

KINGSTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, March 13, 2006

Kingston Intermediate School Library

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chair Joseph Chaves at the Kingston Intermediate School Library.

PRESENT FROM SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Mr. Joseph Chaves, Mr. Paul Barry, Mrs. Cynthia Lynch, Mr. Christopher Mamakos and Mrs. SueAnn Hurley.

ABSENT FROM THE COMMITTEE: none

PRESENT FROM ADMINISTRATION

Mr. Dana R. Parker, Supt. of Schools; Ms. Liz Sorrell, Asst. Superintendent; and Mrs. Doris Claypool, Principal.

Also Attending:

Ms. Judy Lewis, FinCom member; and Mrs. Tracy Shepherd, Kingston parent & Sub-Nurse.

APPROVAL of MINUTES

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

VOTED to accept the minutes of February 13, 2006 (Budget/Regular/Ex. Session).

VISITORS ADDRESSING THE COMMITTEE

Mrs. Tracy Shepherd, a substitute nurse, was recognized. She spoke about the substitute pay for school nurses. Mr. Chaves asked if she could hold any further comments until the Substitute Nurse Rate, which is on the agenda, is discussed.

Ms. Judy Lewis, Kingston Finance Committee member, discussed the total budget for the Town of Kingston. She stated that the Finance Committee will support an override. Silver Lake Regional and the Kingston School Departments will need to cut \$90,000 to \$100,000 from their budgets if the override does not pass. Mrs. Lewis reviewed the cuts to the town budgets. The failure of the override would also cut any capital expenditures. Mr. Chaves stated that this information is for advisement. The final numbers will be given on Thursday, March 16, 2006. The selectmen are to oppose the override and the Finance Committee is supporting the override. Mrs. Lewis asked for the schools to get people to come to the town meeting where the override will be considered. There will be 200 voters coming to the town meeting. She urged the school supporters to be in attendance.

Mr. Mamakos asked that if the override does not pass at town meeting, will the schools have to lower their budgets by \$90,000 to \$100,000? Ms. Lewis responded that was correct. Mr. Barry also spoke in favor of funding the schools.

TEACHER'S CORNER

The Read Across America and Music Month were reviewed. Mr. Chaves thanked the teachers for their participation the Reading Task Force.

PTO REPORT

Ms. Mary Ann Howitt presented the Connect-Ed Phone System to the School Committee. She explained that it is similar to the system used in the Silver Lake Regional School District schools which is part of the telephone system in the two new schools. Mrs. Howitt provided a handout (see attached).

Superintendent Parker reviewed the Connect-Ed product and its use. He recommended it for further consideration.

Mrs. Claypool reported the School Council supported the implementation of the system and the financial support needed to continue its use.

Mrs. Howitt reminded the School Committee that the PTO solely supports all field trips and cultural programs and do not ask parents for funds for these opportunities.

Mr. Chaves suggested that this item be put on the agenda for April. Mr. Parker explained that the Connect Ed has the capacity to handle large numbers of calls. He recommended that it be put on the April agenda.

COMMITTEE CORRESPONDENCE

The Vehicle Safety Policy for town owned vehicles was received. The State Ethics Commission will be at the Kingston Town House on March 21, 2006, 6:00 p.m.

ADMINISTRATION

SPECIAL EDUCATION PRESENTATION

Mr. David Kenney, Administrator of Special Education, reported to the School Committee on the Special Education Program (see attached). There was a discussion of the number of students by town. Mr. Chaves explained that at the regional level there are students who are up to 22 years of age. Mr. Kenney explained that any increase in numbers reflect the population growth in the three towns.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Mrs. Claypool expressed her condolences to the Kellogg family. She announced that Mrs. Lorraine Johnson, School Nurse, has resigned as of April 1, 2006.

Mrs. Claypool reviewed the request from the Board of Health to use Kingston Intermediate School as the designated emergency shelter if there is ever a need to organize for inoculations in any future outbreaks. The school department would receive a 24-hour notice before the school would be used.

The Spelling Bee winner is Ryan Thomas who will proceed to the next level. Mrs. Claypool reviewed the upcoming events in the Kingston Schools. She will meet with students prior to the MCAS tests. A healthy breakfast snack will be provided before the tests. Mrs. Claypool reviewed the Read Across America Program. She reported that the enrollment is 1,182.

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

Ms. Sorrell reported on the cohort approach to analyzing MCAS data.

SUPERINTENDENT of SCHOOLS

Mr. Parker recognized Tracy Shepherd once again. Ms. Shepherd discussed the role of the school nurse has changed. The needs of the students have changed and are more complex. Mr. Parker provided a survey of substitute nurse compensation. The School Committee discussed the school nurse salary and the relationship to availability of substitutes for the school nurses.

On a motion by Mr. Barry, seconded by Mrs. Lynch, it was

MOVED to set the per diem salary for Kingston Substitute School Nurses at \$75.00.

There was discussion on the salary.

On a motion by Ms. Hurley, seconded by Mr. Barry, it was

VOTED to amend the previous motion to set the per diem salary for Kingston Substitute School Nurses at \$100.00.

There was discussion

Two votes YES, three votes NO; motion defeated.

The original motion was reconsidered.

On a motion by Mr. Barry, seconded by Mrs. Lynch, it was

VOTED to set the per diem salary for Kingston Substitute School Nurses at \$75.00.

The motion carried.

Mr. Parker discussed the FY 2006-07 budget. He reviewed the analysis of Special Education costs, explaining that there will be a surplus in Special Education costs and circuit breaker monies. We can use not all but some of the circuit breaker monies. Mr. Parker explained that we meet the target for the budget. It might require revisiting the budget in Kingston and the Region if an override does not pass. Mr. Parker asked the committee to vote the revised budget

which does not reduce anything that was in the original budget but it reflects what we now know about circuit breaker monies.

Mr. Mamakos made a motion to approve the fiscal year 2007 budget at \$9,347,832.00. Cynthia Lynch seconded the motion. There was a discussion of the motion. All in favor.

Mr. Parker presented Vocational Education costs to be \$166,000.00 for FY2007. Mr. Barry made a motion to set the cost at \$166,000.00. Seconded by Mr. Mamakos. All in favor.

Mr. Barry discussed the Jonathan Rizzo fund as another resource for future needs in the school district.

The committee wants to study the other options for "all call" system.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

ADMINISTRATION REVIEW: none

BYLAW: none

PIGRIM AREA COLLABORATIVE: no report

UNION 31: reports on the meetings of January 28 and February 1, 2006.

NEGOTIATIONS: no report

BUDGET ADVISORY: none

FACILITY OVERSIGHT: the Safety Committee met on January 30, 2006 at KIS.

POLICY: A meeting was held on February 14, 2006 with the chairs of the other elementary school committees and Asst. Supt. Sorrell.

AD HOC K-12 REGIONALIZATION STUDY: representatives need to be appointed from the Kingston School Committee.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS none

NEW BUSINESS none

APPROVAL of the BILL SCHEDULE

The following warrants were presented for payments and signed:

Warrant #L025	Regular	\$144,431.98
Warrant #SC26	Shared Cost	74,427.32
Warrant #G027	Circuit Breaker	79,767.66
Warrant #R028	Revolving	60,738.96
Warrant #V029	Vocational	2,937.50

Warrant #030	Regular	133,073.66
Warrant #31	Regular	11,966.06

OTHER MATTERS:

There was a discussion of Title One After-School Program in Math. There are 15 participating.

DATES TO REMEMBER: Next meeting March 13, 2006

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Liz Sorrell, Secretary, pro tem