

STONEHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
STONEHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE AND SELECTMEN BI-BOARD MEETING  
CENTRAL MIDDLE SCHOOL, ROOM 106  
SEPTEMBER 11, 2014**

The meeting of the School Committee was held at 7:30 P.M. on Thursday, September 11, 2014 in Room 106 at the Central Middle School with the following members present: J. Craigie, Chairperson; S. McCarthy, Vice Chair, S. MacNeill, D. Maurer and M. Christie. Also present were L. Olson, Superintendent of Schools and M. Cresta, Director of Finance. Board of Selectmen members T. Boussy (Chair), J. DePinto, F. Vallarelli, and A. O'Neill; Town Administrator D. Ragucci and Town Accountant R. Florino.

Chair J. Craigie called the open session of the School Committee to order at 7:30 P.M.

**A. Pledge of Allegiance**

**B. Bi-Board Meeting with Selectmen**

The joint meeting of the School Committee and Board of Selectmen was called to order by Chair J. Craigie and Chair T. Boussy.

D. Ragucci outlined the usage of the \$1,138,074 balance of Certified Free Cash as of July 1, 2014:

\$415,062.75	FY14 Snow & Ice Deficit
\$100,000.00	Transfer Trash Fee Surplus to Special Fund
\$25,000.00	Increase Reserve Fund
\$37,131.00	FY15 Budget Shortfall
\$280,442.62	Capital Stabilization
\$280,442.63	General Stabilization

D. Ragucci also discussed the FY15 Budget Shortfalls totaling \$331,655 due to an increase in the Essex North Shore Agricultural assessment, Northeast Regional Vocational and the reduction in state aid. This shortfall will be covered by an increase in new growth, increase in local receipts, transfer of trash disposal fees and transfer from Certified Free Cash surplus revenue.

A discussion followed regarding the control of the reserve fund by the Finance Board, the application to the MSBA for the High School renovation project and the retirement liability shortfall. R. Florino said that the Retirement Board will be inviting the Board of Selectmen and the School Committee to a meeting on November 18<sup>th</sup> to discuss the shortfall.

Dr. Olson discussed the Warrant Articles that the School Committee will bring forward to Town Meeting. All four articles are regarding the easements at 105 Central Street.

The Boards also discussed Capital Committee recommendations. D. Ragucci outlined several department requests, including a DPW truck, fire truck, two police cruisers, fences at the golf course and painting at the library. Dr. Olson added that the School Department would be submitting a request to update the HVAC controls at the elementary schools. D. Ragucci said that there is a similar situation at the police department with the HVAC system and both Boards agreed to check the feasibility of consolidating HVAC services. D. Ragucci agreed to follow up with the Capital Committee to get a date for their next meeting.

The School Committee also discussed the FY16 Budget Process and the need to include the substance abuse counselor position that was not funded in the FY15 budget.

The Boards agreed to schedule their next meeting in January.

**ACTION:** A motion was made by S. MacNeill and seconded by M. Christie to adjourn the Bi-Board meeting. The motion was approved unanimously by both the School Committee and Board of Selectmen at 8:48 P.M.

**C. Action to Approve the Minutes of:**

August 21, 2014 Regular Meeting

**ACTION:** A motion was made by M. Christie and seconded by S. MacNeill to approve the minutes of August 21, 2014. The motion was approved 4-0-1 with D. Maurer abstaining.

August 21, 2014 Executive Session

**ACTION:** A motion was made by S. McCarthy and seconded by M. Christie to approve the minutes of August 21, 2014 to remain confidential. The motion was approved 4-0-1 with D. Maurer abstaining.

**D. Approval of Warrant**

**ACTION:** A motion was made by S. McCarthy and seconded by M. Christie to approve Bill Warrant #15-2 in the amount of \$534,337.94. The motion was approved 5-0.

**E. Public Comment**

Chairperson Craigie announced that she would limit public comment to fifteen minutes due to the length of items on the agenda and if issues are not resolved, a letter can be submitted to the superintendent requesting to be put on the agenda for the next meeting.

Dr. Olson read a statement regarding the bus routes and scheduling and ended by saying that the reversal in the afternoon bus route would be evaluated Friday afternoon and a decision made for Monday.

Several parents spoke against the change in the afternoon route and voiced concerns for the length of time students would wait for the bus to arrive at the school for the return home. Suggestions included staggering the start times at Robin Hood and South or adding a second bus and charge a fee. Several parents also felt that they would opt out of the bus if the afternoon route changed, thus causing more traffic congestion at South School.

**F. Technology Discussion**

Dr. Olson introduced Kathy Martin, Director of Instructional Technology, who provided an initial overview of the district's technology, both support side and instructional side:

- All K-12 teachers have access to computers
- Interactive projectors are being installed, and additional interactive white boards will be installed later this year. Training sessions will take place over the next few weeks to train the trainers.
- The Central Middle School opened with some delays in printing and internet due to power issues but they are working to resolve the issues.
- Working on having a full inventory of technology available by December
- A profile of technology education included keyboard training for grade 4-5 and *Project Lead the Way* at the Central Middle School.

A discussion followed regarding staffing, programs, Wi-Fi updates, grants for STEM education and STEM competitions.

### **G. Warrant Articles – October Town Meeting**

The School Committee reviewed the four articles that they will present at Town Meeting to resolve easement issues between the Central Middle School property and 105 Central Street.

**ACTION:** A motion was made by D. Maurer and seconded by S. MacNeill to approve the Warrant Articles for Town Meeting. The motion was approved 5-0.

### **H. Strategic Plan**

Dr. Olson outlined the DESE goals which must be incorporated into the Strategic Plan and also a draft of the survey questions as discussed at the last meeting.

### **I. Donations**

Dr. Olson recommended acceptance of the following donations:

- \$500 from B. J. Wholesale Club to the Colonial Park School
- \$2,500 from StonehamBank to the Central Middle School

**ACTION:** A motion was made by S. MacNeill and seconded by D. Maurer to approve the above donations. The motion was approved 5-0.

### **Discussion/Correspondence/New Items**

S. MacNeill reported on the Stoneham Substance Abuse Coalition. They will have a table at town day and at the football game on Friday night. A vigil will take place on the Town Common October 26 in recognition of Red Ribbon Week. More information can be found on the website [www.stonehamsac.com](http://www.stonehamsac.com).

M. Christie announced that the SBCEF will once again sponsor an art show auction in the spring and requested that parents consider donating their children's artwork.

### **Middle School Building Project**

J. Craigie reported that the Middle School Project is now 97% complete and a punch list is ongoing. The Building Committee will meet next Monday night and a grand opening date will be announced soon.

### **Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Olson reported that opening enrollment numbers totaled 2,327, which was minus 13 from the October 2013 projection. The Central Middle School had an increase in enrollment possibly due to the new building, and the High School had a decrease in enrollment possibly due to students attending Essex Agriculture. A brief discussion followed regarding the assessment process for Essex Agriculture.

**ACTION:** A motion was made by M. Christie and seconded by D. Maurer to adjourn at 9:53 P.M. The motion was approved unanimously by roll call.

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED**  
**LES E. OLSON, SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**

#### **DOCUMENTS REVIEWED:**

Minutes August 21, 2014  
Bill Warrant 15-2  
Warrant Articles for Town Meeting