

East Haddam Board of Education
Regular Meeting
Nathan Hale-Ray High School Cafeteria
November 15, 2005
7:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Pamela Gourlie, Tracey Gionta, Everett Herden, Nick Iacovelli,
Bob Mather, Tom Mielt, Manny Misenti, Melissa Ziobron

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mary Beth Mordecai

STUDENT COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES: Anne Durfee, Justin Christopher

OTHERS PRESENT: Approximately 15 community members including staff were present.

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Pam Gourlie at 7:00 p.m. in the Nathan Hale-Ray cafeteria.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

III. REPORT OF THE BOARD OF CHAIR

A. Introduction of New Board Members & Election of Board Secretary

Tracey Gionta was introduced as a new Board Member.

Manny Misenti asked that the Board make sure that their policy is in line with the laws of the State of Connecticut. He stated that the agenda included the election of a new Secretary but not of a new chairman. He stated that he had no doubt that Mrs. Gourlie would be re-elected, but that it was his interpretation that when new members are elected that an election should take place for a new chairman based on State of Connecticut statute number 10-218.

Mr. Misenti gave Dr. Durham the statute to be read aloud to the Board.

Sec. 10-218. Officers. Meetings. Each board of education shall, not later than one month after the date on which the newly elected members take office, elect from its number a chairperson and elect a secretary of such board and may prescribe their duties. The votes of each member of such board cast in such election shall be reduced to writing and made available for public inspection within forty-eight hours, excluding Saturday, Sunday or legal holidays, and shall also be recorded in the minutes of the meeting at which taken, which minutes

III. REPORT OF THE BOARD OF CHAIR (Cont'd)

A. Introduction of New Bd. Members & Election of Bd. Secretary (Cont'd)

shall be available for public inspection at all reasonable times. If such officers are not chosen after one month because of a tie vote of the members, the town council or, if there is no town council, the selectmen of the town shall choose such officers from the membership of the board. The chairperson of the board of education or, in case of such chairperson's absence or inability to act, the secretary shall call a meeting of the board at least once in six months and whenever such chairperson deems it necessary or is requested in writing so to do by three of its members. If no meeting is called within fourteen days after such a request has been made, one may be called by any three members by giving the usual written notice to the other members.

(1949 Rev., S. 1478; 1957, P.A. 165, S. 1; February, 1965, P.A. 202, S. 1; P.A. 78-136; 78-218, S. 142.)

History: 1965 act required election of board officers not later than one month after "date on which the newly elected members take office" rather than one month after the "annual or biennial election, as the case may be"; P.A. 78-136 deleted requirement that election of officers be "by ballot" but required that vote tally be put in writing, be made available for public inspection and be recorded in minutes; P.A. 78-218 substituted "chairperson" for "chairman" and also for masculine personal pronouns formerly used in section.

Mr. Misenti stated the Board should go through the process because every time the composition of the Board changes, they should have the opportunity to change the chairman. Mrs. Gourlie stated that Dr. Durham should present this to the Town Attorney for further clarification to make sure the policy is compliant with current statute. Mr. Iacovelli requested further clarification from the Attorney determining if the past practice clause would apply in this case. It was stated that if it is so, it should be addressed in policy and changed if necessary.

MOTION: Mather, Ziobron; to elect Nick Iacovelli as Board Secretary.

FAVOR (7): Gionta, Herden, Iacovelli, Mather, Mielt, Misenti, Ziobron

OPPOSED (0)

ABSTAINED (0)

ABSENT (1): Mordecai

NOT VOTING (1): Gourlie

MOTION CARRIED

III. REPORT OF THE BOARD OF CHAIR (Cont'd)

B. Committee Assignments

Long Range Planning:

Nick Iacovelli, Chairman
Bob Mather
Everett Herden

Finance:

Bob Mather, Chairman
Melissa Ziobron
Tom Miett

Policy:

Tom Miett, Chairman
Tracey Gionta
Mary Beth Mordecai

Personnel and Negotiations:

