

High School Library  
Business Meeting Minutes  
January 5, 2005

PRESENT:

Ms Cindy Barrett  
Ms Judy Converse  
Ms Karen Lofgren  
Mr. Chuck McKinney, Vice-Chair (arrived at 6:30 p.m.)  
Ms Patricia Murray, Secretary  
Mr. Frank O'Connell (arrived at 6:25 p.m.)  
Mr. Alan Vervaeke, Chair

ADMINISTRATION:

Dr. Mary Athey Jennings, Superintendent  
Mr. Craig Young, Business Manager

STAFF, PRESS, OTHERS: Lowell Sun; J. Kulesz, Groton Herald;  
P. Comtois, Groton Landmark; See attached sign-in sheet

CALL TO ORDER

The GDRSC Meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m. by the chair, A. Vervaeke.  
He stated the Committee will be going into Executive Session at 6:30 p.m. for approximately one hour and will return to open session.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Jennings announced kindergarten orientation will be January 25th and they will start registering kindergarten students February 7th through the 11th. The administration and staff will be proposing they have three programs - full day, half day and two and a half day. Parents may also state their preference for school placement. It is assumed all Dunstable students will go to Swallow Union and Groton parents may choose between two schools.

Dr. Jennings announced Florence Roche will hold an Open House on February 1st and Swallow Union will hold their Open House on February 3rd.

Dr. Jennings announced the administration and teachers recommend a task force be convened, no later than the end of the year, to look at the kindergarten programming for the 2007-2008 school year.

Dr. Jennings announced the Youth Risk Behavior Survey will be presented to the public at an evening meeting on Tuesday, January 25th. Dr. Robinson is organizing the presentation. There will be a similar panel during the day on January 26th. Times will be announced.

Dr. Jennings announced school concerts start January 11th and dates are listed in the Connections and are on the marquis at the main campus.  
A. Vervaeke announced the add for the superintendent's position will be in next Wednesday's Ed Week.

REPORTS FROM SUB-COMMITTEES

Budget & Finance - P. Murray reported they met on Monday and reviewed the auditor's report that will be presented later this evening.

Building Committee - A. Vervaeke reported the committee has not met.

Communications - K. Lofgren reported they will be meeting next week. P. Murray stated the Focus Groups have been organized and a backpack flier has been sent home. The dates are on the Dunstable website and will be in the newspapers and on Groton's website, as well as the district website. Ms Murray will be on Around Town tomorrow night to talk about it with Ms Bouvier.

P. Murray also reported the Screening Committee will be meeting with their NESDEC consultant Gary Baker to bring names forward. She distributed a sample of a form people can fill out if they are interested in being considered for a seat on this committee. Information on the requirements and time constraints will be added to the form. She and Mr. McKinney will get the information to the newspapers.

Personnel & Negotiations - Dr. Jennings reported they met with Unit D yesterday and finalized some words on the contract. They are voting on it this week and it may be ready for the Committee's vote at the next meeting.

Policy - J. Converse reported they will be discussing the Dress Code Policy and Alcohol and Drug Free Schools Policy later this evening. Their next meeting is scheduled for next Wednesday at 1:00 p.m. at Tarbell.

#### MINUTES

J. CONVERSE MOVED TO APPROVE THE BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES OF DECEMBER 15, 2004. SECONDED BY P. MURRAY  
SO VOTED IN FAVOR UNANIMOUSLY AS AMENDED

#### ACTION ITEMS

Approval: Senior Class Trip

Senior class vice-president David Bisceglia and Senior class treasurer Dominick Biocchi are representing their class. D. Biocchi stated they feel they have gained the respect of the administration and their peers, as well as the faculty, over the last four years and are requesting the Committee approve their senior trip to Virginia Beach. Class Advisor Jon Conlon stated they are working with Suburban Tours out of Providence. They will be individualizing fundraising so that whatever work a student does, or however much money they raise, will be directly taken off their cost of approximately \$400.

P. Murray asked if parents are volunteering to be chaperones and Mr. Conlon said seven teachers and faculty have expressed an interest in helping out. She asked if the senior class generally takes a class trip and Mr. Conlon said most of the recent trips have been to Cape Cod or New York and this is more of an extended trip.

