

GROTON-DUNSTABLE REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
High School Library  
Business Meeting Minutes  
October 20, 2004

PRESENT:

Ms Judy Converse  
Ms Karen Lofgren  
Mr. Chuck McKinney, Vice-Chair  
Ms Patricia Murray  
Ms Jeanne Niemoller, Secretary  
Mr. Frank O'Connell  
Mr. Alan Vervaeke, Chair

ADMINISTRATION:

Dr. Mary Athey Jennings, Superintendent  
Mr. Craig Young, Business Manager  
Dr. Susan Rubel, Director of Curriculum/Staff Development

Student Advisors:

Erica Schroeder and Mike Fredrickson

STAFF, PRESS, OTHERS: J. Myers, Lowell Sun; J. Kulesz, Groton Herald;  
P. Comtois, Groton Landmark; Dr. J. Robinson, J. Cooper, S. Casey, K.  
Kinneen,  
R. Hutchinson, C. Scafidi, C. Silinote, P. Maynard

CALL TO ORDER

The GDRSC Meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by the chair, A.  
Vervaeke.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Jennings announced a public hearing on the Dress Code draft policy will  
be held in the Black Box Theater on November 15th from 8:00 to 10:00  
p.m. A public hearing on the Alcohol and Drug-Free Schools draft policy will  
be held in the Black Box Theater on December 6th from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Dr. Jennings announced there is no school on November 2nd because of  
election day. Staff will be doing curriculum development that day.

Dr. Jennings announced the School Committee will be interviewing search  
firms for the superintendent's search on November 4th from 6:00 to 9:00  
p.m. in the Black Box Theater.

E. Schroeder announced there will be a forum on block scheduling tomorrow  
night from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. in the Black Box Theater.

M. Fredrickson announced Homecoming week was a huge success. The first  
home football game was held here and students would like to make this a

tradition. It was a positive week and raised a lot of school spirit. Over 350 people showed up for the dance and since the Black Box Theater only holds 300, a television was set up in the cafeteria for those who could not get into the Black Box Theater.

M. Fredrickson announced the Peer Leaders are sponsoring a Star Search next Wednesday evening for some of the most talented students at Groton Dunstable.

K. Lofgren announced SPED PAC is hosting a three part workshop given by Ms Royestad. The workshop on speech, language and emotional development of two to six year olds will be held at the middle school from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. on October 21st, October 28th and November 4th.

C. McKinney announced Chelmsford has recently organized a coalition against drugs and Bruce Talbot, a retired drug enforcement officer, will be speaking at the McCarthy Middle School tomorrow night at 7:00 p.m.

#### REPORTS FROM SUB-COMMITTEES

Budget and Finance - F. O'Connell reported they met Monday night and discussed the quarterly report and looked at the final FY05 budget. Action items were identified as a result of the joint meeting with the towns.

Personnel and Negotiations - J. Niemoller reported they developed a draft of a superintendent recruiting plan for the district and the School Committee met at MSN on October 13th to review the plan. A vote to use a search firm was taken at that meeting.

Policy - J. Converse reported they met last Wednesday afternoon and discussed the public hearings. Dr. Robinson met with them to talk about her suggestions around the alcohol and drug-free school policy. They will meet at 1:00 p.m. on November 10th to firm up the guidelines for their public hearings.

Communications - C. McKinney reported they met last Wednesday and spent a lot of time discussing the role of different groups and their role as a communications

subcommittee. They want to make sure documents are available to the public in a timely manner and noted other subcommittees can look to them for assistance in producing documentation and/or "getting the word out" on public hearings and the like. He noted there is specific policy about the role of the School Committee chairman in handling press inquiries and the chair could delegate that responsibility on an as needed basis. He noted that without a charter, the subcommittee will take direction from the chair.

A. Vervaeke stated it appears they need a clear charter and this will a discussion item in the near future.

Building Committee - C. Young reported they met with Klewin and will be closing out with them in a couple of weeks. A few items having to do with

the fields will need to be fixed in the fall and into the spring and then the high school building project will likely be closed out. They are working on the punch list at the middle school and they are working on closing with the contractor. His work needs to be finished by November 1st.

