

OPEN SESSION

SHARON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

School Committee Meeting

Wednesday, May 10, 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, Glenn Allen, and a member of the press

Mr. Nebenzahl called the Open Session meeting to order at 7:40 p.m.

ADMINISTRATIVE/REGULAR ITEMS

Open Forum

Mr. Samuels addressed the Committee and requested clarification on the School Committee Policy for withdrawing a student and then requesting reentry. Mr. Samuels withdrew his son who was in the Alternative School Kindergarten and now has requested his son be reinstated into the same class that he previously attended. Mr. Nebenzahl said that the policy will be researched and Mr. Samuels would be informed of the finding.

Correspondence

Mr. Nebenzahl acknowledged a letter received from Sue Melaugh commending the Community Service Learning Program.

Approve Minutes

MOTION: (Furr/Gilligan) Moved to approve the Open and Executive Session minutes for the April 16, 2006 meeting as drafted and submitted. Vote was six in the affirmative.

MOTION: (Furr/Gilligan) Moved to approve the Open Session minutes for the May 1, 2006 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:

- The Drama Department will be performing the play, *School House Rock* on May 12th and 13th.
- The team of students from Sharon High School who entered the World Robotic Championships came in second.
- AP exams have been completed.
- Sharon High School's Model UN Team will be at Northeastern University on May 12th and 13th.
- Seniors will be finishing up their careers at SHS within the next week.

Announcements

Dr. Jackson announced that 28 Sharon High School students have been nominated as National Merit Scholarship semi-finalists.

Dr. Jackson will be attending the Jewish War Veterans Banquet Award as a representative of the School Committee.

Mr. Nebenzahl reminded the Committee of the upcoming parties for retiring teachers.

Dr. Jackson would like to put an end to the rumor currently circulating that next year seniors will have to stay in school until the last day. She stated it is strictly rumor with no foundation in truth.

SUPERINTENDENT'S ITEMS

Cottage Street Elementary School Playground Addition

John Marcus, Cottage Street School Principal, outlined the final plans for a playground addition to the current structure, which is made possible by a generous donation from the Cottage PTO. The total cost will be approximately \$23,000. The cost will be borne by the PTO donation and there will be no expense to the School Department.

MOTION: (Gervais/Liao) Moved to accept the gift of the playground equipment, valued at approximately \$23,000, to be placed at the Cottage Street School and authorize the Chair to send a letter of thanks to the Cottage PTO for the generous donation. Vote was six in the affirmative.

Vote Home Ed Plan

Dr. Jackson requested School Committee approval of the Home Education Plan for a student who is in grade 9 and who will be educated at home using a distance learning program.

MOTION: (Gilligan/Gervais) Moved to accept the Home Education Plan as recommended by Dr. Jackson. Vote was six in the affirmative.

STRATEGIC PLANNING/POLICY ITEMS

Plan Superintendent's evaluation

Mr. Nebenzahl stated that it is customary for members of the Committee who have served on the Committee for the academic year to participate in the evaluation of the Superintendent. A Committee member that is leaving the board and new members coming in do not participate. Therefore, only five members will be completing the evaluation. Mr. Nebenzahl requested that members forward to him their individual evaluation. The Chair will confer with the Vice chair and then summarize and consolidate the evaluations into one document. A summary of the evaluation will be read in Open Session at the first meeting in June.

Vote to Set Bus Fees

Dr. Dunham reviewed the methodology for the calculation of the bus fees. The price for the 2006-2007 school year will be \$500 per student with no family discounts.

MOTION: (Gilligan/Gervais) Moved to adopt the pay-to-ride bus fees as outlined and described in the May 5th memorandum that was in the School Committee packets. Vote was six in the affirmative.

FY 06 Budget Update

Dr. Dunham reviewed the FY 06 Quarter 3 Budget Report and the outline that was included in the report. It is anticipated at this time that no additional funds will be needed from the Town to close out the 2005-2006 fiscal year.

Budget Transfer for Utilities

Dr. Dunham reviewed the budget transfer requests in order to meet the utility bills.

MOTION: (Gilligan/Gervais) Moved that the School Committee authorize the budget transfers requested by Dr. Dunham as listed on the page labeled FY 06 Quarter 3 Update for the end of the year closeout (page 2 of 2). Vote was six in the affirmative.

Dr. Dunham clarified that the transfer was from the operational school budget and not from Circuit Breaker funds.

Dr. Jackson said that she wanted people to understand that the transfer of funds to pay utility costs was made possible by the sacrifice that teachers have made due to additional expenses they may have had to make by purchasing supplies. The freezing of the budget in January necessitated denying professional development requests made by teachers and administrators as well as denying requests for purchase of books and supplies and materials.

Mr. Nebenzahl, on behalf of the Committee, thanked Dr. Jackson and Dr. Dunham for their dedication and hard work in balancing the budget under such difficult financial constraints.

Discuss Schedule for Receipt of School Improvement Plans

Dr. Jackson said that the presentations to the School Committee would be brief. The schedule is: Elementary schools will present their Improvement Plans as well as the Science Learning Standards on May 24th. The High School and Middle School will present their Improvement Plans on June 7th and the High School will present any changes to their Handbook.

OTHER BUSINESS

Dr. Dunham requested that the Committee vote to approve the Memorandum of Agreement for the Secretaries' Union Contract.

MOTION: (Blaustein/Gervais) Moved too approve the proposed Secretaries Memorandum of Agreement which grants a 2 ½% cost of living increase to the salary chart. Vote was six in the affirmative.

Mr. Nebenzahl reminded everyone that May 16th is Election Day and urged everyone to vote.

Mr. Nebenzahl, on behalf of the Committee, thanked Mrs. Furr for being such an integral part of the School Committee for the past six years.

MOTION: (Furr/Blaustein)) Moved to adjourn the Open Session meeting. Vote was six in the affirmative.

Submitted on behalf of the School Committee by: Jane Furr, Secretary to the School Committee.