C. Barrett asked if there will be a parent information night and Mr. Conlon said yes.

J. CONVERSE MOVED TO APPROVE THE OVERNIGHT TRIP FOR THE SENIOR CLASS. SECONDED BY K. LOFGREN  
SO VOTED IN FAVOR UNANIMOUSLY

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

J. CONVERSE MOVED TO ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 6:25 P.M. FOR THE PURPOSE OF LAND NEGOTIATIONS, TO RETURN TO OPEN SESSION.  
SECONDED BY P. MURRAY  
SO VOTED IN FAVOR UNANIMOUSLY

The Committee returned to Open Session at 7:40 p.m.

#### QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

P. Murray asked if any progress has been made with the Laidlaw bus company relative to the issue with epipens. Dr. Jennings stated they are meeting with Laidlaw's General Manager on Friday. Following that meeting and consultation with the district's attorney, she stated they will be able to tell the Committee what their next steps will be. Until that time, it is recommended that parents who are concerned, drive their children to school. Currently Laidlaw's policy is they will call 911 if there is an epipen emergency. She noted this has never occurred in the history of the district. She also noted they are finding other bus companies have a similar policy.

#### PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSION

Report from Auditors: FY 04

Frank Biron of Melanson Heath & Company, highlighted the June 30, 2004 Audit Report. He stated it is management's responsibility to pull together the financial statements from their general ledger records and the auditors provide an opinion on whether or not the financial statements are in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. He stated the answer is that the statements are in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and noted this is only the second year the district has had a "clean opinion" with no exceptions. He stated the district is to be commended.

Mr. Biron stated the Management's Discussion and Analysis is new under GASBY 34 and is a narrative that explains the numbers in a financial statement. He reviewed the Statement of Net Assets and stated total net assets equal \$12,330,227. The income statement was also reviewed and Mr. Biron explained the \$4,060,263 change in net assets. He stated the General Fund had a surplus and bond payments are happening faster than depreciation expense by about \$2M. He stated bond payments are being paid off over a twenty year period and depreciation is happening over a forty to fifty year period.

Mr. Biron reviewed the fund balances and noted the school projects have to be reported on separately under GASBY 34. Grants and revolving accounts are tracked under Nonmajor Funds. He stated \$1,496,170 is the important number in these financial statements as this is the starting point for the state calculating the district's E&D balance. The state will make a couple of adjustments to that number and stated \$84,121 will be added to the E&D balance. This represents the amount calculated by management that would exceed the allowed 5% limit for an E&D balance. He stated certain deductions would also come out of the calculated E&D balance if there are any deficits in other funds. Mr. Biron noted the lunch fund has a deficit of about \$45,000 and a couple grants have small deficit balances. He stated the \$1,496,170 has increased a lot over the prior year.

Mr. Biron reviewed the income statement and stated revenues beat expenses by \$1,654,076. He noted this is a positive thing and is one of the largest surpluses the district has had in the last several years. The budget versus actuals was reviewed and it was stated the actual numbers differ slightly from the income statement because of timing differences, primarily encumbrances at the end of the year. While the income statement shows a surplus in excess of over \$1.6M, Mr. Biron stated the real surplus figure is \$1,377,495 because it includes the encumbrances. The revenues beat the budget projections by \$127,726 and expenditures were \$1,249,769 less than budgeted. Some of the excess came from instruction and from programs with other schools (primarily school choice and residential tuition). The \$1,377,495 will go into the E&D, giving a balance of about \$1.6M. The E&D can carry 5% of the operating and debt service budget with \$1.5M being the maximum they can carry. Any amount above that must be used to reduce the assessments to the communities. Management calculated the figure of \$84,121 as what they

believe must go back.

As part of their audit, Mr. Biron stated they do a study and evaluation of the district's system of internal accounting controls and procedures that are in place and come up with recommendations to improve the controls and/or efficiencies. He stated none of the issues are "reportable conditions" but are areas that could be strengthened. He stated the condition of the accounting records is very good and the management should be commended for doing a good job. The five recommendations were reviewed.

1. Improve controls over credit card disbursements. Only two employees are currently authorized to use the district credit card and the amount of annual charges is limited. It is recommended the users submit original documentation to support the charges and that the users record the purpose of their charges on the credit card receipt.

2. Improve controls over school lunch receipts. Daily collections summarized on the receipt turnover forms are not reconciled to the cash register tapes and the turnover forms do not include a breakdown of the amount of currency and checks being deposited. There is no back-up documentation for vending machine receipts and the School Lunch Department does not keep copies of the turnover forms. It is recommended they maintain records of all collections, that they develop procedures for tracking vending amount receipts, they revise the format of the turnover form to include a summary breakdown of checks and currency and that they reconcile the cash register tapes to the receipt turnover form.