Manny Misenti, Chairman
Tom Miett
Nick Iacovelli

Transportation:

Bob Mather, Chairman
Everett Herden
Melissa Ziobron
Tracey Gionta

Ray Board Liaison: Nick Iacovelli

Curriculum Council: Everett Herden

Mr. Iacovelli stated he noticed there were now two Board Members on the School Building Committee and questioned if it effected the project. Mrs. Gourlie stated it was not unique that there had been two members on the early childhood project. She stated Mrs. Ziobron would remain as liaison. Mrs. Ziobron questioned the policy in the bylaws of a Public Relations Committee. She stated that she was unaware of a committee at this time and asked if it was a committee that is formed on an as needed capacity. Mrs. Gourlie replied it was initially formed to work with the Board of Education to improve their relationship with the Community, prior to a newsletter and website.

C. Student Council Representatives Report

Anne Durfee informed the Board of the student's homecoming dance as well as their Powder Puff game. She stated that Student Council is currently starting a fundraiser; songs are played over the intercom and students have the opportunity to donate money to stop the songs. Half of the funds will be donated to the fuel bank and the other to Student Council. She stated that students are using the library after school.

III. REPORT OF THE BOARD OF CHAIR (Cont'd)

C. Student Council Representatives Report (Cont'd)

Justin Christopher informed the Board that the Canada trip had been a success. He stated that he had not attended but that the students who did attend had found it to be a great educational experience. He stated that tutoring is taking place by the National Honor Society in the library after school. He informed the Board that students have started submitting their college applications.

IV. ACTION ON THE MINUTES

MOTION: Herden, Iacovelli; to approve the Special Meeting minutes of October 6, 2005 meeting.

FAVOR (5): Iacovelli, Mather, Miett, Misenti, Gionta
OPPOSED (0)
ABSTAINED (2): Ziobron, Herden
ABSENT (1): Mordecai
NOT VOTING (1): Gourlie
MOTION CARRIED

MOTION: Herden, Mather; to approve the minutes of October 11, 2005 amended as follows:

- 6th page, last paragraph, strike "If necessary, they would go back to the Board of Finance and referendum" and replace with "If necessary to go back to the Board of Finance to determine if there would be a need to go back to referendum".
- 8th page, 5th paragraph, after "asked" insert "the teachers present in the audience to respond to;".

FAVOR (7): Gionta, Herden, Iacovelli, Mather, Miett, Misenti, Ziobron
OPPOSED (0)
ABSTAINED (0)
ABSENT (1): Mordecai
NOT VOTING (1): Gourlie
MOTION CARRIED

V. REPORT OF THE SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEESA. 4-8 Middle School

Mrs. Ziobron informed the Board that the last School Building Committee meeting was held November 9th. She stated that at the meeting the Traffic Study had been distributed to be reviewed and discussed at the next scheduled meeting of November 22nd. She stated that there is a plan by Mr. Ventres, Land Use Administrator to coordinate the study with the Banner Lodge study so that the road improvements would be a collaborating effort. She informed the Board that KBA has had meetings with the teachers. She stated she would be bringing schematic designs to the Board. She informed the Board that Newfield Construction had been selected as the Construction Manager as Constructor for the project. She stated a subcommittee has been formed to finalize the Newfield contract which will be brought forth for approval to Committee Members at the next scheduled meeting. She stated that Newfield would have a budget to present at the next meeting.

Mr. Misenti questioned if there was indication where the project stood with the budget. Mrs. Ziobron responded no, that the reality of the current building climate is understood and that the Committee is awaiting firm dollar amounts. Mr. Misenti questioned if a tremendous amount of site work was necessary on the project. Mrs. Ziobron responded to her knowledge no, that the information was not fully reported yet. Mr. Misenti stated that KBA had presented to the Board of Education that a lot of soil would need to be moved on site. Mrs. Ziobron responded the soil would be moved for grading and septic design. She stated that it doesn't seem more than would normally be performed on a site. Mrs. Ziobron informed the Board that a field site walk was scheduled with Planning and Zoning and Inland Wetlands Watercourses Commissions on November 20th at 1:00 p.m.

