

East Haddam Board of Education
Regular Meeting Minutes
Nathan Hale-Ray High School Cafeteria
May 9, 2006
7:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Pamela Gourlie, Tracey Gionta, Everett Herden, Nick Iacovelli, Robert Mather, Tom Mielt, Manny Misenti, Mary-Beth Mordecai, Melissa Ziobron

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STUDENT COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT: Anne Durfee

STUDENT COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ABSENT: Justin Christopher

OTHERS PRESENT: Dr. Durham and approximately 25 people including staff were present.

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by Mrs. Gourlie.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

III. REPORT OF THE BOARD CHAIR

A. CABE Student Leadership Awards

Mrs. Gourlie presented two students with the 2005-06 CABE Student Leadership Awards. This year's award recipients were Miss Ashley Korpela and Mr. Mark Sassi.

Mrs. Gourlie gave a brief overview of each student's accomplishments. Miss Korpela is the current president of the FFA club and is actively involved in the drama club, newspaper, etc. Her prime area of interest is in humanities. She plans to attend the University of Oklahoma for middle eastern studies. Mrs. Gourlie congratulated Miss Korpela and wished her well.

Mrs. Gourlie explained that Mr. Sassi has been recognized for his numerous extra-curricular activities, while maintaining a 3.89 GPA throughout his high school career. He has participated in the Physics Olympics at Yale as well as the Chemistry Olympics. Mr. Sassi will attend Bentley College in the fall where he will study business management.

III. REPORT OF THE BOARD CHAIR (Cont'd)A. CABE Student Leadership Awards (Cont'd)

Mrs. Gourlie called for a brief recess so the Board could personally congratulate this year's award recipients.

B. Report from Student Council Representatives

Miss Anne Durfee announced that the prom was held on Saturday, May 6, and was a huge success. She has received nothing but positive feedback on this fun and safe event. A drunk driving assembly was held last Thursday before the prom. Although she was not able to attend this assembly, she has heard that it was very effective and she believed it made many people think about prom night.

Miss Durfee informed the Board that the senior class trip was scheduled for this Saturday, May 13.

Miss Durfee stated the juniors took their SATs last Saturday, just before the prom. She believed the SAT prep class helped many students feel more confident about the test. In addition, AP testing was conducted last week. She heard that everyone was well-prepared and confident going into these exams.

Mr. Iacovelli asked what percentage of seniors took the SATs. Dr. Durham responded that approximately 72% of seniors take the exam. Mr. Iacovelli inquired about the AP testing. Miss Durfee stated a good portion of students took this test. She stated there were approximately 10 students taking AP History. She indicated that she and Mr. Sassi take the on-line AP Statistics class.

Mrs. Gionta inquired where this year's prom was held, to which Miss Durfee responded it was held at the Saybrook Point Inn.

Mr. Misenti asked if Miss Durfee was involved in the publishing of the high school newspaper. Miss Durfee stated she was not involved with this. Mr. Misenti referred to the lead article regarding respect. It was written by an anonymous author who stated that some students felt they were graded unfairly and that teachers pick out certain students for criticism. He asked if Miss Durfee felt there was any validity to this article. Miss Durfee stated the actual author could play a big part of the subject content. She stated that some students naturally feel singled out if they were not performing, but she did not believe specific teachers favor certain students.

Mr. Misenti asked if Miss Durfee believed that teachers in East Haddam teach how or what students should think. Miss Durfee believed teachers direct the students to areas in which they should look to find the answers.

III. REPORT OF THE BOARD CHAIR (Cont'd)B. Report from Student Council Representatives (Cont'd)

Mr. Misenti personally asked Miss Durfee to go to the high school newspaper editors and let them know that articles would carry more validity if the author's name was attached to the letter. He stated if an anonymous letter was sent to the Hartford Courant, it would be thrown away without being printed.

Miss Durfee was unsure of how the school newspaper ran, but this might have been a sort of therapy for this individual. Mrs. Gourlie stated that Mr. Misenti was simply asking Miss Durfee to pass along his concerns.

Mr. Iacovelli and Dr. Mielt both commended Miss Durfee on her responses to Mr. Misenti's questions. Mr. Misenti acknowledged he asked Miss Durfee tough questions, because he was sure she could handle them.

