

Kittery School Committee Meeting
15 May 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 6:00 p.m. Chair Pelletier, Patti Ayer, Tess Schneier, and Kim Bedard were present to approve warrants. Supt. Littlefield and Glennis Wright were also present. Student Board Member, Stephen Webber was excused absent. Also present were school administrators, staff, parents, press, members of the public and members of Kittery Town Council.

Prior to the Regular Business Meeting, Town Council met with Board members and discussed the

FY08 School Budget from 6:30 p.m. - 7:45 p.m. According to the subsidy draft report from the Department of Education, the state has capped subsidy to schools at 15%. This means significant loss of revenue to Kittery. However, the state budget is not finalized..

D. Adjustments to the Agenda:

Adjustment to the Agenda was an addendum to VI.D. New Business.

Adjustment to the Agenda was an addendum VII.A., Superintendent's Report.

E. Minutes:

The Minutes of May 1, 2007 were approved as amended.

F. Student Advisory Member Report: None.

II. CORRESPONDENCE:

Kelly Nevins received a letter notifying her of a significant award from Japan for her many years of involvement in the Japanese Exchange Student program. Congratulations Kelly.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Suzanne Kuehl, a parent, addressed the Board. She noted that Town Council has to be aware that we are one town with one budget. It appears to her that the school department is always being criticized about their warrants but never hears any questions about more new police cars, fire trucks or road equipment. The school department is a great system that works. Our kids are getting a good education and proceeding onto college. It is easy to say what you want, but it hard to build it.

Linda Lorrey, a parent, addressed the Board and noted that she was impressed with what saw tonight. Some things that Town Council brought up were very important. She thanked the Board for all their hard work and for the quality of education they provide for our students.

Alan Dion, a parent, addressed the Board and noted that he has 3 children in the Kittery School Dept. One of his children has special needs and he feels the program is the best. The Shapleigh Sweetser program is a fantastic service. These programs are needed. Not only do they benefit the student, they benefit the parents as well. Town Council needs to know this. He noted

that there are sports programs that our schools do not offer, but we have quality not quantity. We should not cut football. The students need this. It helps our children in society with learning responsibility and team work. It is a great program and the students need this. He thanked the Board for all their hard work during the critical budget process.

Sarah Brown, a parent, addressed the Board and thanked them for their work on the school budget. She noted that she was not excited about the all day Kindergarten program but does support it. She noted that it is good for some kids and the benefits are great. She is not a sports fan, but feels that football should not be cut. Sports are important to students. It provides self-esteem, discipline and responsibility. She feels that Town Council is disconnected from our school district. They should familiarize themselves more with the community and not compare our schools to other private schools.

Diane Kulick addressed the Board and noted that she has a daughter in the Special Education program and is very pleased with the support both her daughter and she receives. She feels the school district in Kittery is wonderful and thanked the Board for all their work.

Glenn Schaery, Town Council Chair, addressed the Board as a citizen of Kittery. He noted that the School Committee is a hard working group and the budget is the most intricate part of their work. He noted that the Town Council's responsibility is to scrutinize the budgets of every department to see if items are cost effective. That is why departments are questioned on some items. All we do is ask for justification. He thanked the Board for the opportunity to be able to discuss items in an open forum and for the work they have done with the budget. He looks forward to more productive discussions with them.

Lee Perkins-Silsby, a parent, addressed the Board, and thanked them for their endless hours working to achieve a budget with our students in mind. She thought the meeting with Town Council went very well. She trusts the School Committee's decisions totally and hopes the Board was not upset with some of the comments of the councilors. She feels they should have been here earlier during the process and not wait to the end to question items. Hopefully, next year they can start earlier if they have any concerns with the School Committee. She noted that football is the one thing that helps student's socialize, gain responsibility, self esteem and helps keeps them in school. Once again she thanked the Board for being there for the staff, students and parents.

