

Minutes of School Committee Meeting Sept. 3, 2014

In attendance: Mr. Paul Ognibene  
Mrs. Mary McGoldrick  
Mrs. Jeanne Astino  
Dr. Paul Schubert

Also in attendance: Mrs. Barbara Cataldo, Superintendent  
Mr. Dave DeGennaro, Business Manager

Mr. Ognibene called meeting to order at 7:02 PM

ROLL CALL: Members listed above were present

Audience was invited to speak, but there was no response from anyone in the audience.

MOVED by Mrs. Astino to change the agenda order so that the representative from the PSO could present their grant for the Middle-High School Auditorium improvements. SECONDED by Mrs. McGoldrick.  
VOTE: 4-0 to change the agenda order.

**PSO Gift:** In conjunction with the CEF and the South Shore Playhouse Association, the PSO presented a check in the amount of \$12,500 for improvements to the Middle-High School Auditorium. MOVED by Dr. Schubert to accept the \$12,500 PSO grant for the upgrade of the auditorium. SECONDED by Mrs. Astino. Roll call vote: All aye. The CEF has also given the District an additional check for \$2,500 which was donated by the South Shore Playhouse Association (through the CEF). MOVED by Mrs. Astino to accept the grant in the amount of \$2,500 represented by a check from the CEF. SECONDED by Mrs. McGoldrick. Roll Call Vote: All aye. The Girl's Ice Hockey Boosters have made a donation of \$2,000 to fund the salary of the Assistant Coach for FY 2014. MOVED by Mrs. Astino to accept the donation to fund the Assistant Coach salary in the amount of \$2,000. SECONDED by Dr. Schubert. Roll call vote: all aye. The breakdown of the total grant to make improvements to the Middle-High School Auditorium is below:

- \$5,000 from South Shore Playhouse Assn. (through the CEF)
- \$12,5000 from the CEF
- \$12,500 from the PSO

**Superintendent's Report:** Mrs. Cataldo asked the various school Principals to give a summary of how the first day of school went. The consensus throughout the District was that it was very hot! Students, however, seemed very excited to be starting school again. Mr. Lecount said that Osgood was off to a fantastic start and that opening day was "seamless". He indicated that today was the first day for Kindergarteners; yesterday was just 1st and 2nd grade. Osgood enrollment is a total of 402 students in Pre-K through Grade 2. New faculty at Osgood:

- Lauren St. Andre replacing Lynne Kenny who retired last year
- Gina Steele has moved from Kindergarten to Grade 1 to cover the high enrollment

Teachers teaching teachers technology helped introduce staff to new technology in the school. Also enabled staff to identify any issues and have them resolved immediately. The projectors that have been installed will enable staff to go forward with interactive technology. Mr. Lecount is still tinkering with the schedule to accommodate the additional PE class in 1st grade. One of the Preschool classes has been extended to include a "lunch bunch". The Preschool now has a full time teacher and one who is .8 FTE to accommodate this extended period.

**Deer Hill:** Dr. deChiara indicated that it went smoothly and was uneventful. Teachers are well prepared because they had spent time all week getting ready. As soon as the students arrived, the teachers were ready to keep them busy every minute. Parent volunteers were on hand to help with the 3rd graders. Enrollment at Deer Hill is approximately 420 students. New Teachers:

- Julie Bradford, Special Education Teacher
- Indigo Young, Speech and Language Therapist
- Carol McCormack .5 Reading Specialist

Teachers are very confident this year; last year they introduced Envision Math, a new math program, and they are feeling more confident about other initiatives that were new last year. Technology last year was also new, so they are also more comfortable using it this year. Dr. deChiara made it a priority to insure that each teacher knew each student's strengths and challenges prior to when the students arrived. The two jobs for Assistant to Principals have been posted internally; the postings close this week, so we should have an answer next week. The new Basketball court is beautiful particularly in combination with the new playground!

**Middle-High School:** Before the Middle-High School opened this year they held orientation programs for grades 6 and 9. Tours for incoming students were led by current students, and Mrs. Connolly felt this approach reduced new-student anxiety in transitioning to the new environment. Grade 9 came in for a 90 minute program covering the different High School academic issues. The students and parents had tours, and parents were invited for pizza and soft drinks provided by PSO. The Middle-High School Professional Development day was focused on the School Improvement Plan and continuing curriculum work. ESP's were invited to meet with their classroom teachers. Because the Middle School now has a larger enrollment than the High School, they have added a lunch period which has reduced the stress level in the students and at the same time provided an opportunity for a support period during the extra lunch time.

