

Winchester Public Schools  
Winchester, MA 01890  
June 29, 2004

**Roll Call**

Notice having been given in accordance with the requirements of law, a meeting of the School Committee was held at 7:38 p.m. on Tuesday, June 29, 2004 in the Lynch Elementary School Library. Present were Ms. Bodie, Ms. Swiger, Dr. Kounaves, Mr. O'Connor, Director of Finance Mr. Rippin, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Kerble and Superintendent Marini. Mr. Feblowitz was absent.

**Public Comment**

None

**Division II State Tennis Champions**

Ms. Bodie was delighted to introduce and acknowledge the boys' tennis team for winning the Division II State Tennis Championship. The team was undefeated for the entire season. Ms. Bodie, along with Dr. Marini, presented each of the players and their coaches with certificates of achievement. The team members were:

Michael Baughman  
Ross Bergen  
Joe Bryan  
Alex Campbell  
Michael Collins  
Marty Donahue  
Rob Khajavi  
Kevin Lannan  
Michael Lannan  
Joe Martignetti  
Kevin McArdle  
Sam McElhinney  
Alden Morse  
Dan Mulcare  
Frank O'Loughlin  
Chip Palumbo  
Anders Rathlev  
Eugene Svirkin  
Dan Wang  
Peter Zink  
Coach Paul Sughrue  
Asst. Coach Sven Andersen

Ms. Bodie also announced that the Girls' Tennis Team won the Middlesex League Championship. Both the boys' and girls' tennis teams have been invited to the State House to be recognized for their achievement.

### **Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Kerble highlighted the students who received the Spring All Scholastic Boston Globe awards for their sports achievements.

Dr. Marini stated that one of our students received a Gold Medal Award for the National History Day. The student will be invited to a meeting in the fall to be honored by the School Committee.

Dr. Marini reported that the McCall Middle School had an unfortunate incident with their yearbook that included inappropriate hidden words throughout the text. The students involved were not allowed to participate in the end of the year activities, will be required to perform community service, and will write a letter of apology to Mr. French as the representative of the school. A letter will be sent home to all McCall parents and guardians explaining the situation and how the yearbooks may be corrected, if the parents so choose. The actions of these students, however, do not represent all of the students at McCall. Dr. Marini, along with Principal French, feel that the appropriate consequences for the students involved have been taken and believe that this unfortunate incident will provide a lasting lesson for the students.

New policies will be put into place regarding the supervision during the construction of future yearbooks to be assured that this will not happen again.

### **Redistricting Update**

Dr. Marini provided the committee with an update of activities that have taken place to date regarding the Redistricting Committee. The Redistricting Committee met with approximately 250 members of the community to present the options for redistricting and reconfiguration. Map models with the four options were on display at the meeting, and have been on display at the public library as well. They will continue to be made public in the town hall as well as on the school committee website.

The Redistricting Committee acts as an advisory to the superintendent, who will make recommendations to the school committee. The school committee will make the final decision. The Redistricting Committee includes Dr. Marini, Sam Rippin, Director of Finance, Bob Belmont, Director of Special Education, Sam Kounaves, school committee member, principals from each of the elementary schools, a parent representative from each of the elementary schools, and a parent representative from special education.

Dr. Marini stated that redistricting is necessary due to the overcrowding currently at the Lincoln Elementary School. The average class size at the Lincoln School is the highest in the district. Elementary enrollment projections for 2003 to 2008 indicate an increase of approximately 140 students. The recommendation to the school committee will take place in the fall of 2004, the school committee will vote in the fall of 2004 and implementation will take place in September of 2005.

The guiding principles were to meet class size guidelines established by the school committee, sustainability (5 year minimum), examine all vital options, and consider the educational priorities for elementary schools established by the Winchester School Department's Master Plan dated December 2, 1996.

The progress to date included reviewing current and projected enrollments, reviewing available space at all schools, reviewing history from the last redistricting, evaluation of numerous models and maps, working with an outside consulting firm to conduct software analysis based on Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and census data, eliminating models that weren't viable, reviewing community feedback from the last forum, and determining whether school administration offices could be moved to achieve sustainability under some models.

Dr. Marini outlined each of the models providing the pros and cons, which allowed for elimination of models. The next steps include reviewing community input from the last public meeting, evaluating the input to determine if changes are necessary, and make a recommendation to the school committee.

