

**SCITUATE SCHOOL COMMITTEE REGULAR SESSION
TUESDAY November 18, 2014
Hope Elementary School**

<p><u>CALL TO ORDER</u></p>	<p>152-1 The Regular Session was called to order by Chair Umbriano at 7:13 PM.</p> <p>Present were Marylou Umbriano, June Guglielmi, Lillian Jean Delmonico, Jean Esposito and Brian LaPlante. Also present were Dr. Paul Lescault, Superintendent, and Dr. Lawrence Filippelli, Assistant Superintendent</p>
<p><u>PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE</u></p>	<p>152-2 Led by Chair Umbriano;, all participated in <i>The Pledge of Allegiance</i> to the Flag.</p>
<p><u>ROUTINE MATTERS MINUTES AND BILLS</u></p>	<p>152-3 Mrs. Guglielmi moved for approval of the General Fund November 2014 bills in the amount of \$529,982.58; seconded by Mrs. DelMonico; unanimously approved.</p> <p>Mrs. Guglielmi moved for approval of the Grant bills for November 2014 in the amount of \$9,548.28; seconded by Mrs. DelMonico; unanimously approved.</p>
<p><u>APPROVAL OF MINUTES</u></p>	<p>152-4 Mrs. Guglielmi moved to approve minutes of the executive session of October 7, 2014; seconded by Mrs. Delmonico; unanimously approved.</p> <p>Mrs. Guglielmi moved to approve minutes of the regular meeting of October 7, 2014; seconded by Mrs. Delmonico; unanimously approved.</p>

<u>CORRESPONDENCE</u>	<p>152-5 A letter to the Superintendent, School Committee, High School Principal and Athletic Director from an anonymous parent regarding the girls' high school soccer team.</p> <p>Principal Sollitto and Athletic Director Ryan investigated the situation and it has been resolved. No further action is required.</p>
	<p>152-6 REPORT OF COMMITTEE LIAISONS</p>
BUDGET	None
CURRICULUM	None
FOOD SERVICES HEALTH / WELLNESS	<p>Mrs. Umbriano stated that we had a Health and Wellness meeting. We met with our whole group and we are revising our policy.</p> <p>Dr. Filippelli stated that the next meeting is December 17th.</p>
NEGOTIATIONS	Mrs. Guglielmi stated that she is looking forward to negotiating the contract with the Paraprofessionals, which is the next contract coming up.
POLICY	None
RIASC	None
SCHOLARSHIP	<p>Mrs. Esposito stated that has some surface information and then will be deferring to Dr. Lescault for further information. Bill Lenox has kept me informed on the disaffiliation from Scholarship America.</p> <p>Dr. Lescault stated that he heard from Bill Lenox. The issue is that the scholarship foundation has about million dollars in it</p>

	and they moved it over to the Rhode Island Foundation. The problem with the Rhode Island Foundation is the money has to be in the fund for 16 quarters before they pay out the full amount of the interest each year. Superintendent and Deputy Town Treasurer have devised a means to deal with this problem.
SPECIAL EDUCATION	None
STRATEGIC PLANNING	None
TRANSPORTATION / SAFETY	Mrs. Umbriano thanked Dr. Lescault for his help in obtaining bus transportation for the last trip and going above and beyond.
SCITUATE PREVENTION COALITION (formerly SAFE)	None
<u>UNFINISHED BUSINESS</u>	152-7 None
	152-8 <u>ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT</u>
<u>CYCLICAL TEXTBOOK PURCHASE POLICY</u>	At our last school committee meeting, I was charged with coming up with a textbook purchase policy for the district. Attachment 1 is a new policy named the Cyclical Textbook Purchase Policy. I have sent this policy out to school committee members and administrators alike to garner feedback. This policy is before you tonight for public comment.
<u>CVS AUTOMATIC EXTERNAL DEFIBRILATOR GRANT</u>	CVS/CAREMARK communicated with the RI Superintendent's Association regarding providing free AED devices to schools. Currently we have an AED in each of our schools in addition to the athletic department having two for the fields. It is my understanding that CVS is willing to give extra AEDs to districts as a community service. I informed the executive director that Scituate would like to be involved in this program

