



Town of Reading Meeting Minutes

Board - Committee - Commission - Council:

School Committee

Date: 2016-08-29

Time: 6:45 PM

Building: School - Memorial High

Location:

Address: 62 Oakland Road

Session: Open Session

Purpose: Open Session

Version: Final

Attendees: **Members - Present:**

Jeanne Borawski, Linda Snow Dockser, Elaine Webb, Gary Nihan, Julie Joyce

Members - Not Present:

Student Representatives Nazzaro & Cutone. Chuck Robinson

Others Present:

Superintendent John Doherty, Assistant Superintendent Craig Martin, Director of Student Services Carolyn Wilson (arrived at 7:09 p.m.), Director of Finance Gail Dowd, Chronicle Reporter Al Sylvia, Selectmen Barry Berman, RPS Principals, Assistant Director of Facilities Kevin Cabuzzi, Erik Mysliwy - Town Water Department

Minutes Respectfully Submitted By: Linda Engelson on behalf of the Chair

Topics of Discussion:

I. Call to Order

Chair Borawski called the School Committee to order at 6:50 p.m.

II. Recommended Procedure

A. New Teacher Introduction

Dr. Doherty provided an overview of the Induction Week activities.

Mrs. Leonard introduced the new teachers at the Barrows School.

Mrs. Hendrix introduced the new teachers at the Birch Meadow School.

Ms. Marchant introduced the new teachers at the Coolidge Middle School.

Mr. Sprung introduced the new teachers at the Joshua Eaton School.

Ms. Leveque introduced the new teachers at the Killam School.

Mrs. Shankland introduced the new teachers at the Parker Middle School.

Mr. Bakr introduced the new teachers at the high school.

Mrs. King introduced the new teachers at the Wood End School.

Dr. Doherty introduced the new Central Office staff.

Mrs. Wilson introduced the new district Special Education staff.

Dr. Doherty commended the principals for their efforts in hiring new staff over the summer. He also thanked Interim Human Resources Administrator Jenn Bove and Administrative Assistant Kristyn Cohen for their tireless work processing the new hires.

Mrs. Borawski called a brief recess at 7:13 p.m.

The meeting was called back to order at 7:16 p.m.

B. Public Input

Chair Borawski asked for public input on items not on the agenda.

Marianne Downing asked if School Committee archives would be added to the website.

Dr. Doherty said that we are in the process of adding content to the website.

C. Consent Agenda

Mrs. Borawski asked the Committee if there were any consent agenda items that they would like removed. There were none.

- Approval of Minutes (July 25 & 27, 2016)

Mrs. Joyce moved, seconded by Mrs. Webb, to approve the consent agenda as presented. The motion carried 5-0.

D. Reports

Liaison's Report

Mrs. Webb reported on the recent RCASA meeting and noted that the annual meeting is in September.

Dr. Snow Dockser updated the committee on the HRAC. The next meeting will be on Sept. 7th at Town Hall. The HRAC has been planning the MLK Day Breakfast.

She next reported that the SEPAC had been busy over the summer.

The annual METCO BBQ and Pool Party will be held on September 10th and the Reading Street Faire is on September 11th.

Dr. Snow Dockser shared that she was thrilled to attend the opening meeting this morning. The energy and excitement was palpable in the Performing Arts Center.

Chair Borawski reported that she also attended the opening day meeting and was honored to speak.

She also reported that the Board of Selectmen voted to put forward the amount of \$7.5M for the override question. Upcoming meetings are September 1; Community Financial Forum, September 12; Special Town Meeting and October 18; Special Election.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Doherty thanked the custodial and facilities staff for all their hard work to ensure our buildings were ready to open on the first day of school. He went on to provide an overview of the work done over the summer months including all schools cleaned, waxed and ready to go, preventative maintenance on our mechanical plant, painting of classrooms, refinishing of floors and the installation of ceiling fans in classrooms on the 4th floor of RMHS.

Dr. Doherty updated the community on the lead in water testing. Additional testing was done at Killam, Coolidge and Birch Meadow and the solution of replacing the faucets at the sources did not result in lower results at most of the affected areas, especially at the Killam Elementary School. As a result, additional steps will be taken to ensure the safety of our students including the creation of handwashing only stations at the affected areas in the classrooms and washrooms and capping all affected water fountains and providing bottled water dispensers.

The elevated lead levels in the water is a systemic problem, probably due to the age of the buildings particularly Killam.

