

Kittery School Committee Meeting
06 March 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, Patti Ayer, Tess Schneier, and Glennis Wright were present to approve warrants. Supt. Littlefield and Kim Bedard were also present. Student Board Member, Stephen Webber, arrived at 6:42 p.m. Also present were school administrators, staff, students, members of the public, and press.

D. Adjustments to the Agenda:

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

Adjustment to the Agenda was to move Item VI.A. after Item VI.E, New Business.

Adjustment to the Agenda was to move Item VI.B. after Item VI.A, New Business.

E. Minutes:

The Minutes of February 20, 2007 were approved as amended.

F. Student Advisory Member Report:

Spring sports at Traip Academy start March 23, 2007. The Traip Drama Club will perform their play at the festival competition on Saturday, March 10, 2007 at Thornton Academy at 7:00 p.m. On March 5, 2007, Traip held a Red Cross blood drive and 60 pints of blood were collected. Traip is happy to have Mr. Perry back.

II. CORRESPONDENCE:

E-mails have been received regarding student/teacher ratios and class size at Frisbee.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Lee Perkins-Silsby, a parent, addressed the Board on behalf of the PTA. The PTA would like to have input and be involved in the discussions regarding the possible consolidation of Frisbee Elementary School. She also questioned if the townspeople had voted in the past to approve a bond issue for the Frisbee roof repair. Supt. Littlefield explained that due to the internal renovations that needed to be done to have the school meet state standards, not enough monies were available from the bond for the roof repairs. Lee thanked the Board for all their hard work on the FY08 Budget.

David Batchelder, a parent, addressed the Board and expressed his concerns with the student/teacher class ratios. We should try and maintain small classes because he feels we will see a more effective outcome in our students. He expressed gratitude toward our district for maintaining low class sizes and supports continuing this practice. He also addressed his concerns for our foreign language program. We need to look at how we can approach this on a school wide basis. Foreign language will be effective for our students later as they learn about other cultures.

Ken Tumeth, a parent, addressed the Board noting that he has a son who attends Mitchell Primary School. He addressed his concern regarding replacing a classroom teacher position with a Physical Education teacher. He questions the purpose of this noting that he feels, as parents, we will see to it that our children are kept fit, and as a Board we should consider their education because our job is to educate.

Linda Lorrey, a parent, addressed the Board and expressed her concern regarding foreign language. She would like to see the possibility of foreign language in the middle school grades. She also expressed her concern for small class sizes. In a larger class, staff would have to devote more of their teaching time to discipline problems, and students who do not have discipline issues will lose valuable academic time. She asked that the Board reconsider increasing the student/teacher ratio.

Sarah Brown, a parent, addressed the Board and thanked them for all the work they do and time spent for the education they provide for our children. She expressed her concerns regarding a higher student/teacher ratio. What will happen to our class size should more families come to Kittery for the Navy Yard? We are very lucky to have low class sizes and we can easily see the benefits that are provided to our students because of this. The fact of the matter is that it always comes down to the budget for some things and not our students. The students who are going to be suffering should this become a reality are the students who are well behaved and are in school to learn. This would be a shame. She asked the Board to please reconsider changing the class sizes.

Don Clark, a parent, addressed the Board and expressed his concerns regarding the physical education position. He questions losing 2 positions in the 4th grade and adding another position for physical education. In regards to the student/teacher ratio, research has shown that children who need attention get it, and ones who do not need attention do not. He feels we should not increase the ratio because it will hurt our students in the end. He thanked the Board for all their work and doing the best they can for all our students.

Chair Pelletier thanked everyone for their comments.

IV. STAFF REPORTS: None.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

VI. NEW BUSINESS:

C. Action on final approval for an overnight field trip to Purity Springs, June 11-13, 2007.

It was **MOVED** by Chair Pelletier, **SECONDED** by Tess Schneier and **VOTED** 5-0-0 with Student Board Member, Stephen Webber, in favor to grant final approval for an overnight field trip to Purity Springs, June 11-13, 2007, with the provision that student insurance information be completed prior to the trip and revisit this item at the May 1,

2007 meeting

D. Action to approve Michael Robinson as Traip Academy Varsity Baseball coach for the spring 2007.

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 Michael Robinson as Traip Academy Varsity Baseball coach for the spring 2007.

E. Action to approve Maintenance Dedicated Account Funds for replacement of the SCU control panel at Traip Academy.

It was **MOVED** by Kim Bedard, **SECONDED** by Chair Pelletier and **VOTED 5-0-0** with Student Board Member, Stephen Webber, in favor to approve Maintenance Dedicated Account Funds for replacement of SCU control panel during the April

vacation

at Traip Academy in the amount of \$12, 800.00.

