

School Committee Minutes

Date: **January 27, 2010**

Present: **Ms. Brady-Pojani, Chairperson, Mr. Clawson, Vice Chairperson, Mr. Corey, Mr. Borowski, Mrs. Vigneau, Mr. Bedard, Business Administrator, and Mrs. Hitchcock, Superintendent of Schools**

Location: **High School Media Center**

Time: **7:00 pm**

Ms. Brady-Pojani brought the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Approval of Regular Minutes

Ms. Brady-Pojani asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the January 13, 2010. Mr. Corey made a motion to accept the minutes and Mr. Clawson seconded the motion. All approved (5-0).

Approval of Executive Session Minutes

Ms. Brady-Pojani asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the Executive Session on January 13, 2010. Mr. Corey made a motion to accept the Executive Session minutes and Mr. Clawson seconded the motion. All approved (5-0).

Report of the Administration

Mrs. Hitchcock stated that the high school band is planning a trip to Washington, D.C. April 15th through April 19th. Mrs. Swenson will attend as administrator. They have 4 males and 2 females (3 including Mrs. Swenson) for chaperones. They are still in the process of looking for another female chaperone. Mr. Borowski made a motion to vote for approval of the trip. Mr. Clawson seconded the motion. All approved (5-0). Ms. Brady-Pojani suggested that in the future to have enough chaperones per gender.

Mrs. Hitchcock stated that the reason she put the High School Musical on the agenda with the dates and times was for additional advertising for the musical.

The H1N1 Flu Clinic will be held on Tuesday, February 2nd at the high school from 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm. This clinic is for anyone residing in Millbury. She stated that the elderly should park in back and come into the school through the back door. This information has been on the cable channel and in the newspaper.

Budget

Mrs. Hitchcock stated that she spoke to Attorney Tate in regards to Massachusetts general laws and not being able to increase the budget after the public hearing. She stated there are no laws that would not allow an increase in the budget.

It was stated that the School Department has been working on a date to meet in Executive Session regarding collective bargaining negotiations with the selectman. It was decided that they would meet February 10, 2010 at 6:15 pm in the high school media center.

Mr. Bedard stated that included in the School Committee packets was the Annual Financial Statements and Management letter from Melanson and Heath. He stated that the school's activity accounts were audited and they found nothing significant. Mr. Bedard stated that the auditors commented on the improvement from the school and town since the last audit.

Mrs. Hitchcock stated that the Warrant was for \$40,000.00 to make the playgrounds at both elementary schools ADA compliant. This project has been completed at a cost of \$25,915.00 and the remainder of the money (\$14,085) was being returned to the town for the free cash account. She also stated that this should be addressed with the Selectman.

Mr. Bedard stated that he had recently solicited sealed bids for the annual service contract for heating, ventilation and air conditioning services and repairs in all three schools. He stated that he had received 6 bids. The lowest qualified bid of \$31,110.00 was from MPC Services of Millbury. Mr. Bedard recommended a vote to accept the bid from MPC Services. Mr. Corey made a motion, Mr. Clawson seconded. Vote all approved (5-0).

Mrs. Hitchcock stated that during the last budget a portion of the Medicaid money goes to the Town and a portion to the School Department. Last year, the School Department receipts were \$130,000. This year we estimate receipts of 137,000. Last year the school department received an amount of \$90,000 from the total Medicaid receipts. Mrs. Hitchcock stated that the School Department could receive an additional \$6,000 (\$96,000 instead of \$90,000) if the school and the town went back to the old formula of 50% of the receipts plus school's expenses. She asked the School Committee how they would like to proceed. Mr. Clawson asked if there was a rush to decide on this matter. Mrs. Hitchcock stated that in the past warrant articles needed to be at the Town Hall by the end of January. It was stated that the date for the town meeting had not yet been decided. Mr. Clawson suggested that this issue be tabled until the next meeting stating that he wanted information regarding the split in past years and the cost to generate the Medicaid funds. He stated that he would like this information year by year and the total dollars for each year at the next meeting.

Mrs. Hitchcock stated that the Governor announced today that he would not be cutting the aid to schools for the 2011 budget.

Old Business

Mr. Borowski gave an update on the Windle Field project. He stated that he was in contact with local representatives regarding this project. He also stated that they are looking for the School Committee to vote on funding for the soil testing. He stated that this test is much less costly than a 21E. He stated that the Windle Field Committee will meet prior to the School Committee's next meeting to vote on the Corps of Engineers application.

Mr. Bedard stated that labor would be done for free and that we would be responsible for supplies and materials with the Corps work. He also stated that the project could go on without the additional parcel of land, as per discussion with Mr. McGarry and Ms. Connors, by allowing for a wetlands buffer zone within our property. Mr. Bedard stated that one half of the cost of the soil sampling would come from the balance in the Windle Field Budget and the remainder to come from the Windle Field Revolving Acct. Mr. Corey made a motion to fund the soil tests and Mr. Clawson seconded the motion. All approved (5-0).

New Business

Nothing to report.

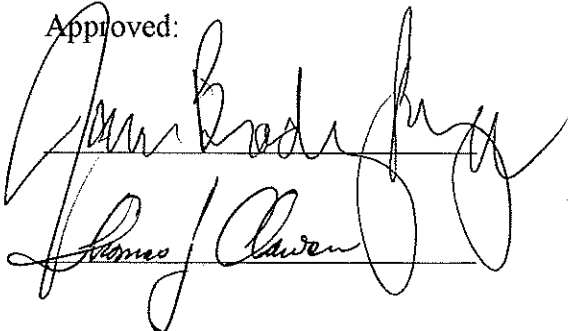
Ms. Brady-Pojani stated that they were going into Executive Session regarding contract negotiations and that they would not return. Mr. Corey – yes, Mr. Clawson, - yes, Mr. Borowski – yes, Mrs. Vigneau – yes, Ms. Brady-Pojani – yes.

Ms. Brady-Pojani adjourned the meeting at 7:40 pm.

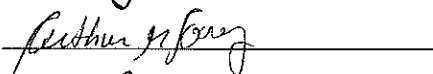
Respectfully submitted

Donna Lane
School Committee Clerk

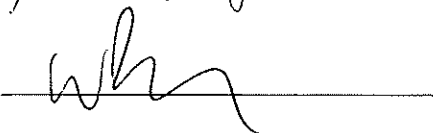
Approved:



James J. Clawson



Arthur J. Corey



William H. Borowski