The first day of school started with five assemblies, 6th, 7&8, 9, 10&11, 12 separately. The assemblies all emphasized respect for each student in the school as well as knowing when to ask for help and how to ask for help. Students seem very eager to be back. Technology is still evolving. Mimio's are all set, and other equipment is still rolling out. Wiring is done, but still need to test laptops. Mr. DeGennaro indicated that all of the buildings looked great; both custodians and facilities worked hard throughout the summer. Marty Hale succeeded in getting buses inspected and working for the beginning of school. Work on Auditorium upgrade starts 9/10.

**Enrollment Summary:** Next meeting, we'll have another update as the numbers become more definite. Mrs. Cataldo is keeping track of what's happening with the Toll Brothers project. The Administrators need to begin looking at the impact of Middle School moving into the High School and what happens because of block scheduling.

**Hiring Report:** Packet has a summary of who's been hired this year.

**First Grade Update:** 7th teacher is in place, but they are still working on the extra PE class that's required. They may have to hire a part-time teacher to cover it. It is too soon to respond to concerns about 2nd grade.

**Graduation Date:** Mrs. Cataldo has been discussing dates with a wide variety of people. MIAA has changed the schedule for playoffs; the second Saturday in June is now the official playoff date. So this decision clearly has an impact on seniors in terms of graduation if we can't change the date. Vince Longo at the Music Circus indicated that Wed. June 10th and Thurs. June 11th evenings would be available. He also indicated that we could move the date back to the previous Saturday, but there would be a cost associated with it. Feedback from teachers, parents, and students would be valuable in making the decision. Since there are four sports teams that have strong possibilities of going to playoffs, there are potentially many seniors who could be affected. The consensus is that it is in everyone's best interest to

have it settled. The priority should be to include all students in graduation and to keep it in Cohasset. The Music Circus is a unique venue because there are no restrictions to how many can attend per family, so it's essential that we talk to them to get a cost for moving it to the first Saturday in June. Look at all the options, weigh them, then go forward.

**Policy: Residential Requirements for School Membership (JF-R):** Residents are not clear on the policy if they are having renovations to homes in Cohasset and need to rent in another town during the renovations. While there is the option of Avalon now, the policy sub-committee will include it at their next meeting and bring it back to the full Committee.

Mrs. Cataldo indicated that her goals for 2015 will be included on the agenda for the Sept. 17, 2014 meeting.

**Finance:** MOVED by Dr. Schubert to approve Warrant 15-03S. SECONDED by Mrs. Astino. Roll Call Vote: All aye.

**Bus Lease:** Since the lowest bidder did not comply with the specifications included in the bid, and the Business Office in conjunction with the Transportation Coordinator determined that the buses included in the lowest bid would not be suitable for Cohasset routes, the bid is being awarded to the next lowest bidder. New England Transit is the successful bidder. The buses will not be delivered until November, so Mr. DeGennaro approached New England Transit with the concept of prorating the cost of the buses this year. We will be using them approximately 228 days. By prorating based on the number of days actually used during the year, it will help with our budgeting and funding issues for FY 2015. Mr. DeGennaro also discussed extending the term of the lease for an additional seven (7) months to coincide with the end of the fiscal year so that it aligns with our budget process. Once the contract has been completed, Mr. DeGennaro will review those specifics with the Committee.

**Sports Report:** Going forward this report will be given to the Committee quarterly. Since this is the first report generated, it covers all of FY 2014. It breaks down all athletic costs by sport as well as income by sport. It clearly shows that additional funds are needed in each sport to support it. The goal is to generate the report at the end of each sports season. The Committee requested that the report show previous year history as we begin the new school year.

**Communications:** Dr. Schubert gave some information on [exploringcollegeoptions.org](http://exploringcollegeoptions.org). It provides a quick tour of elite universities.

SC members have been given 2014 Mass. General Law Book and a PSO calendar. Information on AP results will be forthcoming, and the Committee would like results on VHS as well.

MOVED by Dr. Schubert to go into Executive Session at 8:50 PM for the purpose of discussing strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation because the Chair has deemed that discussing it in Open Meeting would have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the Committee. The Committee will reconvene for the sole purpose of adjournment. SECONDED by Mrs. Astino. ROLL CALL VOTE: All aye.

List of All Documents Used at Meeting  
September 3, 2014

Appendix D-1	Enrollment Summary
Appendix D-2	Hiring Report
Appendix D-3	Policy JF-R Residential Requirements for School Membership
Appendix E-1	School Bus Lease Update
Appendix E-2	Sports Report
Appendix E-3	Gift