	<p>to receive the extra AEDs. I conferred with Steve Gormley about this because there is a nominal yearly upkeep cost for each of the AED devices. However, the benefit of having extra AEDs on hand in the event of an emergency outweighs the approximate upkeep cost of \$80.00 per unit per year.</p>
<p><u>MIDDLE SCHOOL MATH COURSES</u></p>	<p>Mr. Zajac and I have been having conversations about the math courses at the middle school. As I have been reporting, there has been intense curriculum revision work being done (not only at the middle school but also district-wide), to align our curriculum to address the full implementation of the Common Core State Standards and of course prepare our students for the PARCC assessments. By being involved in this work, the math teachers at the middle school quickly understood that this work would naturally create curriculum gaps that require a variety of instructional strategies to remediate any deficiencies. Therefore, for the 2015-2016 school year, as a pilot, the middle school will offer two distinct grade level math courses at the seventh and eighth grade. For example, eighth graders will register for either Math 8 or Math 8B. It's based upon their performance on math assessments, and required special accommodations, teacher recommendations, and performance on state assessments. The seventh grade will go through a similar process. The new course, title Math 8B, will allow teachers to expose students to grade level content and address specific student needs. These two separate courses will provide a tailored curriculum for each course so each individual student can experience a challenging learning environment. The practice of grouping students homogeneously in mathematics will allow teachers to more effectively address these gaps while exposing students to the Common Core State Standards. Additionally, we have been, and will be able to continue, reducing the number of students in self-contained mathematics in the middle school setting. These students will be provided skills to be successful in two varied leveled math classes to better provide them with the opportunity to take a higher level math class in the 8th grade or in high school. We currently have leveled math classes at the high school. While the splitting from a heterogeneously grouped environment to a more</p>

	<p>homogeneously grouped environments is a change to the middle school philosophy, both Principal Zajac and I feel that the needs of the students coupled with the demands of the CCSS and PARCC assessment have necessitated us to reassess how math instruction is being delivered at the middle school. This change was not done without some thoughtful discussion and a look at a district like Barrington which has done leveled math and ELA classes for many years.</p>
<p><u>RIDE DUAL ENROLLMENT POLICY COMMITTEE</u></p>	<p>I have volunteered to be on a review policy for the RI Department of Education as they begin to update and create their policy on Higher Education Dual Enrollment for high school students in various colleges around the state. This is purely an electronic review and doesn't require meeting attendance to get the work done.</p>
<p><u>MONTHLY ACTIVITIES</u></p>	<p>Committee members received a copy of the list of activities for Dr. Filippelli for the month.</p>
	<p><u>152-9 SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT</u></p>
<p><u>Traffic Safety Committee Study</u></p>	<p>The issue of athletes walking to Manning Field from the Middle/High School has been raised by a number of parents and school committee members. Larry and I sought advice and direction from Chair Umbriano. She suggested that I write to Chief Randall requesting that the Traffic Safety Committee conduct a study of Rockland Road between the Middle/High School and Manning Field. Specifically, she suggested that I ask for statistics for that portion of the road regarding number of accidents, injuries, speeding, etc. Colonel Randall responded to me immediately and indicated that they had recently conducted a study in that area. He also indicated that he was going to contact RIDOT for any data that they might have. He plans to evaluate the data and prepare the necessary reports. Once we have that information from the Traffic Safety Committee, we can schedule a meeting of administrators, coaches and school committee</p>

	<p>members. The charge of that committee will be to draft a written policy that provides direction to students, coaches, and families of athletes concerning walking to Manning Field.</p> <p>Mrs. Umbriano stated that the next Safety Committee meeting is December 19th in the Council Chambers.</p>
<p><u>School Calendar</u></p>	<p>Some RI school districts are considering eliminating one of the school vacation weeks. Attached are two calendars. Draft calendar 1 reflects the traditional model with the two vacation weeks. Draft calendar 2 reflects eliminating one of the weeks. Adoption of a school calendar is not listed on the agenda for school committee action, but I think the committee should begin thinking about which model it favors. I think we may also wish to solicit public comment on this issue. In my opinion unless all or at least most districts adopt similar calendar, with or without the vacations, it will cause havoc for parents. I think the safest course is to stay with the traditional calendar for now.</p>
<p><u>School Committee Meeting Schedule</u></p>	<p>Attached is a draft schedule of school committee meetings for calendar year 2015. Consistent with school committee policy, meetings are scheduled for the first Tuesday of each month, except for April, at which time the school committee is preempted by the Annual Town Financial Meeting. Ratification of the meetings schedule is listed under New Business for School Committee action.</p>
<p><u>Bookkeeper Position</u></p>	<p>As you know, Carol Geary, Head Bookkeeper intends to retire at the end of the December. Carol has been working very closely with Cindy Thacker, Assistant Bookkeeper, to try to prepare Cindy to replace Carol, after her retirement. However, Cindy has decided that she wants to remain as Assistant Bookkeeper. We therefore advertised the Head Bookkeeper position on SchoolSpring on November 4. The closing date for applications is November 14. Approximately 50 applications were received. We have completed a paper screening of them and there were 5 worthy of a second look. The problem is</p>

