

Kingston School Committee Meeting

Monday, January 12th, 2009

Kingston Intermediate School Library

Mr. Christopher Mamakos called meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT FROM SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Mr. Joseph Chaves, Mr. Christopher Mamakos, Mr. Eric Crone, Mrs. Stacey Elmes, and Mrs. Sheila Vaughn.

ABSENT FROM SCHOOL COMMITTEE

PRESENT FROM ADMINISTRATION

John Tuffy, Superintendent; Joy Blackwood, Assistant Superintendent; Robert Hodge, Intermediate School Principal; Paula Bartosiak, Elementary School Principal

OTHERS PRESENT (signed in)

Kingston Teachers; Coleen Kellogg, Jennifer McDonald, Brian Ferriera, Bonnie Hopkins, Barbara Edlund, Vikki Johnson, Jody Mathewson, Marlene Daly, Liz Emmett, Julia Kadlec, Jennifer Cray, Sharon Magliano. Parents and residence; Marianne Howard, Paul Gallagher (selectman); Sirin Moore, Courtenay Romaine, Coleen Dalrymple, Kathy Rose, Janna Saad, Joanne Haugstad, Christine Ward.

Audience consisted of about 40 people

VISITORS ADDRESSING THE COMMITTEE

Volunteers needed for the sleep need study to evaluate the pros and cons of starting times for elementary and secondary systems.

Meeting was turned over to Mr. Mamakos who then spoke on the serious financial issues facing the town. The town is facing a two million dollar deficit that may call for a 7% budget cut to departments that would average about \$800,000.00. The floor was opened for discussion. The purpose was to get ideas on how to save money without discussing their merit as of yet.

Many ideas were offered from the audience and Mr. Mamakos recorded them. Attention was made as to what the public felt was important. Some of the ideas were things like raising the building usage fees, have more volunteers to fill in for services, have supplies donated, textbook donations, seek volunteers to replace music, art, gym, rather than cutting the whole program, have sponsors for classrooms, and many more.

Mr. Lelio, a parent and member of the finance committee spoke up to say that the cut wasn't as much as previously mentioned. He believed the cut to be 3.3%, which would be a \$350,000.00 decrease from last year. He stated the school is the largest budget.

7:50 pm Meeting turned back to chair.

Mr. Chaves asked if people would be interested in this sort of forum again? Mrs. Howard (parent form audience) replied by stating that people want to be kept in the loop of conversation.

- Annual Town Meeting in April
- Budget Meeting in March

APPROVAL of MINUTES

Motion by Mr. Mamakos seconded by Mr. Crone to accept the minutes from December 8th, 2008.

Motion approved. 4-0-1. Mrs. Vaughn abstained.

Update on the band program was noted that the Kingston Recreation is interested in getting involved. More information to follow.

TEACHER'S CORNER

Mrs. Cray reported for the teachers, thanking Kingston Education Foundation for the computers. Acknowledging Mrs. Mathewson and Mrs. Johnson for the successful Holiday Concert. Thank you to the PTO for the cultural enrichment programs they bring to the schools. Events and general updates were delivered.

PTO REPORT

- Mrs. Kelley gave report and mentioned that an email was sent to families regarding this meeting and she was glad to see so many in attendance.

CORRESPONDENCE

N/A

ADMINISTRATION

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Mrs. Bartosiak reported for KES:

- Enrollment and calendar of events were reviewed
- Custodial staff was commended on their extra efforts dealing with the excessive weather
- Thank you to Mr. Crone, Mr. Froio, Mr. Bartosiak for their help along with Billy (IT) with setting up the new computers during the holiday week.
- Teacher's have been working hard to prep students for upcoming testing

Mr. Hodge reported for KIS:

- Upcoming events and enrollment were reviewed
- School Improvement Plan distributed for review
- Coat donations and recycling have been going well
- Thank you to the PTO for all the work they do to benefit the students and staff
- Thank you to band and chorus for the holiday concert

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS - Mrs. Blackwood reports:

- Professional Development reviewed
- Absence policy reviewed
- MASC posting for school committee training course being held at KIS on March 7th

Mr. Crone asked, "Is anyone from the Finance Committee still present?" No reply.