B. Middle and Elementary Schools' Capital Improvements

Dr. Durham stated that the Committee had not met and that there was nothing to report.

VI. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLSA. Strategic School Profile Report 2004-05

Dr. Durham informed the Board that the Strategic School Profiles is the data compiled based on a number of reports which are filed throughout the academic year. He stated it was divided into 5 sections; the 3 schools, the district and the special education program. He asked the Board to review it for the December meeting under Old Business.

VI. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS (Cont'd)A. Strategic School Profile Report 2004-05 (Cont'd)

Mr. Iacovelli questioned if the proposed changes to the ERG was reflected in the report. Dr. Durham responded no. Dr. Durham stated there has been discussion about eliminating the concept of educational reference use, because it is being misused. Mrs. Gourlie referred to an email sent by CABE regarding the ERG which had been received by Board Members. Mrs. Ziobron stated they wanted input from Board Members about ERG discussions. Mr. Misenti questioned the intention of how the information is being used improperly. Dr. Durham responded it was originally intended to identify Towns and School Districts with similar school systems and similar characteristics, but that they don't necessarily match up, which can be misleading. How schools are compared was discussed.

Mr. Misenti questioned if per capita income and academic achievement have a lot to do with each other. Dr. Durham responded that there is a lot of literature which suggests that social economical status correlates with higher academic achievement and student performance. He stated he was not sure how the ERG was calculated and that it was desirous to get away from Social Economical status and use other standards for determining profiles. Mr. Iacovelli stated that the demographics were used from the last census. Mrs. Ziobron questioned if the dropout rate reflected on page five, was a percentage or actual number. Dr. Durham responded that Joyce Medling had attended a workshop to get a better understanding of how the numbers are calculated and reported. He stated the rules for calculating keep changing and he would have more information after he had the opportunity to speak with Mrs. Medling. Mrs. Ziobron stated she would like it clarified for further discussion at the next meeting. Mr. Misenti stated it was his understanding that the State Board of Education was in the process of assigning each student with a number which would follow them throughout their educational experiences, providing for more accurate accounting. Dr. Durham affirmed that the tracking system should be implemented by the end of this school year.

B. Senior Class Trip Request

The student council representatives; Matt Keith, Mark Sassy, Robyn Zemienieski, Jessica Ficara, and Ashley Wells were introduced to the Board. Mrs. Dadona informed the Board that they had demonstrated a level of ownership which was admirable and that she would like to publicly commend them for their efforts. She stated that there were currently deposits for 65% participation. Mr. Herden questioned why there was a school code of conduct included. A Council Representative responded that the class would be representing the school and the community and that the same behavior should be expected on a class trip as is expected at school. It was stated that this

VI. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS (Cont'd)B. Senior Class Trip Request (Cont'd)

code of conduct would be reviewed with parents prior to the trip. Mr. Herden stated that they should be commended because they acknowledge the school code of conduct even on a class field trip.

Mr. Mather commented that he often looks on the page for the educational value of the trip, but that he believed the students deserved, after over 12 years of schooling, to go out and enjoy four days off. Mrs. Ziobron stated she had never voted against a field trip in the past, but she questioned where the educational experience was in this trip. She stated that senior trips in the past has included educational experiences. Dr. Durham stated the intention is for the class to get away, develop and bond with each other in a final way. He stated life's experience is what will mostly occur. He stated it is more of a recreational experience than an educational one. Mrs. Ziobron stated if that is the case, why is it scheduled during the school week. He responded two of the days are on the weekend. The itinerary was discussed in comparison to other senior class trips. Mr. Iacovelli stated that the senior trip is different than other class trips. It's part of the emotional component of their education. Dr. Durham stated this is allowable only with senior trips. Responsive to Mrs. Ziobron's inquiry, Dr. Durham responded that all but one chaperone were teachers.