A. Action to adopt the FY08 Budget.

Chair Pelletier thanked the Leadership Team and Board members for their participation and hard work on the FY08 Budget.

It was **MOVED** by Chair Pelletier, **SECONDED** by Kim Bedard and **VOTED 5-0-0** with Student Board Member, Stephen Webber, in favor to adopt the FY08 Budget in the amount of \$14,147,492, which includes retaining teaching positions at Frisbee Elementary School and creating the all day Kindergarten program at Mitchell.

B. Action to discuss Traip Academy Program of Studies for 2007-2008 school year.

It was **MOVED** by Chair Pelletier, **SECONDED** by Glennis Wright and **VOTED 5-0-0** with Student Board Member, Stephen Webber, in favor to approve the Traip Academy Program of Studies for 2007-2008 school year including all the changes.

VII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

A. Included in the FYI packet are the updated reports for our home schooled students and private school students.

B. Supt. Littlefield updated the Board on the school consolidation feasibility study. He has been working with Jenifer Van Deusen and has developed a process that will culminate in a report to the Board in April. The process was reviewed with the Board noting that there are several factors that must be considered in developing a final recommendation. To date, Supt. Littlefield has met with the K-8 PTA and has scheduled faculty meeting with the Traip, Frisbee, and Shapleigh staff. Mitchell will also be scheduled in the near future. Research has begun of the deed for our school, tax maps, etc. and looking at our remaining debt service on the buildings. Jim L'Heureux is obtaining cost estimates for

the

maintenance and repair work that should be done.

continue with the school consolidation feasibility study and report back to the Board.

The School Committee clarified the original charge for the feasibility study. Specifically, the study should first estimate the costs to make Frisbee a first class educational environment and what modifications can be made to all other schools.. Depending on these findings, if it is not feasible to do this, then what steps could be taken to close the school and move the students to other schools within Kittery.

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- C. Supt. Littlefield reported that on March 12, 2007, Town Council's agenda will include a time for the Board to address the issues (warrants) that have surfaced over the past several weeks. The meeting will start at 7:00 p.m.

It was **MOVED** by Tess Schneier, **SECONDED** by Glennis Wright and **VOTED** 5-0-0 with Student Board Member, Stephen Webber, in favor to extend the meeting past 10:00 p.m.

IX. COMMITTEES AND REPORTS:

- A. Design Team:** There is a staff development day scheduled for tomorrow . The Design Team is scheduled to meet on March 14, 2007.
- B. Mitchell Building Committee:** The Mitchell Building Committee is very close to closing the project.
- C. Town Council Information Report:** There will be a facilitated session at Shapleigh Middle School, March 15, 2007 with the Board and Town Council, Town Manager, and Superintendent to examine the issues that have been studied by the Sustainable Futures Committee.
- D. Health Coordinating Team:** The Health Coordinating Team is scheduled to meet on Wednesday, March 7, 2007.
- E. Policy Committee:** The Policy Committee met on Tuesday, February 27, 2007 and reviewed Special Education policies.
- F. MSBA Executive Committee:** The MSBA Executive Committee met recently to discuss the regionalization issues.
- G. Advisory Committee for Information Literacy:** Updates for the Advisory Committee for Information Literacy is included in the FYI packet. The committee is scheduled to meet on March 28, 2007.
- H. Legislative Review Committee:** The Legislative Review Committee is scheduled to meet on Tuesday, March 20, 2007 at 5:45 p.m.

IX. QUESTIONS/COMMENTS/CONCERNS:

Glennis Wright commented that she would like to see a report on the number of students that attend private schools and students that are home schooled.

Kim Bedard commented that a 2 year school calendar was discussed at the Design Team meeting. The Design Team is waiting for the calendar.

Patti Ayer commented that she found the budget process very interesting. She would like to see classes or tapes available to students for foreign language.

Chair Pelletier commented that since becoming Chair and being involved more with the Superintendent, he has realized a lot more about the work that is done behind the scenes. He commented that Supt. Littlefield spends a lot more of his time than he had ever realized until now. He is very appreciative of the work and thanked Supt. Littlefield for all that he

has

done.

X. EXECUTIVE SESSION: None.

XI. ACTION ON EXECUTIVE SESSION: None.

XII. ADJOURNMENT:

It was **MOVED** by Kim Bedard, **SECONDED** by Glennis Wright and **VOTED 5-0-0** on a **VOICE VOTE** with Student Board Member, Stephen Webber, in favor to adjourn at 10:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by _____ Dated: March 6, 2007
Janis Marshall-Colby, Recorder

_____ Dated: March 6, 2007
Larry Littlefield, Superintendent of Schools

APPROVED BY SCHOOL COMMITTEE: March 20, 2007