The maintenance shed is under construction and should be done within a couple of weeks. The Building Committee has been charged with investigating the Smith 2 site and Mr. Vervaeke has volunteered to see if there is any interest in the letter presented to the School Committee by Mr. Black, on behalf of Mr. Smith, to preserve the old farm house. This will be discussed at their Tuesday night meeting.

#### MINUTES

J. NIEMOLLER MOVED TO APPROVE THE BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES OF OCTOBER 6, 2004. SECONDED BY C. MCKINNEY

SO VOTED

In Favor: J. Converse, C. McKinney, A. Vervaeke, K. Lofgren, J. Niemoller, P. Murray

Abstention: F. O'Connell

#### QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

P. Murray distributed information on regional school districts with stabilization funds. She stated four districts contacted her and Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School was the most successful in establishing a fund and had a set purpose in mind - using it for the high school renovation cost overruns. Manchester-Essex voted with the towns to establish a fund for a specific purpose (capital maintenance funds). The business manager told her they should have a specific purpose in mind because it makes people feel better about it. She noted Manchester-Essex has not been able to fund their stabilization fund.

K. Lofgren asked that all public comments go to Committee members, with the clear understanding that only the chairman is to respond to them.

Wearing a sticker given to her by her daughter, K. Lofgren stated foreign language is alive and well at the elementary schools.

K. Lofgren stated she would love to hear more about Floor Time when Boutwell makes a presentation to the Committee.

During discussion of the proposed dress code standards policy at their last meeting, it was stated that the dress code was not included in the high school handbook.

A. Vervaeke stated dress code is included in the 2001-2002 handbook and stipulates there will be no bare midriff. He asked how they went from zero midriff to two inches of acceptable midriff in a three year period. He feels this is because they are allowing students to assist in setting dress code

standards and feels they should identify standards at a district level rather than at an individual school level.

#### PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSION

Curriculum: Physical Education and Health

Dr. Robinson stated the Physical and Behavioral Health Department is made up of the

K-12 health and phys ed teachers. She stated healthy kids make better students and better students make healthy communities.

Dr. Robinson stated skills in reading and writing, science, math and social studies lead to school success. Underlying needs also need to be met and learning is challenged if students are physically unhealthy, are lacking good nutrition, if they are tired, stressed and/or experiencing emotional health issues. She stated they cannot assume that what a community looks like does determines where their children will fit and noted more privileged communities also have children dealing with these issues.

Dr. Robinson stated good nutrition, adequate sleep, physical activity, healthy decision making, adult supports, coping skills with peers and family and a sense of belonging promote academic success. She noted the feeling of the need to belong is often an underlying issue with children who are struggling. Protective factors, such as adult support, need to be used to the best of their ability. A student profile, based on the 2002 Youth Risk Behavior Survey, was reviewed. Most students report there is an adult at school they can talk to, they feel safe in school and they exercise regularly. They do need to practice better eating habits and get more sleep. Substances are being used at varying levels with alcohol being the drug of choice for high school students nation wide.

Students do experience emotional health issues. She noted they need to attend to the risk factors but also capitalize on the protective factors and promote them at the community level.

Comprehensive school health promotes partnerships, improves children's health and improves their capacity to learn. It also supports families, schools and communities, keeps students healthy over time, reinforces positive healthy behavior and makes it clear that good health and learning go hand in hand. Dr. Robinson said comprehensive school health is more a way of approaching health for children than a program. Components include health and physical education, school meals and nutrition, school environmental health issues, counseling and mental health services, staff wellness and parent and community partnerships.

Benefits of comprehensive school health include reduced absenteeism, fewer behavior problems, improved performance, healthier peer relationships and healthier students and staff.

Two committees (K-4 and grades 5 -12) are working on the physical and behavioral health curriculum. They use the state frameworks for

comprehensive school health to guide their work. At the K-4 level, they are trying to teach students lifelong skills around health. They rely on teachers to teach health at the elementary level and they look at ways to integrate health information into reading and science. Dr. Robinson stated having physical education returned to two days a week was a real benefit. Future directions include continuing to look at creative ways to integrate the curriculum, continuing curriculum documentation and extending the Open Circle curriculum, possibly beyond grade 6. They will be applying for a grant for a software program for students to track their fitness levels independently. Second grade students at Florence Roche are developing a fitness portfolio.