Mr. Herden inquired if policy regarding field trips relegate where a field trip should take place or if it is open ended. Dr. Durham responded that the policy does speak to educational value, even recreational trips such as the softball and baseball trip. Dr. Mielt stated that the process of travel has educational value in or of itself. Mr. Misenti stated he has voted against field trips in the past but to him a field trip for seniors is a reward for a job well done. He stated that the only caveat he would like to see on the trip is that the participants be on schedule to graduate. Mr. Mather stated that since Kindergarten the students have attended 2,340 days of school and deserve the class trip. Responsive to Mr. Misenti's inquiry, Dr. Durham responded that if a student is not in good standings, they are not eligible to attend the trip.

MOTION: Iacovelli, Herden; to move item X.A.5.

FAVOR (7): Gionta, Herden, Iacovelli, Mather, Mielt, Misenti, Ziobron

OPPOSED (0)

ABSTAINED (0)

ABSENT (1): Mordecai

NOT VOTING (1): Gourlie

MOTION CARRIED

VI. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS (Cont'd)B. Senior Class Trip Request (Cont'd)

MOTION: Misenti, Ziobron; to approve the Senior Class Trip to Virginia Beach, VA from May 10, 2006 through May 14, 2006.

FAVOR (7): Gionta, Herden, Iacovelli, Mather, Mielt, Misenti, Ziobron

OPPOSED (0)

ABSTAINED (0)

ABSENT (1): Mordecai

NOT VOTING (1): Gourlie

MOTION CARRIED

C. Digital Photography Course

Dr. Durham informed the Board that the class would not be offered until next year. Mr. Mather questioned if anyone in the district is qualified to teach the course. Mrs. Dadona responded affirmatively. She stated there are two components to the program, the first being how to use the camera and the second composition of the picture. She stated an art teacher would be able to teach composition and editing of pictures. She stated most cameras are automatic. Mr. Mather questioned if additional costs would be involved. Dr. Durham responded affirmatively and that the cameras would be included in the budget. Responsive to Mrs. Gionta's question, Dr. Durham stated there is a photography component to the general art program in the middle school with a dark room which is not expansive.

Mr. Herden questioned if a course like this could be offered to the public. Mrs. Gourlie responded that the computer lab could teach photo shop. Dr. Durham cautioned the Board about opening high school courses to the general public. He stated it should be taken seriously with lots of discussion. He stated that there currently is policy for home school students which would be in conflict with offering courses to the general public. It was decided that it is a policy issue to decide if courses should be offered to the public. Dr. Durham stated a partnership for example with the Senior Citizens, would be better than an open enrollment because there would be better control. Dr. Durham stated classes after school hours could be offered.

Mr. Iacovelli cautioned that in several units of the supplemental materials, Robert Mapplethorpe and Anna Lieberman's work were being used. He stated they were controversial. He informed the Board that he was not advocating banning or censoring the material used, but that he wanted to make them aware. Dr. Durham stated the works were available in AP art. Ms. Durfee stated that having some courses in the evening would benefit students who are interested, but can't fit it into their school schedule.

VI. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS (Cont'd)D. Elementary School Fire Alarm System

Dr. Durham stated that he had been keeping the Board informed on a weekly basis about the fire alarm system. He informed the Board that the last problem was October 31st during a monthly test of the system, with a failure of part of the system. The contractors fixed the problem, which was in one of the portables. He stated the system was then tested every day for the entire week before school students and staff had come in. He stated it is now tested once a week. He stated that last Thursday, Mr. Carroll, the fire marshal, and a representative from the state fire marshal's office had toured the facility and reviewed the devices. There was agreement between the fire marshal and the state fire marshal's office that the system does need to be replaced which will be added on the capital improvement proposal for approval. He informed the Board that the fire marshal agreed to this provided that there are not more problems. He informed the Board that the system is will be tested once a week until the end of the year. He will propose that it be replaced in the summer of 2006. He stated if it fails again, discussion would need to be had. Mrs. Ziobron questioned the name of the State Representative. Dr. Durham responded, Joe Kingston is the State Representative and Scott Brooks is the local fire marshal. It would be reimbursable by the state department because it is a safety issue provided it meets all of the specifications by the state department. Responsive to Mrs. Ziobron's question, Dr. Durham replied that the system was installed in 1987.

