

Kittery School Committee Meeting
20 February 2007 - Town Hall Chambers - 6:30 p.m.
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING

I. ASSEMBLY OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

A, B, & C. The meeting was called to order by Chair Pelletier at 6:30 p.m. Chair Pelletier, Kim Bedard, Patti Ayer, and Tess Schneier were present to approve warrants. Supt. Littlefield and Glennis Wright were also present. Student Board Member, Stephen Webber, arrived at 6:59 p.m. Also present were school administrators, staff, Town Council Member, Glenn Shwaery members of the public and press.

D. Adjustments to the Agenda:

Adjustment to the Agenda was an addendum VI.G., New Business.

Adjustment to the Agenda was to move Item # VI.G. before Item #VI.F.

E. Minutes:

The Minutes of January 2, 2007 were approved as presented.

The Minutes of February 6, 2007 were approved as presented.

F. Student Advisory Member Report:

Students are presently on school vacation. Traip basketball team advanced in the tournament and will play Dirigo on Thursday, February 22, 2007 at 3:30 p.m.

II. CORRESPONDENCE:

A letter from Sally Sullivan, representing Unit C, was received giving 120 Notice of Intent to bargain a Successor Agreement.

A letter was received from Ms. Lantz, 3rd Grade teacher, concerning student/teacher ratios.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Kathryn Lantz, 3rd Grade Teacher at Frisbee addressed the Board and expressed her concern regarding student/teacher class ratios. She feels if the student/teacher ratios were increased it would be a disservice to the staff, parents but mainly the students. Over past years the Board has supported the lower class size. Increasing the class size could have an adverse affect on our students. Our MEA test results are up which is reflective of the low class size. Staff is able to devote more time to each student's needs, which in the end helps the student learn better. It would be too extreme for the students to go from a class of 14 to a class of 22. Student learning will be affected. She asked the Board to please reconsider this proposal.

Lee Silsby, a parent, addressed the Board and expressed her concern regarding student/teacher class ratios. She has always liked the fact that Kittery has had a low average class size. Some students from a private school are returning to Kittery due to the class size. Parents of these students have expressed how very happy they are with the class sizes. They wonder what will happen to our students should the class size increase. She thanked the Board for all they work they have to do during the budget process..

Amy Wilson, 3rd Grade Teacher, addressed the Board and expressed her concern regarding student/teacher class ratio. She is a strong advocate for the smaller class size. Students seem to work more intently. Teachers are able to help students who seem to have difficulties much better because they know their students. They develop a better relationship with each student and parent. We all want what is best for students and she feels that is to keep a small average class size. She realizes the Board has a tough job with the budget process. She feels the Board and the schools are like an “elastic” which can only be stretched so far before it will break. Breaking is something we do not want to do because it will hurt the ones we care about the most - our students.

Town Council Chair, Glenn Shwaery, addressed the Board. As a resident, he feels the budget sessions have been very productive. He hopes that the Governor’s consolidation proposal does not have an adverse result on our budget process. He also commented that he as the Chair for Town Council, he wants to clarify the questions of our warrants. Town Council also questions line items on their own budget. It is not just the School Committee. He wants the public and town staff to know that we are serious about the work of the Sustainable Futures Committee.

It was the consensus of the Board and Mr, Schwaery agreed, to give the Board time on the Agenda at the March 12 Council meeting.

Chair Pelletier thanked them for their comments.

IV. STAFF REPORTS: None.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

VI. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Action to reappoint the following Administrators for the 2007-08 school year:

1. David Foster, Mitchell Primary School Principal.

It was **MOVED** by Tess Schneier, **SECONDED** by Glennis Wright and **VOTED** 5-0-0 with Student Board Member, Stephen Webber, in favor to approve the Superintendent’s recommendation to reappoint David Foster as Mitchell Primary School Principal for the 2007-08 school year.

2. Greg Knight, Frisbee Elementary School Principal.

It was **MOVED** by Tess Schneier, **SECONDED** by Kim Bedard and **VOTED** 5-0-0 with Student Board Member, Stephen Webber, in favor to approve the Superintendent’s recommendation to reappoint Greg Knight as Frisbee Elementary School Principal for the 2007-08 school year.

3. Wanda Avery, Shapleigh Middle School Principal.

It was **MOVED** by Kim bedard, **SECONDED** by Glennis Wright and **VOTED** 5-0-0 with Student Board Member, Stephen Webber, in favor to approve the

Superintendent's recommendation to reappoint Wanda Avery as Shapleigh Middle School Principal for the 2007-08 school year.

4. Patricia Garnis, Traip Academy Principal.

It was **MOVED** by Kim Bedard, **SECONDED** by Tess Schneier and **VOTED** 5-0-0 with Student Board Member, Stephen Webber, in favor to approve the Superintendent's recommendation to reappoint Pat Garnis as Traip Academy School Principal for the 2007-08 school year.

5. Michael Roberge, Traip Academy Assistant Principal/Activities Director.

It was **MOVED** by Kim Bedard, **SECONDED** by Tess Schneier and **VOTED** 5-0-0 with Student Board Member, Stephen Webber, in favor to approve the Superintendent's recommendation to reappoint Michael Roberge as Traip Academy Assistant Principal/Activities Director for the 2007-08 school year.

