

East Haddam Board of Education
Regular Meeting Minutes
Nathan Hale-Ray High School Cafeteria
February 8, 2005
7:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Pamela Gourlie, Everett Herden, Nick Iacovelli, Dora Lyman, Bob Mather, Tom Mielt, Manny Misenti, Steve Quinn, Melissa Ziobron (arrived 7:15 p.m.)

STUDENT COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Emily James and Justin Christopher

OTHERS PRESENT: Seven staff members were present at the meeting.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mrs. Gourlie called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. in the Nathan Hale-Ray High School cafeteria.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

III. REPORT OF THE BOARD CHAIR

Mrs. Gourlie had no report tonight.

IV. ACTION ON THE MINUTES

MOTION: Herden, Mather; to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting on January 11, 2005 as presented.

FAVOR: Herden, Iacovelli, Lyman, Mather, Mielt, Quinn

OPPOSED: None

ABSTENTIONS: Misenti, Ziobron

MOTION CARRIED

V. REPORT OF THE SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEES

A. 4-8 Middle School

Dr. Durham informed the Board that Mrs. Ziobron would be arriving late and could report during the Long Range Planning Committee report.

V. REPORT OF THE SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEES (Cont'd)B. Middle and Elementary Schools' Capital Improvements

Mr. Quinn had nothing new to report.

VI. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLSA. Presentation of 2005-06 Education Budget

Dr. Durham gave a PowerPoint presentation of the proposed budget. He stated the budget preparation was a two to three month process, which began in September with the school administration. The initial budgets were scrutinized, and Dr. Durham met with the Board's Finance Committee in January. He stated there was originally a 4.69% increase, but was slightly increased after the review to 4.82%.

Dr. Durham stated this was the last year of the five-year curriculum cycle and that most of the Strategic Plan initiatives were already implemented. The goal was to maintain the current level of programming. This year's objectives included partial funding of the reading program for Kindergarten through Grade 8. In addition, the budget continues to support the major initiatives established in years 1-4 of the Strategic Plan.

Dr. Durham proposed a \$15,026,624 budget this year, up from the previous \$14,335,925. Of the \$690,699 increase, salaries accounted for \$403,639 while insurance and the new reading program accounted for \$103,235 and \$78,000 respectively. The cost for the World Language Curriculum materials was \$11,678 and a pickup truck for maintenance purposes was listed at \$15,867. Dr. Durham explained how the State calculates the Town's portion of special education excess cost grant and he anticipated the Special Education tuition shortfall would be \$135,795.

Mrs. Lyman inquired how many students fell into this category. Dr. Durham responded that approximately 11 students were placed out of the District, and the range for their education was \$35,000 or higher.

Dr. Durham gave the following breakdown of the proposed budget: Salaries 63.4%; Services 15.6%; Supplies and Materials 6.3%; Benefits 13.7%; Equipment 0.9%; Other 0.2%.

Dr. Durham explained that the anticipated revenues from the Educational Cost Sharing Grant as well as the Transportation Grant had decreased to \$2,984,644.

VI. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS (Cont'd)A. Presentation of 2005-06 Education Budget (Cont'd)

The Capital Improvement Plan was reviewed. Dr. Durham listed the following projects:

<u>Priority</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Project</u>	<u>Total Cost</u>	<u>2005/06 Request</u>
1	MS	Asbestos abatement of floor tiles	\$140,000	\$ 70,000
2	HS	Chimney replacement	74,800	67,600
3	HS	Replace hall floor tiles	195,000	184,300
4	ES	Replace water supply well	400,000	50,000
5	ES	Replace telephone system	30,000	30,000
6	MS	Repoint chimney	35,000	35,000
7	MS	Roof replacement – Ray Wing	450,000	425,000
8	MS	Window Replacement Gym	85,000	85,000
9	MS	Boiler Replacement	110,000	20,000
10	MS	Replacement of Water Supply Well System	400,000	50,000

Dr. Durham informed the Board that he would present this budget to the Board of Finance on March 14, 2005.

Mr. Herden questioned what the impact to the budget would be without the assistance of the Cone Fund, the Purple Fund, or the Ray Fund. Dr. Durham stated the Purple Fund goes directly to the Town's General Fund to offset educational costs. He explained the Ray Fund designated \$193,855 this year which goes to the General Fund to offset salaries of the vocational teachers at the high school, as well as \$100,000 which goes directly to the high school to fund programs. Dr. Durham stated without this funding, those programs would either be significantly reduced or eliminated.