Mr. Misenti stated that the general contract is generally for one year for parts and material. He stated his copy of the service agreement was difficult to read but seemed too low a price to include warranty also. He requested a better photo copy. Dr. Durham agreed to send him one. For further clarification, Dr. Durham stated that the current contract includes general maintenance and does not include parts or extra services. Mr. Misenti commented that he had been in the electrical industry since 1965 and since that time he can't remember a time when a fire alarm system was necessary to save kids lives, especially in a building like the elementary school in which every room has an exit. He stated strobes in the classrooms are not necessary because the classrooms are not full of students which are hearing impaired. He stated the \$80,000 is due to a political issue and that money would be better spent limiting access of strangers into the school. He stated the system should not be replaced because of political considerations rather than a true consideration for the welfare of the students. He informed the Board that he would be comfortable with his grandchildren in that school. He stated it offends him that someone from the Board went to the Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance asking for money before presenting it to the Board. He informed the Board that procedures are in place to look at expenditures before passing it forward. He stated that he considered it to be a political ploy. He stated he went to the

VI. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS (Cont'd)D. Elementary School Fire Alarm System (Cont'd)

Superintendent to allow for clarification on the system and received assurance that everything was ok. He stated that he hopes that using the issue of kid's safety for political purposes never happens again. Mrs. Ziobron thanked him for his comments.

E. Canada Trip

Mrs. Dadona reported the kids were ecstatic from their trip to Canada. They spent a considerable amount of time in Montreal and Quebec City. The experience gave them exposure to the culture and the ability to speak French. She stated that they visited several churches and viewed the trip on a historical perspective. The students visited the underground city in Montreal. Their behavior was excellent. She gave the chaperones credit for their hard work. It was stated that Quebec City used the more traditional French language which was beneficial to the students.

F. CES

Mrs. Dadona informed the Board that Mr. Rinaldi, three teachers and six students attended the CES. They talked about the Electrathon. They attended a workshop called *Electrifying Education*. Mr. Rinaldi stated the fall's coalition of essential schools was held in Boston. He informed the Board that he went agreeing with the principals and came back a believer and was energized by the experience. He stated the students gained a tremendous amount of educational experience. They had the opportunity to visit the science museum. He informed the Board that the students did an excellent job with their presentations. They were well dressed, articulate to what they were saying, polite in response to questions and presented seriously.

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTSA. Long Range Planning

Mr. Iacovelli informed the Board that the Long Range Planning Subcommittee had met. The Committee has made revisions to the Long Range Facilities Plan. He stated they were reviewing it from page to page and that the revisions would be brought to the Board for final approval. He stated that taking care of the facilities is an ongoing process. He stated there was an update on the building project and there were discussions about the fire alarm system. He informed the Board that the survey, which the teachers had returned about the school calendar, had been reviewed. Dr. Durham stated that there was a collection of data from parents currently being prepared which would be ready

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS (Cont'd)A. Long Range Planning (Cont'd)

at the end of December. Mr. Iacovelli informed the Board that 122 teachers returned their response. He stated they had discussions about the potential impact of the Avian bird flu. The next meeting will be December 1st.

Mrs. Ziobron questioned if the Lighting Committee had attended his meeting. He replied no. She questioned if the lighting for the fields been included or discussed in Long Range Planning. Dr. Durham responded the lighting was not included because the Lighting Committee had come to the Board, informed the Board what they were doing and that they would be coming to them to present it to them as a gift because that is how Board policy works. He stated that since the lights are on school property, it would fall within the purview of the Board of Education.