In grades 5 to 8, they are using a wellness model which incorporates things around physical, social, emotional, occupational and spiritual health. They continue to integrate wellness, health and physical education. The wellness class and physical education have been merged at the middle school level. They are sequencing courses at the grade 9 through 12 level and psychology and a conditioning course are two new course offerings. They will continue the curriculum development and documentation in the future and will use the 2004 YRBS data to inform the curriculum.

Challenges they face as they develop the curriculum include program changes, having K-12 meeting time to build a comprehensive curriculum, having enough funding for materials and having time for curriculum integration planning and staff development.

Assets include having a committed and innovative teaching staff, opportunities for partnerships, opportunities for collaboration within the district and administrative support for new programs.

If the second day of phys ed had not been reinstated at the elementary level, J. Niemoller asked if they could accomplish what they are trying to do in a comprehensive way.

Dr. Robinson said it would be a tremendous challenge and reinstating the second day was a great benefit.

K. Lofgren stated she heard the School Committee's goals echoed throughout this presentation. She supports Open Circle and would like to see it district-wide. She asked if there is a refresher course that could be offered and Dr. Robinson said they have talked about looking at incorporating a social competency program in the middle school.

Ms Lofgren suggested they contact the GDEF for funding and Dr. Robinson said they have funded a couple of things in the past.

A. Vervaeke asked how the district is doing with meeting the state requirements for phys ed. Dr. Robinson said the state requirements do not specify "how much" or "how often" and it depends on what a town is able to do.

J. Niemoller is grateful the district has this robust curriculum and feels the fitness tracking is phenomenal. Dr. Robinson pointed out that athletics is not the same as physical education - one is an academic discipline and one is an athletic endeavor.

GDAY (Groton Dunstable Alliance for Youth)

J. Cooper stated GDAY represents one of the partnerships the school has with the community to support comprehensive health education in the schools. GDAY was formed in the spring of 2001 in response to the YRBS (Youth Risk Behavior Survey) of 2000. They identified needs for a community wide response since the School Committee felt it could not just be a school problem. Key stakeholders were identified and invited to the table where a leadership structure and committees were formed. Their initial work started around alcohol usage, suicide and bullying and harassment. An outcome strategic plan was developed and is updated every year. They have a Steering Committee made up of the chairs of the five committees as well as members-at-large that represent the students, community and schools and a K-5 liaison. They also have a treasurer and Dr. Robinson is the coordinator. The five committees are: emotional health; respect; alcohol, tobacco and other drugs; fundraising and communications.

GDAY supports the school system and comprehensive school health with curriculum materials, education programs, awareness campaigns and to date, they have written grants totaling over \$30,000. The Emotional Health subcommittee has purchased the Red Flags curriculum which is a depression curriculum. The SOS curriculum is geared toward high school students and is also a depression curriculum. Hotline wallet cards have been distributed in grades 6 through 12 and they have established the Creating the Link programs.

For the past three years, the Respect subcommittee has hosted a community reading day in the elementary schools and books read on that day have a theme of respect. The PTA's, PTO's and APT's have provided funds to purchase these books. An \$11,000 grant was used to open the high school store and this is a collaboration between the Life Skills class and the FBLA. This subcommittee participated in the Crusader discussion, worked in an advisory capacity with the Gay Straight Alliance and participated in the writing of the high school harassment policy.

The Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs subcommittee supports the Great American Smoke-out every year. This past spring they did a prom/graduation safety campaign along with a social host liability education campaign. The subcommittee developed the Safe Homes program and initiated and collaborated with the high school for the Safe Dance Committee.

GDAY also has general programs which include a Community Circle program, media campaigns, a Big Brother/Big Sister program, GDAY days in the middle school and hold general assemblies with all the stakeholders.