Mr. Herden stated that many people are unaware of this valuable funding assistance and inquired if there was any vehicle by which to disseminate this information to the public. Dr. Durham stated he could add this to the newsletters. Mrs. Gourlie added that this information would also be discussed at the Town Meeting.

Responsive to inquiry by Mrs. Gourlie, Mr. Scata explained that the BESB program has changed and towns now only receive reimbursement by BESB if a student receives Braille instruction.

VI. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS (Cont'd)A. Presentation of 2005-06 Education Budget (Cont'd)

Mr. Misenti inquired if the truck was a replacement vehicle or an additional vehicle. Dr. Durham stated the maintenance truck would be a replacement for the vehicle that was vandalized a couple years ago. He added that the insurance money went to the General Fund, and now we are requesting a replacement. Mr. Misenti questioned if the new truck would be kept in a secure location, to which Dr. Durham responded they would lock it in the garage.

Mr. Misenti questioned the projected enrollment increase. Dr. Durham stated he expected an increase of 36 students for the upcoming school year, up from the average of 20 students.

Mr. Mather spoke on behalf of everyone who worked on the budget. He indicated that 97% of the budget was beyond the subcommittee's control. Mr. Mather stated that Dr. Durham and Mr. Carroll made every attempt to keep the costs down and he urged the Board to support this budget. Mrs. Gourlie stated that the Strategic Plan resulted in the controlled budget, but she thanked Dr. Durham, Mr. Carroll, the Finance Subcommittee, the administration, and teachers for working on it.

Mr. Quinn thanked everyone for their efforts with the budget. He spoke of the cross-country program which the Board decided to fund next year. Mr. Quinn praised the cross-country program and asked the Board to consider funding it this year.

Mrs. Ziobron questioned the cost of \$7,300 from last month's minutes. Dr. Durham stated the \$7,300 was the estimated cost to run the program at the high school, but the cost to run the program at the middle school had not been calculated.

Mr. Misenti was interested in obtaining the number of students interested in this program and the cost per student. He supported this type of sport as students could enjoy this sport without having to be an all star. Mrs. Ziobron suggested the student council representatives could conduct a survey. Dr. Durham stated an informal poll was taken and approximately 30 students were interested. Dr. Durham explained the reason this was not in the proposed budget was because very little had changed since the program's elimination five years ago. However, he suggested if there was renewed interest, it could be included.

The budget for this program was discussed. Of the \$7,369, \$4,844 would be used as a stipend for the coaches, \$1,225 was proposed for supplies (uniforms, etc.), \$900 for transportation, and \$400 for miscellaneous fees for meets.

VI. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS (Cont'd)A. Presentation of 2005-06 Education Budget (Cont'd)

Mr. Misenti questioned if the coach would be trained in CPR. Mr. Quinn stated that the coach would be CPR and First Aid certified, as well as hold a coaching certificate.

Miss James stated that more students were concentrating on physical fitness and running was a great way to exercise. Both Miss James and Mr. Christopher had heard students express interest in this program.

Mr. Herden questioned if one coach for 25 students would be sufficient. Mr. Quinn stated he was a coach and never had any issues. Mrs. Gourlie asked if CIAC had a specific ratio to which Dr. Durham stated this would be a local decision.

Mr. Iacovelli inquired the minimum number to have a team. Mr. Quinn stated the minimum number would be five girls and five boys.

Mrs. Ziobron asked what the numbers would be if this were added into the budget. Mr. Carroll stated it would be a 4.86% increase. Mrs. Ziobron questioned if this was approved, and there was additional interest, how it would be funded? Dr. Durham explained that if necessary, additional funding could be taken from the high school athletic budget. Mrs. Ziobron asked what would happen to this money if there was no interest to which Dr. Durham stated it would revert back to the contingency line.

Mr. Herden inquired about gate receipts. Dr. Durham stated there were no official numbers.

MOTION: Quinn, Herden; to add a cross-country interschool team for the 2005-06 school year with a total budget of \$7,369.

**FAVOR: ALL PRESENT
MOTION CARRIED**

Mrs. Gourlie explained that the remainder of the budget would be voted on under Item X.B. tonight.