Mrs. Ziobron commented on an article that more people die from pneumonia and flu season here than the Avian bird flu. Mrs. Gourlie responded if it became pandemic it would be a problem. Mrs. Gourlie stated that there is a strong possibility that it will mutate. Mrs. Ziobron stated she was surprised that teachers were interested in year round school. Mrs. Gourlie stated the perception of year round school tends to be a misconception. She stated there is still the same number of days for attendance in the school year. Mrs. Ziobron requested that there be more discussion on moving the February vacation to March. Mrs. Gourlie informed Mrs. Ziobron that historically they had eliminated the February and April vacation replacing them with the March vacation. She stated it did not work out well that there was negative feedback. Dr. Durham stated March is out of the question now due to the testing requirements of the CAPT and CMT.

B. Finance

Dr. Durham informed the Board that the Finance Committee needs to meet soon to talk about the framework for the upcoming budget.

C. Policy

Dr. Miett informed the Board that they had met November 3rd. He commented that it was Mrs. Lyman's last meeting. He stated that changes were made as suggested by the Board to the Magnet Schools policy. He stated that the phrase "will be reviewed annually" was added. He informed the Board that "may" was changed to "will". He stated a policy addressing performance enhancing drugs, specifically anabolic steroids needed to be addressed. The disciplinary action would be the same for drugs and alcohol use. The formation of a Nutrition and Wellness policy was discussed during the policy meeting and will be reviewed next year. A template from CAFE is being used and the policy

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

will be reviewed over the winter. Dr. Mielt stated they had discussed how to dispose of old Computers, if they should be given away or sold. Dr. Durham stated that they could be given away provided they contained a disclaimer/waiver form to be signed by the recipients. He stated the software would need to be removed but that the operating system could remain. He informed the Board that students and their families would have the first chance to receive the used computers. Dr. Durham informed the Board that this would further be discussed during the December meeting. Dr. Mielt informed the Board that the next meeting would be December 1st.

Mr. Misenti questioned the meaning of co-curricular. Dr. Mielt responded extracurricular. Mr. Misenti questioned if the policy would apply to a student lifting weights outside of school and taking steroids. Dr. Mielt responded that the discipline would not be for steroid use. He stated that possession and selling of steroids would require disciplinary action. Dr. Durham stated it is assumed that reference to steroids is connected to a performance enhancement activity. He stated the policy is an attempt to make a stand alone policy about the misuse of anabolic steroids other than under doctor's care. He stated it is a contemporary issue with students today. He referred to a case which has occurred in Madison as well as articles in the Hartford Courant. He stated the policy is a statement to the students, not to do it. It was stated the policy should be aligned with the student handbook.

D. Transportation

Mr. Mather stated that they had not met and had no new information. Mrs. Ziobron questioned the status of the appeal cases. Dr. Durham replied that one case had appealed the business manager's decision to him. He stated that he had met with him, reviewed his case again, denied his request and informed him of his recourse. Thus far, the parent had chosen not to appeal. Mrs. Ziobron questioned if there was a time limit for appeal. Dr. Durham responded that there was no time limit.

E. Personnel and Negotiations

Mr. Misenti informed the Board that negotiations were in arbitration and had been scheduled for mediation on the November 28th at 4:00 p.m. He requested the Committee come in around 3:30 p.m. for strategy purposes in the media center. Mrs. Ziobron questioned the process. She stated they are currently in arbitration and questioned how long it would take to get through arbitration. Mr. Misenti replied it would take about a year or two, but that there is a possibility of mediation. Mrs. Ziobron asked if it was true that there was not a contract in place for the past year. Dr. Durham responded no, since July 1st.

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS (Cont'd)E. Personnel and Negotiations (Cont'd)

He stated that similar events occurred the last time and that they were working under the same contract for a year and a half. He stated that it has been difficult to even agree on a mediator. The specifics of the mediation were discussed. Negotiations are always Executive Session. Mr. Misenti requested that further questions be asked in Executive Session.

F. Ray Board Liaison

Mr. Iacovelli stated that the Ray Board had met that evening. He stated that Heidi Frederick and Cheryl Matthewson had given them a PowerPoint presentation about the agricultural science and technology program. He stated that there are over 100 students enrolled and that in the FFA there are 48 students with a 50/50 ratio of boys to girls. He asked that Dr. Durham ask them to show their presentation to the Board. He stated they testified to student's improvement by participating in the program. He stated the Ray Board funds the program. The Ray Board approved their budget for over \$300,000 to fund the programs.

