

**ROCKLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
ROCKLAND, MASSACHUSETTS**

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING,  
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2009, 6:30 PM  
HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY**

The School Committee met on Monday, November 9, 2009, at 6:30 PM, in the High School Library. Committee members present were: Mr. Norris, Mrs. Pezzella, Mr. Mills, and Mr. Mullen. Also present were Superintendent Retchless, Assistant Superintendent Scarpelli, Mrs. Cusick and Student Representative Murilo Oliveira.

Ms. Salem, Director of Pupil Personnel Services; Mr. Sangster, High School Principal; Maura Corbett, Lindsey Murphy and Emily Veiga, high school seniors; and their families. Mr. Arbuckle, Brockton Enterprise; and citizens broadcasting for WRPS/TV were present in the audience.

Chairman Norris welcomed Murilo Oliveira, Student Representative, to the meeting.

Mr. Norris announced that Mrs. Werkheiser was not present due to personal reasons.

On motion by Mrs. Pezzella, seconds by Mr. Mills, unanimous, the minutes of the meeting of the October 26, 2009 was accepted.

Superintendent Retchless presented the MA Association of School Superintendent's Academic Excellence Award to Maura Corbett. Ms. Corbett's accomplishments include: National Honor Society, Foreign Language Student of the Month, Overall Outstanding Academic Achiever, and Rensselaer Medal Award. She participates in the Drama Club, Write Club, Poetry Club and the Math Team. The Superintendent also presented the MA Association of School Superintendent's Academic Excellence Award to Lindsey Murphy. Ms. Murphy's accomplishments include: National Honor Society, Engineering Contest winner sponsored by Western New England College, Overall Academic Achiever, Consecutive High Honor Roll and participation in the French Club, Academic Council, Environmental Club, and the Math Team. The criteria for this award is three year cumulative average, rank in class, and a personal selection by the Superintendent.

Mr. Sangster, High School Principal, presented Emily Veiga, high school senior, the MA Secondary School Administrators' Assoc. Student Achievement Award. Ms. Veiga's accomplishments include: Certificate of Merit, RHS Excellence in Education, RHS Outstanding Academic Achiever in English & Mathematics and participation in Cross-Country, Winter Track & Field and Tennis.

A request from College Academy 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.

The Superintendent gave the Committee an update on the H1N1 flu stating that a letter had been sent to parents of elementary students and a ConnectEd message to middle and high school parents. It was stated that there is only a slight increase in absences at the schools. Mr. Retchless has been appointed to the MASS 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills/Global Education Committee. The Superintendent thanked the many town's people who came and voted for the Middle School Building Project at the Special Town Meeting. He urged people to vote at the election on Saturday. The Superintendent commended the Building Committee, former Chairman Tom Mills, and Dr. Rogers for their efforts on this project.

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

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|-------------------|---|
| 1) Administrators | Mr. Sangster, Mr. Stanish, Mrs. McGrath,<br>Mr. Kohn/Dr. Levine, Mrs. Sheehan |
| 2) Guidance       | Ms. Shaw  |
| 3) Nurse          | Mrs. Ryan   |

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

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

The following November Newsletters were noted:

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

The Building Rentals for October were noted.

Mr. Retchless noted that State Treasurer Cahill spoke at a fundraiser for Representative Nyman about the Middle School Building Project stating that the monies earmarked for the project have been guaranteed. The Superintendent also noted that there will be eight new science labs at the Middle School and all of the science labs at the High School will be completely upgraded. This will remove any problem with the accreditation.

After a general discussion with regard to the subject of home schooling, it was voted to table approval of the requested item to allow Mrs. Werkheiser to be present for the vote. The Committee requested that when a request is submitted all backup material should accompany the request. The Superintendent suggested that the Committee review the entire Home School Policy. Requests for the following year should be submitted at the School Committee summer meeting.

On the motion by Mr. Mills, seconded by Mr. Mullen, unanimous, it was voted to declare seventeen outdated children's car seats as surplus. The seats will not be available for the public.

On the motion by Mr. Mills, seconded by Mrs. Pezzella, unanimous, it was voted to approve the proposed "The Judy Nessralla Drama Scholarship" to be awarded to a Rockland High School senior who plans to further his/her education in music, drama, writing or secondary education teaching. The scholarship will be chosen by the High School Scholarship Committee.

On the motion by Mr. Mills, seconded by Mrs. Pezzella, unanimous, it was voted to approve an Early-Release Day for the high school on December 17, 2009 for the purpose of preparing for the NEASC re-certification process.

The Superintendent reviewed the class sizes for all school noting the addition of a half-time Kindergarten teacher and a drop in enrollment at the elementary level. There was a general discussion regarding classes at the high school with over thirty students.

Under Public Service Announcements, it was announced that the High School Band Auction will be held on Sunday, November 15<sup>th</sup> and a day of shopping at the Esten School on November 21<sup>st</sup>. The Boys' and Girls' Soccer teams are in the state tournament, all Youth Football teams are in the Super Bowl, and the Cheerleaders are in a competition in Boston. The Committee reminded the public that Saturday, November 14<sup>th</sup> is the Special Election for the Middle School Project. Polls are open from 8 AM to 8 PM. Absentee ballots are available at the Town Hall through Friday.

On the motion by Mr. Mills, seconded by Mr. Mullen, unanimous, the meeting adjourned at 7:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas F. Mills, Jr.  
Secretary