B. CMT Presentation

Dr. Durham informed the Board that the State and ERG data would not be available until the end of March. He asked Mr. Scata to present the data to the Board.

VI. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS (Cont'd)B. CMT Presentation (Cont'd)

Mr. Scata stated under the No Child Left Behind (NCLB), all students must be proficient by 2013. The Federal standards use three levels for reporting scores while the State uses five levels.

Mr. Scata reviewed the fourth grade math and reading proficiency data. For reading, there was a 63% proficiency level in 2000 and 62% in 2004. Mrs. Lyman voiced concern that over 10% of students were at Level 1 for reading. Dr. Durham stated in 2000, no special education students were tested; however, under NCLB, all students were testing in 2004. Mrs. Ziobron believed this would be very frustrating for those students. Mr. Scata stated it was frustrating, but it was a requirement of NCLB. Mr. Scata noted that a checklist was used only for students identified as intellectually disabled. Mr. Misenti questioned how many students were so challenged that they could not learn to read. Mr. Scata stated there were approximately 10 students, but they were spread out within several grades. He added that two or three students could skew the results.

Responsive to inquiry by Mr. Misenti, Mr. Scata stated of the 22% of grade 4 students reading at the Level 1 or 2, some were special education students and others were not. Mr. Scata stated that the numbers have remained level over time.

Mr. Scata next reviewed the sixth grade results. In math, students with a Level 4 or 5 proficiency accounted for 52% in 2000, 75% in 2003, and 57% in 2004. Writing results from 2000 to 2004 showed over 70% of the students achieved proficiency.

In eighth grade, the number of students with a Level 4 or 5 proficiency in reading increased from 64% in 2000 to 67% in 2004. A lengthy discussion regarding reading results ensued.

Mrs. Ziobron questioned if reading comprehension was the issue. Mr. Scata stated there were a variety of reasons, but part of the issue was critical reading. Dr. Durham stated on average there were approximately 100 students in each class. He reiterated that a few students could make a significant impact in the test results.

Mr. Scata stated the benchmark was to achieve 80% mastery by the spring of 2006. He noted that plans are being developed to work toward this goal. Dr. Durham added that they are working to make improvements, but he stated that interventions that teachers use for students with low scores must be different; therefore, the instruction must be different.

Mrs. Gourlie asked about Level 5 students. Mr. Scata stated they believe in differentiated instruction.

VI. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS (Cont'd)B. CMT Presentation (Cont'd)

Mr. Scata reviewed the eighth grade writing results which showed 62% of the students achieving proficiency in 2000, compared to 70% in 2004.

Mr. Iacovelli questioned if the curriculum changed between the testing. Dr. Durham stated it had, and he believed there would be growth from the new Language Arts, reading, and math programs over time.

Mr. Iacovelli cautioned that in a society driven by numbers, he was concerned that there was some issue that the numbers missed. Dr. Durham indicated that East Haddam was becoming a more transient community, with some students having varied backgrounds and less formal education. Dr. Durham emphasized that if all special needs students were not mandated to participate in the testing, the numbers would increase. Mr. Scata noted that in the most recent testing in eighth grade, there were 16 new students in the class.

Mr. Misenti observed that the higher-performing group was increasing, as was the lower-performing group. He asked if any consideration had been given for students who were not proficient, such as moving them to smaller classes, etc. Mr. Scata stated there had been some movement, but they had been awaiting the CMT results for additional data.

Mrs. Gourlie questioned the change in the preschool students. Mr. Scata stated there were approximately 6 or 7 new students, but he acknowledged there are a growing number of multi-needs students throughout the state. Mrs. Lyman questioned the cause for this. Mr. Scata indicated although the reasons are not really known, it is a national concern.

Mr. Scata stated a comprehensive plan was implemented in November 2004, with individualized plans for students at Level 1 or 2. These plans will be monitored by the administrators.

Mrs. Ziobron questioned how the planned changes would be implemented during the school day. Mr. Scata explained that the specialized instruction would be embedded in the daily plan. In addition, a second staff meeting per month will allow grade level teams to continue to work on the issues.

