

OPEN SESSION

SHARON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

School Committee Meeting
Wednesday, March 15, 2006
Administration Building
One School Street
Sharon, MA 02067

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

Absent: Ms. Suzanne Gervais

Also present for the Open Session meeting: Dr. Claire Jackson, Dr. Barbara Dunham, Ellen Bender, Joel Alpert, Linda Callan, Sue Lechter, James Madden, Steve Bloom, Barbara Kramer, Margie Mitlin, David Grasfield, Paul Pietel

Mr. Nebenzahl called the Open Session meeting to order at 8:10 p.m.

ADMINISTRATIVE/REGULAR ITEMS

Correspondence

Mr. Nebenzahl acknowledged that the Committee received several letters in support of specific programs and staff members. A letter from Gordon Gladstone, Chair of the Standing Building Committee, was received regarding the HVAC renovations at the Middle School

Approve Minutes

MOTION: (Gilligan/Furr) Moved to approve the Open and Executive Session minutes for the March 1, 2006 meeting as drafted and submitted. Vote was five in the affirmative.

Student Representative

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

- Boys' Varsity Basketball ended their season with a loss to Duxbury.
- Girls' Gymnastic Team finished eighth in the state competition.
- Spring Sports will begin during the week of March 20th.
- The Mock Trial Team is still undefeated and is now a member of the "Elite Eight".
- The Drama Department will present their play, Q.E.D., for students and the community on March 16th.

Announcements

Mr. Nebenzahl stated that the School Department has received word from the School Building Authority that the Town will receive reimbursement for the Cottage and East Elementary Schools in the near future. Mr. Bill Heitin played a pivotal role in expediting this request and securing reimbursement. Senators

Timility and Joyce and Representative Kafka were also instrumental in negotiating the successful fast-track reimbursement.

SUPERINTENDENT'S ITEMS

Vote Out of State Trip

Dr. Jackson stated that Joel Peckham, Boys' Varsity Baseball Coach, is requesting permission to take the baseball team to Cooperstown New York on April 22nd and 23rd for a baseball game and a visit to the Baseball Hall of Fame.

MOTION: (Blaustein/Furr) Moved to approve the out of state field trip to Cooperstown, New York as presented by Dr. Jackson. Vote was five in the affirmative.

STRATEGIC PLANNING/POLICY ITEMS

School Committee Meeting Dates for FY06-07

The tentative meeting dates for the 2006-07 school year is as follows: Sept. 6, 20; Oct. 4; Nov. 1, 8, 29; Dec. 13, 20; Jan. 3, 17, 31; Feb. 14, 28; March 14, 28; April 11, 25; May 9, 23; June 6, 20. Mr. Nebenzahl asked members to review the schedule for final confirmation at a later date.

Vote FY07 Budget

Dr. Jackson and Dr. Dunham presented the 07 budget. After several meetings with the Priorities Committee, departments were instructed to prepare a budget allowing only a 2.67% increase. Mr. Nebenzahl stated that a 2.67% budget, which will be referred to as the "non over-ride budget" does not allow a maintenance-of-service budget, thus resulting in reduction in staff as well as elimination of programs. Uncontrollable expenses such as health care, utility and heating costs as well as pension costs and reduction in state funding via Chapter 70 have necessitated such an austere budget. Dr. Dunham will prepare two budgets – an "over-ride" budget and a budget allowing only a 2.67% increase.

MOTION (Gilligan/Furr) Moved to approve the FY07 "Non-Override" Aggregate Budget of \$30,089,615 (SNCARC not included) as presented by Dr. Jackson. Vote was five in the affirmative.

This voted and approved budget will be forwarded to the Finance Committee for their meeting on March 21st.

There was a lengthy discussion on an "override budget". Dr. Jackson presented her proposed/prioritized cut list, which is tiered in four levels. A maintenance-of-service budget would be approximately an 8% increase over the current budget. The list was reviewed and discussed on a line item basis. Without an override, there would be a reduction of 29.3 FTEs in the 2006-2007 budget.

Mr. Liao gave an over-view of a pyramid concept of an override. In a pyramid concept, Town Meeting would be presented with levels of over-ride requests.

The exact dollar amount is decided by Town Meeting vote. There was a lengthy discussion on how the multi-level pyramid would be constructed.

MOTION: (Blaustein/Liao) Moved to offer a two tier override: First tier would be in the amount of \$1.2 million dollars; second tier would be in the amount of \$317,000. Vote: Mr. Liao in the affirmative. Mr. Gilligan, Mr. Nebenzahl, Mrs. Furr and Mr. Blaustein in the negative. The motion did not carry.

The \$317,000 portion of the over-ride request would have included: \$100,000 for curriculum and supplies; \$67,000 for professional development and \$150,000 for the restoration of the elementary foreign language program.

Mr. Nebenzahl stated that the protocol would be that the proposed / prioritized cut list would be addressed and voted on by individual show of hands.

1) Move Curriculum Supplies DW from level 2 to level 3. Affirmative: 3
Negative: 2

2) Move Professional Development DW from level 2 to level 3. Affirmative: 3
Negative: 2

3) Move After Hours Energy Costs DW from level 3 to level 2. Affirmative: 3
Negative: 2

4) Move Permanent Sub SHS from level 3 to level 2. Affirmative: 2; Negative 3

5) CSL – SHS. Move entire program (3 positions) from level 3 to level 2.
Affirmative 2; Negative 3

6) CSL-SHS. Move \$45,000 for the CSL Program from level 3 to level 2. After a brief discussion, it was the consensus of the Committee to table this item.

7) Reading Specialists (Cottage, East, Heights). Move Reading Specialists from level 3 to level 2. Affirmative 4; Negative 1

8) School Adjustment Counselor SHS. Move School Adjustment Counselor from level 3 to level 2. Affirmative 5

9) CSL-SHS. Move \$60,000 for CSL from level 3 to level 2 and seek grants for further funding. Affirmative 3. Negative 2.

Vote Override

MOTION: (Blaustein/Gilligan) Move to seek an override of \$934,000 for the 2006-2007 operating budget. Vote was five in the affirmative.

Although the voted override amount did not include the restoration of the elementary foreign language program, Mr. Gilligan stated that it would be his intent to restore the elementary foreign language program if additional funding became available.

Vote Override Budget Amount

MOTION: (Gilligan/Liao) Moved that the School Department approve an override budget in the amount of \$31,023,615. Vote was five in the affirmative.

OTHER BUSINESS

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

MOTION: (Liao/Gilligan) Moved to adjourn the Open Session meeting. Vote was five in the affirmative. The meeting was adjourned at 10:52 p.m.

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