

Kittery School Committee Meeting
17 March 2009 - Town Hall Chambers - 6:30 p.m.
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING

I. ASSEMBLY OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

A. & B. The meeting was called to order by Chair Pelletier at 6:30 p.m. Supt. Littlefield, Kim Bedard, Glennis Wright, Ken Lemont, Patti Ayer, Bill Furbush, and David Batchelder were present. Student Board Member, Lauren Kennison, was present. Also present were school administrators, staff, students, press, Town Council Member George Dow, and members of the public.

C. Adjustments to the Agenda: None.

D. Minutes:

It was MOVED by Chair Pelletier, SECONDED by Glennis Wright and VOTED 7-0-0 with Student Board Member, Lauren Kennison, in favor to reconsider that New Business Item VI.A motion of the meeting of February 25 be amended.

It was MOVED by Chair Pelletier, SECONDED by Glennis Wright and VOTED 4-2 (Kim Bedard, David Batchelder) to close Frisbee School effective June 30, 2009 and implement the three school plan starting in the fall of 2009 because the School Committee has deemed that the Frisbee School building is unnecessary and unprofitable to maintain.

The Minutes of February 25, 2009 were approved as amended.
The Minutes of March 3, 2009 were approved as presented.

E. Student Advisory Member Report:

The Arts Fair at Mitchell School is going on all week. "Artist in Residence" - Turning Junk Into Funk, a percussion program, will be presented on Thursday, March 19, at 1:00 p.m. "Avenor the Accentric" will perform on Wednesday, March 18 at 9:45 a.m. Mr. & Mrs. Fish will be visiting on Friday, March 20 in the All Purpose room at 8:45 a.m. - 9:45 a.m.

Frisbee MEA testing went well. The Scholastic Book Fair is now open. The PTA is sponsoring an Ice Cream Social on Thursday, March 19, at 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Shapleigh MEA testing is almost completed. Rube Goldberg projects are being presented in Grade 8 this week. K-12 Art Show is at the Kittery Art Association until March 29th. Max Leiber (8th Grade) and Colin Crake (6th Grade) were named Shapleigh students for the months of February and March. They will be recognized with their families of the Student of the Month breakfast hosted by the Rotary Club. Shapleigh students are preparing for the arrival of the Japanese students in April. The Variety show is coming soon. There will be a badminton tournament to raise money for the Relay for Life Team (Cancer Dancers). The Drama Club will be presenting 2 plays in the spring.

Traip Heritage Club is holding a Spaghetti Dinner on Tuesday, March 17 from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. to fundraise for their trip to Ireland. Spanish students are visiting Traip from Wednesday, March 18 until Wednesday, March 25. The students will be going to Salem, MA with Spanish 3 & 4. Donny Gagnon will be taking the students and their hosts rock climbing on Saturday, March 21. There will be a "Welcome Spanish Students" dance on Friday, March 20th from 7:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. The Red Cross Blood Drive was a success. TADA's play performance of "The Crane's Life" went well and they placed

thirs.

Spring Sports are starting. Baseball and softball are starting on March 23, 2009 and all other sports start on March 30, 2009. Mrs. Avery and Kat Daly will be attending the Maine Principal Association Recognition Award ceremony on April 4, 2009. Freshman will be attending field trips to the University of New Hampshire to explore their futures and consider career paths. Traip is collecting old cell phones for our troops. Please drop off any old cell phones at the main office. The Climbing Wall has arrived at Traip. It is planned to be installed in the gym during the summer. Additional funds are needed.

Please

contact Traip.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT:

John Graham, WTSN Radio, addressed the Board and discussed microphone placement for radio audio.

Dianne Fallon and expressed concern regarding the possible elimination of a third grade teacher. She is concerned with the student/teacher ratio. She also commented that should the district need to place a portable classroom in fall of 2010, she feels we should do it for the fall of 2009 instead of waiting a year. She questioned as to when the final decisions were made regarding our FY10 budget and other positions were reinstated and why the third grade teacher was not reinstated.

Angela Yatt, parent, commented that she supports what Dianne Fallon has stated regarding the third grade teaching position and the portable classroom.

Beth Gilbert, parent, questioned what would happen should the towns people not support the Bond on the June ballot. She asked if the students would be able to move back into Frisbee?

Jeff Clifford, parent, thanked the Board for continuing with the SAFE Program. This program is vital to the students in Kittery. It is great for social ability and is a valuable program. He commented that if we are going to need a portable classroom in the fall of 2010, he feels we should add it now. He also stated that a lot of taxpayers would support a slight tax increase, if it were used to benefit our schools and students.

