

Reading Public Schools
Reading, Massachusetts

Regular Meeting of the School Committee
Executive Session

Date: December 7, 2009
Time: 7:04 p.m.
Place: Superintendent's Office

School Committee Members Present

Lisa Gibbs
Chris Caruso

Karen Janowski
Chuck Robinson
Elaine Webb
David Michaud

Staff Members Present

John Doherty, Acting Superintendent
Mary DeLai, Director of Finance & Operations (arrived at 7:50 p.m.)

Joe Huggins, Director of Facilities
Bob LeLacheur, Town Finance Director
Ellen Doucette, Town Counsel

I. Executive Session 7:33 p.m.

A. Call to Order

Chairperson Robinson called the Executive Session to order.

1. Pending Litigation

Ms. Doucette updated the committee on the Midland Fire Protection request to submit this matter to mediation.

Mr. Huggins provided additional information regarding some work that had not been done that has come to light during the performance contracting work.

Ms. Doucette requested that the School Committee vote to authorize Town Counsel to participate in non-binding mediation involving this case.

Mr. Caruso moved, seconded by Mrs. Gibbs, to authorize Town Counsel to participate, on behalf of the Reading School Committee, in nonbinding mediation in the matter of Midland Fire Protection v. TLT Construction Corp. v. Town of Reading. The roll call vote was 6-0. Mr. Michaud, Mr. Caruso, Mr. Robinson, Mrs. Janowski, Mrs. Webb and Mrs. Gibbs.

Ms. DeLai arrived.

Mr. Robinson asked how long the mediation would last. Ms. Doucette felt that it would not last more than a day. Dr. Doherty stated that he had spoken to Superintendent Schettini regarding the mediation and he supports the recommendation.

Ms. Doucette continued to update the committee on the remaining pending litigation. She indicated that depositions were being given at this point. She indicated that Mr. Dunlap deposition will be taken in January. Mr. Robinson asked to be updated after his deposition.

Mr. Huggins will also be deposed. Ms. Doucette indicated that she will work with Mr. Huggins to prepare him prior to giving his deposition.

Mr. Robinson thanked Ms. Doucette and Mr. Huggins for coming to the meeting and they left.

2. Negotiation Strategies

Dr. Doherty stated that he and Ms. DeLai had been working on the FY11 budget and feel that there will need to be approximately \$740,000 in personnel cuts. They have been exploring areas other than personnel to make cuts. He feels it is in the best interest of the committee not to reopen negotiations with the collective bargaining units at this point.

The School Committee would like to keep this option open at this point.

Mr. LeLacheur left the meeting.

3. Personnel Matter

Dr. Doherty updated the committee on the RMHS Football account. He stated that he and Ms. DeLai met with the town's auditing firm to discuss the best way to move forward.

4. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Caruso moved, seconded by Mr. Michaud, to approve the Executive Session minutes dated November 23, 2009. On a roll call vote, the motion carries 6-0. Mrs. Webb, Mr. Caruso, Mrs. Gibbs and Mr. Robinson, Mr. Michaud and Mrs. Janowski.

II. Adjournment

Mr. Caruso moved, seconded by Mrs. Webb, to adjourn and return to open session. On a roll call vote the motion carries 6-0. Mrs. Webb, Mr. Caruso, Mrs. Gibbs and Mr. Robinson, Mr. Michaud and Mrs. Janowski.

Meeting adjourned at 8:56 p.m.

Approved 1.7.10

Released w/ redactions 5.17.10

Released w/ redactions 7.5.11

Released 01.05.17