Mr. Tuffy stated that they had left.

Mr. Mamakos reviewed attendance policy and questioned the lack of exception to children with a long-term illness or medical condition. He would like the policy revisited on the wording as to take into account certain considerations. The policy that is put into place should be one that is understood by everyone, whether administration changes or not.

Mrs. Blackwood asked the committee to review and email her with any suggestions and or wording concerns.

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS – Mr. Tuffy reports:

- Monthly Financial Statement was reviewed and noted as being relatively in good shape with the note that there may be some questionable upcoming events
- Circuit breaker helps budget considerably – will find out later this week or early next week what we can count on from that depending on the State cuts.
- Proposed time line reflects that a level service budget is presented and budget cuts will be made from there.
 - Budget meeting on February 9th, to review
 - Budget meeting on February 23rd, discussion (to be posted as public meeting)
 - Next School Committee meeting March 9th to VOTE a budget

Mr. Crone asked if committee can put in for an override or anything like that. Mr. Tuffy responded that a selectman would be the only one with the power to do that.

Mr. Mamakos asked if we have a sense for what a level service budget will look like. Mr. Tuffy responded by noting that Special Education needs to be reviewed first and that it is not unusual for the percentage to change from the first proposed budget to the final proposed budget to be voted on. Special Education costs have risen 18%.

Mrs. Elmes noted that she doesn't believe that the public is aware of how much Special Education is a portion of the budget

Mrs. Vaughn noted that we have cut to the bare minimum already and that being told to cut more is overwhelming as there is nothing left to cut.

Mr. Tuffy noted that options are limited and that schools are a state mandated business. More discussion ensued.

- Principal Search is underway. Advertising done and resumes are coming in. Screening committee will be formed.

Wednesday, February 4th, 7 pm - School Committee will hold an open forum to discuss 2009 – 2010 budget. This will be held in the KIS auditorium. Connect Ed message will go out the week before and the night before.

Mr. Crone asked if Halifax and Plympton are dealing with the same budget cuts and Mr. Tuffy replied that as of yet they are not because they have the luxury of time.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

ADMINISTRATION REVIEW – no Report

BYLAW – meeting held the recommended changes involved grammar and language.

PILGRIM AREA COLLABORATIVE – no meeting, good applicants with good qualifications have been coming in for the director position.

UNION 31 – no report

NEGOTIATIONS – brief executive session

BUDGET ADVISORY – no report

FACILITY OVERSIGHT – no report

POLICY – presented to committee and first reading was when you received it. Will review next meeting and discuss questions and concerns.

Motion by Mr. Mamakos seconded by Mrs. Vaughn it was **VOTED** to accept receipt of document as the first reading. All in favor 5-0-0.

Procedures have been removed from policy manual. Policy is legal document and procedures are hand written.

SAFETY – no report

TECHNOLOGY – new computer came in and installed successfully

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

No report

NEW BUSINESS

No report

APPROVAL of the BILL SCHEDULE

The following warrants were presented for payments and signed.

Warrant #L021	Regular	\$112,071.95
Warrant #L022	Regular	\$234,091.82
Warrant #G023		\$24,883.95

Grand Total		\$371,047.72
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Other Matters

N/A

DATES TO REMEMBER

Next meeting is February 9th, 2009

MOTION

On a motion by Mr. Mamakos, seconded by Mrs. Vaughn, it was

VOTED to adjourn regular meeting and go into executive session to discuss negotiations and litigation and not to return to regular session.

Roll Call vote: Mamakos – yes, Chaves – yes, Elmes – yes, Crone – yes Vaughn – yes.

Public meeting ended at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by,
Wendy Fox
Recording Secretary
Kingston School Committee