Lee Silsby Perkins, parent, thanked the Board for their work. She expressed concern regarding the closing of Frisbee. She noted that a lot of parents are in disagreement with this and felt that they have not been heard with their concerns. She commented that she attended the budget meeting last evening with Town Council and feels it should have been a Power

Point presentation so it could have been understood better. A lot of parents left the meeting confused and still do not understand everything fully. She feels really bad, but the parents have started a petition regarding the closing of Frisbee. She noted that the parents totally agree and support the School Committee but also feel that Town Council needs to do more with other department cuts. She and other taxpayers feel Town Council should support the schools more. Every year it is the same situation.

Gil Robert, parent, thanked the Board for their hard work. He expressed concerns as to the process that was taken regarding the closure of Frisbee. He feels a solid plan should have been put in place first. With the plan that is in place now, it seems we all suffer as well as our students.

Susan Johnson, parent, expressed concern regarding the elimination of a third grade teacher. She asked that this position be reinstated. She feels Mitchell School will now be crowded. It is a burden to the staff. She also asked that the portable trailer be considered for next year instead of the following year.

Sue McGrillis, parent, thanked the Board for all the work they do. She commented that this was the first time she has ever been involved with a petition, but felt it was in the best interest for the students. She feels that the cart was put before the horse. She realizes that we have constraints but would be willing to sit and discuss the concerns of the parents before the petition is submitted.

Don Clark, parent, expressed concern regarding the elimination of a third grade teacher. He asked the Board reconsider this position. He also commented that he feels that Town Council has a "power hold" and the School Department is in a situation that it shouldn't be in. Our tax dollars support the schools as well and the quality of our education is important for the future. Maybe we need to raise taxes and he knows a lot of people would support this for our school system benefit. Town Council should not make the decision for us, they need to hear us. He has signed the petition but is willing to take it back should a different decision be made. He is also willing to discuss the petition before it is moved forward.

III. CORRESPONDENCE:

Correspondence is included in the FYI packets.

IV. STAFF REPORTS: None.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

VI. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Action to appoint Misty McBrierty as Assistant Principal at Shapleigh Middle School.

Student Board Member, Lauren Kennison, in favor to approve the Superintendent's recommendation to re-appoint Misty MrBrierty as Assistant Principal at Shapleigh Middle School for the 2009-2010 school year.

- B. Action to appoint the following co-curricular positions:
It was MOVED by Kim Bedard, SECONDED by Bill Furbush and VOTED 7-0-0 with Student Board Member, Lauren Kennison, in favor to appoint the following co-curricular positions:
1. Jennifer Thayer as Shapleigh Japan Club Advisor (shared position) for the 2008-09 school year.
 2. Rachel Maloney Hawkins as Shapleigh Japan Club Advisor (shared position) for the 2008-09 school year.
 3. Trevor Hopwood as Traip JV Softball Coach for the 2008-09 school year.
 4. Casey Cook as Traip Varsity Softball Coach for the 2008-09 school year.
 5. Adam Hale as Traip Head Varsity Baseball Coach for the 2008-09 school year.
 6. Donald Gagnon as Traip JV Baseball Coach for the 2008-09 school year.
 7. Neil Hickey as Traip Volunteer Assistant Varsity Baseball Coach for the 2008-09 school year.
 8. Andrew Welch as Traip Volunteer Assistant Varsity Baseball Coach for the 2008-09 school year.
 9. Bruce Merrill as Traip Head Boys/Girls Outdoor Track Coach for the 2008-09 school year.
 10. Art Scott as Traip Assistant Track Coach for the 2008-09 school year.
- C. Action on final approval for an overnight trip to Camp Kieve (May 13-15) Shapleigh 7th grade team.
It was MOVED by Glennis Wright, SECONDED by Patti Ayer and VOTED 7-0-0 with Student Board Member, Lauren Kennison, in favor to grant final approval for an overnight trip to Camp Kieve (May 13-15) Shapleigh 7th grade team.
- D. Action to discuss transition plan to implement the three school program for the fall of 2009.
It was the consensus of the Board to hold a public forum at Shapleigh Middle School on Tuesday, March 31, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. to discuss the transition plan for the 3 school program.
- E. Action to discuss the Town Manager's request for the SAFE Program to remain at Frisbee School.
It was MOVED by Bill Furbush, SECONDED by Ken Lemont and VOTED 7-0-0 with Student Board Member, Lauren Kennison, in favor to have Supt. Littlefield work with the Town Manager to develop a written agreement regarding the SAFE Program, and conditions that would enable the program to stay at Frisbee. negotiate with the Recreation Dept. as to the best interest of SAFE and School Dept.