F. O'Connell asked who the key stakeholders are and J. Cooper said they include the Boards of Selectmen, Boards of Health, the School Committee, libraries, Police Departments and various sports and church groups. J. Converse commended GDAY for the work they do.

J. Niemoller asked how the alliance is funded and Ms Cooper said they are basically funded under grant funding. They were late in asking for budget support last year but they will be approaching the towns during the next budget cycle. GDAY would like the towns to support the GDAY piece of Dr. Robinson's salary.

A. Vervaeke asked about the bullying programs in place at the K-4 level. J. Cooper said they have gone to parents with that issue and guidance counselors have spoken at several Community Circles. She noted the community reading program dealt with many of the issues.

Dr. Jennings stated Ms Cooper was a strong advocate for healthy schools long before GDAY was born. Dr. Jennings said GDAY is a community project but as superintendent, she is concerned that it is still perceived as mainly a school supported organization. Neither Groton nor Dunstable have a Department of Youth Service or a Department of Social Service and she stated the towns rely on GDAY to do much of the work that would be done by a town department. She would like to support GDAY's outreach and encourage people to join so GDAY can stand on its own but stand with the help of others.

P. Murray feels it would be appropriate for GDAY to attend the joint budget meeting on November 23rd.

J. Cooper said it would be helpful if the School Committee would choose a liaison to attend the general assemblies.

J. Niemoller asked if the DARE program is continuing in the fifth grade and Dr. Jennings said yes and noted it is part of their curriculum. A. Vervaeke asked if GDAY interacts with the vocational schools, the Groton School and Lawrence Academy. J. Cooper said they interact with the Groton School, Lawrence Academy and Country Day. A. Vervaeke noted that GDAY believes in inclusion and he feels the towns need to believe it as well.

J. Niemoller asked if they work with organizations in other towns. J. Cooper said they basically work with the towns that are in the Emerson survey - Westford, Littleton, Acton-Boxboro, Concord-Carlisle and Maynard. Over the last year they have collaborated with this group to bring out a new parent/teacher resource book and this will hopefully be published before the 2004 YRBS results come out.

J. Converse said she would be interested in participating in GDAY's next summit.

P. Murray asked when they can expect the results of the YRBS. Dr. Robinson said the results are being prepared and she should have them in the near future. Dr. Jennings said the results will be presented at a GDAY public hearing.

K. Lofgren thanked staff members for attending tonight's meeting. Dr. Robinson distributed invitations to Florence Roche's Specialist Open House on October 21st.

J. Converse attended this last year and said it was a lot of fun.

#### Quarterly Report

Copies of the September 2004 Quarterly Report were distributed. C. Young said the state notified school districts in mid-September of the final state revenues for FY2005. Following this notification, the School Committee approved the FY2005 budget at \$30,207,924. A week later, the state revised charter school revenues and increased the district's reimbursements by \$32,185.

Revenues are currently projected to exceed budget estimates. Additionally, it is anticipated that the district's certified E&D balance may be in the range of \$1.3M to \$1.4M. Expenditure accounts are on track with SPED tuitions slightly higher than estimated. All revolving funds are operating within budget. The school lunch program made considerable improvement in FY2004 and it is hoped they will break even sometime in the future. It is recommended that school lunch programs carry a surplus equivalent to six weeks of operating costs. All building project funds are within budget and it is anticipated \$300,000 will remain unexpended at the end of the high school project. The middle school project currently has a balance of about \$1.5M and it is expected that a sizeable amount will be left at the end of the project. C. Young stated the MSS project finished on budget and slightly over \$2M of the \$2.4M approved for the Casella land has been spent. Approved grants for FY2005 total \$818,562, approximately \$200,000 less than FY2004.

C. Young noted several attachments are attached to the report. The circuit breaker money, initially anticipated to come in as revenue, is now required to be put in a special revenue fund and is to be used to directly offset tuition expenditures. He stated this quarterly report will be made available to the FinComs and the joint financial team for their review.

P. Murray noted there has been an increase in the price of school lunches which should help "chip away" at the current deficit.