Mrs. Gourlie announced that Mr. Christopher was not present this evening, but he had sent an email update to Dr. Durham. However, Miss Durfee had already addressed the points in Mr. Christopher's email.

Miss Durfee excused herself from the meeting at this time.

C. Middletown Adult Education Presentation

Mrs. Gourlie introduced Mr. Jim Misenti from Middletown Adult Education. Mr. Misenti stated he too was very impressed with the Board's student representative. He distributed a packet of information to the Board.

Mr. Misenti stated that Middletown Adult Education (MAE) cooperates with many towns and they currently have six educational sites. Last year, 1,000 students were enrolled in adult education. Approximately 4,000 – 5,000 students were enrolled in the general interest classes. He showed a brief PowerPoint presentation on adult education.

When the movie presentation concluded, Mr. Misenti stated within Middlesex County, approximately 36% of the population do not have their high school diplomas. In East Haddam, just over 10%, or 600-700 people, do not have a high school diploma.

Mr. Misenti stated that MAE has 16-60 year-old students. They offer a high school completion program, an ESL program, and an Even Start program, which offers young parents the opportunity to go to school while having child care during the day. The Even Start program also includes parenting classes. Last year, 125 students graduated from MAE and this year's numbers will be very similar.

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

C. Middletown Adult Education Presentation (Cont'd)

Mr. Misenti stated that East Haddam cooperated with Middletown for a number of students for quite some time. Mrs. Ziobron asked if this information was mailed to residents. Mr. Misenti stated that they distribute their information to 78,000 people in the area. Mrs. Ziobron noted there were many interesting courses and she asked if these courses were ever offered to people outside of Middlesex County. Mr. Misenti responded affirmatively. Mr. Iacovelli stated he has taken a couple of the general interest courses.

Mrs. Gionta asked from where MAE received its funding. Mr. Misenti responded that their main source of funding, approximately 50%, was from the State. Other funding came from various grants and local boards.

The Board thanked Mr. Misenti for his presentation.

IV. ACTION ON THE MINUTES

MOTION: Mather, Herden; to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 11, 2006 as presented.

FAVOR (7): Gionta, Herden, Iacovelli, Mather, Miett, Misenti, Mordecai
OPPOSED: NONE
ABSTENTIONS (1): Ziobron
MOTION PASSED

V. REPORT OF THE SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEES

A. 4-8 Middle School

Mrs. Ziobron announced that the Planning & Zoning Commission was holding a public hearing on the proposed school plan this evening. She planned to attend this meeting after her update to the Board. In addition, she noted that the Wetlands Commission would also hold a public hearing on the new school this week.

Mrs. Ziobron announced that they have a Code reviewer, which should help the Building Committee when they make their final submittal to the State. She noted there were some initial minor comments and KBA and Newfield Construction were working to address them.

Mrs. Ziobron stated the CT DEP has indicated it will likely give a design approval for the septic plans.

V. REPORT OF THE SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEES (Cont'd)A. 4-8 Middle School (Cont'd)

Mrs. Ziobron stated there were still some budget issues that had not been addressed. She announced that the project manager, Ms. Jennifer Mangiagli, has had a baby and there is now a new project manager from KBA. The new project manager has discovered a few things that need to be addressed. The original plan called for no lightning protection and the Building Committee voted to add this to the plan. Another item discovered was that the stage curtains should be lined. They are looking into the acoustical panels for sound protection.

In addition, Mrs. Ziobron stated the new project manager wanted to show lighting on the access road; however, the comments heard at the last Planning & Zoning Commission were opposite. Mrs. Ziobron asked the Board to discuss this topic. She stated there were also questions at the last P&Z meeting regarding overhead versus underground wires and the cost comparison.

Mrs. Ziobron indicated that KBA gave a fabulous presentation at the P&Z meeting on the interior of the school. Their presentation included color-coded walls by grade, etc.

Mrs. Ziobron announced there has been a slight increase in the cost of brick. KBA and Newfield Construction are aware of this and are looking into it. It was discovered that there was no line item for the entrance sign. She stated the Building Committee discussed this and from where the money could come. She recalled the plantings at the high school entrance had been donated, but she was unsure about the sign.

