

**Kittery School Committee Meeting**  
**October 17, 2006 – Town Hall Chambers – 6:30 pm**  
**REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING**

**I. ASSEMBLY OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS:**

**A, B & C:** The meeting was called to order by Chair Pelletier at 6:30 pm. Tess Schneier, Julie Dow, and Laura Pasqualoni were present to sign warrants. Superintendent Littlefield, Glennis Wright, Maria Barth, and Kim Bedard were also present. Student representative, Steve Webber, arrived at 7:10.

The Regular meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.

**D. ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA: None.**

**E. MINUTES**

The minutes of October 3, 2006 were approved as amended.

**F. STUDENT ADVISORY REPORT**

WCHS- 6 visited Traip to showcase the football team. Traip football broke its long-term streak and has won two games! PSATs are tomorrow for the juniors.

**G. WORKSHOP ON GIFTED & TALENTED PROGRAM**

- \*Some objection to title of state approved plan entitled “Students with Gifts & Talents”
- \*Title not mandated by state, program mandated
- \*Consider changing the name – 3 – 5% of Maine students who qualify for special services
- \*Need to submit annual plan by November 30, 2006
- \*Kittery’s plan focuses on designing personalized learning plan for these identified students instead pull out programs.
- \*Identification K-2: informal & formal assessments & teacher observations; 3-12 screened using three tools
- \*NWEA (in grades 3, 6 & 9 this year) will give us good data

**QUESTIONS/COMMENTS:**

It happens that 4th grade “accelerated reading” happens at the same time as specials—how are these decisions made if we have yet to screen all students as directed by the plan. At Mitchell, small class sizes allow for differentiation at all levels based on the needs of students (in reading, leveled books; in math, EDM provides a variety of activities) At Shapleigh some students are in accelerated classes in math yet at middle school the better approach is to differentiate by going deeper into the work instead of going vertically. At Traip more concerned about complex reasoning skills and critical thinking skills, one of the best programs is Project Search at UNH, also AP courses in a variety of subjects. Look into what is happening at Frisbee.

Pull out programs not happening in the traditional way we think of them – some students may be pulled out during study periods for projects, etc.

What does the Director of Special Services need from the committee? An assurance that the plan and policies that the committee has approved are the ones it still believes in so the plan can go forward.

Consider the child's dreams and aspirations in the plan.

Note that we do not currently have "gifted & talented staff" per se and change language accordingly.

Ensure that the personalized learning plan is simple so it can be implemented easily.

Consider having a personalized learning/ education plan for all students.

Identify who will be carrying out the responsibilities.

The next steps are to write the new plan and bring it to the committee prior to the November 30th deadline. The committee also requested an update on how the current plan is being implemented.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT ON THIS TOPIC:**

John Lorrey: Question on Gifted & Talented program, are we inventing the wheel here? Why didn't we look at about 10 other programs/ plans, talked to our neighbors and spent time with the state Department of Education person in charge of this mandate.

Courtney Edwards: Truly gifted children do not stop being gifted – there are ways to figure out if a child is gifted. Just because a child does not do his homework does not mean he is not gifted. It is frustrating to watch a kid's future go up in smoke because of paperwork, and because his grades do not reflect his talents. Response was we need to make sure this is a breathing living document and that motivation is accounted for in the identification.

## **II. CORRESPONDENCE**

### **III. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Stephen Webber was asked by the Student Council to read their letter to the School Committee. They are concerned about the issues surrounding the Key Club at Traip Academy. It provides students with opportunities to fulfill public service and needs to continue.

Lisa Muccio, parent, understands that schools are working on curriculum mapping. Ms. Muccio's son is a sophomore and he keeps reading the same books year after year. In social studies, he has been American history to death. She wishes that this mapping had been completed earlier.

Joe Boudreau, Tech Ed teacher at Traip and Key Club advisor: wants to make sure the Committee knows all of the details. Two main concerns: the issue at Mitchell School regarding supervision had nothing to do with Key Club. A Key Club function does not

happen without both the advisor and the Kiwanis person there. The stipend for Key Club should not be an issued. If it is an issue, Mr. Boudreau does not want it.

Kelsey Weaver, student, was not planning to make a speech. Cannot help but tell the Committee about Key Club. It is a great opportunity to do community service, have fun with it, and learn importance of being part of a team

Amy Lueng, student, spoke for herself and for those others who could not speak tonight. Here to ask those who voted against Key Club to reconsider your decision. Key Club is diverse and you do not have to be an athlete or an actor or anything else to be a member. It is about values – do community work and not get paid – teaches the value of helping others. People join to earn community service hours, but stay because they learn how to give back. It also helps for college applications.

Mr. Boudreau closed by listing many of the Key Club projects: postal food drive, Salvation Army soup kitchen, children’s festival at Portsmouth, scholarships, yard sales, bell ringing, Christmas parade, Eliot teacher appreciation, SPCA pet drive, special Olympics, TV auction in Durham, bike-a-thon for Children’s Trauma Center, teddy bears to police stations, adopting Kittery families at Christmas. Thousands of dollars raised and donated to worthy causes.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Request to revise agenda by Moving V-A after Public Comment**

A Action to appoint Key Club Advisor, Joe Boudreau, Traip Academy.

It was **MOVED** by Tess Schneier, **SECONDED** by Kim Bedard and **VOTED** 7-0-0, with Student Board member Steve Webber in favor, to approve Joe Boudreau as Key Club advisor at Traip Academy for the 2006-07 school year.

