

**SOUTHWICK-TOLLAND REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**School Committee Meeting**

**MINUTES – November 3, 2009**

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 – Dave Vallette
  - Westfield Evening News – Dave Canton
  - Southwick/Suffield – Greg Scibelli

**OPENING CEREMONY**

Observers: 8

**SECTION II:**

- A. Secretary’s Report: 10/20/09 Accepted as written
- B. Bills:
- C. Correspondence: Circulated
  - 1.
- D. Meeting Rules:

**SECTION III: PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**SECTION IV: STUDENT ADVISORY REPORT**

Ellen Contois reported that the high school is coping with the deaths of Austin and Brandon – the message board has helped. Two new courses are being proposed at the high school: Forensic Science and 20<sup>th</sup> Century Music. The School Council is meeting next week to begin work on the School Improvement Plan. The Student Council is also sponsoring a blood drive.

**SECTION V: EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATION**

- Scott Short, Granville Selectman; Ted Sussman, Granville Finance Committee; Bill Stevenson, Granville School Committee – Dr. Barry welcomed Scott Short, Ted Sussman, and Bill Stevenson and said that the Town of Granville has been having discussions about a lot of things including regionalization. Mr. Short thanked the Committee for allowing them to come before them. He said that they have been discussing the possibility of regionalization on and off for the past three years because they are hitting “critical mass” in Granville. Mr. Short said that they decided to approach the STRSD School Committee to open up a line of dialogue and get some sort of feedback as to whether or not Southwick-Tolland would even be interested in pursuing the idea of regionalization. Mr. Sussman said that Granville currently spends approximately \$13,000 per pupil which is on the high end in the state – educational spending represents 68.5% of the town budget. He said that he would like to seek grant monies to study the benefits of regionalization. Mr. Sussman indicated that they would also like to investigate shared services. Mr. Stevenson said that it would have to be a win-win situation for both districts. He said that Granville can offer additional classroom space. Dr. Barry said that the state has not funded regional planning grants but the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education is interested in state-wide consolidation of districts. He indicated that if it is the consensus of the regional district and Granville to explore regionalization, the DESE might have discretionary funds to do a study. Senator Knapik has indicated that he would like to help if we choose to go in that direction. Mr. Short said that Representative Sandlin met with Dick Woodger in Granville recently and indicated that monies could be found if we want to move forward. Mr. Vincent said that it would be of mutual interest to do a feasibility study. It was the consensus of all to begin the process of a feasibility study.
- Powder Mill Middle School – FY2011 – Ronald Peloquin, Principal – Mr. Peloquin presented a draft proposal for restructuring Grades 7 and 8 in the 2010/2011 school year. The proposal calls for a four period day with two teachers in each of the four content areas. Currently, there are twelve staff members – three in each of the respective content areas. Mr. Peloquin plans to move 1 f.t.e. from Grade 6 to Grade 7 and hire one additional staff member to teach Social Studies and English. This plan would allow us to keep class sizes at 23-24 students. Mr. Peloquin feels that this plan is ethically appropriate and fiscally responsible. Dr. Barry asked Committee members to analyze the information and get back to him with questions/comments. Mrs. McGivney-Burelle asked if the additional staff member hired would be certified in both areas. Mr. Peloquin said that he would like to hire someone with dual certification and plans to start the search early to find the right person.

**SECTION VI: POLICIES**

GBAA	Sexual Harassment Policy/Complaint Procedure for Employees	1 <sup>st</sup> Reading
JICK	Sexual Harassment Policy/Complaint Procedure for Students	1 <sup>st</sup> Reading

**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. Resolved: Having convened in an open meeting on November 3, 2009, the Southwick-Tolland Regional School Committee, of the Southwick-Tolland Regional School District, in accordance with its charter, by-laws, and ordinances, has voted to authorize the Superintendent to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority Statement of Interest dated November 3, 2009, for the Powder Mill Middle School, located at 94 Powder Mill Road, Southwick, Massachusetts, which describes and explains the following deficiencies and the priority category(s) for which the Southwick-Tolland Regional School District may be invited to apply to the Massachusetts School Building Authority in the future: Priority 1 – <i>Replacement or renovation of a building which is structurally unsound or otherwise in a condition seriously jeopardizing the health and safety of school children, where no alternative exists</i> ; Priority 5 – <i>Replacement, renovation or modernization of the heating system in a schoolhouse to increase energy conservation and decrease energy related costs in the schoolhouse</i> ; These priorities will address the following: (1) Correct building deficiencies, safety issues, ADA compliance issues, etc.; (2)The heating system is 37-43 years old and has out-lived its expected life; and hereby further specifically acknowledges that by submitting this Statement of Interest, the Massachusetts School Building Authority in no way guarantees the acceptance or the approval of an application, the awarding of a grant or any other funding commitment from the Massachusetts School Building Authority, or commits the Southwick-Tolland Regional School District to filing an application for funding with the Massachusetts School Building Authority.	JH	EM	7	0	0	
2. Move to waive the three reading requirement for policy change and designate both basketball and soccer as sports that will follow the MIAA guidelines regarding mouthguards: that the STRSD strongly recommends their use but does not require student athletes to wear them.	JH	EM	7	0	0	
3. Move to approve the revised agreement between the Southwick-Tolland Regional School Committee and the Assistant Principals for the period July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010.	JH	EM	7	0	0	

• = Subject to Conflict of Interest Law

**SECTION VIII: REPORTS**

**A. SUPERINTENDENT:**

1. Math Curriculum – Update – The math curriculum will be voted in December after the new scope and sequence is finalized.
2. Southwick Capital Committee – It was the consensus of the Committee to designate Dick Condron as the School Committee representative to the Southwick Capital Committee.
3. Athletic Team Practice Schedule – Winter Sports – Dr. Barry said that the practice schedule is being reviewed so that wrestling can be moved out of the high school cafeteria.

