

OPEN SESSION

SHARON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

School Committee Meeting
Wednesday, January 4, 2006
Administration Building
One School Street
Sharon, MA 02067

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

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

Mr. Nebenzahl called the Open Session meeting to order at 7:23 p.m.

ADMINISTRATIVE/REGULAR ITEMS

Open Forum

There were no community members present for Open Forum.

Correspondence

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

Approve Minutes

MOTION: (Gilligan/Gervais) Moved to approve the Open and Executive session minutes for the December 21, 2005 meeting as drafted and submitted. **Vote was five in the affirmative. Mrs. Furr abstained.**

Student Representative

Lior Haas, Student Representative, was absent. However, he asked Mr. Nebenzahl to congratulate the boys' varsity basketball for starting the season with a record of 6-0.

Announcements

Dr. Jackson was pleased to announce that 72 students from the senior class have received the Adams Scholarship, which entitles them to free tuition for any state college or university in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

The High School is having an *Alumni Day*. Former graduates who are on college break have been invited back to Sharon High School to visit with students and faculty and offer insight on their college experiences.

Dr. Jackson distributed and reviewed the latest enrollment data and projections for next year. There was a general discussion on the projected decrease in kindergarten and grade one enrollment.

SUPERINTENDENT'S ITEMS

Review Calendar for FY06-07

Dr. Jackson reviewed two draft calendar proposals. Model one has the first day of school for Gr. 1-12 on August 30th. Model two has the first day of school for Gr. 1-12 on Sept. 5th. There was a lengthy discussion on the proposals. Dr. Jackson was asked to prepare an additional draft calendar proposal incorporating one-half day of school on the Wednesday preceding the Thanksgiving recess. The School Committee will submit the calendar to the STA for approval to begin school before Labor Day.

Mr. Blaustein made a motion to include the Wednesday before Thanksgiving on the final calendar. After a discussion, Mr. Blaustein withdrew the motion. The Committee will vote on the 2006-2007 calendar at the January 18th meeting.

There was a brief discussion on changing the structure of school vacations for future year calendars.

Report on Food Service Contract – Dr. Dunham

Dr. Dunham reviewed the food service spreadsheet. The current food service contract is with Chartwells and will expire at the end of this school year. According to state law, in order to extend the contract for an additional two years would require a vote at Town Meeting. Dr. Dunham will submit an updated spreadsheet with annual totals for review at the January 18th meeting.

Discuss Level-Funding Budget Scenario – Dr. Jackson

Dr. Jackson outlined the possibility of a level-funded budget and the ramifications it would have on staff, class size and course offerings. The budget constraints are town wide due to escalating costs to health insurance, pension contracts and fuel adjustments. There was a lengthy discussion on the possibility of an over-ride. The School Committee will have an Open Forum Evening on February 15th at Heights Elementary School to discuss with community members the 2006-2007 budget and the over-ride issue.

STRATEGIC PLANNING/POLICY ITEMS

Vote Change in Transportation Deadlines and Fees

Dr. Dunham highlighted the proposed changes on the transportation deadlines that was submitted and reviewed at the December 21st meeting.

MOTION: (Gervais/Gilligan) Moved to approve the proposed changes to the student transportation fees and deadlines as proposed by Dr. Dunham. Vote was six in the affirmative.

Vote to Accept Amendment to “Student Records Regulations”

Dr. Jackson highlighted the proposed additions and deletions to the Students Records Regulations Policy. The changes are to eliminate obstacles for the non-custodial parent to obtain access to their children's records.

MOTION: (Gilligan/Blaustein) Moved to adopt the policy changes to policy No. JRA-R as recommended by Dr. Jackson. Vote was six in the affirmative.

Vote Change in Bus Revolving Fund

Dr. Dunham reviewed the Dec. 22nd memo regarding proposed changes to the School Bus Revolving Fund as proposed by the Town Accountant.

MOTION: (Gilligan/Gervais) Moved that the School Committee authorize the Superintendent of Schools to change our School Bus Revolving Fund from 53E ½ to Chapter 71, section 47 as recommended by the Town Accountant. Vote was six in the affirmative.

Discuss Town Meeting Warrant

It was the consensus of the Committee to send a letter to the Board of Selectmen requesting a placeholder on the Town Warrant for this purpose of extending the food service contract.

It was the consensus of the Committee to send a letter to the Board of Selectmen requesting a placeholder in the Town Warrant for an override.

Discuss Priorities Meeting

Dr. Jackson and Mr. Nebenzahl urged all concerned citizens to attend the next Priorities Meeting on January 5th at the School Administration Office. Budgets for all town departments will be discussed as well as available revenue for the town.

OTHER BUSINESS

Dr. Jackson highlighted the Middle School Newsletter.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, Mr. Nebenzahl requested a motion to adjourn Open Session.

MOTION: (Gilligan/Gervais) Moved to adjourn the Open Session meeting at 9:05 p.m. Vote was six in the affirmative.

The next meeting will be January 18, 2006.

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