

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THE
MELROSE SCHOOL COMMITTEE
October 13, 2009**

A meeting of the Melrose School Committee was held this date in the Aldermanic Chamber of Melrose City Hall with the following members present: Ms. Casatelli, Ms. Thorp, Mr. Spinale, Mr. Constantine, Ms. Driscoll, Mayor Dolan and Mr. Lehman.

Also in attendance were Superintendent of Schools Joe Casey and Business Manager Greg Zammuto.

Ms. Casatelli called the meeting to order at 7pm.

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Thorp moved, Mr. Lehman seconded and it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve School Committee Minutes of September 22, 2009, with changes

Public Participation

Mayor Dolan moved, Ms. Driscoll seconded and it was unanimously

VOTED: To open Public Participation

Carrie Kourkoumelis of Cargill St. and Gerry Mroz of Mt. Vernon St. commented on participation policy; Michael Cain of Maple Grove St., Gina D'Orlando of Swains Pond Ave., Campbell Kaynor of Cargill St., Paula Broderick of Swains Pond Ave., Nancy Baldi of Forest St. and Susan Stoker of Worth St. commented on the safety and hardship issues regarding the elimination of the Ripley School bus route and await the availability of possible monies to reinstate the service.

Ms. Thorp moved, Ms. Driscoll seconded and it was unanimously

VOTED: To close Public Participation

Report of the Student Representatives

Student Representatives Leanne Hogan and Joe LiCausi reported as follows: Progress reports came out last week; MAAV Walk is Sunday, Oct. 25; SAB had a full day of training last week; Senior Breakfast is Thursday, Oct. 22; Senior Halloween Dance is Oct. 25 from 6:30-9:30pm at Knights of Columbus; ACT's on Oct. 24; Student government elections took place last week; Band competition on Oct. 17; Red Ribbon Day for SADD is this Friday; PSAT's are Oct. 27; today MHS teachers worked on rubrics and continued with the NEASC program; German students leave on Oct. 27; Fall sports will play night games beginning Oct. 16.

Announcements – Superintendent of Schools

Mr. Casey reported that a few negative incidents involving MHS students within the last few weeks have been seriously dealt with and noted that anything of this nature will not be tolerated.

Annual Chancellor's Breakfast for Superintendents - Mr. Casey reported on a meeting he attended at UMass Lowell relative to community partnerships for professional development and "STEM" – science, technology, engineering and math – to address students on how to move forward with what interests them. Mr. Lehman noted that UMass and corporate sponsors are hosting a STEM Summit event next Tuesday where districts around the state can discuss how to implement different strategies in the classroom targeted to student goals.

Ripley School Area Transportation Update - Mr. Casey commented on the Ripley School bus issue, giving a historical background on the service and its elimination. He will meet with parents tomorrow night at 7pm in the Superintendent's conference room to have a collective discussion regarding options to attempt to move forward with this issue in this financially difficult time. Mr. Constantine will also attend

Mr. Casey and Mayor Dolan reported on the Assn. of National Builders' awards which are presented every three years for public and private buildings which meet standards for financial and managerial excellence. MVMMS won one of six awards in New England for national recognition.

Policy and Planning – Kristin Thorp

Enrollment Update – Ms. Thorp presented report dated October 1 noting a district-wide enrollment of 3,548 students, with average Grades 1-5 class sizes from 22.2 – 23.8. Ms. Thorp noted comparisons between October 2008/October 2009.

Strategic Plan Goal Update – Ms. Driscoll presented October through May timeline of steering committee actions necessary to implement the Strategic Plan this spring. October's goals are committee formation and initial meeting, identification of 9-10 focus groups, identification of focus group leaders, focus groups leaders training and establishment of meeting schedule, and creation of 3-4 essential questions to define what each focus group will address. Ms. Driscoll asked that anyone interested in participating in the focus group segment should contact her by October 23.

(Mayor Dolan left the meeting at 8:13pm)

Changes to Policies 1501 and 6506.01, and School Committee Bylaws –

Ms. Thorp moved, Ms. Driscoll seconded and with six (6) votes in the affirmative (Mr. Lehman, Ms. Thorp, Mr. Spinale, Mr. Constantine, Ms. Driscoll and Ms. Casatelli), none (0) in the negative, and one (1) absent (Mayor Dolan), it was

VOTED: To take off the table previous motion regarding Policy 1501 School Committee Meetings

Mr. Lehman presented his revised draft of Section 1501 for Committee review.

(Mayor Dolan returned to the meeting at 8:22pm)

Ms. Thorp moved, Ms. Driscoll seconded and with five (5) votes in the affirmative (Mr. Lehman, Ms. Thorp, Mr. Spinale, Mr. Constantine and Ms. Driscoll), two (2) the negative (Mayor Dolan and Ms. Casatelli), it was

VOTED: To accept revised Policy 1501, as read

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Ms. Thorp moved, Ms. Driscoll seconded and it was unanimously

VOTED: To take off the table previous motion regarding Policy 6506.1 Committee Agenda Format

Mr. Lehman presented his revised draft of Section 6506.1 Committee Agenda Format for Committee review.

Mayor Dolan moved, Ms. Casatelli seconded to table the motion.

With four (4) votes in the affirmative (Mr. Spinale, Ms. Driscoll, Mayor Dolan and Ms. Casatelli), and three (3) in the negative (Mr. Lehman, Ms. Thorp and Mr. Constantine), it was

VOTED: To table motion on revised draft of Section 6506.1

Finance and Facilities – Don Constantine

Monthly Cafeteria Report - Business Manager Greg Zammuto presented September 2009 Chartwell's report.

Ms. Thorp moved, Mr. Lehman seconded and it was unanimously

VOTED: To accept September 2009 Cafeteria Report

Monthly Budget Summary – Mr. Zammuto presented September 2009 budget report.

Ms. Thorp moved, Ms. Driscoll seconded and it was unanimously

VOTED: To accept September 2009 budget report

Educational Programs and Personnel – Margaret Driscoll

Personnel Report – Mr. Casey presented report dated today noting a retirement/replacement in the Middle School Secretary position, and one paraprofessional resignation at the Lincoln School which is expected to be filled tomorrow.

Meeting the Needs of All Learners Update – Mr. Casey reported that approximately 75 parents and community members attended the presentation of October 8 by the administrative team of Melrose schools regarding our efforts to increase academic achievement for all learners. This meeting proved to be a good beginning dialogue to help us focus and move forward in this regard. We will distribute within a month a parent survey for their feedback.

Internet Safety – Mr. Casey reported that we have taken steps to work with the Middlesex Partnership for Youth to offer before the holiday season information nights for parents and then for staff regarding social networks and other online venues available to children, setting parameters, and making wise choices. More information will be forthcoming on this timely and important issue.

Mr. Casey also noted that the Melrose Police are offering free informational classes at the Milano Center on three different dates regarding drug awareness. Contact the Police Dept. or the MHS office for more information.

Ms. Casatelli noted that there was no need for an Executive Session.

Ms. Thorp moved, Ms. Driscoll seconded and it was unanimously

VOTED: To adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 9:10pm.