

TYNGSBOROUGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

October 3, 2006

The meeting was called to order by Chair Buchman at 7:00 p.m. Those present were Diana Keohane, Bill Downing, Martina Witts, Barry Dick, Jeff Hunt and Diane Kablik.

1. Call to Order
- A. Roll Call

Superintendent Hawkins and Business Administrator Joe Messina, were also present.

Chair Buchman called for the approval of Minutes.

2. Approve the Minutes of September 5, 11, and 20, 2006 and the Executive Session of September 20, 2006

Bill Downing made a motion, seconded by Diana Keohane, to approve the Minutes of 9/5/06 and 9/11/06.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS 6, Yea (Chair Buchman) 0, Nay 1, Abstain (Mrs. Keohane)
(Mr. Downing)
(Mrs. Witts)
(Mr. Hunt)
(Mr. Dick)
(Mrs. Kablik)

Bill Downing made a motion, seconded by Diana Keohane, to approve the Minutes of 9/20/06 and Executive Session of 9/20/06.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS 6, Yea (Chair Buchman) 0, Nay 1, Abstain (Mr. Hunt)
(Mr. Downing)
(Mrs. Witts)
(Mrs. Keohane)
(Mr. Dick)
(Mrs. Kablik)

Superintendent Hawkins acknowledged the School Newsletters and urged the Committee to peruse them.

3. Correspondence
- A. School Newsletters

Superintendent Hawkins noted that they are in receipt of a Petition for Representation from SEIU Local 888 to organize and represent their School Secretaries. The Committee has (3) three possible courses of action:

- B. Representative Petition (School Secretaries)

1. Vote to accept SEIU Petition and start negotiations with them for the school secretaries
2. Ask for verification of the Petition certifying the interest of all school secretaries
3. Challenge the process in court.

Bill Downing made a motion, seconded by Diana Keohane, to ask for verification of the Petition certifying the interest of all school secretaries.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS 7, Yea 0, Nay 0, Abstain

Chair Buchman reviewed the Warrant Articles dated 9/25/06 that were discussed at the meeting last night:

C. Board of Selectmen-Review of Warrant Articles dated 9/25/06

- \$13,385 Design costs for re-roofing at TECC
- \$62,800 for web-based computer software for student information
- \$22,000 to retrofit the underused space at the high school into science laboratories
- Establish a town educational fund through a voluntary check off
- \$365,000 to supplement the School Committee Budget for FY07 for staffing, instructional materials, and services

He noted that the Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee (except Mr. Plante) did not support the \$365,000. He thanked Mr. Plante for his support.

Bill Downing noted that it was quite a meeting last night. It was very distressing that the Board of Selectmen and most of the Finance Committee did not support the \$365,000. He noted that they are asking for \$365,000 to supplement the budget, from the \$1.45 million that was certified as Free Cash. They are looking to reinstate this amount from the \$1.4 million in budget cuts made this year. The School Committee feels that they have been very accommodating over the last five (5) years, but the reciprocation is not there from the town side. He also noted that the only way to get this approved is for the community to vote at Town Meeting on 10/10/06. Mr. Downing reviewed what the \$365,000 will reinstate:

- Reinstate the Title 1 Program @ ECC/TES
- TES Academic Support Teacher
- TMS – 2 add'l Foreign Language
2 add'l subject teachers
(.5) Assist. Principal
- D.W. 2nd shift custodian (will help offset overtime)
- Purchase high school science materials to align with the 2010 MCAS science curriculum requirements

None at this time.

4. Visitors' Comments and Questions

Superintendent Hawkins acknowledged the flyer from the University of Massachusetts Lowell regarding TEAMS (Technology Engineering and Math Science) Academy. In the fall 2006, a limited number of academically accelerated high school sophomores will be invited to spend one day,

5. Share the Success

at the University. The students will experience a variety of college-level service workshops in which advances in technology, engineering, mathematics and science are used to discover solutions to practical problems. Transportation and adult supervision will be provided with reimbursement to the school from the grant. Superintendent Hawkins noted that Diane Durden and Jim Conlon have attended all of the meetings. He also acknowledged the email from Fred Martin, explaining the philosophy.

Don Ciampa and Sarah Lewenczuk noted that they are currently looking for (7) students currently enrolled in Algebra II.

Diana Keohane noted that Lindsey Connell was named “Athlete of the week” by the Lowell Sun.

None at this time.

6. Policy

None at this time.

7. Personnel

Superintendent Hawkins noted the purpose of this meeting is to review with School Councils their success/frustrations with the Strategic Plan, to try and get a consensus of where they need to go and how they are going to get there.

