

Little Compton School Committee Minutes

January 9, 2007

Present: Chairman, J. Quinn, C. Cady, P. Desilets, D. Gomez, M. Harrington, Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Harold G. Devine, Principal, Fran Blaess and others

I. Meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm by Chairman Quinn in the Wilbur/McMahon School library.

II. Executive Session – None Planned.

III. Minutes – The minutes from the December 12, 2006 meeting were amended as follows: Discussion item g add organization of agenda. Action item A just before last sentence insert the following, “the superintendent was asked to provide a charge to the new school study committee. On a motion by C. Cady, seconded by D. Gomez it was unanimously voted to approve the minutes of 12/12/06 as amended. 5-0 approved.

IV. Bills and Payroll - presented by G. Augustus motion to pay the bills in the amount of \$163,017.98 was made by C. Cady, seconded by P. Desilets 5-0 approved.

V. Spotlight on Excellence: Eighth grade students Hannah Harrington and C.J. Mickey presented a PowerPoint project to illustrate their book chats. The project coordinates technology and reading.

VI. Personnel Matters – The school committee went through the initial procedure for a reduction in force. On a motion by C. Cady, seconded by D. Gomez was unanimously voted to conduct a public hearing for the purpose of complying with the reduction in force requirements. Chairman J. Quinn conducted the public hearing and directed that the agenda be entered as exhibit one and that the staffing report and recommendations of the superintendent be entered as exhibit two. The Chair entertained a motion by D. Gomez, seconded by P. Desilets to allow a brief recess to permit the association, staff and others to review the staffing report prepared by the superintendent. The motion was unanimously passed. Following the recess the public hearing continued. On a motion by D. Gomez, seconded by C. Cady it was voted that the committee accept and adopt the report and recommendations of the superintendent in its entirety to include exhibits and to send the necessary notices prior to March 1, 2007 and that the chairperson or clerk sign them on behalf of the committee. The roll call vote is as follows: D. Gomez-Aye, C. Cady-Aye, P. Desilets-Aye, J. Quinn-Aye, M. Harrington-Nay. The Chairman declared the public hearing to be closed at 8:10 pm and the meeting continued.

VII. Discussion Items –

a. Representative John Laughlin was present and discussed with the committee and with those present the impact of recent legislation

upon the Town of Little Compton and the schools of Little Compton.

b. Policy: Student Attendance. On motion by D. Gomez, seconded by P. Desilets it was unanimously voted to table the substitute student absences and excuses policy offered by C. Cady.

c. Middletown facilities improvement program scheduled to be presented by D. Gomez was put off until the next regular meeting.

d. Annual audit was presented by Dr. Devine. Superintendent Devine reported that the school department was identified as having 443,726. in carry over funds from previous years. The superintendent recommended that due to the nature of these non-recurring funds it would not be appropriate to dedicate any to recurring expenses such as salary and benefits. The superintendent offered to prepare a detailed report suggesting appropriate utilization for these funds and to present them in a prioritized order in the next meeting.

e. Waste Water Treatment Facility final report. The superintendent reported that the Waste Water Treatment Facility has been eliminated at that the new ISDS System is in operation. He also reported that he has requested DEM to give permission to cease waste water testing and he has requested that the consent agreements be terminated. Chairman J. Quinn offered a vote of thanks on behalf of the school committee to Town Council President Robert Mushen and to the Superintendent for their efforts with regard to this project.

VIII. Action Items –

a. Appointment of committees including facilities study. On a motion by D. Gomez, seconded by P. Desilets it was unanimously to appoint

the following committee members. Mr. Harrington to the Recreation Conservation and Open Space Committee. Mrs. Cady to the Wellness Committee. Mr. Gomez and Mr. Desilets to the School Facilities Study Committee. Mr. Gomez to serve as a liaison to the budget committee. Mr. Gomez and Mr. Desilets to serve as a liaison to the Middletown Facilities Committee. Final appointments for the Facilities Study Committee will take place at the February meeting.

b. Placement of public input and organization of the agenda. P. Desilets made a motion to reorganize the agenda as follows: Item VII-Public Input, Item VIII-Action Items, IX-Discussion Items, X-Correspondence, XI-Information, XII-Public Comment, XIII-Adjournment. The motion was seconded by M. Harrington. M. Harrington moved an amendment to the motion to have a public input followed by all discussion items and action items. The amendment was seconded by P. Desilets. On a vote on the amendment the amendment was defeated with M. Harrington and P. Desilets voting in favor and C. Cady, D. Gomez and Chairman Quinn voting against. On a vote on the original motion to reorganize the agenda the committee voted unanimously to approve the motion.

c. 2007 meeting schedule. On a motion by C. Cady, seconded by P. Desilets it was unanimously voted to approve the 2007 meeting schedule as proposed by the Superintendent.

d. School committee retreat. On a motion by M. Harrington, seconded by D. Gomez it was unanimously voted to postpone the School Committee Retreat until after March, 07 when the Stonehouse facility would be available. The Chairman also directed that the agenda

contain evaluation of the superintendent and evaluation of the school committee as items to be considered.

IX. Public Input- was held.

X. Correspondence – Presented and reviewed by committee.

XI. Information – Presented and reviewed by committee.

XII. Adjournment – On a motion made by C. Cady, seconded by D. Gomez it was unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 9:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Sylvia

Fiscal Clerk