3. Address student activity fund issues. Inappropriate receipts (i.e. corporate donations) are being deposited into student activity fund accounts and these should be tracked through the Treasurer's officer. Inappropriate disbursements are coming out of the high school funds for staff/recognition gifts and these should come out of the budget. At the elementary schools, there is only one person responsible for preparing and signing checks and reconciling the accounts. Mr. Biron stated another set of eyes needs to be involved. Monies are being held at the middle and high schools that belong to graduated classes. It is recommended these issues be discussed with the principals and that the School Committee establish formal policies for the treatment of funds relating to graduated classes.

4. Modify Treasurer's cashbook and quarterly reporting procedures.

The Treasurer maintains a cashbook to provide a trail of monies coming in from the departments to the deposits being made at the bank. It is also used to reconcile the bank accounts. They found the cashbook is being well maintained except for the payroll and vendor accounts. While this is not uncommon because these accounts generally work on a zero balance basis, there could be cut-off issues that could cause problems in a reconciliation. They recommend the cashbook include the payroll and vendor accounts. They also recommend the Treasurer report reconciled cash balances to the DOR on the quarterly report instead of bank balances.

C. McKinney understood that Student Activity funds were managed by the Treasurer. He asked if this is the case. He asked if the Treasurer is delegating this authority to someone at the schools. C. Young said the issues have all ready been discussed with the principals. He stated all money initially comes in through the Treasurer and then there is a draw from the school and there may be a lapse in the process. Individuals will be re-acquainted with the procedures.

P. Murray asked if they know how the vending machines are currently managed.

Food Service Director Janice Buxton said one of her staff members takes the money out and gives it to the high school manager. She counts it and it is put in that day's deposit. The amount of money from the vending machines is put on a tally sheet which is sent to the district office. The cash register tape is now stapled to the summary. Mr. Biron said it may make sense

to have two people involved in the entire process so there is a second set of eyes. It was noted they do not manage the teachers' vending machines.

J. Converse extended appreciation to Mr. Young and Polly McGrath for their hard work.

C. Young complimented the auditing team and in particular, Karen Snow.

#### Florence Roche School Council Presentation/Discussion

Principal Zimmaro stated they will be bringing the Committee into their school through a slide show and will share some of the things going on as well as some of the issues they face as a school. Sixteen of the seven hundred and four pictures of the Tile Mural Project are included in the presentation. The themes of the tiles were community and kindness and this year the kindergartners, and any new students, will create tiles. School Council members were introduced.

L. Zimmaro announced the fourth grade classes raised over \$2800 through the sale of poetry books that each fourth grade class created. The money was donated to Loaves and Fishes and the students chose to put the money toward the building fund since it would be doubled through an anonymous donor. At the request of several parents, she stated they will be doing a fundraiser on behalf of the victims of the recent Tsunami tragedy.

L. Zimmaro said they love having kindergartners at the school and are looking forward to having the students currently housed at Boutwell. They feel a part of the school and she noted they have second grade buddies. She stated many of the classes have upper grade level buddies and this provides an opportunity for students to expand their horizons beyond their own classrooms and helps forge friendships. It also benefits the older students as they develop a sense of caring and responsibility. Laura Yanchenko stated her son had a very positive kindergarten experience and the building is open and inviting. She stated the kindergartners quickly become part of the school community. Moving around the building for specials allows them to take ownership of the building and learn their way around. She stated the comfort level her son felt at the school made the transition to first grade very easy.

Teacher Sharon Martel explained the two 2-year programs they have at the school. Looping is where teachers have the same group of kids for two years in a row. The other is multi-age programs at the first and second grade. Basically, half of the class is first graders and the other half is second graders. The first graders stay with the teacher in that class through second grade when a new group of first graders come in. She did a looping program last year going from kindergarten to first grade and stated it was a fabulous opportunity and by the second day of school, they were off and running. She stated the students knew her expectations and the routine and she knew the kids as learners and all ready had a relationship established with the families. Janet O'Hara said her oldest child was part of the looping program and her younger son was part of the multi-age program. Both had wonderful experiences and built an incredible foundation with their teachers. She stated they both experienced a more confident second year of learning. She stated the opportunity for the younger students to have mentors is also a positive experience.