VI. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS (Cont'd)B. CMT Presentation (Cont'd)

Mrs. Ziobron questioned why all of the students in the Level 1 and 2 were not taught together in one classroom. Mr. Scata stated that students learn from other students and that remedial groups do not work well. Mrs. Ziobron asked if it would be possible for a Board member to observe this in the classroom. Dr. Durham recommended that Mrs. Ziobron make an appointment with the school's administration to visit different classrooms. He stated the teaching technique was subtle, but obvious if one was aware. Dr. Durham stated that good teachers teach the way students learn. Even in homogenized classrooms, students learn in different ways; therefore, instruction is often presented in different ways.

Dr. Durham concurred with Mr. Scata that when students are isolated and given remedial instruction, it does not work well. He stressed that we must work with the teachers to give them the knowledge of how individual students learn, so they can adapt their teaching style to help the students.

Mr. Misenti agreed with Mrs. Ziobron and asked for research data that suggests lower performing students should not be taught together in one classroom. Mr. Scata stated there was abundant information on this and he would provide some data to Mr. Misenti.

Mr. Herden questioned if all of this information was shared with the faculty. Mr. Scata stated that data was broken down by strand and disseminated to the teachers. Dr. Durham added that the administration is given the same information presented to the Board, but in addition, they are given the breakdown by strand. Mr. Herden asked how the faculty reacted to this information. Mr. Scata stated it was an eye-opener and most of the staff reviewed the numbers and realized they needed to perform better. Mr. Herden questioned if the staff embraced the improvement plan to which Dr. Durham remarked that the staff developed most of the plan with the exception of the goals and objectives. Dr. Durham added that the next 14 – 16 months would show if the plan implemented in November 2004 was working.

Mrs. Lyman asked if the 20% - 30% of the population at Level 1 and 2 could sit at this meeting and understand it. Mr. Scata explained that Level 1 was the intervention stage; however, Level 2 applied to students who were reading slightly below grade level. Level 2 students had the ability to read but they might need some help in certain areas. Mr. Scata stated this was a concern and they were working to provide proper instruction to all of the students.

VI. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS (Cont'd)B. CMT Presentation (Cont'd)

Mrs. Lyman stated she has seen a lot of good work but she believed more needed to be done in other areas. She spoke of the influences outside of the classroom such as television, computers, etc. She suggested changes to the length of the school days, the number of days per year, etc. might need to be reviewed.

Dr. Durham referred to the vast differences in the abilities of children going into Kindergarten, as some of them could read while others did not recognize the letters of the alphabet. He stressed that changes must begin at an early age such as with universal Pre-K. Dr. Durham stated that some changes have already been made such as no early dismissals for seniors, the elimination of study halls, and the additional consultant positions at the elementary school to accelerate reading. He noted as a Board, they could consider the number of school days in a year, the length of the school day, etc., but costs would be a factor in these changes. A program called Teachers Helping Teachers (THT) was established at the elementary school in order for teachers to work together to identify students at risk and resolve issues.

Mr. Quinn stated while he understood that educators were interested in increasing school days, hours, etc., as a parent, this concerned him. He did not believe lengthening the school days in order to increase the statistic numbers was feasible.

Mr. Quinn asked how parents were notified of the lack of skills if their child was in the Level 1 or 2 category. Mr. Scata stated they had not really thought of that yet.

Dr. Durham stated there was now some discussion about more testing at the high school, where they currently only test grade 10 students. Dr. Durham stated that testing is not the answer, but rather accountability. Mrs. Lyman commented that the standard tests have a great deal of value.

Mr. Misenti suggested the two-hour delays during inclement weather be added to the end of the year. Mr. Herden stated although he was in favor of adding days to the school year or more time to each school day, he did not believe the numbers were the proper reason to do this. He cautioned everyone to remember that the numbers were an indicator of a student's ability or lack thereof. He believed a better assessment of the abilities was needed. He stated the more time teachers spend with the students, the better job they can do for them.

Mrs. Ziobron did not believe in universal Pre-K for children. She questioned how some could accept universal Pre-K but then have differentiated instruction in higher grades.

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTSA. Long Range Planning

Mr. Iacovelli reported that the Long Range Planning Committee met on February 3, 2005. He asked Mrs. Ziobron to report on the 4-8 school progress at this time.

Mrs. Ziobron stated the Building Committee met on December 8, 2004, most of which was in Executive Session. They met again on February 2, 2005, and the surveys have been completed. The Committee has asked Kaestle Boos Associates (KBA) for one clear overview of the survey data. Mrs. Ziobron stated that KBA was accepting bids for the septic work. To date, five firms have applied but no decision has been made.

