

**Roll Call**

Notice having been given in accordance with the requirements of law, a meeting of the School Committee was held at 7:40 p.m. on Tuesday, July 6, 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

**NESDEC**

Dr. Don Kennedy, a former Superintendent of Schools, now working with NESDEC, joined the committee to present his findings regarding the long-range facilities planning at the Winchester High School. Dr. Kennedy's findings concluded that it was necessary to renovate the high school in order to provide the comprehensive programs offered at the high school. The need to provide space for increasing enrollments was eminent. Dr. Kennedy's findings indicated that a renovation could take place for one-half the price of a new school.

Members of the Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee were also present at the meeting.

Ms. Bodie stated that the high school in any community should be your "crown jewel" and that education received at the high school is paramount of the student's success. Ms. Bodie felt that the high school should be moved to the top of the Master Plan list for consideration. A study would need to take place to determine if the building was amendable for renovation.

The Capital Planning Committee is looking at an A and B list phasing in projects of renovation at the high school. Mr. Karl Fryzel, member of the Board of Selectmen, would like to have the input of the EFPBC regarding the high school. If a proposal is brought forward to the Town Meeting questions will arise concerning the analysis of a new vs. renovated building, how a phase-in renovation occurs, including swing space, and programs.

Ms. Bodie stated the need to have all the Boards present at a joint meeting, each coming in with a list of goals as well as a structure.

Recess

### **High School Staffing**

Tom Gwin joined the committee and provided the committee with a list of class sizes to date. A discussion took place regarding the possible need for additional staff at the high school due to the large class sizes, as well as an increase of over 100 students at the high school in the last three years, while the high school staffing has been reduced. The need to come to the school committee at this time was necessary in order to continue effectively with the scheduling process.

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

**VOTED to add 1 FTE to the high school staff.**

Mr. Gwin thanked the committee for their consideration and added that the addition of one FTE will make an effective change in class sizes.

A discussion took place around the possibility of an override questions in the fall and if it would be possible to restore programs mid-year. Three possible scenarios were discussed regarding a three-year solution. Mr. Rippin will provide the Board of Selectmen with the analysis of the school committee for their consideration.

Dr. Marini stated that the Winchester Sports Foundation has agreed to provide funding to restore the boys' swim team, JV hockey and the reduced freshmen schedules in the amount of \$20,000. Dr. Marini cautioned that the school department should not rely on the generosity of community organization to fund the operating budget.

### **Meeting Schedule**

The next meeting of the school committee will be, Tuesday, July 13<sup>th</sup>.

### **School Committee Reports**

None

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 10:14 p.m.

V. James Marini  
Secretary  
Approved 10/5/04