

OPEN SESSION

SHARON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

School Committee Meeting

Wednesday, April 5, 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, Mr. Glenn Allen, Sue Lechter, a member of the press and a member of the community

Mr. Nebenzahl called the Open Session meeting to order at 8:03 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

Vote on the Executive and Open Session minutes for the March 15th meeting was tabled until the April 26th meeting.

Student Representative

Lior Haas, Student Representative, was not present.

Announcements

Dr. Jackson announced that she has completed the interview process for the Social Studies Coordinator position and is pleased to announce that Laura Smolcha, a Social Studies teacher at the High School, will assume the duties of Coordinator for the 2006-2007 school year. John Brande, who is stepping down as Coordinator, will mentor Ms. Smolcha, thus insuring a smooth transition.

Dr. Jackson announced that the 2006-2007 budget reflects a reduction of \$50,000 at the Central Office. The School Committee has agreed that Dr. Jackson may manage her work hours. Her work hours would be scheduled around the needs of school system.

Dr. Jackson distributed a proposal from the Charms Board of Directors for transfer of ownership of the modular classrooms at East Elementary to the Sharon Public Schools. If the proposal is agreed upon, the additional space would allow the move of the Early Childhood Center at the High School to East,

thus freeing up needed space for classrooms at the High School. Dr. Jackson asked the Committee to review the proposal and direct any questions to Dr. Dunham. The proposal will be voted on at the April 26th meeting.

SUPERINTENDENT’S ITEMS

Preparation and Mailing of Teacher RIF Letters

Dr. Jackson is preparing to send 100 RIF (reduction in force) letters to teachers who have not reached professional status. The teachers’ union requires that all non-professional status teachers who may be losing their positions receive notification by April 15th. Dr. Jackson said that principals and coordinator should meet with each staff member individually prior to their receiving RIF notification.

Award Transportation Bid

Dr. Dunham reviewed the transportation bid: Bid was advertised in the Goods and Services bulletin on March 6th and in the *Patriot Ledger* on March 4th. Bids documents opened on March 30th. One bid was received from Michael J. Connolly. Two other vendors, Laidlaw and First Student, were present at the bid opening. Calls were placed to other vendors inquiring why they did not submit a bid proposal. Most indicated that with the pricing price of gas and insurance, they were not looking to expand their present operations.

Bid Results: 5.8% increase over for FY 06 and a 2.3% for subsequent years

15 buses (estimated number to transport students including pay to ride)

FY 07	FY 08	FY 09
\$691,200	\$707,400	\$723,600

8 Buses (no pay to ride – transport only those living over 2 miles in K-6)

FY 07	FY 08	FY 09
\$368,640	\$377,280	\$385,920

There was a lengthy discussion regarding the fuel adjustment clause in the contract. Dr. Dunham will provide an analysis of how the fuel adjustment was applied in the last contract.

MOTION: (Furr/Gervais) Moved to award the transportation contract for three years 2006-2009 to Michael J. Connolly & Sons, Inc. of Walpole and authorize the Chair to sign documentation on behalf of the Sharon Public Schools. Motion was not put to a vote. Vote was tabled until the April 26th meeting.

The Committee expressed concern that there were no competitive bids. Dr. Jackson will make an informal inquiry to the Attorney General’s Office regarding non-competitive bidding. There was a discussion regarding the feasibility of re-bidding the transportation contract. Dr. Dunham replied that re-bidding would place difficult time constraints for rates, payment dates, bus routes, etc. The Committee will make a final determination on the transportation issue at the April 26th meeting.

STRATEGIC PLANNING/POLICY ITEMS

Begin Strategic Planning for Override/Non-Override Scenarios

Mr. Nebenzahl updated the Committee: The School Committee has submitted a non-override budget to the Priorities and Finance Committees. The Priorities Committee has allocated 2.76% budget increase for 2006-2007. The Finance Committee will make a recommendation to Town Meeting as to whether the voters should approve the over-ride or non-override budget. Mr. Nebenzahl and Dr. Jackson are meeting with each school's parent organization to explain the budget and the override request.

At the April 26th meeting, Dr. Jackson will present a brief overview of the budget situation. There was a discussion regarding the use of Connect Ed for the purpose of informing parents of the meeting.

MOTION: (Gervais/Gilligan) To recommend the use of Connect Ed to inform people of the April 26th budget meeting. Vote in the affirmative: D. Gilligan, S. Gervais. Vote in the negative: A. Nebenzahl, S. Liao, J. Furr, M. Blaustein. Vote did not carry.

Report on capital Outlay Meeting

Mr. Liao presented a brief overview of recent Capital Outlay meetings. The focus has been on the Wilber School and the cost of the demolition. All the School Department requests were voted and approved.

Update on Standing Building Committee: Middle School, Cottage and East

The Committee reviewed the letter from Gordon Gladstone, Chair of the Standing Building Committee and Ken Wertz's response to Mr. Gladstone's concerns regarding the Middle School's piping.

Schedule Future Meetings: Handbook, School Improvement Plans, etc.

The Committee reviewed the proposed meeting dates for the 2006-2007 school year. August 30th will be added to the schedule. May 1, 2006 will be posted as a meeting date prior to Town Meeting convening.

Principals and School Council representatives will be invited to attend a School Committee meeting before the last meeting in June to present a brief, one-page summary presentation of their School Improvement Plans.

The School Committee will vote and approve the High School Handbook and Improvement Plan before the last meeting in June.

Meetings will be established for Goals development as well as budget revisions as a result of the Town Meeting.

Review Warrant Articles

Mr. Nebenzahl asked the Committee to review the draft warrant that was in their packet. At the April 26th meeting, the articles will be reviewed and the Committee will vote on supporting the articles that affect the School Department.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Nebenzahl reminded everyone that the Sharon Education Foundation will hold a fund-raiser on Sunday, April 9th at 5:30 p.m. at Christina's Restaurant to present the Lee Flaxer Award to Roland James.

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

MOTION: (Gilligan/Gervias) Moved to adjourn the Open Session meeting. Vote was six in the affirmative. The meeting was adjourned at 9:58 p.m.

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