Ms. Barth reported that she and the superintendent met with local leaders of the Kiwanis Club. It was an informative and productive meeting. Kiwanis showed a willingness to provide financial support and continue to strengthen the partnership with Traip Academy.

**IV. STAFF REPORTS:**

Presentation of Assessment Practices & Results from Mitchell School: David Foster, Principal of the Mitchell School, reported that Mitchell School has been working hard at reading for a long time. Doing away with the Terra Nova and putting the new assessments in place that measure growth is “a beautiful thing.” It is more effective to use individualized, meaningful assessments that show how students are doing over time and that inform instruction. The DIBLES – Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills – is being used in Kindergarten and grade 1 at the beginning, middle, and end of school year along with the Observation Survey in first grade and the Developmental Reading Assessment. Mr. Foster shared the results of the DIBLES, which gives the teachers information on where to start instructionally with students. All of the data from this assessment is also used to track the progress of LEAP and other students, to group students

for instruction and to strengthen instructional practices. The Observation Survey shows nine years of data that essentially show the success of our Reading Recovery program. The DRA data show that in spring 2005, 72% of the students were at grade level at the end of second grade. Nineteen more students very, very close to being there. Twenty-five students scored well above grade level.

## **VI. NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Action to request 30 days from the teacher Sick Leave Bank. It was **MOVED** by Julie Dow, **SECONDED** by Kim Bedard, and **VOTED** 7-0-0 with student Board member, Steve Webber, to approve the request for sick leave bank.
- B. Action to approve School Committee Meeting Pamphlet. The consensus was to bring the pamphlet back to the committee with changes. No action was taken. The Superintendent will make final edits and bring the pamphlet to the November 7, 2006 Board meeting for approval.
- C. Action to approve FY07 Budget Warrant Articles. It was **MOVED** by Ms. Barth, **SECONDED** by Ms. Dow, and **VOTED** 7-0-0 with student Steve Webber, in favor to approve the warrant articles.
- D. Action to discuss walk through visits of schools. The superintendent recently conducted an extensive walk through of the Frisbee School, noting changes and upgrades that the building needs. The Committee scheduled a day to walk through Frisbee. On November 14, 2006, two options are available for members to walk through: 8:30 am and 1:30 pm.

## **VII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

- A. Supt. Littlefield reported that the workshop meeting with Falmouth School Department representatives is confirmed for Monday, October 23 at 6:00 pm.
- B. Supt. Littlefield drew attention to the sets of committee minutes that were included in the FYI packet for various district committees. These should be helpful and informative for the Board.
- C. Supt. Littlefield indicated that the auditors are finalizing their work and should have information ready by mid-November.
- D. Supt. Littlefield reported that he has met with Mr. Foster and Mr. Knight to continue discussions about the issues of preparation/planning time for teachers. Some changes, like scheduling PET's, can be made relatively easily. Other changes present significant challenges. The administrators will continue to work to address the prep/planning time issues.

## **VIII. COMMITTEES AND REPORTS**

- A. Design Team. Next meeting is scheduled for December 6.
- B. Mitchell Building Committee. No report.
- C. Town Council Information Report. Ms. Barth reported that the Sustainable Futures Committee will conduct a focus group on Wednesday evening to seek input on the committee report.
- D. Health Coordinating Committee. Ms. Wright referred to the committee minutes from the last meeting that were included in the FYI packet.
- E. Other: (1) MSBA Executive Committee. Ms. Bedard reported on the upcoming annual MSBA Conference in Augusta. She is looking forward to having Ms. Wright and Ms. Schneier attend the conference. (2) Technology Committee. Ms. Bedard reported that the committee would be meeting next week. She cannot attend, but Ms. Barth will be attending in her place.
- F. Policy Committee. Ms. Schneier reported that she attended her first Policy Committee meeting. Items discussed were the state's new proposal for graduation requirements. She also spoke about her thoughts concerning requiring additional community service hours for students throughout the high school years.

## **IX. QUESTIONS, COMMENTS & CONCERNS**

Tess Schneier inquired about the Camp Kieve trip that middle school students have taken in past years. Why has it been dropped? What alternatives are being considered, if Camp Kieve is so expensive? She also promoted the idea of giving Ms. Barth a “send off” after her past 11 years on the Board.

Julie Dow asked Student Board member Steve Webber if headsets were a big issue at Traip Academy. He indicated that some students are aggravated by not being allowed to use them.

Laura Pasqualoni congratulated the Traip football team for their recent victories, and breaking the 51 game losing streak. She indicated that she will not be able to attend the upcoming cottage meeting.

Glennis Wright noted that she has contacted some staff members at SAU #5 about the possibility of their attending the Board's November 21 technology workshop, and wondered if they have contacted Mr. Littlefield's office. He indicated that they have not contacted him. Ms. Wright inquired about the NWEA testing and when information will be available.

Kim Bedard noted that the Mitchell cottage meeting was not well attended. Two Board members were present – need to have better representation. It is important to send a good message. Technology was raised at the cottage meeting for discussion. It is important for the Board to have staff input.

Maria Barth reported that she has received four responses to the Legislative questionnaire, and she will get the responses out via e-mail. She expressed concern about a comment

made earlier in the meeting about a contractual issue whereby teachers are to be paid on per diem/prorated basis when they perform work outside the contract year.

Steve Webber made it a point to thank everyone for their support of the football team.

X. **EXECUTIVE SESSION. None**

XI. **ADJOURNMENT**

It was **MOVED** by Maria Barth **SECONDED** by Glennis Wright and **VOTED** unanimously on a **VOICE VOTE** to adjourn at 10:12 pm.

APPROVED AT NOVEMBER 7, 2006 MEETING