

OPEN SESSION

SHARON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
School Committee Meeting
Wednesday, September 7, 2005
Administration Building
One School Street
Sharon, MA 02067

Present: Mr. Mitchell Blaustein (arrived late), Mrs. Jane Furr, Mrs. Suzanne Gervais, Mr. Donald Gilligan, Mr. Sam Liao, Mr. Andrew Nebenzahl

Also present for the Open Session meeting: Dr. Claire Jackson, Dr. Barbara Dunham, and Mr. Alpert from the Finance Committee

Mr. Nebenzahl called the Open Session meeting to order at 6:07 p.m.

ADMINISTRATIVE/REGULAR ITEMS

Correspondence

A letter from Mr. Gordon Gladstone, Chair of the Standing Building Committee, formally turning the Cottage Street and East Elementary Schools to the School Department was read. There was a discussion regarding acceptance of the projects, as there are punch list items for both schools that have not been completed. It was the consensus of the Committee to invite the Principals, Dr. Freedberg and Mr. Marcus, Mr. Gladstone and Mr. Wertz to a future meeting to discuss and resolve responsibility for the projects.

Approve Minutes

MOTION: (Gervais/Furr) Moved to approve the Executive and Open Session minutes for the August 31, 2005 meeting as drafted. Vote was four in the affirmative. Mr. Gilligan abstained. Mr. Blaustein was absent.

Announcements

Dr. Jackson reported on the following:

Mr. Sondheim, Athletic Director, provided the Sharon High School fall sports roster. Booklets are being printed and will be distributed shortly.

Enrollment data for the past three years was distributed. Kindergarten enrollment was slightly larger than projected.

SUPERINTENDENT'S ITEMS

Introduce New Administrators

Dr. Jackson introduced the administrators: Mr. Ralph Olsen, Sharon High School Principal; Mr. Kevin O'Rourke, Middle School Principal and Dr. Joy Turpie, Director of Curriculum & Instruction. Each of the administrators discussed their plans and goals for the upcoming school year.

Mr. Olsen discussed his wealth of experience coming from Framingham High School; how fortunate he is to be working with such knowledgeable professionals as Stuart Berkowitz and Chuck Fazzio as Assistant Principals; the self-study for NEASC; and his proposed staffing changes. There was a lengthy discussion regarding Mr. Olsen's proposal.

Mr. O'Rourke has come from Portland, Oregon. One of his main areas of focus this year will be to work toward "measurable" goals; to work closely with the School Council; to analyze closely mathematics and science MCAS scores; and to continue the smooth operation of the Middle School while it undergoes HVAC renovation.

Dr. Turpie's focus will be on implementing the Writing Learning Standards system-wide; to insure teachers have the necessary teaching materials and have professional development opportunities; to analyze the MCAS scores and focus on areas in need of improvement and to establish writing exemplars. Dr. Turpie will also explore possible grant funding.

Dr. Jackson outlined her upcoming trip to China as a guest of the provincial government for her successful relationship with a parent high school in China. The high school is celebrating its tenth anniversary. Mr. Nebenzahl, on behalf of the Committee, congratulated Dr. Jackson for such an incredible honor.

Dr. Jackson requested that the School Committee vote and approve the home schooling plans for the 2005-2006 school year for the eight students as presented.

MOTION: (Furr/Gilligan) Moved to approve the home schooling requests as presented by Dr. Jackson. Vote was five in the affirmative.

STRATEGIC PLANNING/POLICY ITEMS

Discuss and Vote School Committee Goals 1, 2, 3

Mr. Gilligan expressed his concern that there is not a current policy for the Connect Ed use system-wide. Dr. Jackson said that Mr. Leo Brehm, Director of Technology, is contacting other school districts that have Connect Ed to determine how it is used in their districts. Dr. Jackson suggested that for this year to use Connect Ed on an Ad Hoc basis until the School Committee formulates a policy. Mr. Brehm will attend a meeting in October or November to discuss this matter with the Committee.

Mr. Nebenzahl asked for a motion to approve goals 1, 2 and 3.

MOTION: (Gilligan/Gervais) Moved to approve joint Goal # 1 (Educational/Instructional Leadership) as amended. Vote was five in the affirmative.

MOTION: (Gilligan/Liao) Moved to approve joint Goal #2 (Policy Development) as amended with the substantive and grammatical changes. Vote was five in the affirmative.

MOTION: (Liao/Gilligan) Moved to approve joint Goal #3 (Financial Management) as amended. Vote was five in the affirmative.

There was a discussion on how to attain measurable goals and a proposed scale for measurement.

Discuss School Committee Goals, 4, 5, 6 7

There was a discussion each goal with proposed language changes. Mr. Nebenzahl requested that members e-mail their proposed changes to Helen Campanario for incorporation in the goals document.

Middle School Construction Update – Ken Wertz

Mr. Wertz presented an update on the HVAC renovation at the Middle School. There are approximately 200 holes that were used for previous technology wirings that were not fireproofed and up to code. The condition was discovered when the ceilings were removed during the renovation. An initial estimate to bring the wiring areas up to code would be approximately \$100-\$200f for sealing each hole. Because this is an unforeseen development, there is not sufficient funding through the current job specification to cover the cost of repairs.

There was a lengthy discussion on the protocol for requesting emergency funding from the Finance Committee to cover the cost of the repairs. Mr. Wertz stated that this is a matter of urgency because the contractor is falling behind on the time-line for completion of the project. The repairs need to be completed in order for the contractor to finish with the HVAC renovation. Mr. Nebenzahl expressed his concern that the Committee was not informed immediately when this situation was first discovered. Mr. Wertz will report back to the Committee with cost estimates as soon as the quote for the work is completed. The specific information is needed in order to present the emergency transfer request to the Finance Committee.

MOTION: (Gilligan/Gervais) Moved to authorize Mr. Donald Gilligan, Dr. Barbara Dunham and Mr. Ken Wertz to go to the Finance Committee meeting on Monday, September 12th to request an emergency appropriation to repair the non compliant penetrations at the Middle School. Vote was six in the affirmative.

Announce Sub-Committee Appointments

Due to the lateness of the hour, Mr. Nebenzahl requested Committee members to review the list. He is proposing eliminating Policy Review and Development as well as Budget and Finance/Liaison to Finance Committee. There will be a formal vote on the assignments at a subsequent meeting. Mr. Nebenzahl asked members to e-mail their suggestions to him.

OTHER BUSINESS

There being no further business to come before the Committee at this time, Mr. Nebenzahl requested a motion to adjourn the Open Session meeting and to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing collective bargaining and personnel issues.

MOTION: (Gervais/Liao) Move to adjourn the Open Session meeting at 9:40 p.m. and enter into Executive Session with the intent of not to return to Open Session. Vote was six in the affirmative.

Submitted on behalf of the School. Committee by: Helen Campanario, Recording Secretary