Ms. Bodie commented that one task besides a decision of redistricting or reconfiguration ties into the funding that will take place in the fall. Mr. Bodie suggested that the committee look into the shortfall absent an override. It is evident that any reductions in FY06 will have to be from personnel. Perhaps reviewing a scenario with personnel shortfalls would lead the committee to reconfiguration. The Redistricting Committee will report back to the school committee in late September.

Ms. Swiger recommended tying capital planning in with the decision-making of the four redistricting models. Moving the administration out of Lynch has a cost factor of approximately \$130,000, which includes reverting the central office space into classrooms. The Carriage House also has significant issues to prepare for occupancy as well.

Because capital planning has moved from a spring to fall schedule they are expected to have a five-year plan for presentation to town meeting. By the end of July the capital planning committee will begin ranking projects and how to phase them in. We are under some time constraints to allow for time to prepare the areas for students.

The school committee thanked the Redistricting Committee for their continued effort in providing a resolution for the overcrowding issues at the elementary level.

### **EFPBC Status Report**

Ms. Maureen McWilliams joined the committee to update them on the status of the Ambrose project. Ms. McWilliams reported that the EFPBC has been meeting almost every Wednesday throughout the year. The committee will be meeting once in July and perhaps more often in August as the completion of Ambrose comes to an end.

The roof and temporary windows will be installed by July 31<sup>st</sup>. This will allow for interior work to begin.

Ms. McWilliams would like to come back in August to report to the school committee on the progress to date.

Ms. Bodie stated that a letter from Senator Charles Shannon indicated that reimbursements for building projects would come in sooner than expected. This will be a change in how we look at five-years out regarding other school construction projects. As reimbursements change, so does the priority order. There may be a need for a joint meeting with the EFPBC sometime this fall to discuss this change.

### **Health Insurance for Retirees**

Dr. Marini reported that the Board of Selectmen took a vote regarding health insurance for retirees that would allow retirees a family health plan with survivor benefits. This change will begin for retirees as of June 2004. The WEA indicated that active members would have concerns around impact bargaining. This will be discussed in an executive session, as it is a matter of negotiations.

Ms. Bodie stated that the Board of Selectmen began discussing a new three-year plan for budgets with a potential override question on the ballot for this fall. A question of additional funds allocated to the school department could benefit the FY05 budget. Some programs could be restored and could make a tremendous difference in the upcoming school year. The administration will provide the school committee with an analysis for their review and discussion.

### **Next Meeting Date**

The next meeting date is scheduled for Tuesday, July 6<sup>th</sup>.

### **Trip Approval**

Ms. Rahmeier has asked approval for a group of students from the music department to travel to Prague, Czech Republic for the Advent Choral Festival in late fall of this year. Ms. Rahmeier will assist in fundraising to help with the cost of the trip, which is \$1,450 per person. Dr. Marini recommended approval.

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

**VOTED to approve the octet trip to Prague, Czech Republic for the Advent Choral Festival in the late fall of 2004 subject to world events.**

**Employee Request to Send Child to Winchester Public Schools**

Jessica Palino has requested that her daughter attend the preschool program beginning in the fall of 2004. Dr. Marini supported this request.

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

**VOTED to approve the request for Ms. Palino's daughter to attend the preschool program in the fall of 2004.**

**Acceptance of Gifts**

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

**VOTED to accept a donation from the John and Mary Murphy Foundation in the amount of \$2,000 to assist students in participating in a Washington, DC trip for the National History Day competition.**

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

**VOTED to accept the generous gift of \$250 from Mr. & Mrs. Tom Smith to be used at the Lynch School to help purchase a deluxe classroom set of World Almanac for Kids 2004.**

**School Committee Reports**

Ms. Swiger stated that Capital Planning is looking at a 5-year plan covering all the town buildings. To date Capital Planning has reviewed all the school buildings. The Envelope Study concluded that the high school required significant work. The NESDEC report also indicated that the condition of the high school is poor. Other areas of concern are the Muraco windows and the heating system at Vinson-Owen.

Ms. Bodie stated that she would be attending a meeting to look at the possibility of putting in a community center with a pool and hockey rink. The town is currently looking at the feasibility of the project and asked for a school committee member to be involved. Mr. O'Connor stated he would be willing to participate in the project representing the school committee.

**Roll Call**

A roll call vote was taken to move into an executive session for the purpose of litigation.

**Adjourned**

The school committee adjourned at 10:05 p.m.

V. James Marini  
Secretary