

**Roll Call**

Notice having been given in accordance with the requirements of law, a meeting of the School Committee was held at 7:10 p.m. on Tuesday, November 30, 2004 in the Lynch Elementary School Library. Present were Ms. Bodie, Ms. Swiger, Mr. Feblowitz, Mr. O'Connor, Director of Finance Mr. Rippin, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Kerble and Superintendent Marini. Dr. Kounaves was absent.

**Public Comment**

None

**Student Representative**

Meg MacCaughey joined the committee and reported on activities taking place at the high school. Many community service activities are currently taking place. Donations of food, coats, socks and cookies for the troops are currently being collected. Tutoring for elementary students will take place at the Lynch and Muraco schools beginning next week. A recycling project called "Welcome to No-Waste Wednesday" has been implemented. The senior yearbook-ordering deadline is January 14<sup>th</sup> and the cost of the book is \$65. Ms. MacCaughey invited everyone to the Winchester High School Art Exhibit beginning this Thursday evening from 6:00-8:00 p.m. in the art wing of the high school. The show will continue through January 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Web Policy Second Reading**

Ms. Schrimpf joined the committee and provided information regarding an addition in the policy that addresses the first amendment. The policy has been reviewed and approved by school counsel.

On a motion by Ms. Swiger, seconded by Mr. Feblowitz, the committee unanimously

**VOTED to approve the second reading of the Winchester  
Public School Web Publishing Guidelines for Staff.**

Brief Recess

**Certificates of Academic Excellence**

High school principal Tom Gwin joined the committee. Mr. Gwin announced the presentation of two high school awards. The first award was from the Massachusetts Secondary School Administrators' Association Student Achievement Award, which was presented to Jason Burke.

The second award from the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents Academic Excellence Award was presented to Xinyu Wang.

Dr. Marini stated that this is the first of an annual tradition of presenting these two important awards at a School Committee meeting. Congratulations went to both students for their academic achievements.

### **Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Marini addressed an issue regarding a flyer that was distributed to households in several areas of Winchester this week advocating a no vote on the override. Dr. Marini felt it was important to address the incorrect information included in the flyer.

One item stated that Winchester teachers are paid more than Wellesley, Weston and Wayland teachers. Dr. Marini requested the pay scales of these communities and stated that the statement is not true.

Also stated in the flyer was that the school department is eligible for 100% special education reimbursements through the Department of Education and was negligent in filling out paperwork. Dr. Marini spoke to Jay Sullivan from the Department of Education who is in charge of special education reimbursements and invited him to the meeting to clarify the reimbursement process. Mr. Sullivan stated that the Winchester Public Schools filed the necessary paperwork for special education reimbursement and will receive \$350,000; the amount the system is eligible for.

The reimbursement is only for tuition and instructional cost; transportation costs are not included in the reimbursement. The formula consists of a 75% reimbursement after the required threshold is met.

### **ENKA Letter**

Ms. Bodie reported that the annual request for using Ciarcia Field for the annual street fair from the ENKA has been received.

On a motion by Ms. Swiger, seconded by Mr. Feblowitz, the committee unanimously

**VOTED to approve the ENKA society to use the Ciarcia Field for the May 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> street fair.**

### **Redistricting Public Hearing Update**

Ms. Bodie stated that the meeting was well attended with very emotional questions presented to the members of the redistricting committee. A decision will not be made until after the override vote which will take place on December 7<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. Bodie stated that it is crystal clear that there is a need to do something about Lincoln due to the over-crowding, and the need to offer relief.

Dr. Marini stated that the recommendation is complicated due to the concern of having enough teaching staff for the schools. Lincoln is over-crowded, and next year there would be higher classes sizes due to the over-crowding. The available capacity is at Ambrose, and the over-crowding is at Lincoln. The recommendation to redistrict Lincoln students to Ambrose is on the table. However, there is uncertainty regarding the override outcome. If the override passes it is feasible to do a straight redistricting. If the override fails, there will still be a need to face a change, and the need to release the pressure from Lincoln. At this point Dr. Marini does not have a recommendation if the override fails.

