

**ROCKLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
ROCKLAND, MASSACHUSETTS**

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING,  
MONDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2009 6:30 PM  
SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY**

The School Committee met on Monday, December 14, 2009, at 6:30 PM, in the Senior 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 Student Representative Bridget Garrity.

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

Mr. Sangster, High School Principal, Ms. Salem, Pupil Personnel Services Director, and Ms. Bohn, Middle School Assistant Principal, were present in the audience.

Mr. Norris welcomed Student Representative Bridget Garrity to the meeting.

On motion of Mr. Mills, seconded by Mr. Mullen, unanimous, the minutes of the meeting of November 24, 2009 were accepted.

The minutes of the South Shore Regional School Committee meeting of October 21, 2009, were noted.

A request from the Derby Academy to distribute flyers to elementary and middle school students and to post at the high school was approved on the recommendation of the Superintendent. Motion by Mr. Mills, seconded by Mr. Mullen, unanimous.

A request from the Rockland Little League to distribute flyers to elementary and middle school students and to post at the high school was approved on the recommendation of the Superintendent. Motion by Mr. Mills, seconded by Mr. Mullen, unanimous. Mr. Norris noted that pictures of players can be seen on the Little League Facebook page.

The Superintendent reported that he will be a member of the Massachusetts Education Delegation visiting China in April to study triumphs and challenges of the Chinese education system. The ten-day tour will introduce participants to the highlights of China and offer ample opportunity to network with other educational experts from Massachusetts and to share best practices. Ms. Bohn, Middle School Assistant Principal, will also be attending. The Superintendent reported on the Race To The Top Grant. The state of Massachusetts is applying for \$250 million in federal stimulus money. Of that amount \$125 million will go directly to the school department. The Superintendent will attend a workshop on this initiative with Mrs. Flanagan, REA President this week. The deadline for submitting the Memorandum of Understanding to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education is January 13, 2010.

On four separate motions by Mr. Mills, seconds by Mrs. Pezzella, unanimous, the following November Monthly Reports were approved:

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

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

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

The Committee asked about the potholes at Hartsuff Park. Mr. Scarpelli noted that they would be fixed in the spring.

The following December Newsletters were noted:

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

The Building Rental Report for November was noted.

Mrs. Werkheiser announced that the Building Committee discussed the CM at Risk and that a decision would be made before Christmas. John Rogers would be the signatory for the paperwork. There have been minor changes in the plans from the architect. Sub-Committees are being set up as the project moves forward. There will be a recording secretary for each sub-committee to insure accurate accounting of the progress. Architects from Dore & Whittier will make a presentation to the School Committee at a meeting in January. Dr. Rogers, Mr. Retchless, and Mr. Scarpelli attended a CM at Risk workshop with the Inspector General's office. The architects are beginning meeting with the food service department and with National Grid.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Home Education request was approved. Motion by Mr. Mills, seconded by Mr. Mullen. Mr. Mills, Mr. Mullen, Mrs. Pezzella, and Mrs. Werkheiser voted in favor. Mr. Norris was opposed.

There was a general discussion regarding the 2009 Fall Parent Conferences with a comparison of 2007 and 2008. The Committee felt that with one hundred less students this year that the conference attendance by parents was good.

Mr. Retchless announced that Osmetech Molecular Diagnostics, a company located on Weymouth Street, is moving to California and offered their science equipment and office furniture to the school department. The Science Department did an inventory of the equipment and evaluated the donation at \$100,000. Desks, chairs, file cabinets and dividers are included in the donation. After the school department selects the furniture it wants, Town Departments, Holy Family School, and the public will be offered the furniture. On the recommendation of the Superintendent, it was voted to accept the donation and to send a thank you letter to Osmetech. Motion by Mr. Mills, seconded by Mr. Mullen, unanimous.

The 2009 SAT scores were reviewed and it was noted that the scores are down a few points but not significantly.

The Committee reviewed the 2009 Advanced Placement Course Testing Report. The Superintendent noted that many seniors opt to take these courses in order to enhance their college transcripts. Teachers are being trained to teach AP courses.

The Superintendent announced that Mr. Kohn and Dr. Levine, Co-Principals at Jefferson School, will be leaving at the end of this school year. Mr. Retchless thanked them for their efforts on behalf of the school department and the students. It was also announced that Mr. Stanish, Principal of the Middle School, will be retiring at the end of the school year. Superintendent Retchless stated that there will be two Search Committees appointed to begin the process of selecting two Principals. The Committee will be selected in January with an announcement in April and a start date on July 1<sup>st</sup>.

Under Public Service Announcements, it was announced that there will be a "Drunk Driving" Assembly for juniors and seniors, the Student Government council will be making Christmas for a child with cancer, the High School Holiday Concert will be held on Thursday, December 17<sup>th</sup> and January 1<sup>st</sup> is the deadline for FSAS form for seniors. It was noted that 45% of 6<sup>th</sup> graders made the honor roll. Mr. Norris thanked Pam Murphy for her efforts with the Holiday Stroll. It was very well attended.

On motion by Mr. Mills, seconded by Mrs. Pezzella, unanimous, the meeting adjourned at 7:07 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas F. Mills, Jr.  
Secretary