Mrs. Ziobron stated the Building Committee talked about the timeline. She stated their timeline was affected by the P&Z and IWWC application processes. She stated she would email a new timeline to the Board after tomorrow's meeting.

Mrs. Ziobron believed a referendum would be held in September. The Building Committee voted to go out to bid before the referendum. She announced that the permitting process was impacting the January 2008 opening date, but not the schedule to open in 2008.

Mrs. Ziobron indicated that the land issues were not under the control of the Building Committee. She attended the last Board of Selectmen meeting during which Mr. Parker stated the court has heard the case, but the judge has 120 days to render a decision. She stated this is out of the Building Committee's hands at this point.

Mrs. Ziobron stated the neighbors had some issues, but they were centered around traffic.

V. REPORT OF THE SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEES (Cont'd)A. 4-8 Middle School (Cont'd)

Mr. Mather asked when there would be hard numbers for the referendum. Mrs. Ziobron stated the bid period would begin in mid-June or early July, but was a very long process. Once they have the bids, Newfield Construction will review them with KBA and the Building Committee. She explained that once the Building Committee accepts the bids, they will have numbers locked in for the referendum. She hoped to have this information by the end of the summer so they could inform the public.

Mr. Mather stated there had been a rumor that an additional \$5 million would be requested and now he has heard it has increased to \$8 million. Mrs. Ziobron stated this was true, but the longer they wait, the higher the cost would be. She stated she personally wanted a positive referendum. She stated if the referendum failed, they would be in a serious crisis. She did acknowledge that the vote on the bidding process was not unanimous and that a couple of members abstained from voting.

Mrs. Mordecai stated they must be careful with the bidding time frames. She strongly agreed with Mrs. Ziobron that they need to go out to bid before the referendum and she would prefer to know what it would cost the taxpayers.

Mrs. Ziobron stated they were very aware of the escalating costs, but Newfield has done a good job of alerting the Building Committee of anything new. Mrs. Mordecai believed the public would appreciate an explanation of exactly why the numbers were increasing.

Mr. Herden asked about the bidding process. He asked when the State would approve the final plan. Mrs. Ziobron stated the Building Committee was working on this. They have the State authorization included in their timeline. They hoped to get to the bids in June.

Mrs. Ziobron asked for direction from the Board with respect to lighting of the access road. She stated it was her understanding that the new P&Z regulations require lighting no higher than 12-feet.

Mrs. Gourlie stated the Board's long-range plans always put safety first. She believed there should be additional lights for the access road. Mrs. Gionta preferred more lights and she believed they would be especially needed during the winter months when it became dark early in the afternoon.

Mrs. Gionta pointed out that many people have been calling the access a road, but it is technically a driveway. Mrs. Ziobron stated that P&Z would ultimately determine what they would need to do, but she wanted to make sure she was conveying the Board's wishes.

V. REPORT OF THE SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEES (Cont'd)A. 4-8 Middle School (Cont'd)

Regarding signage, Dr. Durham stated that typically, all expenses for the school should be folded into the project. He stated that now, because of cost issues, the architect was looking to pass the cost onto someone else. He stated if the project could afford the signage, the project should pay for it. If the project could not afford it, they will have to look into the budget to try to find a way to pay for it. Mrs. Gourlie noted that the high school sign was donated, but the elementary school sign was a budget item.

Mr. Misenti believed the most important areas to be lit were the parking lot and walkways. Mrs. Ziobron stated these areas were already planned to be lit. The question was the driveway itself from Clark Gates Road to the school. Mr. Iacovelli asked how far this driveway was, to which Mrs. Ziobron stated it was approximately 2,800 feet. Mr. Iacovelli believed students would be riding their bikes and walking on this driveway and that it should be lit.

Mrs. Ziobron informed the Board that lighting of the access driveway could range from \$30,000 to \$50,000. She stated depending on the type of sign installed, there was a huge fluctuation from \$3,000 to \$30,000.