Mrs. Ziobron hoped to have more information at next month's meeting. She informed the Board that she invited Mr. Todd Moss, Chairman of the 4-8 School Building Committee, to the March Board of Education meeting.

Mrs. Ziobron stated that an article appeared in today's Hartford Courant that there would be some State funding for open space. She visited Mrs. Deming and Mrs. Deming has agreed to facilitate neighborhood meetings regarding trees, lighting, etc. at her house.

Mr. Herden questioned in what stage the property acquisition was. Mrs. Ziobron stated she could not discuss this outside of Executive Session. She urged Mr. Herden to contact the Selectman's office.

Mr. Misenti asked when the school was scheduled to open. Mrs. Ziobron stated they still planned to open the new school in September of 2008 as originally scheduled. She noted that the Board of Finance released funds for the surveys and some additional site work. Mrs. Gourlie informed the Board that East Haddam was on the priority list for State funding.

Mr. Iacovelli stated the Long Range Planning subcommittee discussed the 2005/06 school calendar, and although they will continue to receive information from Dr. Durham, limited changes were proposed to the calendar. The minor changes reflected a post-Labor Day start, and the professional development days for October 2005 and January 2006 were moved to coincide with the holiday weekends.

Dr. Durham hoped the calendar would be on the next Board agenda for voting.

Mr. Iacovelli stated the next Long Range Planning meeting was scheduled for March 3, 2005.

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS (Cont'd)B. Finance

Mr. Quinn stated the Finance subcommittee met regarding the budget, but Dr. Durham already reviewed the proposed budget.

C. Policy

Mrs. Lyman reported that this committee met on February 1, 2005. She stated that minor modifications were made to the 7000 series to include a Board of Education representative attend the initial committee and the building committee meetings. Mrs. Lyman suggested the Board should be more involved in its own subcommittees.

Mrs. Lyman stated that Policy 4115.3 was before the Board tonight for approval. Mrs. Lyman acknowledged that the Policy subcommittee decided to conduct further evaluations of the cell phone policy; therefore, it was pulled from tonight's agenda.

Mrs. Lyman stated that the field trip policy was being reviewed. She requested that any ideas, comments, or additional input be directed to her.

Mrs. Lyman stated that the subcommittee discussed how it could better serve the Board. She stated that some of the policies that are reviewed and implemented were not always supported during Board meetings. Responsive to inquiry by Mr. Iacovelli, Mrs. Lyman stated particularly the discussion during the December 2004 Board meeting. She commented that the process was not working.

Mr. Iacovelli asked if there was a policy that allowed for deviation of a policy. It was determined that there was such a policy; however, Mrs. Gourlie stated if the Board did not adhere to the policies it creates, it sends the wrong message. She stated when there was to be a motion for a policy, all of the members should have the information and have reviewed it beforehand.

Mrs. Ziobron asked about the athletic coaches policy regarding posting of the position. Dr. Durham explained that this was an administrative function and was not part of the policy itself.

Mrs. Ziobron questioned the policy for new construction. She stated as a Board representative, she had never met with the Public Works Department and she questioned what issues she should bring forward. Dr. Durham stated as the process moves forward, as a representative of the Board of Education, she would meet with numerous boards, commissions, and departments.

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS (Cont'd)C. Policy (Cont'd)

Mrs. Ziobron questioned the policy where it was noted the Board could deny an approval by the Building Committee. Dr. Durham stated this applied only to educational specifications.

Regarding Policy 9325.2 – Agenda Format, several Board members voiced concern about the removal of Item 12 – Other. Mrs. Ziobron questioned why this was being removed. Mrs. Gourlie explained that it was not appropriate to have this on the agenda, as anything could be discussed during this item. Mrs. Gourlie stated this would also help to avoid awkward situations. Mrs. Ziobron was not comfortable with this decision, as the Board only meets once each month. Mrs. Lyman noted if there was an issue to be discussed, the Board could vote to add a topic to the agenda.

Mrs. Ziobron inquired when the deadline would be to add an item to the agenda. Dr. Durham stated it would be the Thursday prior to the scheduled meeting, as agendas are mailed on Friday.

