

MINUTES
SCHOOL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
Memorial Building - Meeting Room 164
Monday, July 26, 2010
6:30pm

Members Present: Annemarie Cesa, Maria Decker, David Manzi, Kris Silverstein, Karen Fogarty

Not Present: Paul Manzo, Mayor Scanlon

Also Present: Superintendent Marie Galinski, Assistant Superintendent Maryellen Duffy, Finance Director Joan Liporto, North Beverly Principal Jennifer Flewelling, Citizen Advisor Michelle Curreri, Will Kavounaris

Call to Order

Annemarie Cesa called the meeting to order at 6:40pm.

Pledge of Allegiance

Annemarie Cesa led those assembled in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mission/Vision Statement

Annemarie Cesa commented on the amount of staff input on creation of a new district Vision, and Mission Statement, and her desire for the Committee to discuss these to maintain oversight. Reportedly, the consensus from the leadership team is that the mission of the Beverly school district is to be "the best." Marie Galinski honed this theme as maximizing student achievement and being the best in academics as that would be the true measurement of our success. The committee discussed at length the lofty goal of being the nation's best and the desire for more than academic achievement as part of our mission.

Ms. Cesa clarified that the final Vision statement should be powerful and concise in order for it to be easily recognizable and embraced by students and the community, while remaining relevant for the long term. She noted that the statement should reflect something that is real and attainable. Also, she acknowledged that part of the process is to clarify for the public the difference between a vision (what BPS desires to attain) and a mission (how BPS will achieve the vision). Further discussion resulted in a Vision Statement of: "Produce the Nation's Best", and a Mission Statement: "to maximizing the academic achievement and personal growth of each student".

Restoration List

Joan Liporto reported that budgeted funds of approximately \$169,000 allocated for Utilities at the Elementary level during FY11 can be reduced based on FY 10 history and made available for restoration, in addition to \$150,137 already prepaid for SPED.

Based on the priority list established at the June 14, 2010 School Committee of the Whole meeting, the Committee discussed and agreed on the following FY11 budget restorations:

- Clerk position in administration \$37,030
- 2 teachers @ Briscoe \$107,994 (eliminate studies and maximize learning)
- 6th period stipends @ BHS \$35,000 (eliminate studies and maximize learning)

Restoration of the above will leave an additional \$138,150 to be added to the contingency line.

Joan Liporto noted that these items would require votes at the next meeting (August 25, 2010). She will allocate funds as appropriated, continue to carefully track the budget, and cautioned that the budget remains very tight.

Special Education Document

Maria Decker moved, and Karen Fogarty seconded to approve the Resolution for SPED Funding Model circulated through MASC (see attached) whose goal is to create an education model where the Commonwealth of Mass, through a discrete state budget category, assumes responsibility for the full expense of special education services, programs, and related special education transportation costs.

With five (5) votes in the affirmative (Maria Decker, Annemarie Cesa, Kris Silverstein, Karen Fogarty, David Manzi), none (0) in the negative and two (2) absent (Paul Manzo and Mayor Scanlon), the motion passed. Maria Decker will forward the signed document on to the Franklin School Committee member who is creating a compiled document for the MASC conference.

FY11 Budget (Re-vote)

Joan Liporto reviewed the need for tonight's budget re-vote. We appropriated \$48,296 for the Medicaid Clerk position and expenses for UMass Medical, which Mayor Scanlon later agreed to fund in the amount of \$50,000, leaving us a surplus of \$1,704.

Annemarie Cesa moved to approve the new School department budget in the amount of \$44,682.659; seconded by Maria Decker. With five (5) votes in the affirmative (Maria Decker, Annemarie Cesa, Kris Silverstein, Karen Fogarty, David Manzi), none (0) in the negative and two (2) absent (Paul Manzo and Mayor Scanlon), the motion passed.

Annemarie Cesa moved, Maria Decker seconded to increase the SPED Department budget (by \$1704) to \$9,184,044. With five (5) votes in the affirmative (Maria Decker, Annemarie Cesa, Kris Silverstein, Karen Fogarty, David Manzi) none (0) in the negative and two (2) absent (Paul Manzo and Mayor Scanlon), the motion passed.

Maria Decker moved to allocate the \$1704 to hiring a JV coach at the high school as the request for JV coaches for volleyball, gymnastics, swimming, wrestling, and golf were eliminated from the budget this spring. Motion seconded by Karen Fogarty.

The committee had some discussion on which sport would receive the JV coach, and agreed on that those with the highest participation level (swimming and wrestling) and the those with a high degree of "dangerousness" (swimming and wrestling) should receive top priority. The final decision will be made by the Athletic Director in conjunction with the BHS principal. With five (5) votes in the affirmative (Maria Decker, Annemarie Cesa, Kris Silverstein, Karen Fogarty, David Manzi) none (0) in the negative and two (2) absent (Paul Manzo and Mayor Scanlon), the motion passed.

Naming of the Centerville Playground

Maria Decker moved, Karen Fogarty seconded to name the Centerville playground the Liz Bettencourt & Friends Memorial Playground in memory of the well-loved Centerville resident who passed away from cancer in 2008. With five (5) votes in the affirmative (Maria Decker, Annemarie Cesa, Kris Silverstein, Karen Fogarty, David Manzi) none (0) in the negative and two (2) absent (Paul Manzo and Mayor Scanlon), the motion passed.

Maria Decker noted that Mark Bettencourt would donate all funds raised for the Liz Bettencourt Memorial Fund to the Centerville playground community fundraising effort to support the \$30,000 goal to establish this play area. The Centerville School playground committee has launched a fundraising drive and hopes to order equipment and break ground later this fall.

Discussion of the Consolidation Agreement

Annemarie Cesa stated that at present there is no agreement between the City and the District. Karen Fogarty presented a document revised by Mayor Scanlon and approved by the City Council, followed by an additional document noting minor language revisions for the purpose of clarity. All revisions will be incorporated into an updated document to be distributed at our August meeting.

As we are still awaiting an Indirect Cost Agreement with the city, Joan Liporto suggested that we originate our own, vote on it, and send to the City for their review. With the Committee in agreement, Joan will move forward with document preparation.

Annemarie Cesa commented that we need to seriously consider all avenues for cost savings as we already know we are facing a \$1.68 million shortfall for next year. Also to be researched by the are outsourcing transportation or changing bus routes; Joan is in the process of hiring a contractor to review this.

Maria Decker moved to adjourn; Kris Silverstein seconded. With five (5) votes in the affirmative (Maria Decker, Annemarie Cesa, Kris Silverstein, Karen Fogarty, David Manzi), none (0) in the negative and two (2) absent (Paul Manzo and Mayor Scanlon), the motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 8pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Maria T. Decker

Next meeting –August 25, 2010