Mr. Misenti stated the high school has no sidewalk, partly due to the land. He believed they should try to get a pathway. Mrs. Ziobron stated that the pathway was removed per her request, as it was an \$80,000 item. She noted the driveway was 24-feet wide. She added that they could always add a path after the fact. She believed they must look at things that were essential to the school. There was no sidewalk on Clark Gates Road, nor was there a sidewalk to the elementary school. Mrs. Mordecai stated she asked about having stone on the sides of the driveway, but was told the upkeep would be prohibitive. Mr. Misenti commented that the lights would require maintenance, upkeep, and electricity.

Mr. Herden asked if P&Z looked at the 24-foot driveway. Mrs. Ziobron stated that P&Z wanted to reduce the width to 22-feet, but she believed they must think about kids on this driveway. Mr. Herden stated the P&Z also took issue with the senior center driveway width and it was cut to 18-feet. He encouraged Mrs. Ziobron to continue to press this issue.

Mrs. Gionta stated that middle school students can leave the premises and walk home, just as some do now. She believed if students walked this area in December, there would be a problem. Mrs. Ziobron stated she would take this concern back to the Building Committee and to the P&Z Commission. Mrs. Mordecai again stated the path could be added down the road. Mr. Iacovelli believed if it was not in the original plan, it would not happen in the

V. REPORT OF THE SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEES (Cont'd)A. 4-8 Middle School (Cont'd)

future. Mr. Misenti pointed out that this item would be reimbursed if it was included with the project. Mrs. Mordecai stated it was simply a cost issue and if there was money left over at the end of the project, they would do it.

Mr. Iacovelli asked if there was money left over at the end of the project, if the Board would have any say in how it was spent. Mrs. Ziobron stated only the Building Committee would decide this. However, she noted that the Building Committee has an understanding with the Board of Finance that if there is money left over, it would be turned back to the Town.

Mrs. Ziobron excused herself at this time so she could attend the P&Z public hearing.

B. Middle and Elementary Schools' Capital Improvements

Mr. Mather reported that this Committee met today and voted on two projects to be completed this summer. The first project was the replacement of floor tiles for asbestos abatement in four classrooms at the middle school, at a cost of \$48,750. The second was removal of floor tiles and asbestos abatement in the 1985 addition area of the elementary school, at a cost of \$11,800. The Committee voted to approve this work to be completed this summer and to go out to bid.

Mrs. Gourlie noted that this item appeared under tonight's Consent Agenda.

VI. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLSA. Updated Technology Plan

Dr. Durham informed the Board that the State Department of Education required an updated technology plan every three years. He stated that Mrs. Allison, the district's technology coordinator, was here if there were any questions on the plan. There were no questions asked. He noted that this item appeared on tonight's Consent Agenda for approval.

B. Health and Physical Education Curriculum

Dr. Durham announced that this was the last of the K-12 curriculum to be revised. He stated this health and physical education curriculum complies with all of the criteria and is in alignment with the State Frameworks. He stated that Ms. Butsch was here on behalf of the Health and Physical Education Curriculum Committee to answer any questions.

VI. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS (Cont'd)B. Health and Physical Education Curriculum (Cont'd)

Mr. Mather stated he was thankful that the Board now has a comprehensive curriculum in front of it. It makes it clear as to what students will be taught. Dr. Durham noted that this was a very comprehensive curriculum and teachers try to address the most significant aspects of it. Mr. Iacovelli commented that this curriculum was indeed special because it was done without a curriculum developer and came straight from the source.

Mrs. Mordecai asked how much change there would be once this curriculum was implemented. Ms. Butsch stated much of the curriculum was in place, but it might change a bit. She stated they wanted to have more than one approach and this new curriculum has many ways to approach instruction. Dr. Durham commented in some areas, there should be some significant changes as a result of the curriculum work. He thanked all of the members of this committee for their hard work.

C. Staffing Changes for 2006-07

Dr. Durham stated this item appeared on tonight's Consent Agenda for approval. He stated conversations have been occurring since last fall, but the changes could not be determined until the student course requests at the high school were complete.

As part of the changes, Dr. Durham stated the administration recommended one Tech. Ed. position at the high school be eliminated. He explained that one of the Tech. Ed. teachers was retiring and they believed they could eliminate one of the positions, as some of the course offerings originally specific to Tech. Ed. could be offered in Business Ed.

