

Roll Call

Notice having been given in accordance with the requirements of law, a meeting of the School Committee was held at 7:06 p.m. on Tuesday, May 23, 2006, in the Lynch Elementary School Library. Present were Ms. Bodie, Ms. Swiger, Mr. O'Connor, Dr. Kounaves, Mr. Schindelman, Director of Finance Mr. Rippin, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Kerble, and Superintendent Marini.

Public Comment

None

Student Representative

None

Superintendent Report

Dr. Marine thanked the Department of Public Works under the leadership of Ed Grant, Pete Lawson, and Jay Gill for all their help during the recent storm, which caused excess water build-up around several of the schools. The DPW was on hand to pump the water out of the lower level of the high school eliminating any damage to the electrical units. There was some flooding in several of the classrooms at the Lynch School that was corrected, and a close watch was taken at the Muraco School due to rising water levels near the building.

Dr. Marini has requested a waiver from Commissioner Driscoll of the Department of Education that would allow the end of the school year to remain on June 21, 2006. Due to the scheduling of a 2-day professional development program for teachers, if school was to continue through June 22nd, the professional development program could not be rescheduled, as the presenter would not be available. Dr. Marini will notify the school committee and staff via email of Commissioner Driscoll's decision.

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

VOTED to approve that the ending of school be on June 21, 2006 if we receive a waiver from Commissioner Driscoll. If the waiver is denied the end of school will be June 22, 2006.

Dr. Marine reported that students who took the retests for MCAS have all passed. Dr. Marine also reported that since the beginning of MCAS testing all students in Winchester have passed the MCAS tests. Dr. Kerble congratulated all the students and thanked the teachers and staff for working together to achieve this goal.

Dr. Marini reported that Mr. Rippin has provided an on-line food service survey to parents to gather input on ways to offer healthier foods to the students. Mr. Rippin is working closely with the food survey provider and will have many new and healthy menus in September.

Dr. Marini met with Mr. Paul Manganaro who has formed a new Youth Football and Cheerleading program in Winchester for middle school students in grades 6-8. This program is not affiliated with the school department, however, Mr. Manganaro met with Dr. Marine to review the goals of the school department and incorporate the same spirit in the Youth program.

A demographic study has been underway with results available in June. Dr. Marine stated that study would provide information that will help determine which elementary school would be earmarked for repairs. The hope is to have a report prepared for fall town meeting and an anticipated project completion date of 2010.

Dr. Kerble thanked the John & Mary Murphy Foundation as well as the Winchester Foundation for Educational Excellence for supporting a Summer Reading program for students in grades K-1. The program will be offered to 50 students experiencing difficulties in reading.

Mr. Rippin provided the committee with information regarding the need to vote on the acceptance of the Lincoln Elementary School project.

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

**VOTED to accept the Lincoln Elementary School project
for school purposes.**

Ambrose School Improvement Plan

Ambrose Principal Lisa McManus joined the committee along with members of the Ambrose School Improvement Council. Members in attendance included Anne Corcoran and Greg Papazian, parents, and Ambrose teachers McKenzie McCrea and Hollie Richards. Other council members not in attendance include Laurie Randazzo, parents and Kathy Farelli, teacher.

Ms. McManus indicated that the improvement report was developed from the results of a parent/staff survey that took place last year. Ms. McManus highlights the objective and strategic plan for the Ambrose school improvement. Areas included opportunities for collaboration among teachers and parents, community service and citizenship, and technology.

Areas at Ambrose that are incomplete include landscaping and the playground. Because the construction company went out of business, the EFPBC is working with town council to

determine the next steps to complete the project. More information will be available after the May 24th EFPBC meeting.

WFEE Update on The Promise Fund

Mr. John Snow and Ms. Carren Connelly joined the committee and presented a check in the amount of \$110,000 from the efforts of the Promise Fund. Ms. Snow indicated that there is an additional \$108,000 collected and the hopes of reaching the \$300,000 goal after the Celebration of Education affair to be held on June 1st.

Dr. Marini indicated that there is a June 15th contractual deadline to inform teachers who are not being rehired due to budget constraints.

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

VOTED to accept with gratitude from the WFEE and all the donors of Winchester a check in the amount of \$110,000 to be used for the fiscal year 2007 budget.

The committee discussed the uncertainty of state aid. The need to have community members continue to contact the state representatives to show their continued concern and support of the need for additional state aid was encouraged by the school committee as the state makes a decision on the funding formula.

Fees

Dr. Marini began the discussion of fees by stating at the last school committee meeting it was requested to provide data to look at the fee structure as a whole. A spreadsheet provided the committee with a history of fees for athletics, transportation, instrumental music, preschool, transcripts and food service beginning the 2001-2002 school year and ending with the proposed fee structure for the 2006-2007 school year. Mr. Rippin outlines the history indicating the rationale for the increases and stability of fees over the years.

Athletic Director Tom Murray joined to committee and provided a detailed outlook of the athletic department and the accomplishments of the high school sport teams. Mr. Murray indicated that 70% of the high school student body participate in the athletic program. The proposed budget does not include any reductions in the sports program. The proposed fee structure would stay at \$275 per students and an increase in the cap from \$900 to \$1100.

Mr. Murray is the only athletic director in the Middlesex League that teaches classes. Dr. Marini stated that with the current workload and mandatory meetings that Mr. Murray is required to attend, the .5 director position couldn't be sustainable very much longer. Winchester needs to address this issue with the next year.

The committee discussed several options around raising the fees to allow the athletic director position to move from a .5 to a .8, allowing the director additional time to attend meetings and teach 1 class per semester.

Ms. Swiger expressed her concern around the consistency of have the athletic director's teaching time interrupted by meetings, disrupting the continuity in the classroom.

Dr. Kounaves stated that the current model is not "public education" and he felt we are digging a hole that we are not going to be able to get out of. He was not in support of increasing the fees overall.

The committee will revisit the athletic fees at the next meeting.

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

VOTED to approve the transportation fee of \$525 for a round trip, per student fee, and a family cap of \$920 for the 2006-2007 school year.

Mr. Schindelman voted no. The motion passed 4-1.

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

VOTED to approve the fee of \$350 for instrumental music for the 2006-2007 school year.

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

VOTED to continue the fee of \$3,000 for the integrated preschool for the 2006-2007 school year.

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

VOTED to approve the fee for standard lunch for the 2006-2007 school year at \$2.75.

Special Education Reorganization

Dr. Marini briefly reported on the comprehensive report on the recommendation of the Special Education Reorganization proposal that was provided to the committee at the last meeting dated May 9, 2006.

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

VOTED to approve the Special Education Reorganization model of changing leadership as presented at the May 9th school committee

meeting.

Open Enrollment

Dr. Marini reported that after meeting with the elementary principals it was recommended that open enrollment not be offered at the Lincoln and Ambrose schools as they are currently both operating at capacity. It was recommended that the Lynch, Muraco and Vinson Owen schools have some space and will allow students to open enroll under the school committee guidelines at the primary and intermediate level.

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

VOTED to approve open enrollment as space permits following the school committee guidelines at the Lynch, Muraco, and Vinson Owen school for the 2006-2007 school year.

2006-2007 School Calendar

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

VOTED to accept the 2006-2007 school calendar as presented.

Next Committee Meeting Dates

The next school committee meetings are scheduled for Tuesday, June 13, and 27.

Roll Call

Executive Session

For the purpose of negotiations.

Adjournment

The committee voted to adjourn at 10:09 p.m.