

Roll Call

Notice having been given in accordance with the requirements of law, a meeting of the School Committee was held at 7:04 p.m. on Tuesday, December 12, 2006, in the Lynch Elementary School Library. Present were Mr. O'Connor, Ms. Swiger, Ms. Bodie, Dr. Kounaves, Mr. Schindelman, Director of Finance Mr. Rippin, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Kerble, and Superintendent Marini.

Public Comment

None

Approval of Trip

Ms. Betsy Kean joined the committee and outlined the proposed Spanish trip to Costa Rica. Seven students will be traveling for a 12-day trip to Costa Rica from February 15 through February 26, 2007.

On a motion by Ms. Bodie, seconded by Ms. Swiger, the committee

VOTED to approve the Costa Rica trip beginning February 15 through February 26 recognizing that students will be missing three days of school. If world conditions allow, the superintendent has the authority to cancel the trip. All the necessary paperwork must be in place including permission slips.

The motion passed 4-1. Dr. Kounaves voted in the negative.

Dr. Kounaves expressed his concerns regarding additional educational opportunities that are only available to students who can afford them. A discussion took place around the need to have mechanisms in place to allow all students the opportunity to participate in trips through fund raising and scholarship opportunities. Principal Gwin and his staff are exploring opportunities that would assure all students are able to attend such trips through scholarships.

FY08 Budget

Dr. Marini began the FY08 budget discussion indicating that the preschool and elementary instrumental music programs were areas of exposure.

Three years ago an additional preschool class was open. However, the program has been running in a deficit due to low enrollments. Dr. Linda Stapp, Director of Student Services, and Case Manager Debbie Butts, joined the committee to review the many steps that have been implemented to attract additional enrollment for the preschool program class. By mid January the preschool department will have a defined program in place, and by mid to late spring a decision will be made regarding the program's continuation. The staff is working to close the gap, and is committed to making the necessary changes.

Ms. Sabrina Qunitana, Director of Music, joined the committee and spoke about the instrumental music program outlining the need for the program, and the financial history of the program. Ms.

Qunitana spoke of the initiatives that would help increase enrollment as well as ways to make the program affordable to all students. Dr. Kounaves expressed his concerns regarding the additional opportunities allowed to only students who can afford them and stressed the need to provide the same opportunities for all students.

Dr. Marini indicated that the Leadership Team reviewed the submitted budget request of 9.99% and as a group identified reductions to bring the amount requested to 8.26%. Dr. Marini highlighted what the additional 8.26% request included for the central office, special education, technology, elementary, middle and high school budgets.

The school committee recommended additional concerns regarding the need for additional furniture due to increased enrollment, the substitute account and maternity leaves, an additional .36 FTE to support art, music and physical education, library resources, McCall computer hardware, and high school guidance. There were also concerns around curriculum, professional development and textbook accounts.

Dr. Marini will review these issued with the Leadership Team tomorrow and recommendations will be brought back to the school committee at the next meeting.

Screening Committee Charge

The screening committee for the superintendent search will have its organizational meeting on Monday, December 18, 2006. Seventeen members, including Ms. Swiger and Mr. Schindelman will begin the process for screening candidate resumes. The committee determined that no less than four finalists would be brought forward, that the candidate may or may not be a sitting superintendent, that it is highly desired that the candidate have a Doctorate, and the candidate have prior experience in the teaching field.

Acceptance of Gift

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

**VOTED to accept with deepest gratitude \$1,000
from the Winchester Savings Bank to be used
for McCall Middle School extracurricular activities.**

On a motion by Ms. Bodie, seconded by Mr. Schindelman, the committee unanimously

**VOTED to accept with gratitude the Edmark
Functional Words Series from the Dunleavy
family to be used at McCall.**

Next Meeting Date

December 19, 2006.

Roll Call

Executive Session

For the purpose of negotiations.

Adjournment

The committee voted to adjourn at 10:12 p.m.