

OPEN SESSION

SHARON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
School Committee Meeting
Wednesday, August 31, 2005
Administration Building
One School Street
Sharon, MA 02067

Present: Mr. Mitchell Blaustein, Mrs. Jane Furr, Mrs. Suzanne Gervais, Mr. Sam Liao, Mr. Andrew Nebenzahl

Absent: Mr. Donald Gilligan

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

Mr. Nebenzahl called the Open Session meeting to order at 7:36 p.m.

ADMINISTRATIVE/REGULAR ITEMS

Correspondence

There was no correspondence to come before the Committee at this time.

Approve Minutes

MOTION: (Blaustein/Furr) Moved to approve the Executive and Open Session minutes for the June 8, 2005 meeting. Vote was four in the affirmative. Mrs. Gervais abstained.

MOTION: (Gervais/Blaustein) Moved to approve the Executive and Open Session minutes for the June 29, 1005 meeting. Vote was five in the affirmative.

Announcements

Dr. Jackson reported on the following:

Opening day for all schools went seamlessly and successfully. The Middle and High Schools are looking forward to an exciting year with new principals (Mr. O'Rourke at the Middle and Mr. Olsen at the High School.)

The August 24th retreat for administrators was successful. Topics and strategies for the upcoming year were discussed and formulated.

The Middle School HVAC renovation is ongoing. The contractor is to be commended for containing the work area so that there is minimal impact on faculty and students.

There was a walk-through of the Middle School site on August 30th. There are openings in the ceilings; however the Fire Chief and Building Inspector have visited the site and given approval for occupancy. The Standing Building Committee does not consider it within their purview to close and seal the technology holes. Initial estimates for closing the holes are between \$30,000 - \$60,000.

Standing Building Committee has requested the School Committee to vote acceptance of the Cottage Street and East Elementary projects. However, the punch list for both buildings has not been completed. A formal vote will be taken after completion of the punch lists.

The DPW is to be commended for their help in paving the playground area at Cottage Street School in time for opening day.

NEASC (New England Association of Schools and Colleges) has sent a formal letter informing the High School that the site visit for accreditation will be October 14, 15, 16 and 17, 2006. High School faculty will conduct a self-evaluation during the 2005 school year in preparation for the formal accreditation process.

The state has passed a law that September 17th will be designated as National Constitution Day. Curriculum in all the schools for that day must include events, studies, etc. of the Constitution.

The government has imposed legislation around food service in schools for health and wellness. Sales of foods of minimal nutritional value during lunch periods are prohibited. Schools are required to establish a "school wellness policy" no later than the beginning of the 2006-2007 school year. There will be further discussion on the implementation of the wellness policy at a subsequent meeting.

SUPERINTENDENT'S ITEMS

Staffing Update

Dr. Jackson outlined the staffing reorganization proposed by Mr. Olsen as outlined in the August 26th memorandum to the Committee. Mr. Olsen will attend the September 7th meeting to answer any questions the Committee might have. The proposed staffing changes would not impact the budget due to savings in hiring and not filling the recent resignation of the Assistant Principal at the High School. There was a lengthy discussion regarding the proposal. Mr. Alpert raised the concern that health benefits would indeed impact the town's budget. It was the consensus of the Committee that further discussion of this proposal will be an agenda item at a subsequent meeting.

Dr. Jackson updated the Committee on the high classroom numbers for grade 3 at East Elementary. If the numbers continue to rise, Dr. Jackson would propose hiring an instructional assistant. The Committee will receive an update on the classroom numbers at the September 7th meeting.

STRATEGIC PLANNING/POLICY ITEMS

Discuss School Committee 2006-2007 Goals

Goals 1 (Educational/Instructional Leadership); 2 (Policy Development) and 3 (Financial Management) were read and discussed. Minor language changes were proposed. Mr. Nebenzahl requested that each member e-mail him with any proposed changes. A new draft Goal document will be distributed to the Committee members at a subsequent meeting, which will reflect the proposed language changes.

Discuss and Vote Revised Signature Policy

Dr. Dunham reviewed the proposed policy change, which would allow all Committee members to sign bill warrants and payroll. The revised policy will read:

"Any member of the School Committee and the Superintendent or Assistant Superintendent or another administrator named in writing by the Superintendent of Schools, will sign payrolls presented for approval.

The town treasurer, who also serves as the school department treasurer, signs all checks drawn against school department funds. No other signature is valid."

MOTION: (Gervais/Blaustein) Move to adopt the new **Authorized Signatures Policy** as amended. Vote was five in the affirmative.

Discuss and Vote Membership in the MASC

There was a lengthy discussion among the members regarding the merits of renewing their membership to the Massachusetts Association of School Committees.

MOTION: (Blaustein/Liao) Move to authorize the renewal membership payment of \$4,611 to the MASC (Massachusetts Association of School Committees) Vote was four in the affirmative. Ms. Gervais voted in the negative.

Discuss Subcommittee Assignments

Mr. Nebenzahl distributed the proposed list of sub-committee assignments. He requested that the members review the proposed list and vote on appointments at the September 7th meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS

There being no further business to come before the Committee at this time, Mr. Nebenzahl requested a motion to adjourn.

MOTION: (Liao/Blaustein) Move to adjourn the Open Session meeting at 9:53 p.m. Vote was five in the affirmative.

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

