

STONEHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS
STONEHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
JOINT MEETING WITH BOARD OF SELECTMEN
NOVEMBER 14, 2013 – HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY**

The meeting was held at 7:00 P.M. on Wednesday, November 20, 2013 in the High School library with the following members present: S. MacNeill, Chairperson; J. Craigie, Vice Chair; D. Maurer; S. McCarthy (joined the meeting at 7:15 P.M.) and M. Christie. Also present were L. Olson, Superintendent of Schools; M. Cresta, Director of Finance. Board of Selectmen members R. Sweeney (Chair), J. DePinto, T. Boussy, F. Vallarelli, and A. O'Neill; Town Administrator D. Ragucci and Town Accountant R. Florino.

S. MacNeill called the meeting to order at 7:05 P.M.

Agenda

A. Pledge of Allegiance

B. Update on FY14 Finances and FY15 Projection

R. Florino gave a summary of the FY14 revenues and FY15 revenue projections for the Town, stating that he was taking a conservative approach.

A discussion followed regarding what line items should be included as revenue and whether the trash fee revenue should be removed to a special fund account.

C. Discussion of Budget Guidelines

Town Administrator Ragucci opened the discussion by saying that the two bodies need to decide if they are willing to continue to operate under the budget guidelines, amend them or abolish them completely.

Several members of both boards spoke in favor of abolishing the budget guidelines completely, stating that the agreement was drafted by members who are no longer on the boards and that both boards should return to the fiscal guidelines that have been in existence. The Town Administrator and Superintendent of Schools should discuss the budget according to the needs of all departments.

Other members of both boards supported the agreement, stating that there was only one year left on the agreement and they felt it gave the community confidence in both boards and showed that both boards were serious about working together.

Both boards agreed that it was important to fund the necessary programs and to work together for the good of the Town.

ACTION BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN: A motion was made by T. Boussy and seconded by A. O'Neill to discontinue the budget guidelines agreement. The motion carried 3 (T. Boussy, A. O'Neill, R. Sweeney) to 2 (F. Vallarelli, J. DePinto).

ACTION BY THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE: A motion was made by J. Craigie and seconded by M. Christie to abolish the budget agreement but to add language that the administrator from the school and town should set the budget plan. The motion carried 4 (D. Maurer, M. Christie, J. Craigie, S. MacNeill) to 1 (S. McCarthy).

D. FY15 School Budget Goals

Chairman MacNeill read a list of proposed FY15 school department budget goals. A discussion followed regarding the reinstatement of several programs, including art and music, and the need to reinstate bussing or partial bussing to alleviate the parking and traffic problems at the schools which could be a major safety issue.

Town Administrator Ragucci said that the Town is working on their goals list and it would be presented at the December 10th meeting of the Board of Selectmen.

E. Capital Needs

Town Administrator Ragucci reviewed capital needs recommended by the Capital Committee and stated that a high priority was funding the High School building and renovation project without a debt exclusion or override.

F. Stoneham Substance Abuse Coalition

S. MacNeill gave an update on the Stoneham Substance Abuse Coalition, which had its first meeting two weeks ago. A press release is being drafted. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 25th.

G. Other Collaboration Possibilities

Both boards discussed other possible collaborations between the school and Town.

Executive Session – MGL Chapter 30A, Section 21a

ACTION: Upon a motion by J. Craigie and seconded by M. Christie, and upon a motion by J. DePinto and seconded by T. Boussy, the boards voted independently by roll call to enter Executive Session at 9:00 to discuss collective bargaining since an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining, not to return to open session. The motions were approved unanimously.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED
LES E. OLSON, SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

DOCUMENTS REVIEWED:
TOWN FY14 FINANCES AND FY15 PROJECTIONS
BUDGET GUIDELINES AGREEMENT
SCHOOL BUDGET GOALS
CAPITAL NEEDS