4. WES Building Project - Dr. Barry said that he is still waiting to hear from the MSBA about the contract with Mount Vernon Group. He said that the Building Committee meeting scheduled for next Thursday will be cancelled if we do not hear from them.
5. Highway Audit Meeting – Dr. Barry said that he and Mr. Petit attended the highway audit meeting yesterday. The meeting centered on traffic counts and collision data for the College Highway corridor. Route 10/202 will be widened from Tannery Road to the Southwick Town Hall. There was only a brief discussion of Feeding Hills Road/Route 57.
6. Strategic Spending – Dr. Barry distributed information regarding proposed strategic spending. The most expensive proposal is to update the high school science lab. Monies cannot be used for renovations – only furniture, textbooks, supplies, etc. We are in the process of writing the grant application.
7. Absentee Update – Dr. Barry distributed a copy of the email message he sent to the Southwick Board of Health to keep them updated on recent absentee numbers. The absentee rate in all schools has improved from last week.
8. District Improvement Plan - We are in the process of developing our District Improvement Plan. Principals will also be working on their School Improvement Plans. A draft of the DIP will be available late winter/early spring.

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

1. FY2011 Proposed STRSD/Granville Shared Administration Cost Allocations – Mr. Petit distributed copies of the proposed cost allocation for Southwick-Tolland and Granville. Southwick-Tolland’s proposed cost allocation for FY2011 is 87.8% and Granville’s is 12.2%.
2. Extended Benefits for Unemployment Claims – Mr. Petit distributed a bulleting from UTCA regarding changes in the law regarding extended unemployment benefits. Municipal employers are now required to pay 100% of Extended Benefits for those claimant’s who qualify under the program. Mr. Petit explained that in a worst case scenario monies budgeted to cover unemployment costs could reflect a 20% deficit.

**SUB COMMITTEES:**

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Negotiations</li> <li>2. Finance</li> </ol>  | <p>C. Condron, J. Houle, T. Locke<br/>G. LeBlanc, T. Locke, J. Vincent</p>  | <p>Next meeting scheduled for<br/>Nov. 10<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 a.m.</p> |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. L.P.V.E.C. Bd. Gov.</li> <li>4. L.P.V.E.C. Bd. Dir.</li> <li>5. Evaluation</li> <li>6. Policy</li> </ol> | <p>J. Vincent<br/>G. LeBlanc<br/>J. Houle, B. Magni, J. McGivney-Burelle<br/>J. Vincent, G. LeBlanc, B. Magni</p> | <p>Next meeting scheduled for<br/>Nov. 10<sup>th</sup> at 3:45 p.m.</p> |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7. Buildings &amp; Grounds</li> </ol>   | <p>J. Vincent, J. Houle</p>   |   |

**LIAISONS:**

- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Curriculum &amp; Instruction</li> </ol>                 | <p>B. Magni, G. LeBlanc, J. McGivney-Burelle</p> | <p>IIC met on Monday. Use of the STEM carts in the middle school science rotation was discussed. Two new courses have been proposed for the high school – Forensic Science and 20<sup>th</sup> Century Music.</p> |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>b. Legislative Liaison</li> <li>c. SPED Liaison</li> </ol> | <p>C. Condron<br/>J. Houle</p>                   |   |

**SECTION IX: PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**SECTION X: COMMITTEE DISCUSSION**

**A. Old Business**      None

**B. New Business**      None

**SECTION XI: EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**TIME:**      6:00 p.m.

**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:      6:30   p.m.

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

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

**Meeting adjourned:**      7:40   p.m.

**MOTION:**      JH      **SECOND:**      EM        **VOTE:**              **FOR:**      7      **OPPOSED:**      0  

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Magni, Secretary

**A. Dates to Remember:**

- November 3 School Committee Meeting
- 11 NO SCHOOL – Veterans’ Day
- 17 School Committee Meeting
- 25 Early Release
  - 11:00 STRHS
  - 11:30 PMMS
  - 12:00 WES
- 26 & 27 NO SCHOOL - Thanksgiving
- 30 NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS – Professional Development Day
- December 1 School Committee Meeting
- 9 Early Release – Staff Collaboration
  - 11:00 STRHS
  - 11:30 PMMS
  - 12:00 WES
- 15 School Committee Meeting
- 12/24 - 1/1/2010 NO SCHOOL – Holiday Break
- January 4, 2010 SCHOOLS REOPEN
- 5 School Committee Meeting
- 15 Pre-School Screening
- 18 NO SCHOOL – Martin Luther King Day
- 19 School Committee Meeting
- 25 Second Semester Begins

**B. Personnel:**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

**Retirements:**

- 1. Candis Bloomrose WES Effective 4/23/2011
- 2.

**Resignations:**

- 1.
- 2.

**Assignments:**

- 1.