

## OPEN SESSION

### **SHARON PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

School Committee Meeting

**Wednesday, March 1, 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, Dr. Barbara Dunham, members of the community and a member of the press

Mr. Nebenzahl called the Open Session meeting to order at 8:30 p.m.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE/REGULAR ITEMS**

#### **Open Forum**

There were no members of the community 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 February 1, 2006 meeting as drafted and submitted. Vote was five in the affirmative. Mr. Blaustein abstained.

**MOTION:** (Gilligan/Furr) Moved to approve the Executive session minutes for the February 15, 2006 meeting as drafted and submitted. Vote was six in the affirmative.

#### **Student Representative**

Lior Haas, Student Representative, updated the Committee on events at the High School:

- A Pep Rally will be held on March 2<sup>nd</sup> to honor all the winter sport teams for such a successful season. The Girls' Gymnastic team on the Hockomock championship. Wrestler, Dan Blume, had an impressive 43-0 record and won All State. Boys' and Girls' Swim teams finished with winning records. Boys' basketball will advance to the State Tournament.
- The Guidance Department is finalizing student schedules for next year. The target date for all students to receive their preliminary schedule is March 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- An assembly was held on Feb. 28<sup>th</sup> in honor of Black History Month.
- The Drama Department will again host the Massachusetts Drama Guild competition. The students will perform their own creation entitled, *QED*, on Saturday, March 4<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m.

- The Drama Department is again this year sponsoring the Jr. Drama Club with over 120 students from grades 3, 4 and 5 participating.
- The Academic Triathlon has made in to the State finals.
- The Mock Trial is undefeated.
- The Cheerleaders were impressive in the State competitions. Members of the squad were honored for achieving high academic performance.
- The Weight Room now has a weight trainer to assist students.

### **Announcements**

Dr. Jackson had no announcements at this time.

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S ITEMS**

#### **Vote Home Schooling Plan**

Dr. Jackson said she has reviewed and approved the home education plan and requested that the Committee vote approval of the plan.

**MOTION:** (Furr/ Gervais) Moved to approve the home schooling plan as presented by Dr. Jackson. Vote was six in the affirmative.

#### **Update of Food Service Contract**

Dr. Dunham is recommending that the School Department put out an RFP for the food service contract for the next three years; specifically, to tighten language in regard to billing practices. It was the consensus of the Committee to instruct Dr. Dunham to proceed with bidding the food service contract.

### **STRATEGIC PLANNING/POLICY ITEMS**

#### **Discuss FY 07 Budget Priority Process & Superintendent's Prioritized Reductions**

Dr. Jackson, with the aid of a PowerPoint presentation, outlined the proposed budget for the 2006-2007 school year. There are four levels of reductions. Level One reductions are areas where the School Department would be able to endure reductions for one year. The difference between Level Two and Three reductions is that level two is does not affect classrooms as significantly. Levels Three and Four are where class size would increase and there would be a significant reduction in teaching staff. The staff would be decreased by 31 FTEs. Dr. Jackson's entire PowerPoint presentation will be posted on the School Department's web site.

Mr. Nebenzahl noted that all Departments have been instructed to prepare budgets with an increase of no more than 2.75%. However, the School Department has had to reduce staff more drastically than any other department in the town as well as fund the increase in energy costs. Mr. Nebenzahl asked the Committee to review Dr. Jackson's proposed cuts. The Committee will vote on the cuts at the March 15<sup>th</sup> meeting as well as discuss the possibility of requesting an over-ride.

### **Review Capital Outlay Additions**

Dr. Jackson reviewed the two additional items that will be submitted to the Capital Outlay Committee at their meeting on March 2<sup>nd</sup>:

Roof top units/ Heat exchangers at Cottage and East – Estimated cost to replace a heat exchange unit is between \$10,000 and \$12,000. There are a total of 4 units that need to be replaced totaling \$48,000.

High School Auditorium Repairs – The seating repairs are approximately \$6,000 and general maintenance repairs are estimated at \$2,500 totaling \$8,500.

**MOTION** (Gilligan/Liao) Moved to add to the Capital Outlay requests for FY07 the two items recommended by Dr. Jackson. Vote was six in the affirmative.

There was a discussion on the downspout water/ice problem and the floor tiles at the High School. It was the consensus of the Committee that the water/ice issue was a top priority. If there is not sufficient funding to correct both problems this year, the Committee would like to postpone the tile replacement until next year. Dr. Dunham stated that there would be money available from the High School Renovation account to cover the repair of the downspout. Dr. Dunham will clarify with Ken Wertz whether this repair appeared on the Capital Outlay list. It will not be submitted as a Capital request.

### **Discuss Proposal to Reduce Rental Fees**

There was a lengthy discussion regarding the Recreation Department's use of the school gymnasiums when schools are not in session and their inability to pay the rental fee. The rental fee goes directly to offset utility payments, custodial and maintenance expenses. Mr. Gilligan suggested that because the Town holds the contract with the utility company for natural gas, which dictates what the School Department must pay, perhaps the bills should be transferred to the Board of Selectmen's budget. In a collaborative effort with the Recreation Department and Mr. Ben Puritz, Dr. Jackson is recommending that the Recreation Department be charged \$20 per hour rather than the current \$30 per hour for gym rentals. The Committee will vote on Dr. Jackson's proposal at the March 15<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Mr. Nebenzahl said that the next Priorities Meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. at the School Department Administration Building. He urged the public to attend because important town matters, such as departmental budgets, utility and health costs, etc. will be discussed.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

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

**MOTION:** (Gilligan/Gervais) Moved to adjourn the Open Session meeting. Vote was six in the affirmative. The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

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