Mrs. Borawski asked about the budgetary impact and how parents have been notified. Dr. Doherty shared that all parents received information via Connect-Ed. Mr. Huggins will be tracking the cost of providing bottled water at the affected buildings.

Over the summer the District Leadership Team held five days of discussion on several topics in preparation for the start of the school year. Attorney Michael Joyce presented information on student legal issues including Chapter 222, bullying and harassment, attendance, 504, special education, student records and investigations. The teacher evaluation process was reviewed and action plans developed for closing the achievement gap, math instruction, literacy and social emotional learning were all discussed during the team's retreat.

Mr. Martin reviewed the summer activity in Learning and Teaching. Several professional development opportunities were held both in district and out of district. Staff members attended the 2016 International Literacy Association conference held in Boston. A Know Atom Science workshop was held for grade 3 – 5 teachers and a grade 6 Science workshop was held. Curriculum work was done in several areas.

A team from RPS presented on social emotional learning at the Annual MASS Summer Institute.

New teacher induction and orientation was held last week and went extremely well.

Mrs. Downing asked about the status of the curriculum maps and pacing guides. Mr. Martin said he hopes to share these documents with the public later in the fall.

Mrs. Wilson updated the community on the summer activities in the Student Services Department. The Extended School year program ran for 5 weeks this year and collaborated with the Kid's Club to have these students participate in several of the activities offered.

Professional development opportunities in Mental Health First Aid, Team Chair Leadership, and MTSS district and building leadership team planning was provided. Mandatory employee trainings were held in harassment, discrimination, bullying and civil rights. Curriculum work was also done over the summer.

Dr. Doherty reviewed the elementary enrollment, the computer replacements that occurred over the summer and status of the new website. Superintendent Doherty also shared that we will be using the interface referral service with William James College that Ms. McNamara of RCASA had presented at an earlier meeting. This service will be funded by grants and is a referral system for students and community and will be used with our SBIRT process in grade 9.

Lastly, Dr. Doherty reviewed the district vision and new logo and direction.

E. Old Business

Superintendent's Evaluation

Mrs. Borawski asked that the Superintendent's Evaluation be deferred to the next meeting when all the committee will be in attendance.

FY18 Budget Preparation

Dr. Doherty reviewed the structural deficit and the resources needed to address the challenges and the impact if these needs are not addressed. He feels that a majority of the cuts will be staffing.

Mrs. Borawski said it is important that we find a way to communicate this to the staff.

Mrs. Downing asked if there is any fall back if the override fails.

Mr. Berman indicated that no decisions have been made at this point but it would be looked at for next year. He went on to say residents need to be asked what they are willing to give up. The town residents are happy with the services they receive and really do not want to sacrifice anything. Information needs to get out on what the impact will be and what are the potential losses in services.

Dr. Doherty shared that year 2 of the science curriculum is included in the structural deficit. If the override fails FY18 will look like FY17. He next reviewed the prioritized list of needed resources based on the \$7.5M ballot question.

Lastly, the Superintendent reviewed the list of resources not funded from the original prioritized list of resources.

Mrs. Joyce moved, seconded by Mrs. Webb, to approve the FY18 prioritized resources needed to address educational challenges and the structural deficit as presented in the total amount of \$2,960,000.

Dr. Nihan expressed his concerns that we need to have a health curriculum that is evidence based.

The motion carried 5-0.

III. Routine Matters

a. Bills and Payroll (A)

Warrant S1657	6.30.16	\$24,810.12
Warrant S1658	6.30.16	\$12,633.26
Warrant S1658A	6.30.16	\$80.00
Warrant S1659	6.30.16	\$442.75
Warrant S1661	6.30.16	1,155.87
Warrant S1705	7.28.16	\$89,318.82
Warrant S1706	8.4.16	\$181,808.37
Warrant S1707	8.16.16	\$22,596.53
Warrant S1708	8.18.16	\$194,917.80
Warrant S1709	8.25.16	\$77,238.29
Warrant P1703	7.29.16	\$1,024,910.85

b. Calendar

IV. Information

V. Future Business

VI. Adjournment

Mrs. Joyce moved, seconded by Mrs. Webb, to adjourn. The motion carried 5-0.

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

NOTE: The minutes reflect the order as stated in the posted meeting agenda not the order they occurred during the meeting.

John F. Doherty, Ed.D.

Handouts: Elementary Enrollment
Update on Lead in the Water
FY18 Prioritized List