

Roll Call

Notice having been given in accordance with the requirements of law, a meeting of the School Committee was held at 7:15 p.m. on Tuesday, May 24, 2005, in the Lynch Elementary School Library. Present were Ms. Bodie, Ms. Swiger, Dr. Kounaves, Mr. O'Connor, Mr. Schindelman, Director of Finance Mr. Rippin, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Kerble, and Superintendent Marini.

Public Comments

None

Student Representatives

Meg MacCaughey and Brett Howley joined the committee and reported on recent activities at the high school. The 10th grades took the MCAS tests last week and the 11th graders to a practice Social Studies MCAS test.

The seniors have been very busy completing the end of the year activities. The senior prom was a success, despite the raining weather. June 5th is graduation day and all night graduation party to follow.

Youth Service Awards took place last Wednesday recognizing the many students who contributed in community service

National Merit Recipients

Tom Gwin joined the committee and recognized Benjamin Rolfs, Christopher Schliecher, and Jonathan McMurray for receiving the very prestigious National Merit Scholarship Award.

WFEE Grant Approval

Cindy Randall and Susan Leathers, co-chairs of the grant's committee, joined the committee. The WFEE offered Professional Development Grants as well as Educational Grants to teachers for the 2005-2006 school year. The 13 Professional Development Grants to be awarded amount to \$35,536.80 and the 12 Educational Grants to be awarded amount of \$40,683.62 for a grand total of \$76,220.42.

AN overview of several grants were highlight to demonstrate the broad range of interests and creativity the teachers of Winchester bring to our students.

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

VOTED to accept with gratitude the WFEE Professional Development Grants as well as the Educational Grants totaling \$76,220.42.

Update on The Promise Fund

Caron Connolly and Michele Normal joined the committee and reported that to date \$450,000 has been collected for The Promise Fund with the expectations of additional contributions until the closing date of June 1st.

The committee thanked both Michele and Caron for their efforts and the efforts of the entire WFEE organization for making The Promise Fund successful. There were concerns at the beginning of the process with public and private funds being joined together, and due to the success of the fund it is clear that the community supports education in Winchester.

Ms. Connolly recommended that the Superintendent communicate to the public how the funds will be used.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Marini thanked Principal Gwin and his staff, Chief Perritano and his staff, along with Chief Nash and his staff for working together to provide a safe environment for the Junior Semi and Senior Prom.

Dr. Marini congratulated Sarah Swiger for being elected Chair of EDCO Collaborative School Committee team. Ms. Swiger is tenacious in her attention to detail and will be an asset to the committee.

Graduation will take place on June 5th with a little over 200 students graduating.

Dr. Marini has been working closely with Attorney Wade Welch regarding the private contributions from The Promise Fund in terms of policy and non-profit organizations. Dr. Marini provided the committee with the list of restoration budget priorities and requested direction from the committee at the next meeting.

There were concerns around the timeframe of hiring new teachers and if it was possible to begin the process so that the district would not lose excellent candidates. Town meeting voted to allocate \$650,000 to the school budget and the committee discussed hiring back teachers within that budgeted amount. Ms. Swiger indicated that by law you must wait five days after Town Meeting adjourns before spending money.

Dr. Marini indicated that money from The Promise Fund must include benefits because it is private funds. Money from the town side does not need to include benefits and they are included in the general fund.

The committee will review the priorities and a vote will be taken at the next school committee meeting as to the restorations and hiring of teachers.

Ms. Bodie stated that there is an opening on the EFPBC for a school committee representative. If anyone is interested, please forward your letter of interest and resume to the Superintendent's office for consideration.

Joe Bellino – Presentation of Picture

Dr. Marini introduced Peggy Schliecher along with Joe Bellino. Ms. Schleicher has been instrumental in the process of dedicating the picture to the school committee.

The picture of Joe Bellino was presented to Winchester High School is 1060 by the Maxwell Club of Philadelphia and had hung in the high school library. The Maxwell Award is a coveted award presented each year by the Maxwell Football Club, a group dedicated to helping young people realize their fullest potential as leaders through football at all levels. It was presented to Joe Bellino as the "College Football Player of the Year."

During the research process for the dedication ceremonies for Bellino Park last fall, the high school librarian discovered the picture, which has fallen into disrepair. During the research process it was discovered there was no official record of the presentation of this picture to Winchester High School.

The picture has been restored and reframed at Winchester Art and Frame by Joe Bellino. On the back of the picture is an autographed program from the dedication of Joseph M. Bellino Park this past November. The Bellino Park Committee thought it appropriate to have Mr. Bellino officially present the picture to the Winchester School Committee for rehung at Winchester High School.

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

**VOTED to accept with deepest gratitude the picture of
Joe Bellino to be hung at the Winchester High School.**

Math Program Review

Public Comment

Eve Coffey, representing Phil Arsenault, read a letter from Mr. Arsenault to the committee regarding the Math Program Review. Mr. Arsenault is not in agreement that Everyday Math is a successful program as it does not meet the needs of students with

disabilities. He urged the school committee not to take action on the report until further discussion.