	<p>most of them are currently earning as much or more than current head bookkeeper. Larry and I have been very pleased with the work of the payroll clerk we hired when the former clerk retired. The new clerk has streamlined the process and made it so efficient that she has saved the school department thousands of dollars in overtime. She has a BS in accounting from Bryant and is a certified business manager. The later point is important because I am also a certified business manager of record for the district. If my successor is not certified as a business manager and few if any superintendents are, it will be a problem for the district if the head bookkeeper does not have that certification. The payroll clerk is interested in the head bookkeeper's position but believes she should be paid more than the current bookkeeper because she does not have a degree or the business administrator certification. Larry and I would like to offer the position to her and advertise for payroll clerk. Another advantage of this plan is it will result in backup redundancy both in payroll and accounting.</p>
<p><u>Workers Compensation Third Party Administrator</u></p>	<p>Beacon Mutual has acted as the school department's third party administrator for Workers Compensation for a number of years. The current agreement expires on December 31, 2014. Dave D'Agostino, the Town Solicitor and I have questioned the value of retaining Beacon Mutual for this role. Neither of us is convinced that the \$9,500 annual fee is a good deal for the school department. Unfortunately, the school department cannot unilaterally withdraw without approval from the Town. Dave intends to discuss this issue with the Town Council at their next meeting and if they and the school committee agree, seek to remove the school personnel from the Act.</p>
<p><u>Lighting</u></p>	<p>It was brought to our attention yesterday that the Hope parking lot is very dark at night. I hadn't really noticed before, but coming in tonight, I think the observation is correct. We have some lighting at each of the other schools, so I am having Steve check with National Grid to get a price to install a spot light on pole 22.</p>

<p><u>MONTHLY ACTIVITES</u></p>	<p>Committee members received a copy of the list of activities for Dr. Lescault for the month.</p>
<p><u>NEW BUSINESS</u></p>	<p>152-10</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. First Reading of Cyclical Textbook Purchase Policy <p>See Assistant Superintendent's Report for information on this item</p> <p><u>Recommendation:</u> Approve the first reading of the policy and schedule a second reading at the December School Committee meeting.</p> <p>After discussion, it was noted that with the additional changes, there will be another first reading of this policy.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Ratification of Official School Committee meetings schedule for the calendar year 2015 <p>See Superintendent's Report for information on this item</p> <p><u>Recommendation:</u> Approve the calendar</p> <p>A motion was made by to approve Mr. LaPlante; second by Mrs. Guglielmi; approved unanimously.</p>
<p><u>PUBLIC COMMENT AND QUESTIONS</u></p>	<p>152-11</p> <p>Maureen Kennedy, 10 North Doctors Lane Spoke about the school calendar</p> <p>Ellen Kenner, 222 William Henry Road, Spoke on RoadmapRI Initiative and what it means and the dangers of the new legislation that is being introduced.</p> <p>Mrs. Delmonico stated – This is a very real issue. There is a meeting tomorrow night at the Carriage Inn in North Kingstown.</p> <p>Erika McCormick, 428 Trimtown Road Spoke on the status of the Scituate Partnership Prevention</p>