L. Zimmaro stated they found they had a large number of students going into one grade level with a wide range of special needs and they wanted to find better ways of supporting them in the classroom program. They developed a model that involved working in six different classes with two to three teachers placed in those classes working together as a team. The school schedule was built based on this model. The teachers have a weekly collaborative meeting to work out the needs and plan for the following week. She stated no one group belongs to one

teacher; they rotate so they get to know each child. The teachers work in teams three to five days a week depending on the needs in the classroom and the availability of the other specialists.

While they do have classroom space to handle current classrooms and anticipated enrollment for next year, L. Zimmaro stated they do feel a squeeze in core facilities. She showed a slide where a library work space has become a storage area for equipment. Teaching assistants also work out of the room and it is not as available to library staff. While they are pleased to have the second day of phys ed, she stated they do not have the capacity in their gym to handle all of the sessions. They double up classes and nine classes have gym at the PTYC. This year they have five hundred and eighty students in a building designed for four hundred and fifty. She stated they are happy to know plans are underway with regard to an elementary school.

A slide was shown of the playground and L. Zimmaro said it is a relatively small space as a modular takes up a lot of room and it is also an aging playground. Janet O'Hara stated she chairs the Playground Development Committee for Florence Roche. There are about ten parents on the committee who are eager to redevelop the forty year old space. There are some issues with respect to drainage and soils but they feel these can be addressed. It is expected a new playground will cost about \$100,000 and a subcommittee is trying to do some fundraising.

L. Zimmaro distributed a Florence Roche site based calendar to each Committee member which captures events they know will take place throughout the year.

Student Eric Yanchenko invited Committee members to visit Florence Roche and students Ben Clark and Nolan O'Hara gave each member a drawing.

P. Murray suggested the Playground Committee contact those involved with the Prescott playground and Ms O'Hara said they have all ready done so.

#### Dress Standards Policy - Second Reading

The policy now includes a second paragraph which states "Site specific guidelines will be made available to students and parents and published in handbooks."

C. Barrett stated the high school and middle school handbooks have a heading called "Dress Code" and suggested the policy be named Dress Code Policy. She had hoped exact copies of site specific dress codes would be attached to the policy. If this is not the case, she would like the second paragraph revised to read "Site specific student handbooks which contain specific dress code policies are made available to students and parents." J. Converse said the sub-committee talked about adding some additional pages as exhibits so it would be referenced there with dates on them. C. Barrett feels it would be best to attach exhibits.

A. Vervaeke does not believe they are setting a code nor a standard. He would rather see a code or standard set inside the policy that is what the site specific guidelines are based upon versus this policy reflecting whatever is all ready set from a site specific policy and brought forth. He wants the code/standard/policy to be more illustrative of what they are hoping to accomplish. He stated other districts are setting dress standard policies at a district level and feels rather than teeter in the middle, they should set a standard or not bother to do the work. With the way the policy is written, he stated it is his opinion that they are failing at both.

C. McKinney does not have an issue with the policy before them and does not feel the suggested changes are substantive. He feels the policy sub-committee has worked diligently to bring back a policy statement that reflects the consensus of the School Committee.

P. Murray also thought the guidelines would be attached to the policy but she is happy with the wording that says where they can be found. She does not have a problem with the policy and feels it would be the same thing whether it is called a dress standard or a dress code.

K. Lofgren does not care whether it is a code or a standard but feels it should be consistent throughout. She had previously recommended the specific codes or standards be specified within the policy and continues to feel this way.

F. O'Connell stated he is fine with the policy as long as it references guidelines somewhere.

J. Converse said the attorney feels this policy is in the best interest of the district as far as being legally handled as a policy from the School Committee and it is also in keeping with MGL allowing site specific guidelines to be made at the sites and handled there. She stated few comments were made at the public hearing. She feels the policy endorses the continuation of the work done at the schools and provides communication for those seeking specifics.

A. Vervaeke disagreed and stated the specifics and recommendations brought forward two years ago are now gone. He is concerned about the deterioration of dress code standards within the district and in particular, at the high school. He noted three years ago the handbook stated "no midriff showing" and now states two inches are allowed.

J. Converse disagrees the Committee wanted something different two years ago because they never talked openly about it, it just went on the sub-committee's agenda and never got moved. She believes this policy states that dress "that is disruptive or causes disorder in the school environment" is not allowed. She stated there has to be proof and evidence that the dress is disruptive in a classroom to kick a child out of school and deny him/her an education. She said they have to offer a public education and not a moral judgment about what they like or dislike about what a student is wearing. She feels the law is clear on this. A. Vervaeke stated policy has never suggested that they kick someone out or deny someone an education based on what is worn. He stated there are accepted and expected dress standards in the world outside of school and the district is preparing the students for the outer world.