Liz Hoyt, K-5 PTA Co-Chair, addressed the Board and thanked them for all the information the Board has relayed to the PTA this year. The information has been very helpful and very appreciated. She feels we need more communication with Town Council and they need to be aware of how well the schools use the resources they are given. She also noted that we need teachers, and the market out there is very competitive. She thanked the Board for all their hard work and noted, if the PTA could be of any help, please let them know.

Kim Bedard, Board member, thanked everyone for coming this evening and thanked Town Council for their participation.

Chair Pelletier thanked everyone for coming tonight and expressing their opinions.

IV. STAFF REPORTS:

Bob Creamer, School Resource Officer, addressed the Board and reported about his work in the schools. He feels this position has made a positive impact on the student's relationship with the police. He is based at Traip Academy but goes to other schools when needed. He works well with the staff as well as the students. He is assigned to the school on a fulltime basis which makes him accessible during school hours should he be needed. He thoroughly enjoys the staff, students, and parents.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

VI. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Mitchell Building Committee Report.

Trevor Thayer, Mitchell Building Committee Chair, addressed the Board and reported on the work of the committee. He thanked the Superintendent, administrators, and staff at Mitchell Primary School for all the work and time they committed to the project. He noted that the best part of the project was to see the trailers finally leave, the school finished, and the faces of the students and parents as they entered into their "new" facility. Trevor thanked fellow committee members: Dave Batchelder, Mark C. Sousa, Susan Emery, Robert Mangion, Ken Palmer, Linda Powell, Dave Foster, and Bruce Herron, for their dedication, hard work, along with their timeless & unselfish volunteer hours. Thanks to Susan Emery for the window which truly embraces the history of the school. He then asked the Board to abolish the Mitchell Building Committee.

It was **MOVED** by Chair Pelletier, **SECONDED** by Kim Bedard and **VOTED** 4-0-0 in favor to abolish the Mitchell Building Committee.

Chair Pelletier thanked Trevor Thayer and members of the Mitchell Building Committee for all their dedication and hard work to make this project a reality. He presented the committee members with a certificate on behalf of the Board.

B. Action to approve Student Handbooks for the 2007-2008 school year.

It was **MOVED** by Kim Bedard, **SECONDED** by Chair Pelletier and **VOTED** 4-0-0 to approve Student Handbooks for the 2007-2008 school year as amended with Superintendent responsible for final review.

C. Action to approve reading of policies:

1. First Reading: JFK - Disciplinary Removal of Students with Disabilities.

It was **MOVED** by Chair Pelletier, **SECONDED** by Kim Bedard and **VOTED** 4-0-0 in

favor to approve the First Reading of policy JFK - Disciplinary Removal of Students with Disabilities.

2. Second Reading: IHBAC - Child Find.

It was **MOVED** by Chair Pelletier, **SECONDED** by Kim Bedard and **VOTED** 4-0-0 in favor to approve Second Reading of policy IHBAC - Child Find.

D. Action to approve funds from the Maintenance Dedicated Account.

1. It was **MOVED** by Kim Bedard, **SECONDED** by Glennis Wright and **VOTED** 4-0-0 in favor to approve funds from the Maintenance Dedicated Account for parts & labor to replace pumpstarters and motor on the circulator pump at Mitchell in the amount of \$4,208.65.
2. It was **MOVED** by Chair Pelletier, **SECONDED** by Kim Bedard and **VOTED** 4-0-0 in favor to approve funds from the Maintenance Dedicated Account for 100 yards of playground chips for Frisbee in the amount of \$ 2,598.00, and with the condition that this item be incorporated into the budget next year.
3. It was **MOVED** by Kim Bedard, **SECONDED** by Glennis Wright and **VOTED** 4-0-0 in favor to approve funds from the Maintenance Dedicated Account for air conditioning for the computer server room at Traip in the amount of \$7,130.00.
4. It was **MOVED** by Chair Pelletier, **SECONDED** by Patti Ayer and **VOTED** 4-0-0 in favor to approve funds from the Maintenance Dedicated Account for the pump station alarm system repair at Traip Academy in the amount of \$3,003.70.