- F. Action to review the draft document of Kittery's Alternative Plan, in accordance with the consolidation law.
- Supt. Littlefield reported that he has been notified by the Dept. of Education that, because we have now been granted stand alone status as a school district, we must submit our Alternative Plan to the Commissioner. He is writing the plan and will have a draft of the document for the Board at our next meeting. Upon Board approval of the draft document, he will submit the plan to the Department as soon as possible.

VII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

- A. Supt. Littlefield reported that on Monday, March 16, 2009 he attended the Commissioner's conference in Augusta to hear the commissioner's update on the ARRA Stimulus Funds. The presentation was more frame work regarding the funding. No dollar amount for our districts were given. He has information available, if anyone is interested please let him know.
- B. Supt. Littlefield reported that we had originally planned to have a presentation at this meeting by WBRC architects of their final draft report and recommendations for the Reconfiguration Planning phrase. The final draft report was received last Thursday and is included in the FYI packet. The Shared Services Committee met last week and reviewed the report and supports the report. They feel we should move forward. However, they were unanimous in that more work remains to be done and was not ready for a presentation to the School Committee.
- C. Supt. Littlefield reported that advertisements for the Maintenance Director's position have gone out. The application deadline is Monday, March 30 and interviews will start the second week of April. David Batchelder will represent the Board on the Interviewing Team.
- D. Supt. Littlefield reported that we have been notified by Anthem BC/BS that they have further reduced their health insurance rate increase for next year. There will be no increase in the health insurance premium for next year. This was great news!
- E. Supt. Littlefield reported that at the end of March, he will determine the date for Traip graduation. To date, we have used 4 storm days and our last day of school now stands at Tuesday, June 23, 2009.
- F. Supt. Littlefield reported that he will be "out of district" for our next Board meeting, April 7, 2009. Marilyn Woodside will serve as Acting Superintendent for the meeting.

VIII. COMMITTEES AND REPORTS:

- A. Design Team: The Design Team is scheduled to meet on Wednesday, March 18, 2009.

- B. Town Council Information Report: None.
- C. Health Coordinating Team: The Health Coordinating Team met and the minutes are included in the FYI packet.
- D. Policy Committee: The Policy Committee has not met.
- E. MSBA Executive Committee: The MSBA Executive Committee is scheduled to meet on Saturday, March 21, 2009.
- F. Advisory Committee for Information Literacy: The Advisory Committee for Information Literacy is scheduled to meet on Wednesday, March 25, 2009 to review the Technology Plan.
- G. Legislative Committee: The Legislative Committee has not met.
- H. Finance Committee: The Finance Committee met and the minutes are included in the FYI packet.
- I. Energy Committee: The Energy Committee has not met.
- J. Shared Services Committee: The Shared Services Committee is scheduled to meet on Wednesday, March 18, 2009.

IX. QUESTIONS/COMMENTS/CONCERNS:

Patti Ayer appreciated the members of the public expressing their concerns. She noted that we are looking to the future in the best interest of our district and students. Our budget is before the Town Council at this time and expressed concern that should the budget not pass in June, it reverts back to last year's budget. Should this happen, it would put our district in a serious situation which could affect staff, programs, and our entire district in general. She thanked Bill Furbush for his work on our Capital Improvement Plan. She also reminded the public that absentee ballots that are turned into the clerk prior to June 1, 2009 will not be counted. She asked that information regarding absentee ballot voting be posted on the website.

David Batchelder commented that he attended the North Eastern Conference in Boston, MA. He found the conference to be very informative.

Kim Bedard commented that we need a date to review our process to search for a Superintendent in anticipation of Mr. Littlefield's retirement at the end of next year. It was the consensus of the Board to review the process on May 5, 2009 at 6:00 p.m.

Bill Furbush commented that he is looking forward to meeting with the public and reviewing the three school plan.

Ken Lemont commented that he appreciated the public comments. He also appreciates our Chair's support for all the work that we do as a Board. He would also like more information regarding the parking spaces at Traip.

Chair Pelletier commented that we need to contact SAD 35 to discuss district collaboration. He asked Superintendent Littlefield to contact them. He commented that he appreciates the public input and hopes that the Board and public can engage in a forum setting and discuss our plans further. He is looking forward to the public forum on March 31, 2009.

X. EXECUTIVE SESSION: None.

XI. ACTION ON EXECUTIVE SESSION: None.

XII. ADJOURNMENT:

It was MOVED by Kim Bedard, SECONDED by Glennis Wright and VOTED 7-0-0 unanimously on a VOICE VOTE with Student Board Member, Lauren Kennison in favor to adjourn at 9:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Janis Marshall-Colby Date: March 17, 2009
Janis Marshall-Colby, Recorder

Larry Littlefield, Superintendent of Schools Date: March 17, 2009

APPROVED BY SCHOOL COMMITTEE: April 7, 2009