F. O'Connell read that the state allows some sort of exception so school districts do not have to do an audit every year and asked Mr. Young if he is familiar with this. C. Young said he is not but would be interested in information about this. He noted they always need an audit for borrowing and for certification of E&D.

A. Vervaeke asked if they are seeing any negatives with heating costs. C. Young stated they locked in oil prices in August but the wild card will be natural gas costs since it is an unregulated commodity. He noted the high school and middle school buildings are heated by gas and he is braced for a hit.

P. Murray stated some changes were made to the budget numbers and noted another bus was added and adding a late bus may come up for discussion. C. McKinney asked if there is a way to reconcile the balance from the high school building fund prior to town meetings. C. Young said it would not totally be closed out since some work will still need to be done on the fields in the spring and those bills would not have been paid. However, a report could be given at town meeting.

#### MCAS Results/ Annual Yearly Progress

Dr. Jennings stated the MCAS results came out last month and the rankings in the paper were done differently from previous years, using Charter Schools, 9-12 districts and vocational schools. Tonight's presentation will show how MCAS plays into the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) and Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) and if the district's MCAS scores are keeping pace.

Dr. Rubel reviewed some of the federal requirements of NCLB. All students should be showing proficiency in reading/ELA and math in grades 3 through 10 by 2014. That progress is reported every other year in the Adequate Yearly Progress report. Other requirements include testing of their limited English proficient students and some of that testing is going on this week. They are required to annually report on the "highly qualified" status of teachers, to provide data on safe and drug-free learning environments and to provide data on their high school graduation rate.

A chart on the MCAS tests given in 2004 was reviewed as well as charts showing performance levels in ELA and math. It was noted tenth grade students are required to pass in order to graduate. With respect to ELA, Dr. Rubel stated four tenth grade students failed the test. Two were district tenth graders, one was an out-of district student and one took the MCAS alternate assessment. Math is tested every other year and three tenth graders failed the test with one of those students being an out-of district student and one being a tenth grader who took the MCAS alternate assessment.

Dr. Rubel explained the requirements for AYP. As part of NCLB, all schools and districts across the country are working toward the goal of all students reaching the proficient level in reading/ELA and math by 2014. In Massachusetts, the tracking of progress is based on the total population on the MCAS test. The state reports performance and improvement ratings every two years. Data is based on a composite performance index (CPI). It combines the scores of students who take all the MCAS tests and measures

the extent to which those students are progressing. With respect to ELA, Dr. Rubel stated Groton Dunstable's performance is 93.1% and they are very close to the 100 point target.

AYP was reached in terms of performance and improvement in ELA.

J. Niemoller asked if they hit their gain target last year and Dr. Rubel said they did in cycle two.

With respect to math, Dr. Rubel said their performance (86.9 points) was well above the state target of 60.8 points but is not as high as the ELA. She stated they are on target in terms of having reached AYP in math.

Dr. Rubel stated schools are now required to report data on all of their subgroups and Groton Dunstable must report on their SPED population. Their performance index was 74.4 and we did not meet the state target of 75.6 in terms of performance but because of the SPED students were above the gain target for improvement, the AYP was met in ELA. The target for math was 60.8 and our CPI is 58.5 and again, the performance target was not met nor did they meet their improvement target of 2.3. A. Vervaeke noted the newspaper reported middle school special education math failed in almost every school district. Dr. Rubel feels this is a district-wide issue, not just a middle school issue, across the country.

Dr. Rubel said they started analyzing data with the middle school faculty today. They will analyze what tripped up the students on each question and what modifications they can make. At the elementary level, math instructional time has been increased and they are focusing on math professional development. At the middle school level, they are devoting most of the curriculum release days to math professional development. At the high school, math professional development will focus on revising the curriculum to align with new standards, continue benchmark assessments, integrate new technology into math courses, develop new math courses, prepare students for new SAT expectations and look at middle to high school transitions.

Reading/ELA and math MCAS testing will be given in grades 3 through 8 and in grade 10 in the spring of 2005. Science will continue in grades 5 and 8 and somewhere in the high school.