G. LEARN

Mrs. Gourlie informed the Board that LEARN Young Child and Family recently received a \$400,000 grant to create a community of collaboration for children and families from ages birth to age five with regards to behavioral and mental health services. It is intended to offer a better range of services for that particular age range of children. She stated that Dr. Succar had reported that Congressman Simmons has requested a million dollars to be placed in the budget for the Challenger Center, to be located in Southeastern Connecticut. It is a Nassau related project. She said LEARN would operate as the fiscal agent. She stated that Paul Smoths from East Lyme performed the Superintendent's perspective segment of the program. He discussed his district's unsuccessful trial on increasing the school day by adding 25 minutes and the lesson's learned. Mr. Iacovelli suggested a Public Relations Committee be formed prior to the opening of the new Middle School.

H. Curriculum Council Liaison

Mr. Herden stated that the Curriculum Council had met. He stated that the following 3 items were on the Agenda; approve the master curriculum calendar for 2009-2010, presentation about CAPT scores by Mrs. Dadona and the planning of professional development for the teachers next year. He stated the presentation was informative. The general trend is that the kid's progress is improving each year. He stated the teacher's new strategies are causing the rise on the test score. He informed the Board that the teachers are not

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS (Cont'd)H. Curriculum Council Liaison (Cont'd)

necessarily teaching for the test in particular. Mr. Misenti stated that kids need to have the confidence that they can demonstrate the skills and knowledge they have acquired.

VIII. COMMUNICATIONS AND AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS

Mr. Michael Sassi, from the Lighting Committee, gave the Board an update. He informed the Board they had received a brief design for the foundations and that the core drilling had been a problem. So a redesign has been made, validated by an engineer and sent to the building division for future consideration. He stated the Board would have to sign off on another Building Permit. He stated the cost of the project has grown due to inflation. He stated when the project is complete it would be given to the Board as a gift. He stated it would be a revenue generating gift including two soccer fields and lower softball lighting with enough lighting power to light up future baseball. He stated that they have fund raised over \$70,000. He informed the Board that the power upgrade is complete. He stated they had been to the Board of Selectmen's and Board of Finance meetings to get the additional \$130,000 needed for the project from the Town. He stated that a field today would cost \$300,000 and that the same field, with the help of people from the town, will cost \$200,000.

Mr. Mather voiced his concern with the new trend where the schools are eliminating night games due to violence during night time games. Mrs. Ziobron stated that she had attended the Board of Finance meeting which the Lighting Committee had attended. She stated that she did not realize that they would be coming back to the Board with a Building Permit application. She questioned why they did not come to the Board first instead of last. She stated the Board of Finance asks for Board approval. Mr. Sassy replied due to parallel paths. He stated there is enough money to complete the foundations and that they were made aware to realize that they would need to re-apply to Planning and Zoning for re-approval of permits. Mrs. Ziobron stated that the Board of Finance showed concern on oversight of the funds, if they are Town funds. He stated they are coincident of the Board of Finance's requests and had met with Bob Carroll. He stated they were aware that tax money required close scrutiny. Mr. Misenti questioned the original budget for the project. Mr. Sassy replied \$150,000 – \$170,000 in 2002. The increase is directly contributed to conduit wire and a 30% increase by Hubble. Mr. Misenti stated that the American Legion is doing an extensive lighting field and questioned if the Town need's that much lighting. It was responded that there is limited use at the Legion which is primarily used for soccer. It was stated that they were trying to get the money by the end of the year in an effort to finish the project and not experience any more increase in costs. Mr. Misenti stated that any funds over \$20,000 requires a Town Meeting or referendum.