E. Frisbee Feasibility Study Report.

Supt. Littlefield reported that he met with Ken Markley from Easterly Surveying, Inc. last week. They discussed the Frisbee property and, after reviewing the 1948 deed description, a preliminary determination was made that the property consists of 13 +/- acres. It appears that the town has not differentiated the Frisbee lot from Rogers Park lot which town documents indicate total 39.05 acres. Supt. Littlefield noted that the operational costs for Frisbee School for 2006-07 totaled \$132,499. He reviewed that 2006-07 enrollment data for students attending private schools and students that are home-schooled. Included in the packet is a copy of the 3 part proposal that he requested from Mr. Markley should the Board decide to proceed with metes and bounds survey/ topographic survey/wetlands survey of the Frisbee lot.

It was **MOVED** by Chair Pelletier, **SECONDED** by Glennis Wright and **VOTED** 4-0-0 in favor to extend meeting past 10:00 p.m.

VII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

A. Resignation/Retirement:

It was **MOVED** by Chair Pelletier, **SECONDED** by Glennis Wright and **VOTED** 4-0-0 in favor to acknowledge the resignation of Sally Martin, Food Service.

- B.** Included in the packets are copies of 12 Traip Trustee grant applications that the Superintendent has asked the Board to review before forwarding them to the Traip Trustees for consideration.

It was **MOVED** by Chair Pelletier, **SECONDED** by Kim Bedard and **VOTED** 4-0-0 in favor to forward all grant applications to the Traip Trustees.

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- C.** Supt. Littlefield reported that he spoke with the superintendents from York and SAD

regarding discussing consolidation issues. On May 17, 2007 at 7:00 p.m., York County Superintendents Association has a meeting scheduled at York County Community College with York County Board members to discuss consolidation issues. The board members from SAD #35 and York would like to meet with Kittery prior to the meeting at 6:00 p.m. All board members are welcome to attend.

- D.** Supt. Littlefield reported that this is the time of year when the Board usually starts the process of evaluating the superintendent.
- E.** Supt. Littlefield reported that the Unit C - Support contract will expire at the end of this year and they have given him their notice to bargain a successor agreement. We will meet with them on Wednesday, May 30, 2007 at Central Office at 3:30 p.m. to start negotiations.

- F.** Please note the following dates:

Tuesday, May 15 @ 2:00 p.m. - Shapleigh cottage meeting

Tuesday, May 22 @ 6:00 p.m. - Traip National Honor Society induction

Tuesday, May 22 @ 7:00 p.m. - Traip Academic Awards evening

Sunday, May 27 - Junior/Senior Prom at Spring Hill

Thursday, June 7 @ 3:30 p.m. - Frisbee staff retirement party at Maholos

Thursday, June 7 @ 6:00 p.m. - Sustainable Futures work session - Council, School Committee, department heads, administrators at Traip Academy.

Friday, June 8 - Lawn Fete at Frisbee School

Friday, June 8 @ 10:00 a.m. - Traip Seniors Award assembly

Friday, June 8 @ 7:00 p.m. - Candlelight

Sunday, June 10 @ 11:00 a.m. - Graduation

Wednesday, June 13 @ 7:00 p.m. - Adult Education Graduation

Monday, June 18 @ 6:00 p.m. Grade 8 Promotion ceremony at Shapleigh

Tuesday, June 19 - Last day of school

XII. ADJOURNMENT:

Tess Schneier was excused at 8:55 p.m.

It was **MOVED** by Chair Pelletier, **SECONDED** by Kim Bedard and **VOTED** 4-0-0 on a **VOICE VOTE** to postpone the rest of the agenda and adjourn at 10:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by _____ Dated: May 15, 2007
Janis Marshall-Colby, Recorder

_____ Dated: May 15, 2007
Larry Littlefield, Superintendent of Schools

APPROVED BY SCHOOL COMMITTEE: June 5, 2007