C. McKinney said the implication of the policy is that school councils will bring their dress standards to the School Committee for review and this will provide everyone with the opportunity to have an ongoing conversation about those standards. If the policy passes, he feels they will have this conversation in the spring. A. Vervaeke asked if the policy should reference the policy that identifies the Committee will review these on an annual basis when they review the handbooks. C. McKinney stated the sub-committee did not think it was necessary.

#### Alcohol and Drug Free Schools Policy - First Reading

J. Converse stated they have added another area that includes "community partnerships" and this has been added at the end of paragraph one and a paragraph supporting this area has also been added. The formal assessment of the practices will be every three years.

A. Vervaeke commended the sub-committee for a well rounded, well thought out policy. With respect to the sentence in the fourth paragraph authorizing the use of unannounced drug and alcohol detection programs, J. Converse stated she still believes singling out one particular kind of search, that being canine searches, is unnecessary and feels it draws attention to something they really have no evidence to support. She stated she has a good sense that the administration is not in favor of it. She would like the sentence removed or to end at "programs". P. Murray stated she previously felt this way but after thinking about it, decided whether it is there or not, she absolutely supports whatever means necessary to keep drugs and alcohol off the campuses and if the administration decides canine searches are the way to go,

she supports them. She feels if they take it out of the policy and canine searches are used years from now, just as many people will stand up and say "you took it out of your policy". She does not feel there is anything in the policy that talks about mandated or suspicion-less searches. She feels they need to stand up and do what is right and by doing that, they are supporting the administration.

C. Barrett said the Statement of Purpose is very educational and personally believes they should list several items in the enforcement area because that is more educational. She feels this would help educate the community and the students about what this could involve. J. Converse said sometimes when people see it, they expect it will happen.

C. McKinney stated a longer list is also fraught with difficulty; the longer the list, the more inclusive you tend to make it. If the administration used a strategy not on the list and a subsequent disciplinary action was taken, he stated this could be challenged.

As an educational tool, C. Barrett feels listing seven items would be better than listing one. She stated the wording could be changed to "examples of detection programs include, but are not limited to..." She noted other things are listed in the policy and stated it is a consistency issue.

C. McKinney said they can get into issues when disciplining a student based on a policy that can be challenged and the attorney is telling them the policy would be easier to challenge if it had a "laundry list".

Naming Sub-committee: Assignments

A. Vervaeke read a list of names for the Naming Sub-committee:

Judy Converse, high principal Joe Dillon, middle school principal Beth Raucci, Groton volunteers Jane Bouvier, Diane Rice and Owen Schuman, Dunstable volunteer Marie Sebastian and Dunstable Librarian/ Historian Sue Tully.

A. Vervaeke stated people wanted a clear criteria and if they borrow from what was being done before, he suggested two names be brought forward, either individuals or a family or one of either, and that one be from Groton and one from Dunstable. The current policy criteria was that it have historical, geographical or educational significance or inspiration.

Members are encouraged to bring names forward on their own.

Meetings are to be posted through Ms Magnuson and minutes are to be made available to School Committee members upon request. He has copies of the Open Meeting Law for the sub-committee members. He suggested they have two recommendations no later than May 4th, which is the last School Committee meeting prior to the election.

P. Murray asked if they are including names that would be memorials. Dr. Jennings read the four steps involved in the process and noted the Memorial Committee made the recommendation that there be no memorials made this year. She noted the process calls for discussion and a vote to be taken in open session within sixty days of receipt of the ad hoc committee's recommendation. A. Vervaeke stated he assumed the original process prepared by Dr. Jennings would still be in place.

C. McKinney feels there may be a leak in the connection between the Memorial Committee and Naming Committee. He stated the public may not recognize the difference between asking that a name be considered in memorial or just as an idea for the name of something. He does not recall delegating authority to the Memorial Committee to make a determination that there would be no memorial naming. He feels they should come back to the School Committee and say they have recommendations or their recommendation is that none of the names be considered for memorials.

P. Murray asked who is on the Memorial Committee. Dr. Jennings said then School Committee chair Jeanne Niemoller made the appointments which included herself, the chair, Jackie Maguire, Dave Elliott and Don Black.

The Committee agreed the names presented by Mr. Vervaeke are fine. While she does not have a problem with having two Groton residents and one Dunstable resident on the committee, P. Murray thought they were going to have one representative from each town. A. Vervaeke said he had hoped to have two from each town but only one Dunstable resident volunteered.