- 8. Unfinished Business
 - A. Introductions of School Councils
 - B. Where Are We Today (DOE/Tyngsborough)
 - C. Strategic Plan/Goals-Discussion
 - D. Foundation (Guidelines)
 - E. Where Are We Headed

The principals named the following members of their School Councils:

ECC & TES

Jean Barrett	Parent (TES)
Meghan Campbell	Staff (TECC)
Mary Jane Caron	Parent (TES)
Kerry Clery	Staff (TES)
Elizabeth Conroy	Parent (TES)
Brent Conway	Asst. Prin. (TES)
Robin Day	Parent (TES)
Beth Devine	Principal (TES)
Cheryl Holzman	Parent (TECC)
Wendy McCarthy	Staff (TES)
Christine Miceli	Parent (TECC)
Martha Plante	Parent (TES)
Sue Palazzolla	Staff (TECC)
Lisa Rudwicz	Parent (TES)
Kara Saranich	Principal (TECC)

TMS

Steve Coughlan	Principal
Eileen Mayo	Staff
Diana Rogier	Staff
Nancy Senecal	Staff
Mary Jane Caron	Parent
Robin Day	Parent
Lorri Davy	Parent (Co-Chair)

THS

Carol Aguiar	Parent
Sue Bowden	Parent
Barbara Clougher	Parent
Eileen Gagnon	Parent
Ellen O’Neill	Parent
Greg Marshall	Parent
Laura Pruyin	Parent
Kim Order	Parent
Susan Tucke	Parent
Donna Hallowell	Parent
John Miceli	Police Chief
Loren Day-Lewis	Parent
Cathy Polin	Parent
Don Ciampa	Principal

Chair Buchman noted that with the budget cuts would like to discuss where they would like to go.

Diane Durden reviewed *More Than a Decade of Reform-* a comparison of Massachusetts and Tyngsborough.

Some discussion was held.

Chair Buchman acknowledged the 1st goal in the Strategic Plan – *School Culture and Environment* and opened up the discussion.

Principal Beth Devine, noted that the teachers are overwhelmed with 30+ kids in a class and only 3 preps every 6 days. Other topics discussed were:

- Erosion of school culture
- Vibe of frustration
- Climate change (students & staff)
- Students' loss of academic time
- Parent volunteer burnout

8:27 p.m.

Bill Downing made a motion, seconded by Diana Keohane, to take a (5) minute recess.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS 7, Yea 0, Nay 0, Abstain

Chair Buchman reviewed the following Strategic Goals:

1. School Culture and Environment
2. Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment
3. Resources
4. Community Engagement
5. Professional Development

He noted that the School Councils can go back and discuss each Goal and come back, separately, to discuss with the School Committee.

Visitor, Donna Hallowell, noted that for Town Meeting, some of the issues they should talk about are technology issues, MCAS requirements, the curriculum piece-standards that they are not meeting and the importance of Title 1. She also discussed the need for parent testimonials and to explain the staffing positions.

Principal Steve Coughlan, discussed some of the Middle School issues:

- Class sizes, stretching staff, less contact with students
- Physical plant issues
- Foreign Language-taking HS bus to come in early to get F.L.

Don Ciampa discussed Professional Development time and the new Science Curriculum.

The School Councils were thanked for coming in to discuss the issues.

Superintendent Hawkins acknowledged the notification of intent to home school:

- ❖ Bruce and Sheila Schofield
- Male Child DOB – 7/3/91
- Male Child DOB – 6/15/93

- 9. New Business
- A. Notification of Home School
- Bruce & Sheila Schofield
- (2 male children)

Diana Keohane made a motion, seconded by Bill Downing, to acknowledge receipt of the information.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS 7, Yea 0, Nay 0, Abstain

Superintendent Hawkins noted that the Committee should appoint a spokesperson to make motions and answer questions for the five (5) School Committee Warrant Articles.

- B. 10/10/06 Special Town Meeting
- Draft of Warrant Articles

Bill Downing made a motion, seconded by Diane Kablik, to appoint Chair Buchman as the spokesperson.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS 7, Yea 0, Nay 0, Abstain

Bill Schedules were signed.

- 10. Signing of Bills

None at this time.

- 11. Visitors' Comments and Questions

Jeff Hunt noted the importance of Town Meeting and getting people to attend the meeting. He also noted Homecoming is this weekend and there is a possibility that the football team will be playing on the new field. He hopes that everyone comes out to see the game and participate in the activities.

- 12. School Committee Discussion

Diane Kablik thanked everyone for coming tonight and noted the importance of hearing from the School Councils.

Diana Keohane noted that they were able to get to the Open Houses and handed out hundreds of sheets of information and talked with many people.

Bill Downing stressed the importance for people to get out to vote.

Martina Witts noted that it's not that anyone is against saving money, but they don't feel that the Town should build up their savings all in one year.

Barry Dick urged the community to get out and vote.

Chair Buchman thanked everyone for coming tonight and looks forward to meeting with everyone again in the future. He noted that it is really all about the kids and they need to make education a priority.

None at this time.

13. Executive Session

9:11 p.m.

Bill Downing made a motion, seconded by Diane Kablik, to adjourn the open meeting.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS 7, Yea 0, Nay 0, Abstain

Respectfully Submitted,

Diana Keohane, Secretary

APPROVED: October 17, 2006