Mr. Mather agreed that “Other” should be left on the agenda. Dr. Durham stated that legally, “Other” should not be on the agenda, as the agendas must be posted before the meetings. He noted that after the last meeting, he spoke with CABA and the attorney and it was determined that this should be removed from future agendas.

Mr. Iacovelli stated he preferred to have “Other” on the agenda but he did not want to go against the law.

Mr. Misenti questioned the policy for athletic coaches, specifically regarding the termination of coaches who have been in the position less than three years. Dr. Durham stated this policy was written in accordance with the law. He stated the law requires the position to be posted every year when a coach has been in his/her position for less than three years. In this situation, the current coach could re-apply for the position each year.

Mr. Misenti asked if all “Other” requests would be added to the agenda. Mrs. Gourlie stated that all requests would be considered. Mr. Misenti believed this would give one person too much power. Mr. Quinn stated the Board elects a chairperson after each election to perform some of these functions. Mr. Quinn added that any issue would be voted on by the Board, and with a two-thirds vote, it would be discussed. Mr. Misenti commented that each member of the Board was elected and each member should be heard.

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS (Cont'd)C. Policy (Cont'd)

Mrs. Lyman stated she understood the issues, but she stated legally, the agendas must be advertised and there are no "hidden agendas". She suggested if the Board ever had an omnipotent chairperson, he/she could be removed.

Mrs. Ziobron questioned if the members had no choice in the matter, why they were voting on it. Dr. Durham stated it was a matter of policy. Dr. Durham indicated that a two-thirds vote could add a topic to the agenda.

Mr. Herden questioned if the Building Committee would meet or exceed air quality requirements. Mrs. Ziobron stated that KBA would ensure this.

D. Transportation

Mr. Mather stated this committee has not met yet. He informed the Board that the attorneys would meet with the Curry's tomorrow, but the Transportation committee did not need to attend the meeting. Mrs. Ziobron asked if Transportation committee members could attend if they wanted to which Dr. Durham responded they likely could.

E. Personnel and Negotiations

Mr. Quinn stated this committee has not met.

F. Ray Board Liaison

Mr. Iacovelli reported that this board has not met.

G. LEARN

Mrs. Gourlie reported at the last meeting, Mr. Tom Reynolds discussed legislative priorities which included educational resources, educational caps, magnet schools, and more efficiencies. Other topics that were discussed were the Pequot fund and an equitable formula for distribution of money throughout the state and universal preschool.

Mrs. Gourlie stated the marine science high school was now planned to be located in New London; however, she noted if the negotiations fall through, the location could be in Groton. She will keep the Board informed of the progress of this.

Mrs. Gourlie stated the next LEARN meeting was scheduled for Thursday, February 10, 2005. She invited attendance at this meeting.

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS (Cont'd)

H. Curriculum Council

Mr. Herden informed the Board that this committee will meet on February 14, 2005.

VIII. COMMUNICATIONS AND AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS

Mr. Pete Govert thanked the Board for its discussion and decision to fund the cross-country team. He believed there was a solid list of 15 – 16 high school students interested, as well as approximately 20 at the middle school. He stated this sport would attract a different type of athlete and would be appreciated by many.

Mr. Govert indicated he was on the Local Prevention Council as a Board of Selectmen representative. This group focuses on keeping children away from drugs and alcohol and he believed the cross-country team would benefit this cause.

Mr. Govert shared Mrs. Lyman's concerns regarding the reading level in the school. He suggested students could provide a resource by reading to other students after school, or matching students with another student who was struggling.

IX. OLD BUSINESS

A. Strategic Plan

Dr. Durham stated a flyer advertising the media center went out last week. He stated the media center was scheduled to open to the public today and he hoped it would prove to be a good initiative. Mrs. Ziobron questioned if there was a commitment to keep the center open to the public. Dr. Durham stated it would remain open until the end of the school year and an assessment would be made for the fall. Mrs. Ziobron asked if the budget would cover this to which Dr. Durham replied that the budget would cover all of 2005.

Mrs. Lyman questioned if there was any advertisement to senior citizens. Dr. Durham stated he spoke with Mrs. Joanne Roczniak.

Mrs. Dadona stated there were approximately 10 students using the facility today. She indicated that students could possibly tutor senior citizens. Dr. Durham would forward some information to Mr. Herden to bring to the senior center.