Dr. Durham stated there were two .8 FTE positions for Business Ed. He recommended these be eliminated and 1.0 FTE positions be created in their place.

Dr. Durham recommended the .6 FTE Guidance position at the high school be eliminated and a 1.0 FTE Guidance position be created. He commented that they were putting a lot of time into mentoring at the high school and the guidance counselors had more responsibility in that area, along with increased graduation credit and the revised academic seminar.

In the middle school, Dr. Durham recommended the elimination of .8 FTE Family & Consumer Science position and the creation of 1.0 FTE Family & Consumer Science position. This change is necessary to fill the void left by the elimination of sixth grade exploratory foreign language. He stated this position would be shifted to the high school, as there were currently 75 more students at the high school.

VI. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS (Cont'd)C. Staffing Changes for 2006-07 (Cont'd)

Dr. Durham spoke about a new position in Grade 8 for Language Arts. They have found that the 45-minute time period afforded to eighth grade students was not sufficient. There would be a new position there because they felt it was needed to strengthen the Language Arts program at the middle school and to better prepare students for the CMT's and CAPT.

Mrs. Gionta asked if this was included in the budget on which the Board recently voted. Dr. Durham stated it was not in the proposed budget. Mrs. Gionta asked if it was normal for the Board to do this after the budget. Dr. Durham stated it was normal to do it after the course requests were determined, as it was really a function of the course requests. New positions that are included in the budget typically are a result of changes in student enrollment or changes in programs.

Mrs. Gionta inquired the minimum number of students needed to fill a class. Dr. Durham stated typically 10, mostly for AP courses. He explained that many budget decisions are made early in the process and make it difficult to address staff changes.

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTSA. Long Range Planning

Mr. Iacovelli stated that the Long Range Planning subcommittee met on May 4, 2006. A copy of the minutes was included in the Board's packet.

Mr. Iacovelli indicated the 4-8 school project was discussed as presented by Mrs. Ziobron earlier this evening. The Committee also discussed the May 30 Special Meeting at 6:00 that was scheduled for the Strategic Plan presentation. He stated as of June 1, the Committee would have a public relations brochure to distribute.

Mr. Iacovelli stated he has seen many clips on television regarding the Avian flu. He indicated that East Haddam receives Homeland Security funding, which requires several people to attend NIMS training. He has learned from Officer Mansfield that the town needs to be self-sufficient for 3-5 days in the event of a true disaster situation. He stated that Dr. Durham would initiate some conversations regarding this, especially since the high school might be used as a shelter in the event of an emergency.

Mr. Iacovelli mentioned that the next Long Range Planning meeting was scheduled for June 8, 2006 at 4:00 p.m.

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

Mr. Mather reported that this Committee met earlier tonight. They discussed the potential \$50,000 surplus from medical insurance savings, but it was too early to say this amount was a surplus. He stated that everyone agreed to hold this account until June and to reconsider it at that time. He indicated that Mrs. Ziobron had wanted to turn the money back to the Town, but the consensus of the Committee was to hold it until June.

Mrs. Gourlie explained that depending upon new hires and their insurance needs, there could be some excess money.

C. Policy

Dr. Miett stated that the Policy subcommittee met on May 4, 2006. They discussed the Nutrition policy, as Mr. Scata has been working on the plan and the policy. One small change was made to the wording to eliminate specific months of the year.

The Committee discussed Policy 5124 – Reporting to Parents. Dr. Miett introduced Mrs. Cindy Mello to speak to this new policy. Mrs. Mello began by stating they have been researching ways to increase communication with parents. There are currently four opportunities, but she felt these opportunities were too connected with just the students' grades. The new proposal would give seven opportunities.

Mrs. Mello explained that the first opportunity would be a "meet and greet" time before school begins. The second would be a mid-September open house/curriculum night. In early October, a meeting would be scheduled with parents to set goals for the students. In early December, progress reports would be issued, with grades 1-4 receiving a traditional report, while Kindergarten students would receive a narrative report. A mid-year conference would be set in early February so that teachers and parents could review the goals set earlier in the year. In mid-March, progress reports would be given. Although no conference would be scheduled at this time, individual conferences could be scheduled if needed. The last communication would be the progress report at the end of the school year in June.