Ms. Kathy Boyle, former chair of the SPED Advisory Council, also spoke of her concerns regarding the Everyday Math program and the success rate for special education students. She asked the committee to consider that cost of changing the curriculum vs. hiring a specialist. Ms. Boyle also asked the committee to consider working on a self-based program.

Mr. Yanish Tabish joined the committee and shared his philosophy of mathematics which stems from the book Math Gene by Keith Devlin.

Presentation of Math Program Review

Dr. Kerble began the presentation by introducing the members of the Math Program Review team. The team included: Mary Bergeron, Kim Burke, Betsy D'Alelio, Larry Farelli, Tom Haver, Marc Kerble, Laurie Kirby, Terri Lynch, Sandy Manoogian, Annemarie Ring, Gail Texin, and Gayle Town. Contributions were also made by Anna Betcher and Susanne Mahoney.

The Math Program Review (MPR) committee provided a comprehensive report that included the rationale, purpose, process, survey data, and findings broken down by high school, middle school, and elementary levels.

After the presentation Dr. Marini thanked the committee for their contributions to this very difficult task and indicated that operationalizing this will be a huge task. It will require an action plan for next year with a timeline for implementation.

The committee had many questions that are outlined below for the MPR committee to review, discuss, and provide additional clarification. The school committee would like to invite the MPR team back to a meeting to provide further information. A time will be determined at a later date.

Questions included:

Leveling begins at grade 7. How will an additional level assist students in their success? Recommending a third level for 7th grade. Mr. Haver indicated that the third level at grade 7 would create more flexibility for transition.

How does the program meet the needs of students with disabilities?

Students with disabilities – program not meeting needs? How does that form where we are going?

At all three levels are there too many units to cover, and not enough time allocated to focus and absorb material? Ms. Kirby responded that at the elementary level this is true

in both cases. Ms. Kirby indicated that difficulty in teaching the Everyday Math program for new teachers in the system.

Mr. Farelli indicated that at the middle school the frustration comes when taking the MCAS exam. How do we not teach to the test and have students still cover all the materials?

Are pacing guides available to new teachers? Is more time needed in class? Is there enough collaboration between teachers at the middle school?

Need to discuss in greater depth pacing, training for new teachers, and common assessments.

The committee would like additional information on overrides at the high school level and if this could be adjusted to assist the administration in the process. Are overrides the right thing to do?

The report mentioned MCAS, but no discussion of AP exams.

The use of tutors over time increases. Is this normal?

What is causing the turn over in math teachers, and what can we do to reduce this?

The recommendation of a math coordinator – please provide a job description for such a position.

The issues at the Lynch elementary school are difficult to grasp.

The request for a homework policy from the school committee – would this be by grade? When would it take place?

Disappointed about lack of technology at the high school. What can the school committee do to assist?

With regard to statistical methodology - there were subsets – why only students? Parent responses were low. Why did they not respond? Are they happy? Don't care? Perhaps email would be a good method for responses. The MPR committee did not want the survey going out too early as the committee was looking for current experiences.

How was the number of surveys selected?

Would like to see benchmarks against other towns using Everyday Math.

How will we judge the improvements, when will we judge them?

Enrichment needed for advance students at the high school – extracurricular was mentioned. Would rather see that happen in class.

C1 was not necessarily strong enough. Would like to see if there is agreement among the team and if so, what are you going to do with it?

At the high school level there are no courses beyond informal geometry – what happens with the student who struggles with math?

Would like to discuss further the option and alternatives around special education students.

The committee thanked the MPR team for the extraordinary efforts in providing the comprehensive report. The school committee looks forward to the opportunity to have the MPR return, perhaps in the fall, to provide an implementation plan and timeline.

2005-2006 Re-Vote of Calendar

Dr. Marini stated that if a legal holiday falls on a Sunday, the following day is celebrated as the legal holiday. In the case of the calendar, New Year's Day falls on a Sunday, which will change January 2nd of the previous calendar to a legal holiday.

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

VOTED to accept the school calendar for the 2005-2006 school Year with the change regarding January 2nd as a holiday.

Acceptance of Gifts

Temple Shir Tikvah donated \$500 to the Vinson-Owen school.

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

VOTED to accept with gratitude the \$500 donation to the Vinson-Owen Elementary School.

Mr. Schindelman refrained from voting as he is a member of the board for Temple Shi Tickta.

Superintendent's Evaluation

Ms. Bodie stated that Dr. Marini's contract ends in June and the evaluation process should be an annual event. Ms. Bodie will send out information to the members of the school committee within the next week that includes a format on how the evaluation process should proceed. At the last school committee meeting in June the results will be

discussed. Ms. Bodie asked that the school committee authorize her to proceed with negotiation discussions with Dr. Mairni.

Approval of Minutes

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

VOTED to accept the minutes of the May 3, 2005 school committee meeting.

Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is scheduled for June 7, 2005.

Roll Call

Executive Session

An Executive Session was held for the purpose of a personnel matter.

Adjournment

10:48 p.m.

V. James Marini