IX. OLD BUSINESSA. Strategic Plan

Dr. Durham distributed and discussed a document titled *Strategic Planning Update*, dated November 15, 2005. It is an initiative which is currently in the 5th year of the Strategic Plan. The Action Plan is student achievement. The strategy is to provide a support system to enable each child to maximize his/her potential. A school program has been initiated at the high school which is called *Names Can Really Hurt You*. Dr. Durham informed the Board that Mr. Rinaldi is the administrative liaison to that group. Mr. Rinaldi stated that there have been two trainings with one more forthcoming. He stated the trainings included 20 teachers and 37 students. He informed the Board that the training is about increasing sensitivity and how to facilitate small group meetings and discussions which can be positive in nature. He stated that every small group would have a teacher facilitator and two student facilitators. He stated that he has personal experience with the program from the prior school which he came from. Mr. Iacovelli questioned if the program has started. He replied yes. Mr. Iacovelli stated that he has had experience with the program and it works. Mrs. Ziobron questioned why there was not a focus on mentoring. Dr. Durham replied that it is a piece of it. Mrs. Ziobron stated she has yet to see peer-to-peer and peer-to-community mentoring. Dr. Durham responded that this is currently taking place as indicated in the Strategic Plan Report.

Dr. Durham sighted various mentoring taking place at the various schools as indicated in the Strategic Plan. Mr. Misenti raised concern with the community being paired to work with the kids closely and some apparent problems it could cause. Dr. Durham assured him that they work closely with administrators and if they believe there are any problems there would be intervention.

X. NEW BUSINESSA. Acceptance of Consent Agenda

MOTION: Misenti, Herden; to remove item 2 and 5.

FAVOR (7): Gionta, Herden, Iacovelli, Mather, Mielt, Misenti, Ziobron

OPPOSED (0)

ABSTAINED (0)

ABSENT (1): Mordecai

NOT VOTING (1): Gourlie

MOTION CARRIED

X. NEW BUSINESS (Cont'd)A. Acceptance of Consent Agenda (Cont'd)

- 1) Warrant
 - a. To approve the warrant for 2004-05 in the amount of \$2,545,827.98.
 - b. To approve the warrant for 2005-06 in the amount of \$1,109,944.27.
- 3) To approve Policy 6172.12 (Magnet Schools) as a second reading as presented by the Policy Committee.
- 4) To approve Policy 5131.62 (Performance-Enhancing Drugs) as a first reading as presented by the Policy Committee.
- 6) To approve the Digital Photography course as pressed by the Art Curriculum Committee.
- 7) To approve the 2006 Board of Education meeting schedule.

Mrs. Ziobron stated that when she had reviewed the subcommittee policy under the Finance Committee to recommend warrant approval, that they have never done it and would like to bring it up. Mrs. Gourlie stated when the Board started the Consent Agenda, the Board stopped doing it that way. It was stated it would be reviewed with policy.

Mrs. Ziobron questioned if Mr. Shifnadel's resignation had an effect on gifted and talented. It was responded no.

MOTION: Ziobron, Mather; to approve the item 2 of the Consent Agenda.

FAVOR (7): Gionta, Herden, Iacovelli, Mather, Miatt, Misenti, Ziobron

OPPOSED (0)

ABSTAINED (0)

ABSENT (1): Mordecai

NOT VOTING (1): Gourlie

MOTION CARRIED

X. NEW BUSINESS (Cont'd)

MOTION: Ziobron, Iacovelli; to enter into Executive Session at 9:43 p.m. for the purpose of discussing personnel and negotiations.

FAVOR (7): Gionta, Herden, Iacovelli, Mather, Miett, Misenti, Ziobron
OPPOSED (0)
ABSTAINED (0)
ABSENT (1): Mordecai
NOT VOTING (1): Gourlie
MOTION CARRIED

The Board returned to Open Session at 9:55 p.m.

MOTION: Mather, Miett; to adjourn at 9:56 p.m.

FAVOR (7): Gionta, Herden, Iacovelli, Mather, Miett, Misenti, Ziobron
OPPOSED (0)
ABSTAINED (0)
ABSENT (1): Mordecai
NOT VOTING (1): Gourlie
MOTION CARRIED

Respectfully submitted,

Nicholas Iacovelli
Board Secretary