Mrs. Mello explained this new process would not just focus on grades, but on goals and growth for each student. She stated this program was presented to the PTO and they voted to support the program. In addition, Mrs. Mello reviewed the new proposal in one of the weekly newsletters sent home to all parents.

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

Mr. Mather inquired what percentage of parents currently attended conferences. Mrs. Mello responded that there is some type of contact with 100% of the parents, but approximately 90% are face-to-face meetings.

Mr. Iacovelli asked when the conferences would occur. Mrs. Mello stated generally, there are two half-days for conferences. Mr. Iacovelli asked what implication this might have on the calendar. Mrs. Mello indicated she might at some point ask that the two half-days be moved from November to October. She stated the February half-days could remain the same. Responsive to inquiry from Mrs. Gionta, Mrs. Mello stated she would ask this change only for the elementary school. Dr. Durham added that they were proposing a change now, so that everyone could think about it.

Mrs. Mordecai asked if the change would have any impact on the busses. Dr. Durham stated there would be no monetary implication and that they would simply reverse the bus rides. This could be worked out with Nichols Bus Company.

Mr. Misenti stated the Board has talked about trying to get the parents involved. The only way for this to be successful is by getting the parents on the same team and until this was done, it would be a difficult task. Mr. Iacovelli agreed, as long as they were not trying to run the team. Dr. Mielt stated this proposal was just a different way to communicate. The only change to Policy 5124 – Reporting to Parents was a minor language change at this point and was on tonight's Consent Agenda as a first reading.

Dr. Mielt stated that Policy 3524.1 – Pesticide Application was on tonight's Consent Agenda as a first reading. The Committee decided they would like the Board's attorney to review the policy regarding home-schooled students before presenting it to the Board. In addition, the Committee discussed cyber-bullying and field trips. These two policies would be discussed further at the next Policy meeting on June 8, 2006 at 5:30 p.m.

Mr. Mather referred to the removal of soda for students. Since the staff were encouraged to exhibit model behavior, he asked if soda would be available to teachers. Mr. Scata stated the legislation that was passed was for students and he was unsure if it would impact teachers and staff. However, he stated his recommendation would be that all soda be removed from the schools. Mr. Iacovelli viewed this as a problem. He stated as paid professionals with multiple educational degrees, teachers should eat, drink, and dress appropriately, but they should not be on the same level as the students. He noted that part of the rationale for the legislative change was that students were too young to decide against soda. Dr. Durham stated based on what he has learned, the legislative change was just for students.

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

Mrs. Mordecai asked if Mr. Iacovelli was a teacher, to which Mr. Iacovelli stated he was.

D. Transportation

Mr. Mather reported that this subcommittee has not met.

E. Personnel and Negotiations

Mr. Misenti asked that the Board enter Executive Session this evening. Noting no objections from the Board, Mrs. Gourlie added this to tonight's agenda as Item XI.

F. Ray Board Liaison

Mr. Iacovelli stated this Committee met and generously approved a \$290,000 operating budget. They approved a \$15,000 capital request for laptops; \$45,588 for Mr. Freeman for manufacturing and engineering; \$2,500 for the first VEX challenge; and \$11,559 for the assistive technology lab.

Mr. Iacovelli stated the Ray Board would again hold their annual dinner on June 5 or 6. He stated June 5 was better for the Ray Board members, but he asked that anyone interested in attending contact Dr. Durham's office.

Mr. Iacovelli stated the Ray Board of trustees was a great group and he acknowledged the Board could not do what it does without their help. He indicated the Ray Board was also considering inviting past award recipients to this dinner.

G. LEARN

Mrs. Gourlie reported that this Committee had not met.

H. Curriculum Council Liaison

Mr. Herden stated that this Committee met yesterday. The Social Studies Committee was working on a revision to include an evaluation tool to assess where they are and to minimize any gaps.

Mr. Herden stated the Council talked about whether a self-assessment tool would be beneficial. They also discussed whether this would be system-wide or specific to each school.

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

Mr. Herden indicated the Council discussed course write-ups, including credit values, prerequisites, etc. They will continue this discussion at their next meeting in June.