B. Action to add Traip Academy Test Results to District Portfolio.

It was **MOVED** by Kim Bedard, **SECONDED** by Glennis Wright and **VOTED** 5-0-0 with Student Board Member, Stephen Webber, in favor to add Traip Academy test results to District Portfolio.

C. Action to approve Maintenance Dedicated Account Funds for Food Program kitchen equipment replacement.

It was **MOVED** by Chair Pelletier, **SECONDED** by Tess Schneier and **VOTED** 5-0-0 with Student Board Member, Stephen Webber, in favor to expend up to \$25,000 for Mitchell Food Program kitchen equipment replacement, \$2,000 for Frisbee Food Program kitchen replacement equipment, and \$3,000 for electrical and plumbing installation from the Maintenance Dedicated Account.

D. Action for initial approval of an overnight field trip for grade 7 to Purity Springs, June 11-13, 2007.

It was **MOVED** by Chair Pelletier, **SECONDED** by Patti Ayer and **VOTED** 5-0-0 with Student Board Member, Stephen Webber, in favor to give concept approval of an overnight trip for grade 7 to Purity Springs, June 11-13, 2007.

E. Action to discuss a feasibility study to consolidate school buildings.

It was **MOVED** by Chair Pelletier, **SECONDED** by Kim Bedard and **VOTED** 5-0-0 with Student Board Member, Stephen Webber, in favor to authorize Supt. Littlefield do a feasibility study on consolidation of the 4 school buildings. The Superintendent will report the findings of this feasibility study to the School Committee within 60 days.

G. Action to approve a change to regulation JICA-R, Traip Academy Dress Code.

It was **MOVED** by Chair Pelletier, **SECONDED** by Tess Schneier and **VOTED** 5-0-0 with Student Board Member, Stephen Webber, in favor to approve a change to regulation

JICA-R, Traip Academy Dress Code.

F. Action to discuss FY08 Budget.

School Committee members discussed the FY08 Budget. It was noted that the budget workshops have been very constructive. The current proposal is up 5.97% with more work to be done. Student/teacher class ratios, Virtual High School program, Summer School, and filling staff positions were discussed. The Board is scheduled to continue budget discussion on Tuesday, February 27, 2007 at 6:15 p.m..

VII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

- A. Supt. Littlefield reported that on Tuesday, February 7, 2007, the Board will meet at 6:15 p.m. in Central Office to continue discussion on the FY08 Budget.
- B. Supt. Littlefield reported that the Board needs to finalize the FY08 Budget on Tuesday, March 6, 2007. He will present the Budget to the Town Manager on Wednesday, March 7, 2007.
- C. Included in the FYI packet is a copy of the Rapid Ranger and the Traip Academy Program of Studies for the Board to review.

VIII. COMMITTEES AND REPORTS:

- A. **Design Team:** The Design Team rescheduled the meeting to February 28, 2007 due to the snowstorm.
- B. **Mitchell Building Committee:** Supt. Littlefield met with the contractor and Jim L'Heureux. They are very close to closing the project.
- C. **Town Council Information Report:**
- D. **Health Coordinating Team:** The minutes from the Health Coordinating Team are included on the FYI packet.
- E. **Policy Committee:** None.
- F. **MSBA Executive Committee:** The MSBA Executive Committee met on Friday, February 16, 2007. The Governor's consolidation of schools proposal is not doing well.
- G. **Advisory Committee For Information Literacy:** Updates for the Advisory Committee For Information Literacy are included in the FYI packet.
- H. **Legislative Review Committee:** The Legislative Review Committee met. They reviewed and discussed Legislature bills.

IX. QUESTIONS/COMMENTS/CONCERNS:

Patti Ayer commented that the Traip sports are going well. She also noted that she attended the track meet.

Tess Schneier commented that Frisbee held a holiday party celebrating with another movie. We need to have different celebrating activities not just movies. She also commented that she is very pleased with the job Chair Pelletier is doing with the Board. She expressed concern about the headline in the Rapid Ranger, which included Supt. Littlefield. She asked the students to be more respectful the next time.

Glennis Wright sends kudos to the sports teams at Traip Academy.

Kim Bedard commented that she sends congratulations to the Traip Basketball team for going to the conference. She commented that the Advisory Committee for Information Literacy is doing very well.

Chair Pelletier commented that it has been an interesting past 2 weeks. He is very impressed how well the Board as a team has handled "curve balls" when they have come our way. Our Board is very frugal and we do watch how we spend our budget. He commented that we should spend more time with Town Council and review our purpose of proposals. He was concerned with the way Town Council handled concerns regarding our budget in public forum and we had no chance to respond. We are working together to achieve our goals and our response should be measured as well. We are clear, concise with our commitment to work with them. We both have job to do.

X. EXECUTIVE SESSION: None.

XI. ACTION ON EXECUTIVE SESSION: None.

XII. ADJOURNMENT:

It was **MOVED** by Tess Schneier, **SECONDED** by Glennis Wright and **VOTED** 5-0-0 on a **VOICE VOTE** with Student Board Member, Stephen Webber, in favor to adjourn at 9:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by _____ Dated: February 20, 2007
Janis Marshall-Colby, Recorder

_____ Dated: February 20, 2007
Larry Littlefield, Superintendent of Schools

APPROVED BY SCHOOL COMMITTEE: March 6, 2007