

**SOUTHWICK-TOLLAND REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**School Committee Meeting**

**MINUTES – February 2, 2010**

EXECUTIVE SESSION **6:00 p.m.**  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING **6:30 p.m.**

**SECTION I – Routine:**

- A. 1. Attendance:
  - James Vincent, Chair
  - Jeffrey Houle, Vice Chair
  - Charles Condron
  - George LeBlanc
  - Theodore Locke (Tolland Rep.)
  - Elizabeth Magni, Secretary
  - Jean McGivney-Burelle
- 2. Administration:
  - John Barry, Superintendent
  - Paul Petit, Assistant Superintendent
  - Kathleen Lynch, Recording Secretary
- 3. Student School Committee:
  - Ellen Contois
  - Tyler Stahl
- 4. News Media:
  - Springfield Newspapers – Manon Mirabelli
  - Westfield Evening News – Dave Canton
  - Southwick/Suffield – Greg Scibelli

**OPENING CEREMONY**

Observers: 1

**SECTION II:**

- A. Secretary’s Report: 1/20/10 Accepted as written
- B. Bills: Circulated
- C. Correspondence:
  - 1. Dr. Barry received a memo from Mr. Montagna, STRHS Athletic Director, requesting a waiver to allow middle school students to participate in wrestling and field hockey at the high school.
- D. Meeting Rules:

**SECTION III: PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**SECTION IV: STUDENT ADVISORY REPORT**

Ellen reported that she was involved in a debate meet and was unable to attend the last school committee meeting. She said that she attended the recent regional council meeting with Tyler and shared their survey results. Another meeting is scheduled for Friday. Ellen said that finals went well and the transition to the new semester went smoothly. It is “Spirit Week” at the high school – a pep rally is scheduled for Friday.

**SECTION V: EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATION**

- STRHS Traditional Schedule Pilot – Pamela Hunter, Principal – Mrs. Hunter reported that the Long Block Study Committee has come up with some recommendations for a pilot program next year. There would be one split block class for freshmen with Algebra I and Spanish I being taught for 42 minutes each five times per week. A random sampling of approximately 40 students would participate. Mrs. Hunter said they are also exploring the concept of a Gr. 9 Freshman Academy.

**SECTION VI: POLICIES**

**SECTION VII: ACTION ITEMS**

	<u>Motion</u>	<u>2<sup>nd</sup></u>	<u>For</u>	<u>Opp.</u>	<u>Abs.</u>	<u>* Reminder</u>
1. Move to allow students in Grades 7 and 8 to participate on the STRHS Field Hockey and Wrestling teams beginning with the 2010/2011 season.	JH	EM	7	0	0	
2. Move to approve the PMMS Gr. 7 & 8 Wright Flight fieldtrip to the New England Air Museum on March 1, 2010 (snowdate: 3/3/10.)	JH	EM	7	0	0	

• = Subject to Conflict of Interest Law

**SECTION VIII: REPORTS**

**A. SUPERINTENDENT:**

1. ARRA Re-investment Funds – Update – Dr. Barry explained that there is a narrow focus for the use of ARRA Title I funds. We are trying to address achievement gap issues with our Title I and Special Education populations. The Title I and IDEA funds are either in receipt or we are certain that they will be here soon. Our proposed use of these funds is consistent with the established spending requirements.
2. District Improvement Plan (DIP) – Dr. Barry said that he has tried to make the DIP comprehensive, yet concise. The evaluation plan calls for a three-year cycle. The evaluation piece is not in place yet but we plan to use existing groups to evaluate the DIP. Dr. Barry plans to bring the completed plan to the School Committee for approval in late winter or early spring.
3. MSBA – Update – A meeting is scheduled for Thursday with Jonathan Winikur, our OPM (Owners Project Manager), and Mount Vernon Group Architects. Dr. Barry said he is trying to arrange a meeting next week with the Building Committee Chairperson and the MSBA. We still need written confirmation from the MSBA approving the feasibility study.