Mr. Herden commented that the Health & Physical Education curriculum, discussed tonight, was a great addition. He stated that the teachers and staff have done a great job in the development of this curriculum.

VIII. COMMUNICATIONS AND AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS

Mr. Mike Sassi gave the Board an update on the high school lighting project. He stated they dropped off the project and the completion plan to Dr. Durham yesterday for distribution.

Mr. Sassi stated this project was in reach of completion. He stated they had \$130,000 approved in funding at a Town Meeting in January 2006. He stated that in the packets, there is a cost breakdown, as well as a timeline.

Mr. Sassi asked to be added to next month's agenda. He indicated he needed to the Board to sign the permit. Mr. Sassi stated they would not proceed with the work until after graduation and they plan to have the work done by July or August 2006, before school opens for the fall.

Mrs. Gourlie stated that the Board had already endorsed the project and she signed the permit application and gave it back to Mr. Sassi.

Mr. Misenti asked if the Board had a list of all of the people who would work on the project as well as their certificates of insurance. Mr. Sassi stated there were three contractors: Allied Construction, Curtin Construction, and Fiora Electric. Mr. Misenti asked if the Board was named on the certificates of insurance. Mr. Sassi stated one listed the Board, but he would have the Board listed on the other two certificates.

Dr. Durham asked if Mr. Sassi would formally ask the Board to accept the project when the work was completed, to which Mr. Sassi responded affirmatively.

IX. OLD BUSINESSA. Strategic Plan

Mrs. Gourlie announced that there would be a Special Meeting on May 30 at 6:00 p.m. for the Strategic Plan presentation. After this presentation, the Board would adjourn to Executive Session to conduct the annual Superintendent's evaluation.

X. NEW BUSINESSA. Acceptance of Consent Agenda

1) Warrant

a. To approve the warrant for 2005-06 in the amount of \$1,155,431.49.

2) In accordance with Policy #3280, to accept the gift of a Selmer Flute to be used by the Middle School Music Department, and to direct the Superintendent to send a letter of appreciation.

3) To approve an unpaid leave of absence for Mrs. Gale Cummings beginning May 1, 2006 to the end of the 2005-06 school year.

4) To approve the district's Technology Plan as presented by the district-wide Technology Committee.

5) To approve the K-12 Health & Physical Education curriculums as presented by the Health & Physical Education Curriculum Committee.

6) To approve Policy 3524.1 (Pesticide Application) as a first reading as presented by the Policy Committee.

7) To approve Policy 5124 (Reporting to Parents) as a first reading as presented by the Policy Committee.

8) To approve Policy 6142.101 (Student Nutrition/Wellness) as a first reading as presented by the Policy Committee.

9) To approve the final plans and professional cost estimate for the Nathan Hale-Ray Middle School Asbestos Abatement Project.

X. NEW BUSINESS (Cont'd)

A. Acceptance of Consent Agenda (Cont'd)

10) To approve the following staffing changes as recommended by the Superintendent:

- Eliminate 1.0 FTE Tech. Ed. (HS);
- Eliminate .8 FTE Business Ed. (HS);
- Eliminate .8 FTE Business Ed. (HS);
- Eliminate .6 FTE Guidance (HS);
- Eliminate .8 FTE Family & Consumer Science (MS);
- Create 1.0 FTE Business Ed. (HS);
- Create 1.0 FTE Business Ed. (HS);
- Create 1.0 FTE Guidance (HS);
- Create 1.0 FTE Language Arts (MS); and
- Create 1.0 FTE Family & Consumer Science (MS).

MOTION: Mather, Iacovelli; to approve Items 1 through 10 of the Consent Agenda.

**FAVOR: ALL PRESENT
MOTION PASSED**

XI. Executive Session

MOTION: Misenti, Herden; to enter Executive Session at 9:00 p.m. for the purposes of discussing personnel and negotiations.

**FAVOR: ALL PRESENT
MOTION CARRIED**

The Board returned to open session at 9:30 p.m.

MOTION: Miett, Iacovelli; to adjourn at 9:31 p.m.

**FAVOR: ALL PRESENT
MOTION CARRIED**

Respectfully submitted,

Nick Iacovelli
Secretary