Some questions that arose during the public hearing included:

- Transportation – There are some houses that are out of the 2 miles radius. Sam Rippin proposed offering free transportation for students living 2 miles or more, and for students receiving free and reduced lunch. Dr. Marini stated that there should not be any recommendations at this point.

Ms. Swiger recommended consulting with the safety officer for his opinions in determining safety issues, i.e. sidewalks, train tracks, dangerous short cuts, etc. It was also recommended to involve the Traffic Advisory Committee regarding signage, speed limits, and the like.

- Grandfathering in - Questions around grandfathering in current fourth graders to remain at the Lincoln School.
- Transitions – Parents had concerns around the number of transitions students would experience during the redistricting.
- Implementation plan – Parents would like to be involved to help with a transition plan.

Ms. Bodie stated that if the override passes on December 7th the school committee in mid-December would make a recommendation. If override fails, the administration needs more time to think about how to relieve pressure, and a decision would be made in January.

Anyone is invited to express their concerns during the public comment agenda item at a school committee meeting.

### **Outdoor Skating Rink Proposal**

Mr. Chris Sprague joined the committee and presented a proposal regarding an outdoor skating rink at the McCall Middle School playing field. The proposed area is located

beside the skate park. Hockey will not be permitted at the rink, signage will be posted regarding rule and regulations, and Town Counsel was consulted regarding safety and liability issues. If approved, the goals are to have the 180 pieces of wood put into place this Saturday. The plastic lining and flooding would take place before Christmas. Interested volunteers may call Mr. Sprague at 781-729-8760.

On a motion by Ms. Swiger, seconded by Mr. Feblowitz, the committee unanimously

**VOTED to approve a pilot project for a temporary ice skating rink behind the McCall Middle School adjacent to the skateboard park and the rear parking area subject to proper signage for the 2004-2005 winter season only. Skating to take place from December through February, at which time the plastic and timbers would be removed.**

### **Superintendent's Report Part II**

Dr. Marini reported that the 100<sup>th</sup> Thanksgiving Day football game between Winchester and Woburn was terrific. During half time Joe Bellino's number was retired.

The Incident Management Team has been conducting tabletop simulations to practice how staff would respond in a real emergency.

Dr. Marini gave a special recognition to Marc Kerble who was inducted into the Peabody School Hall of Fame.

Sam Rippin has been invited to attend a workshop conference on indoor air quality in Washington and will provide the information to school department and DPW staff.

### **Acceptance of Gifts**

Dr. Marini stated that the McCall and Winchester High School parent associations used the school department bulk-mailing permit when mailing out the recent newsletters. The permit allows mailings to go out at a lesser cost. Information regarding the override was included in the recent newsletters, and both parent groups donated the difference for postage to the schools. Dr. Marini suggested placing the gifts in a gift account used for a variety of things that supports the school system.

On a motion by Mr. Feblowitz, seconded by Ms. Swiger, the committee unanimously

**VOTED to accept a gift in the amount of \$173.60 to cover the difference of bulk mailing from the McCall Parents Association.**

On a motion by Mr. Feblowitz, seconded by Ms. Swiger, the committee unanimously

**VOTED to accept a gift in the amount of \$193.26 to cover the difference of bulk mailing from the Winchester High School Parents Association.**

**School Committee Reports**

Ms. Bodie announced that the Council on Youth did not have a school committee representative. Mr. Feblowitz volunteered to take on the responsibility.

Ms. Swiger volunteered to represent the school committee on the Committee of Redesign of the Sanborn House.

Mr. O'Connor volunteered to represent the school committee on the Fields Committee.

Ms. Bodie reported that the NESDEC report on the high school has been received with some timely issues that will need to be addressed. The recommendation urged that a plan be put in place for a long-term plan at the high school. The school committee will review the Master Plan and put into motion their recommendations for the high school after the budget discussions in January.

**Executive Session**

None

**Adjournment**

At 9:10 p.m. the school committee adjourned.

V. James Marini  
Secretary