**B. ASSISTANT TO THE SUPERINTENDENT FOR BUSINESS:**

- 1. FY2011 Budget Draft – Update – Mr. Petit and Dr. Barry answered specific question that School Committee members asked about specific line items in the proposed budget.
- 2. Proposed FY2011 Health Insurance Rates – Mr. Petit distributed copies of the proposed health insurance rates from the Berkshire Health Group. Mr. Petit said that the rates will be voted at the next School Committee

**SUB COMMITTEES:**

- |                        |   |  |
|------------------------|---|--|
| 1. Negotiations        | C. Condron, J. Houle, T. Locke          |  |
| 2. Finance             | G. LeBlanc, T. Locke, J. Vincent        | The Finance Subcommittee met yesterday   |
| 3. L.P.V.E.C. Bd. Gov. | J. Vincent                              |  |
| 4. L.P.V.E.C. Bd. Dir. | G. LeBlanc                              |  |
| 5. Evaluation          | J. Houle, B. Magni, J. McGivney-Burelle | The Evaluation Subcommittee met earlier this evening to discuss the Superintendent and School Committee evaluation process |
| 6. Policy              | J. Vincent, G. LeBlanc, B. Magni        | A date will be scheduled for the Policy Subcommittee to meet to review several policies.                                   |
| 7. Buildings & Grounds | J. Vincent, J. Houle                    |  |

**LIAISONS:**

- |                             |   |  |
|-----------------------------|---|--|
| a. Curriculum & Instruction | B. Magni, G. LeBlanc, J. McGivney-Burelle | Mr. LeBlanc attended the IIC meeting. Mrs. LeClair did a presentation on supplemental health programs to help students make better decisions; Mrs. Hunter discussed a proposal for a Freshman Academy. |
| b. Legislative Liaison      | C. Condron                                |  |
| c. SPED Liaison             | J. Houle                                  |  |

**SECTION IX: PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**SECTION X: COMMITTEE DISCUSSION**

- A. Old Business
- B. New Business

**SECTION XI: EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**TIME:** 6:01

**PURPOSE:**

- 1. Move to go into Executive Session to discuss the reputation, character, physical condition or mental health rather than the professional competence of an individual; and to reconvene in Open Session.
- 2. Move to go into Executive Session to consider the discipline or dismissal of, or to hear complaints or charges brought against, a public officer, employee, staff member or individual and to reconvene in Open Session and to re-open in Open Session.
- 3. Move to go into Executive Session to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigation position of the governmental body, and to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with non-union personnel and to reconvene in Open Session.
- 4. Move to go into Executive Session to discuss the deployment of security personnel or devices; and to reconvene in Open Session.
- 5. Move to go into Executive Session to investigate charges of criminal misconduct or to discuss the filing of criminal complaints; and to reconvene in Open Session.
- 6. Move to go into Executive Session to consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property; and to reconvene in Open Session.
- 7. Move to go into Executive Session to comply with the provisions of [specify the law or grant-in-aid requirement applicable]; and to reconvene in Open Session.
- 8. Move to go into Executive Session to consider and interview applicants for employment; and to reconvene in Open Session.
- 9. Move to go into Executive Session to discuss litigation and to reconvene in Open Session.

**MOTION:**   JH   ; **SECOND:**   EM   ;

**VOTE:** J.H. ; C.C. ; G.L. ; E.M. ; J.V. ; T.L. ; J.M-B.

Return to Open Session – Time:   6:31   p.m.

**MOTION:**   JH   **SECOND:**   EM  

**VOTE:** J.H. ; C.C. ; G.L. ; E.M. ; J.V. ; T.L. ; J.M-B.

**Meeting adjourned:**   8:12   p.m.

**MOTION:** \_\_\_\_\_ **SECOND:** \_\_\_\_\_ **VOTE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **FOR:** \_\_\_\_\_ **OPPOSED:** \_\_\_\_\_

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Magni, Secretary

**A. Dates to Remember:**

- February 2 School Committee Meeting
- 3 Early Release – Staff Collaboration
  - 11:00 STRHS
  - 11:30 PMMS
  - 12:00 WES
- 15 NO SCHOOL – Presidents’ Day
- 15- 19 NO SCHOOL – Winter Vacation
- 23 School Committee Meeting
- March 2 School Committee Meeting
- 4 Early Release – Parent Conferences
  - 11:30 PMMS
  - 12:00 WES
- 9 Evening Parent Conferences
- 12 Early Release – Post Conference
  - 11:00 STRHS
  - 11:30 PMMS
  - 12:00 WES
- 16 School Committee Meeting

**B. Personnel:**

- 1.

**Retirements:**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

**Resignations:**

- 1.
- 2.

**Assignments:**

- 1.