

**KITTERY SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING  
MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 15, 2009  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS – TOWN OFFICE -6:30 p.m.**

REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING

I. ASSEMBLY OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

- A. Call to Order: Chair Pelletier called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.
- B. Roll Call: Supt. Littlefield called the roll. Present were Bill Furbush, David Batchelder, Patti Ayer, Glennis Wright, Ken Lemont, Kim Bedard, and Chair Jeffrey Pelletier. Student Board member, Lauren Kennison, was present. Also in attendance were: Business Manager Sheri Rockburn, school administrators, Town Council Chair Jeffrey Thomson, members of the community, and substitute recorder, Barbara Boggiano.
- C. Adjustments to agenda: Sheri Rockburn presented the budget report under “Staff Reports.”
- D. Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting held on September 1, 2009. Chair Pelletier accepted the minutes as amended.
- E. Student Advisory Member Report: Lauren Kennison reported that Mitchell School’s Open House is tonight; the Open House for Shapleigh was last night and Traip’s Open House is tomorrow night. She said the Traip climbing wall is coming along nicely; both the boys’ soccer and football teams won last Saturday. There are three Foreign Exchange Students from Brazil, Sweden and France staying with Traip families for the entire year. Ms. Kennison reported that this year, Traip started the Freshman and Sophomore Academy and they will be meeting throughout the year. Sept. 25<sup>th</sup> is an early release day. There will be a flu clinic for the schools on Friday, Sept. 25<sup>th</sup>. Picture Day is Sept. 24<sup>th</sup>. A “Welcome Back” dance hosted by the Seniors will be this Friday. More details will follow on Homecoming Week, which is October 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT: Chair Pelletier opened the floor for public comment.

Gil Robert, Kittery citizen, said he sent the Board a print-out of State statistics which he had put together. He is very interested in the possibility of tuitioning out the high school students to Marshwood. He said he is not criticizing the administrators or teachers, and respects what Traip means to the community, but the statistics are compelling. There are more opportunities afforded to Marshwood students than what Traip is offering. He noted that in all areas in how the State measures how the programs are reaching the child, it seemed to him that the Marshwood students’ scores reveal a higher level of achievement. He spoke about the cost savings to the town.

Mr. Robert wanted to know if an addition to the school was really necessary or could Traip Academy be used. He said they have to look at this objectively, with input from Council and informed community members, and move as aggressively as possible.

Jeff Nawrocki, Kittery citizen, said he has four children in school. He and his wife met with the Principal at Marshwood to tour the school and look at the programs. He said they were very impressed and Marshwood had far more academic choices to offer the students. He said currently the largest class size at Marshwood is 19. He said the facility is 11 years old and it looks brand new; the layout is comfortable. He said they have a giant theater, tennis courts and a football stadium with lights.

Mr. Nawrocki said the kids have a lot of opportunities to play sports at Marshwood. He said, in speaking with the Principal, no cuts have been made on the teams except basketball and cheerleading. He does not want the children spending extra time on the bus, but going to Marshwood is not much more time on the bus, maybe 10 minutes, because the school is less than seven miles from Shapleigh.

Mr. Nawrocki said no one is looking at this as the failure of Traip or administrators, but the amount of savings would be astronomical. He said you will hear a lot of talk about tradition, but it is emotional. He said the bottom line is to decide what is best for the students, not the parents. He thought that the Board should visit Marshwood.

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Steve Montembo, Kittery citizen, said he has looked at the data and information and he is all for this. He said he has an engineering background and tends to take a more “black and white” approach to things. He said we deal with things in two ways, what we know, based on fact and what we think, which is our opinion. He said he assumed more valid data will be brought forward and the Board should give this a very thorough scrub.

Mr. Montembo said when he coached football he spent time at Marshwood and they set forth a vision/ mission statement. He said we are presented with an opportunity which could be a potential win-win situation. He said it could be rather tricky.

Jeffrey Thomson, Kittery citizen and Town Council Chair, said he was not present to try to stoke up the fires of controversy, but he was interested that the Kittery School Dept. and SAD #35 were beginning talks about tuitioning the high school population. He said that he has brought this up multiple times and always to mixed reviews.

Mr. Thomson thought that, in reading the article in the paper, this was the first time the door may have been opened from the other end by SAD #35. He said that being the case, they have a moral obligation to explore the viability of that option to the fullest extent.

