

OPEN SESSION

SHARON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
School Committee Meeting
Wednesday, December 21, 2005
Administration Building
One School Street
Sharon, MA 02067

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

Absent: Mrs. Jane Furr

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

Mr. Nebenzahl called the Open Session meeting to order at 6:42 p.m.

ADMINISTRATIVE/REGULAR ITEMS

Correspondence

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

Approve Minutes

MOTION: (Blaustein/Gilligan) Moved to approve the Open and Executive session minutes for the December 7, 2005 meeting as drafted and submitted. Vote was five in the affirmative. Mrs. Furr was absent.

Student Representative

Lior Haas, Student Representative, was absent.

Announcements

Dr. Jackson and the School Committee extended their best wishes and congratulations to Ms. Gervais for her successful completion of her Master's degree program.

SUPERINTENDENT'S ITEMS

Snow Days

Dr. Jackson outlined for the Committee and the community the process for calling school off due to inclement weather:
The decision is reached collaboratively after conferring with Dr. Dunham, the DPW and superintendents in surrounding communities. The deadline for reaching a decision is 5:30 a.m. Dr. Jackson referred to the recent snowstorm where the weather deteriorated over the course of the day. Though school was held on that day, Dr. Jackson emphasized that the final decision on whether to send their child to school rests with the parents.

The recent installation of Connect-Ed will relay school cancellation information to parents in a timely fashion.

Approve Overnight Trip

Dr. Jackson requested the Committee to approve the overnight field trip request from John Coffey to take four high school students to the All-State Music Festival in Boston from March 16-18, 2005.

MOTION: (Gilligan/Gervais) Moved to approve the field trip request as presented by Dr. Jackson. Vote was five in the affirmative. Mrs. Furr was absent.

Student Transportation Policy

Dr. Dunham outlined the proposed changes to the Transportation Policy: "Students of parents who do not respond by the published deadlines will NOT be allowed to RIDE A BUS WHEN SCHOOL STARTS. IF SEATS ARE STILL AVAILABLE, THEY MAY PURCHASE A SEAT later – between June 19 and September 15, 2006. If there is space on the bus and an existing stop on a route, late registrants will be permitted to ride AFTER October 2, 2006."

Dr. Dunham explained that the deadline and adherence to the policy with no exceptions is necessary in order to have the necessary time to establish bus routes and issue bus tags. Surrounding communities have had similar policies in place for a number of years.

The Committee will vote on the proposed policy change at the January 4th meeting.

STRATEGIC PLANNING/POLICY ITEMS

Vote Budget Transfer Policy

Dr. Dunham reviewed the proposed budget transfer policy change that was presented and discussed at the December 7th meeting.

MOTION: (Gilligan/Gervais) Moved to approve the proposed changes to the budget transfer policy as presented by Dr. Jackson and Dr. Dunham. Vote was five in the affirmative. Mrs. Furr was absent.

School Starting and Ending Times

Dr. Jackson reviewed with the Committee a survey on start and dismissal times from school districts in the Hockomock League. There was a lengthy discussion on the impact the time change would have on scheduling, sports and extra-curricular activities. Dr. Jackson suggested that Mr. Olsen engage in dialogue with teachers regarding the proposed time change and report back to the Committee on their findings at a subsequent meeting in June. It was the consensus of the Committee for Mr. Olsen to proceed as outlined by Dr. Jackson.

OTHER BUSINESS

Dr. Jackson was happy to announce that 56 elementary students are now playing stringed instruments. They gave a wonderful performance at the Dedham Savings Bank.

Mr. Nebenzahl, on behalf of the Committee, thanked Dr. Jackson and Dr. Dunham for their hard work and dedication to the Sharon Public Schools.

There being no further business to come before the Committee at this time, Mr. Nebenzahl asked for a motion to adjourn Open Session and enter into Executive Session with the intent not to return to Open Session.

MOTION: (Blaustein/Gervais) Moved to adjourn the Open Session meeting at 7:55 p.m. Vote was five in the affirmative. Mrs. Furr was absent.

The next meeting will be January 4, 2006.

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