	<p>Grant and a student focus group involving data needed for the Grant.</p> <p>Ellen Kenner, 222 William Henry Road,</p> <p>How is the Grant paid for, with Government money?</p> <p>Ms. McCormick stated – Yes.</p> <p>Colleen Pendergast, 2 Apple Hill Drive</p> <p>Spoke about the textbook policy, traffic safety study, School calendar, bookkeeper salary and outside lighting.</p>
	<p>152-12</p> <p><u>APPOINTMENTS</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Evan Cabral; Scituate Middle School Boys' Basketball Head Coach <u>pending completion of paperwork, including BCI</u> <p><i>****In the original list of appointments, the above language was listed. When I received a revised list "<u>pending completion of paperwork, including BCI</u>" was removed.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Tina Mahoney; 19.5 Paraprofessional, North Scituate Elementary School; effective 11/24/14 <p>Mr. LaPlante moved to accept the appointments; seconded by Mrs. DelMonico; the Committee unanimously approved this motion.</p> <p><u>RESIGNATIONS</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tim Brown; Scituate Middle School Boys' Basketball Head Coach 2. Ashley Cinquegrana; Girls Competitive Cheerleader Volunteer Coach <p>Mr. LaPlante moved to accept the resignations; seconded by Mrs. Esposito; the Motion was unanimously approved.</p>

	<p>152-13 <u>COMMITTEE REMARKS</u></p>
<p>MR. LAPLANTE</p>	<p>Mr. LaPlante stated that he wanted to thank Jean (Mrs. Delmonico) for everything she has done within the last four years. One thing is true about her is I have never experienced her having an “agenda” when we have talked about any decision. She has always been guided by her conscience. Whether it was something I agreed with or not, I know you speak from the heart and have always had the kids in mind and I appreciate that.</p> <p>I want to welcome Mrs. Pendergast, who is soon to join us. I hope you similarly take on those traits of focusing on the students and I am sure you will.</p> <p>I want to thank everyone for voting for me. I appreciate that and take it very seriously. I tend to do the very best for the Town and for the kids.</p> <p>Lastly, I want to mention the Cabrals who are here tonight. SYB has mentioned them as donating middle school basketball uniforms. They were in horrendous shape. We work so hard, especially the Cabrals for this Town, for the kids. SYB donated the uniforms for the kids. I think it is important to note and a lot of people do not know this, especially in SYB that they do not have any kids benefiting from SYB anymore and they continue to give and give. I think so many people appreciate what you do.....the both of you. I just wanted to acknowledge what you do.</p>
<p>MRS. DELMONICO</p>	<p>Mrs. Delmonico stated that her experience with the School Committee has been educational, rewarding and an honor to work with the public and everybody at this table. When I first began four years ago I attended a class. They taught me and everyone else who was a new school committee member that the number one focus is not the taxpayers, not the parents, not the teachers, not the members or the administration it is the students. That is what we are here for. Sometimes it gets difficult with differences in opinion or personal agendas but then we always have to look at the students. I want to thank you all for having me on the School Committee. Thank you all for working with me and please keep the students as a number</p>

	one focus.
MS. ESPOSITO	None
MRS. GUGLIELMI	Stated that nothing could follow what Mrs. Delmonico said.
CHAIR UMBRIANO	I just want to wish you well Jean and it has been a great four years. You have had a lot of great ideas. You have met with us many times at the beginning trying to learn and understand what went on with the School Committee and things in the past. You really worked hard to learn the knowledge of the Committee. It makes it a lot having the knowledge when you come aboard. Thank you for putting your heart and soul into this.
	Dr. Lescault stated – On behalf of myself and Larry it has been a pleasure working with you (Jean Delmonico). We wish you well and thank you so much for all that you have done. As Brian (LaPlante) said, it has always been what is best for the kids.
DISCUSSION OF FUTURE BUSINESS	Mr. LaPlante moved to cancel the December meeting and pick up in January 2015; seconded by Mrs. Delmonico; after discussion the Motion was approved unanimously.
<u>ADJOURNMENT</u>	<p>152-14</p> <p>Mr. LaPlante moved to adjourn; seconded by to adjourn at 8:53 P.M. The committee unanimously approved motion.</p> <p>Respectfully submitted,</p> <p>Mrs. Guglielmi, Clerk</p> <p><i>Minutes prepared by Susan J. Hartley, Recording Secretary. Neither the Clerk nor the Recording Secretary is the designated Public Records contact for the Scituate School Committee or Scituate School Department under the RI Access to Public Records Act (“APRA”). For all APRA inquiries, please contact the Superintendent’s office.</i></p>