Mr. Thomson said he supported the bond issue and will continue to support that, but he is concerned what will happen if TABOR 2 and the Excise tax referenda pass in November. He said that a gentleman spoke about tradition and Eliot High School and South Berwick High School had tradition as well. He said their girls’ basketball teams won many games, but they realized that they had to make a decision in the mid-60’s, with declining enrollment, so they tore down the buildings and built a regional high school. He urged the Board to explore this issue in the coming months.

Chairman Pelletier closed the public comment portion and thanked the speakers.

II. CORRESPONDENCE:

A. Acknowledge Receipt of Correspondence - Supt. Littlefield said that he had included responses to e-mails in the Board’s packet and, as an FYI, there are letters on the Flu Clinic and EEE.

IV. STAFF REPORTS: Sheri Rockburn gave an overview of the budget items:

- FY 10-11 Budget passed at \$13.9 million dollars, which is a 2.2% decrease over the prior year;
- \$106,302 was set aside from the Federal stabilization funds. The original budget was close to \$14 million dollars, but this money was deducted and we will not see it after 2011;
- 90% of the budget still remaining;
- Expenses to date total \$1.4 million from the 11 main categories;
- The budget is tracking according to plan;
- No budget transfers finalized yet – If necessary, once negotiations are finalized, budget transfers will be done at that time to cover any changes.
- Audit is scheduled next week.

Ms. Rockburn said it is important to realize the budget was prepared based on town revenues, which were 16% off from last year, building fees and CEO fees were lagging a little bit and there was a slight increase in excise tax, maybe due to the “cash for clunkers” program, but nothing significant.

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V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

VI. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Take action on Superintendent's recommendation to appoint the following co-curricular positions.

1. Steve Frost – Shapleigh Girls Soccer Coach
2. Corrine Gagnon – Shapleigh Boys Soccer Coach
3. Kristen Gentile – Shapleigh Field Hockey Coach
4. Guy Pollino – Shapleigh Boys/Girls Cross Country Coach

It was MOVED by Kim Bedard, SECONDED by Glennis Wright and VOTED 7-0-0, with Student Board Member Lauren Kennison in favor to approve the four appointments as presented. Motion carries.

B. Take action to approve revisions to regulations for:

JLCCB-R: Kittery School Dept. Bloodborne Pathogens Exposure Control Plan. It was MOVED by Kim Bedard, SECONDED by Glennis Wright and VOTED 7-0-0, with Student Board member Lauren Kennison voting in the affirmative to approve JLCCB-R as presented. Motion carries.

C. Take action to approve first reading of policy:

EEA: Student Transportation Services. It was MOVED by Chairman Pelletier, SECONDED by Ken Lemont and VOTED 7-0-0, with Student Board Member Lauren Kennison in favor to approve Policy EEA Student Transportation Services for 1<sup>st</sup> reading.

D. Take action to approve 2009-10 School Committee Calendar –

After discussion, it was the consensus of the Board to re-schedule approval of the School Committee calendar to the October 6 meeting.

E. Take action to elect a delegate to the Maine School Board Association Delegate Assembly

Kim Bedard NOMINATED Glennis Wright. This was SECONDED by Chairman Pelletier and VOTED 7-0-0, with Student Board Member Lauren Kennison in favor to appoint Glennis Wright as delegate to MSBA Delegate Assembly. Motion carries.

Glennis Wright NOMINATED Kim Bedard as alternate delegate to the MSBA Delegate Assembly. This was SECONDED by Chairman Pelletier and VOTED 7-0-0 in favor to appoint Kim Bedard as alternate delegate to the MSBA Delegate Assembly. Motion carries.

VII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

A. Resignation/Retirement – none

Supt. Littlefield said that nomination papers are due by the end of business on Monday, Sept. 21<sup>st</sup> for the School Committee and Town Council vacancies.

Supt. Littlefield reviewed the enrollment comparison report, which was included in the Board's packet. This report gives a 10 year comparison by grade from Sept. 1999 to Sept. 4, 2009.

Supt. Littlefield reported that the Frisbee Re-Vitalization Committee has met and also scheduled a walk through on Saturday, Sept. 19<sup>th</sup> of Frisbee School with Jon Carter, Town Manager and Paul Houde, Maintenance Director.

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Supt. Littlefield said that, due the positive EEE test results from mosquito pools in nearby New Hampshire towns, the Town Manager and he implemented the spraying program last weekend in accordance with policy. Parents and staff were notified of the planned barrier spraying program.

