

Roll Call

Notice having been given in accordance with the requirements of law, a meeting of the School Committee was held at 7:13 p.m. on Tuesday, March 22, 2005 in the Lynch Elementary School Library. Present were Chairman Bodie, Ms. Swiger, Mr. Feblowitz, Mr. O'Connor, Director of Finance Mr. Rippin, Assistant Superintendent Kerble, and Superintendent Marini. Dr. Kounaves was absent
March 22, 2005

Public Comments

Mr. Louis Muldrow, a parent of two students at the Ambrose at Parkhurst School, expressed concerns regarding the unhealthy conditions at the school. Mr. Muldrow stated that there were ants in his son's lunchbox, food service employees washing utensils in the custodial sink, a broken piece of glass mended with duct tape at the serving station, and a snow blower being stored in a closet inside the school building. The building custodian indicated that Principal McManus was harassing him when asked to clean the area thoroughly. Mr. Muldrow had serious concerns with the upkeep of the new Ambrose as well.

Dr. Marini stated that he did visit Parkhurst last Friday and during the tour it was evident that the building was not clean and sanitary conditions are lacking. Mr. Rippin is working with the DPW to correct the situation. Mr. Lawson, Facilities Manager, has been contacted and indicated that there is currently one custodian covering the building due to an injury. He indicated that they would begin pest management taking the least invasive procedures to protect the students from chemicals. If the procedure does not rectify the situation more aggressive measures will be taken.

Ms. Bodie stated that moving the custodian to the DPW for efficiency purposes was a concern of the school committee indicating that potential issues such as this could occur. Ms. Bodie asked Mr. Rippin to follow-up on the issue with the DPW. The item will be on the next school committee agenda to provide an update. Ms. Swiger suggested contacting the Board of Health as well to work with the food service company.

Ms. Audrey Loria, Co-chair of the Lincoln PTO joined the committee and reported that the Lincoln school has not been maintained properly as well and expressed concerns around deterioration if poor maintenance continues. Ms. Bodie stated that one of the criteria for receiving state money to update of building new schools is proper maintenance. Issues like this could jeopardize receiving future funding.

Farewell to Marc Feblowitz

Ms. Bodie, along with the other school committee members took a moment to thank Marc Feblowitz for his commitment to the students of Winchester during the last three years as a member of the school committee.

Brief Recess

Student Representative

Meg MacCaughey began her report by stating that the seniors have 37 school days left for the 04-05 school year. A new literature magazine called Sachem Scholar will be arriving in June that will showcase student projects and papers. The freshmen class is having a semi-formal on April 1st. The junior class is looking for volunteers for a student vs. faculty basketball game. A community-building project will be featuring a prom fashion show this Thursday at 7:00 p.m. Course selection sheets are due tomorrow. The third Mr. WHS will be held on April 3rd.

School Choice Vote

Dr. Marini stated that School Choice is a program permissible under Ed Reform. If a district votes to be a School Choice district students may petition to come to the Winchester Public Schools with tuition coming from the sending community. Currently we do not have the capacity to be a choice district. The law indicates that a school committee must vote each year. If they do not vote the school district will automatically become a school choice district.

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

**VOTED that the Winchester Public Schools will not be
Participating as a receiving district in School Choice for
The 2005-2006 school year.**

Elementary Report Card Update

Audrey Loria joined the committee. Dr. Kerble provided the committee with an overview of the pilot program for a new elementary report card. One grade at each elementary school is piloting a progress report for the 2004-2005 school year. Parents have been surveyed regarding the effectiveness of the new report card. The report card is set up for trimester schedule and there are no grades; an academic key is used. Dr. Kerble stated that several issues have surfaced that will need adjusting.

Ms. Loria indicated that parents have concerns with late conference dates. Parents are also concerned with the transition of fifth graders moving into the sixth grade and not having letter grades.

A teacher survey will be provided to allow for input to the committee. Dr. Kerble will report further on the outcome of the new elementary report card at a May school committee meeting.

The Promise Fund Update

Caren Connelly, a member of the Winchester Foundation for Educational Excellence, joined the committee to report on The Promise Fund. Ms. Connelly stated the WFEE is aiming to raise \$660,000 to benefit the current shortfall in the school budget for the 2005-2006 school year. As of today \$68,380 has been raised. Donations are coming in from the range of \$50 - \$5,000. Anyone interested in donating may mail his or her donation to:

**WFEE
P.O. Box 1005
Winchester, MA 01890**

You may also visit the WFEE website on www.wfee.org which provides additional information about The Promise Fund.

The school committee is grateful to the foundation for taking on this project and looks forward to another update in a few weeks.

Math Review Update

Tom Haver, Director of Mathematics, joined the committee. Dr. Marini stated that well over a year ago the system began a curriculum review in mathematics. Led by Assistant Superintendent Marc Kerble, the Director of Mathematics, and a team of teachers from the elementary, middle, and high school level, is performing the review process of the existing math program, which consists of gathering information, synthesizing results, determining findings, and recommending changes.

Through the use of survey, approximately 2,000 parents, all students in grades 1-11, and all teachers were asked questions about content and curriculum, classroom practices and pacing, extra help and homework, special education programming and services, student placement/leveling, supplies, technology, and professional development. Other information such as MCAS and SAT scores, school data, and math C.A.S.T. input were used to analyze the effectiveness of the math curriculum.

On April 26th the Math Program Review will be presented to the school committee.

Joint Appointment of EFPBC Vacancy

A vacancy is available on the EFPBC for an architect that required a joint appointment from the School Committee and the Board of Selectmen. The vacancy has been posted for the required time frame. The only applicant was Charles Tseckares. Ms. Bodie stated

that Mr. Tseckares has been an enormous pillar of knowledge on the EFPBC and the school committee is thrilled that he is willing to continue.

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

VOTED to appoint Charles Tseckares as the registered architect for the EFPBC.

Acceptance of Gifts

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

VOTED to accept the generous gift of \$1,000 from the Winchester ELKS to benefit the Special Education Summer program with our extreme gratitude.

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

VOTED to accept the extremely generous gift of \$26,000 from the John and Mary Murphy Educational Foundation for the use of administrative software for the Winchester High School with our extreme gratitude for their continued support of education.

School Committee Reports

Ms. Swiger will be meeting with Capital Planning tomorrow evening and requested guidance for the committee. Dr. Marini stated that at the last school committee meeting he was charged with looking at putting on a warrant article for help to make a decision for deciding which elementary school would be next in line for consideration. It was strongly suggested by Capital to put this on the fall town meeting to help keep with the time frame. This would not cause any delay in the timeframe of the master plan.

Dr. Marini stated that this would allow for a more expansive study and just a demographic study.

On a motion by Ms. Swiger, seconded by Mr. O'Connor, the committee unanimously

VOTED to indefinitely postpone the appropriation for a demographics study for the Winchester Public Schools for spring town meeting.

Approval of Minutes

On a motion by Ms. Swiger, seconded by Mr. O'Connor, the committee unanimously

VOTED to approve the minutes of the March 8, 2005 meeting as amended.

Executive Session

For the purpose of negotiations

Roll Call

Adjournment

The committee adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

V. James Marini