Mullen, unanimous, the meeting adjourned at 8:11 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas F. Mills
Secretary