

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by the Chair, Mrs. Perrotti, and the following members were present:

Cynthia Perrotti, Chair; Marilyn King, Clerk; Thomas Vadney, Angela Volpicelli, and Sylvia Wedge, Mr. Croston (7:19 PM)

Also Present: Asst. Supt. Jermain, Mark Dunham, and Patti Cofield

Absent: Dr. Lusi and Mr. Harris

1. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:** Mrs. Perrotti reported on the following:
 - Items a) and c) on the Business Agenda are being withdrawn.
 - Applauded our NECAP scores.
2. **CONSENT AGENDA:** None.
3. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** Mr. Alan Shers asked the School Committee to remember the high achievers as well as the special education students when it comes to the budget. He feels they should get the lion's share of funding because our country is in competition with China, etc., for placement. He applauded the test scores but would like to see the Committee compare our system with some higher achieving communities around the country, not just Rhode Island. He suggested that as the Committee goes forward, there should be a more private school approach, a placement office that is given much power and attention, and a fundraiser position applied. Lastly, Mr. Shers thinks there should be one public grade school that is ADA safe.
4. **BUSINESS AGENDA**
 - a) **Non-Renewals/Displacements/Terminations.** This item was removed from the agenda.
 - b) **Discuss/Establish Charter with Superintendent Search Subcommittee Members.** The members of the Superintendent Search Subcommittee (SSS) introduced themselves. Mrs. Perrotti stated that the Committee would like the new superintendent to start on July 1, 2011. The School Committee does not need to meet with the SSS unless requested. Mrs. Cofield needs to be informed of meeting dates in order to reserve space and post notices in compliance with the Open Meetings laws. Mrs. Perrotti stated that the 2005 Superintendent Search Charter was sent to the SSS, along with information from RIASC regarding superintendent searches. She asked for ideas from the Committee on whether or not we should use an executive search firm to aid the SSS. Ms. Wedge stated that an executive search firm was not used in 2005, and she described the process that was followed. She stated the search subcommittee did not use an executive search firm in

2005. John Robitaille suggested that the School Committee holds off on securing the services of a search firm in order to give the SSS the opportunity for the first 60 days or so to do the search. He thinks using a search firm should be the last resort. Jerry Hobbs suggested walking the process backwards from July 1st, when the Committee would like the new superintendent in place, in order to get a better determination as to whether or not an executive search firm should be used. That way the SSS could evaluate candidates instead of searching for them. Mrs. Perrotti asked the Committee how firm there were on the July 1st date. The Committee agreed that it would be better to wait another month or so in order to get the best candidate possible. Mr. Hobbs suggested appointing an interim superintendent who would not be a candidate who could take the reins on July 1st. Mr. Honnen stated that he is opposed to using an outside firm because he thinks the only advantage is that they do a little more advertising. He stated that the SSS needs to know from the School Committee exactly what they are looking for in the next superintendent, quality and skills, and what the Committee wants them to do in terms of involvement. He stated that an outside firm will cost at least \$20,000, and advertising costs are additional. Ms. Wedge stated that the 2005 search committee did outreach in New England, but Mrs. Perrotti doesn't want to limit the search. Ms. Wedge stated that candidates wanted the School Department to pay for their relocation. Mr. Hobbs stated that the SSS could designate up front that relocation costs are not included. Mr. Croston advocated for using a search firm, stating that it would cost the School Department a lot more than \$20,000 if the wrong person is hired. We could get different levels of support from outside firms, and he thinks it warrants an RFP or RFI to give this SSS information. Mr. Wedge and Ms. Volpicelli are confident that the SSS can do the job. Mrs. King wants to give the SSS a chance to see what they can do. Mr. Vadney and Mrs. Perrotti agreed. Mr. Robitaille was in favor of putting out an RFI, while the SSS meets on the side, in order to gather information. Mrs. Perrotti agreed. Mr. Dunham stated that the only cost would be for the newspaper ad.

Mrs. Perrotti stated that she was hoping the SSS would establish a timeline, position description, an information packet, advertise the position, and review all the applications that come in using selection criteria that the School Committee has established. The SSS could then screen the candidates to be interviewed, develop the interview questions, check the references, and provide three candidates, in no priority order, with a list of strengths and weaknesses, to the School Committee. She would like the SSS to be available as a resource while the School Committee reviews the candidates. Mr. Hobbs stated that there should be no public comment, blogs, facebook postings, etc., from anyone on the School Committee or SSS about the candidates. Mrs. Cofield will have each SSS member sign a confidentiality agreement.

Mr. Honnen stated that the first meeting of the SSS will be held on Friday, February 25th, at 6:00 PM (location to be determined). The meetings are public, so they must be kept

within the confines of the open meetings laws. The meetings must be posted at least 48 hours in advance by Mrs. Cofield.

c) **Budget Transfers.** This item was removed from the agenda.

A motion was made by Ms. Wedge to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mrs. King. So voted 7:58 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Patti Cofield
Recording Secretary for:

Marilyn King, Clerk