#### Public Comments

A. Vervaeke stated that emails that come into Public Comments have been forwarded to the chair by Ms Magnuson. The chair is responsible for making a response and copying the original email and response to the rest of the membership. He noted it is more difficult with anonymous emails and letters received via regular mail. Dr. Jennings said if the email is clearly addressed to the School Committee, it is forwarded to the chair. If the person writing the email requests a response, one is given.

K. Lofgren said there appear to be inconsistencies and what brought it to her attention was when she received a stack of printed emails in her packet but they had never come through her email. She wants to insure that members receive the comments in a consistent manner. Dr. Jennings said this process was initiated by chair Ms Niemoller. Her intent was to have the chair review all the emails and she would respond to Committee emails and the district office would respond to general questions. All the emails were then printed and put in the packets. She stated some members then had an issue with too much paper. Emails were then sent to the chair who in turn responded that they had been received. Dr. Jennings said she would like the Committee to discuss the issue of anonymous emails.

A. Vervaeke said he responds to every email and copies his reply to the other members. Dr. Jennings stated that as an organization, they do not share anonymous comments with staff members as they feel this is not ethical. K. Lofgren asked how they reconcile a person's right to voice a concern when they do not want to be identified to protect their privacy. Dr. Jennings would ask what they need to be protected from and why does an opinion have to be anonymous? She said the question is do they take anonymous public comments and then distribute them to seven Committee members in a public way?

A. Vervaeke feels any public comment that is negative or insulting about an individual does not need to be shared. He stated some anonymous comments have an email address and a "thank you for your comment" response could be sent. Dr. Jennings feels the standard they set will set the types of public comments they receive. If names are in public comments, she feels they are more respectful, rationale and complete.

C. McKinney said he is comfortable with the current practice.

#### 2005-2006 School Calendar

Dr. Jennings stated the contract says school will start before Labor Day unless the Association votes to start after Labor Day. The calendar needs to be in front of the GDEA by January 15th so they can start that process. She presented two versions of the 2005 -2006 School Calendar. One calendar has teachers starting on August 31st and students starting on September 6th. The last day of school would be June 16th or June 23rd if they have five snow days. She stated they try to save a week's worth of time for the last week in June as this is when they accomplish many of their workshops. The second calendar has teachers and students starting after Labor Day. Teachers would start on September 6th and students would arrive on September 8th. The last day of school would be June 20th and with five snow days, the last day would be June 27th. This would not allow for the in-service time they traditionally use.

Since the teachers vote on the calendar, A. Vervaeke asked if it is moot for the Committee to vote on it and Dr. Jennings said it signals to them which one they like.

P. Murray asked if the teachers often vote the opposite way of the Committee and Dr. Jennings said this has happened. She asked how long teachers have voted on when they started and Dr. Jennings said it has been in the contract for a long time. It used to be they started after Labor Day unless they actively voted to start before Labor Day.

While she is not opposed to starting before Labor Day, K. Lofgren said as a parent of a child with transition issues, it was difficult the year students started before Labor Day, going to school for a day and a half and having four days off. This option is not being considered.

J. Converse, C. McKinney, K. Lofgren and A. Vervaeke are in favor of the teachers starting before Labor Day and C. Barrett said to leave the decision up to the teachers.

P. Murray and F. O'Connell had no comments.

#### QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

P. Funch stated he was unable to attend the public hearing regarding the Alcohol and Drug Free Schools Policy. He stated he would like the canine phrase dropped and hopes the administration would never consider using them. He feels it is a drastic step and does not see anything that justifies using it. While he feels the Committee is well intentioned in their goal to keep drugs out of the schools, he does not feel this detection program would be a wise course of action. He stated it takes control from the parents and school and gives it to the police. He also feels this is not how a parent would treat their child at home. Mr. Funch said using dogs would send the drugs out of the schools and into the community and this reduces opportunities for discussing the issues with the students. He feels the situation in the schools is under control and the use of canines is not needed.

P. Murray asked if they are going to try to grow the kindergarten program with two full day programs at Florence Roche. Dr. Jennings said they will wait until enrollment numbers are in and then make the decision. She clarified the intent is to move kindergarten to Florence Roche.

#### ADJOURNMENT:

J. CONVERSE MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 9:58 P.M.

SECONDED BY K. LOFGREN

SO VOTED IN FAVOR UNANIMOUSLY

Respectfully submitted,

Susan H. Smith  
Recording Secretary