Mrs. Lyman questioned the number of students without Internet service at home. Dr. Durham stated there was no data on this.

IX. OLD BUSINESS (Cont'd)

B. 2005-06 School Calendar

No new information was discussed.

C. Washington, D.C. Trip

No comments were given.

X. NEW BUSINESS

A. Acceptance of Consent Agenda

1. Warrant

a. To approve the warrant for 2004-05 in the amount of \$1,178,299.36.

2. To approve Policy 4115.3 (Athletic Coaches) as a second reading as presented by the Policy Committee.

3. To approve the 7000 Series (Construction) as a second reading as presented by the Policy Committee.

4. To approve Policy 9325.2 (Agenda Format) as a first reading as presented by the Policy Committee.

5. To accept the resignation of Dr. Rickard Gannon, principal of Nathan Hale-Ray Middle School, with intent to retire effective June 30, 2005.

To accept the resignation of Mrs. Sarah Kraszewski, special education aide at the Nathan Hale-Ray Middle School, effective January 29, 2005.

To accept the resignation of Mrs. Stephanie Craig, math consultant at Nathan Hale-Ray Middle School, effective February 28, 2005.

Mrs. Gourlie noted that Dr. Gannon wished to address the Board at a future date, and she asked that this item not be held back due to his request. Mrs. Ziobron was uncomfortable with this as she was a member of the new middle school principal search and she was being asked to vote on this without knowing why Dr. Gannon was leaving. Dr. Durham stated that this request was a courtesy to Dr. Gannon as he wished to address the Board closer to the end of the year.

X. NEW BUSINESS (Cont'd)

A. Acceptance of Consent Agenda (Cont'd)

Item 4 was removed for discussion.

MOTION: Quinn, Iacovelli; to approve Items 1, 2, 3, and 5 of the Consent Agenda.

**FAVOR: ALL PRESENT
MOTION CARRIED**

4. To approve Policy 9325.2 (Agenda Format) as a first reading as presented by the Policy Committee.

Mr. Misenti stated Mrs. Ziobron's comment about Dr. Gannon was an example of why the agenda format should not be altered.

MOTION: Quinn, Lyman; to approve Item 4 of the Consent Agenda.

**FAVOR: Herden, Lyman, Mather, Mielt, Quinn
OPPOSED: Iacovelli, Misenti, Ziobron
MOTION CARRIED**

B. Adoption of the 2005-06 Board of Education Budget

MOTION: Quinn, Mather; to approve the 2005-06 school budget in the amount of \$15,033,933 as recommended by the Finance Committee and to direct the administration to prepare the necessary documents for submission to the Board of Finance.

**FAVOR: ALL PRESENT
MOTION CARRIED**

XI. OTHER

Mr. Misenti questioned if the computer training for adults emphasized Excel. Mrs. Dadona stated the students and the advisors were proficient in Excel. She noted they did not yet have informational handouts to distribute. Dr. Durham stated they were looking for input and were trying to stay flexible so they could provide what the townspeople wanted.

XI. OTHER (Cont'd)

Mr. Misenti spoke of the open space representation. He stated the most important aspect of this was to slow down development; however, the Open Space Committee was purchasing properties that were not tested. He opined that the Town had the potential for a population explosion with the Johnsonville and Banner Lodge properties. He encouraged them not to purchase properties solely for environmental concerns.

Mrs. Gourlie stated as a private citizen, Mr. Misenti could approach the Open Space Committee with his concerns. Mrs. Ziobron commented as an Open Space Committee representative, she would gladly speak with them. Mrs. Gourlie suggested this could be put onto next month's agenda. However, Mrs. Gourlie stated in a small community people wear many hats and she cautioned Mrs. Ziobron that as a representative of the Board of Education, any discussion she has with the Open Space Committee should revolve around education only. Mrs. Gourlie stated that Mrs. Ziobron had no right to talk about parcels if her discussion was not educationally based. Mrs. Ziobron strongly disagreed, and stated that the Open Space Committee was comprised of representatives of many boards and commissions and they all spoke at these meetings.

MOTION: Quinn, Lyman; to adjourn at 10:08 p.m.

FAVOR: Herden, Iacovelli, Lyman, Mather, Miett, Misenti, Quinn
OPPOSED: Ziobron
MOTION CARRIED

Respectfully submitted,

Dora Lyman
Board Secretary