

OPEN SESSION

SHARON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

School Committee Meeting

Wednesday, June 7, 2006

Administration Building

One School Street

Sharon, MA 02067

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

Absent: Mr. Glenn Allen, Ms. Suzanne Gervais

Also present for the Open Session meeting: Dr. Claire Jackson, Dr. Barbara Dunham, Kevin O'Rourke, Ralph Olsen, Charles Fazzio, Michael Garber, Manny Sodbinow, members of the community and a member of the press

Mr. Nebenzahl called the Open Session meeting to order at 7:21 p.m.

ADMINISTRATIVE/REGULAR ITEMS

Open Forum

Due to the large number of the community members present for Open Forum and the limited amount of time, participants were requested to keep their comments brief. Joan Brown, Larissa Slovin, Andrew Horowitz, Janet Penn, Mark Wayshak and Diane Scher spoke on behalf of the many successes of the Community Service Learning Program. Debbie Saperstein spoke on the proposed budget cuts.

Correspondence

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

Approve Minutes

A vote approving the Executive Session and Open Session minutes from the May 24th meeting was tabled until the June 21st meeting.

Announcements

Dr. Jackson had no announcements at this time.

Mr. Liao reminded everyone of the upcoming Father Bullock Road Race Fund Raiser, which will take place on Sunday, June 11th.

SUPERINTENDENT'S ITEMS

Announcement of Retirees

Dr. Jackson announced the names of the retirees, which will take effect at the end of this school year and read a brief biography on each individual. The retirees are: Judy Alberton, Eileen Buckley, Rose Marie Schmitchel, John Collins, Lynn

Gattone. Dr. Jackson, on behalf of the School Department and the School Committee wished a happy and healthy retirement to everyone.

Mr. Sodbinow, Math Team Advisor, outlined for the Committee the great success the Math Team enjoyed this year. The Team received two prestigious plaques for their outstanding performance in the Greater Boston Math League and the southeastern Massachusetts Math League. Dr. Jackson, on behalf of the School Department and the School Committee, thanked Mr. Sodbinow for his hard work and dedication as the Math Team Advisor.

STRATEGIC PLANNING/POLICY ITEMS

Secondary School Improvement Plans

Dr. Jackson explained that due to the Education Reform Act, School Improvement Plans must be presented to School Committees each year. Kevin O'Rourke, Middle School Principal and Ralph Olsen, High School Principal, Charles Fazzio, Assistant Principal and student, Michael Garber presented a brief over-view to the Committee of their 2006-2007 school improvement plans. There was a question and answer session after each presentation.

MOTION: (Blaustein/Liao) Moved to approve the Middle School's Improvement Plan to the extent that it does not require an appropriation from the Committee and that what is set forth does not have a binding effect on the operating budget. Vote was four in the affirmative.

MOTION: (Blaustein/Liao) Moved to approve the High School's Improvement Plan to the extent that it does not require an appropriation from the Committee and that what is set forth does not have a binding effect on the operating budget. Vote was four in the affirmative.

Update on academic development center-Peer Tutoring

Marjorie Maidman, Academic Development Center Advisor updated the Committee on the success of the center this year and reviewed the proposed plans for next year.

Presentation and Vote the High School Student Handbook

Mr. Fazzio reviewed the propose changes and modifications to the student handbook. Mr. Gilligan expressed concern that there might be legal implications if the School department Laws and Policies were eliminated from the handbook. Dr. Jackson will consult legal counsel for a ruling. Mr. Liao requested to postpone the adoption vote on the handbook until the June 21st meeting in order to allow members to fully review the proposed changes. Dr. Jackson said she will send a memo to the School Committee fully outlining the changes as they are not substantive.

MOTION: (Gilligan/Blaustein) Moved to adopt the Sharon High School Student Handbook subject to revisions that will be presented to the Committee at the June 21st meeting.

After a brief discussion, it was the consensus of the Committee to rescind the motion and table the vote on the Handbook until the June 21st meeting.

Vote School Department Budget 06-07

Dr. Jackson requested that the Committee approve the FY 06-07 budget as presented.

MOTION: (Gilligan/Liao) Moved to approve and adopt the FY 06-07 final budget in the amount of \$30,089,615. Vote was four in the affirmative.

There was a lengthy discussion regarding the deep budget cuts and allocations for next year in light of the School Committee requesting an emergency fund transfer from the Finance Committee. Mr. Gilligan suggested that this discussion be postponed until the June 21st meeting. At that time, the outcome of the request would be finalized.

Consider Connolly Fuel Adjustment Charge

Dr. Dunham outlined how the fuel adjustment clause is applied. Over the years, the fuel adjustment was never passed on to the School Department. Due to the ever-increasing fuel costs, Dr. Dunham requested that the School Committee approve the fuel adjustment request of the Michael J. Connolly & Sons transportation company. The Committee concurred with Dr. Dunham's request.

Consider and Vote Request for Reserve Fund Transfer

There was a discussion on the reasoning for an emergency fund transfer request. Dr. Jackson stated that certain areas in the operational budget of \$29,315,765 have suffered severe deficits – i.e. utility and heating budgets. The request to the Finance Committee would not be for additional funding for next year, but would be used to pay outstanding fuel costs for this year.

MOTION: (Gilligan/Blaustein) Moved that the School Committee request an emergency fund transfer from the Town in the amount of approximately \$330,000 to cover the over-runs in the fiscal FY 05-06 utilities budget. Vote was four in the affirmative.

Dr. Jackson, Dr. Dunham and Mr. Nebenzahl will attend the Finance Committee on Monday, June 12th.

Vote Cafeteria Employees' Contract

Dr. Dunham informed the Committee that an agreement had been reached with the Cafeteria Employees' Union and the Custodians' Union and requested that the Committee vote approval of the respective Memorandum of Agreements.

MOTION: (Gilligan/Blaustein) Moved to approve the Memorandum of Agreement between the School Department and the Cafeteria Employees' Union and authorize the Chair to sign documentation on behalf of the Sharon Public schools. Vote was four in the affirmative.

Vote Custodians' Contract

MOTION: (Gilligan/Blaustein) Moved to approve the Memorandum of Agreement between the School Department and the Custodians' Union and authorize the Chair to sign documentation on behalf of the Sharon Public schools. Vote was four in the affirmative.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Liao requested that the Committee consider requesting a "place holder" in the Town Meeting Warrant for the possibility of an over-ride request.

MOTION: (Liao/Gilligan) Moved to authorize the School Committee to request a "place holder" in the Town Warrant for an over-ride request. Vote was four in the affirmative.

MOTION: (Gilligan/Liao) Moved to authorize the School Committee to request a "place holder" in the Town Warrant for the acquisition of a portion of the Horizons for Youth property. Vote was four in the affirmative.

Mr. Nebenzahl requested a motion to adjourn Open Session and enter into a brief Executive Session with the intent not to return to Open Session.

MOTION: (Gilligan/Liao)) So moved. Vote was four in the affirmative.

Open Session was adjourned at 11:00 p.m.

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