Supt. Littlefield said he was pleased to report that Lauren Kennison has been invited to be a part of a panel presentation at the Oct. 22-23 MSBA Annual Conference in Augusta, talking about student representation on the School Committee.

Supt. Littlefield reported that the climbing wall at Traip will be completed within the next several days. He said this has been a tremendous volunteer effort, and a great deal of credit goes to Mike Roberge and Don Gagnon for all their work.

Supt. Littlefield noted that we continue to work on bus routing and timing issues. Ledgemere has been very helpful and cooperative in working these out.

**VIII. COMMITTEES AND REPORTS:**

- A. Design Team – No report
- B. Town Council Information Report – No report
- C. Health Coordinating Team – Glennis reported they are meeting October 7<sup>th</sup>.
- D. Policy Committee – Patti said they are meeting Thursday at 3:30 p.m..
- E. MSBA Executive Committee – Kim said they met and she will forward information to the Board.
- F. Advisory Committee for Information Literacy – Kim said they will meet October 28<sup>th</sup>.
- G. Legislative Committee – No report
- H. Finance – Patti Ayer reported they met this afternoon and the warrants looked fine.
- I. Energy Committee – Ken said they met Sept. 8<sup>th</sup> and he will have a report.
- J. Shared Services – David said that they will be meeting Thursday, September 17.
- K. Building Committee – Mitchell/Shapleigh – David reported they are working out details on the proposal from Lassel Architects.
- L. Kittery/SAD #35 Joint Board Committee – Ken reported that they held their initial meeting and agreed there were 3 issues to discuss: administration, athletics and transportation. Mr. Lemont noted that SAD #35 currently does not have a tuition policy. If Kittery decides to pursue this concept, it may be a slow process and there are many factors to consider. Ken noted that the next meeting is October 6<sup>th</sup> in Kittery and it is open to the public. There was further discussion about the need for accurate information, funding issues, and Special Ed. There was also discussion about the concept of sharing a superintendent between the 2 districts. SAD #35 questioned the value of such an arrangement for their district. Chairman Pelletier commented that public participation is important in this process. He expressed the need to keep minutes of these meetings. He further commented that, throughout the process, the School Committee will focus on students and work to insure they get the best education. This is the Board's #1 priority.
- M. Superintendent Search – Kim distributed information for the Board to review including a current job description. She and Glennis met with Donna Schoff to work out details of the management of the search process. Kim distributed a copy of the MSMA contract for the Board's review, as well as a draft of the brochure that Donna has developed. Kim requested input from the Board regarding the contract and changes to the brochure. The Board discussed the proposed time line and composition of the Search and Screening Committees to include representation from the Board, Town Council, staff, administration, students and the public. Kim and Glennis will co-chair the Search Committee. Mr. Batchelder NOMINATED Ken Lemont to chair the Screening Committee. This was SECONDED by Bill Furbush and VOTED 7-0-0 with Student Board Member Lauren Kennison in favor. Motion passes.

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- N. Capital Improvement Project Committee – Bill said they are meeting next week
- O. Dropout Prevention Committee – Supt. Littlefield said it not yet been formed, however the committee will include Mike Roberge, Jane Durgin and Patti Ayer.

IX. QUESTIONS/COMMENTS/CONCERNS:

Patti Ayer asked about the cottage meetings that are coming up in October.

Glennis Wright inquired about the Open House last night. She asked about the Traip Ranger newspaper. As of now there is no staff for the publication; it's a volunteer effort. Ms. Ayer wanted to know if it was because there was not enough interest. Ms. Kennison felt that there may not be enough students to support the paper.

David Batchelder said he got a good taste of what's going on at both ends by attending the open house at Shapleigh. He has a fourth grader, a 7<sup>th</sup> grader and a freshman. He said one issue Shapleigh needs to be cognizant about is the timing of events and perhaps limiting the number of overall school gatherings due to the crowded parking situation. He thought if they could stagger the events that would be a big help. Mr. Batchelder noted that he has received positive comments from several people about Shapleigh's new configuration. He said he has not heard of any real issues about lunch, other than it is only 20 minutes. Some busing issues still remain.

X. EXECUTIVE SESSION: None.

XI. ADJOURN: It was MOVED by David Batchelder, SECONDED by Glennis Wright and VOTED on a unanimous voice vote to adjourn the meeting at 9:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: September 19, 2009

Barbara Boggiano,  
Substitute Recording Secretary

Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Larry Littlefield, Supt. of Schools

Date Approved: \_\_\_\_\_