P. Murray believes special education students learn in a different manner and asked how they are being specifically addressed. Dr. Rubel said they need to have the same expectations of those students and while we have the same standards, how they learn will be different. She and Ms Endicott are making sure the general education and special education teachers are collaborating in this professional development.

F. O'Connell asked if there is an additional challenge with a special needs portfolio and sees it as being more subjective than sitting in front of an

objective exam. He sees the challenge is teachers learning how to put that portfolio together. Dr. Rubel said it is a year long process. Teachers attend DOE meetings on an annual basis. There are rubrics and they receive similar point values. The state has worked to make it as objective as possible. K. Lofgren noted some students also show what they know differently.

J. Niemoller said providing staff development has been proven to help increase scores and providing funding is very important. P. Murray asked where block scheduling stands in terms of math since freshmen may get math in the beginning of the year and not have it again until the end of their sophomore year. Dr. Jennings said there will be a presentation on block scheduling at their next meeting. It was noted math scores are the highest at the high school level.

#### Superintendent Search: Consultant Criteria

A. Vervaeke stated Ms Niemoller developed a document for the process the School Committee will use to recruit a new superintendent and the plan was previewed at their October 13th meeting. The Committee has decided they want to hire a permanent superintendent, they will not do an internal candidate search prior to going external and internal personnel will not be allowed to participate in an external search. They will employ a search agency to perform an external search only and the Committee will not form their own ad-hoc committee to perform the search. They have received proposals from four search committees and the applicants will be interviewed on November 4th.

J. Niemoller reviewed the five criteria they will use: 1) Character, reputation, background of firm, 2) Depth of services offered by the firm, 3) Firm's ability to generate a large pool of candidates, 4) Costs for services and 5) Other considerations. The items to be considered under the criteria were also reviewed.

It was agreed the last two firm names will be included on the form, more space will be provided for writing comments and "References of Firm" will be changed to "Background of Firm".

With respect to the contact person from the firm being close to the district, J. Converse asked if they should consider that a firm may have employees who live in Groton or Dunstable. C. McKinney asked if the Committee wants to weight each criteria but

J. Niemoller said she left this up to each member. A. Vervaeke sees the criteria as being used to review all the proposals and then coming up with a list of questions for the interviews/presentations.

#### ACTION ITEMS

##### Stabilization Fund

A. Vervaeke stated that in order for a stabilization fund to be enacted by a school district, a two-thirds margin is required.

P. MURRAY MOVED THE GROTON DUNSTABLE REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE SUSPEND INDEFINITELY THE PLACEHOLDER WARRANT WITH EACH TOWN, ESTABLISHING A SCHOOL DISTRICT STABILIZATION FUND. SECONDED BY J. CONVERSE

P. Murray strongly feels they should have a capital plan in place before going to town meeting. The groups she researched who were successful in establishing a stabilization fund all had a purpose in mind. She stated there are great concerns over the district establishing a stabilization fund because they cannot control it. She would like to work on establishing goals and the specific use of the fund and how it would be different from the E&D. She does not want to go forward without the support of the towns and feels there needs to be more communication.

A. Vervaeke dislikes the fact that the district is held to a different standard than what the towns hold themselves to and noted the towns have a fair amount of money in there stabilization funds compared to the percentage of their budgets. He stated they have been talking about a tool and have not talked about money. He feels the towns have an unwillingness to consider the possibility of a stabilization fund before discussion even begins. He stated the district is looking for a way to provide for the construction and maintenance of school buildings and at a way of putting funds away so there is less of an impact as they move into the future. He feels it is a shame that people do not see it for what it is.

K. Lofgren agrees it is unfortunate that they do not have the support of the towns. She stated there is a trust issue but they will earn the trust back when they get a capital plan in place. J. Niemoller views the stabilization fund as a tool and while she feels they need one, she also feels they should take the time to educate people.

The wording of the motion requires a simple majority.

SO VOTED

In Favor: J. Converse, F. O'Connell, C. McKinney, K. Lofgren, J. Niemoller, P. Murray

Opposed: A. Vervaeke

There will be no warrant articles this year for a stabilization fund.

Superintendent Search: Consultant Criteria

J. CONVERSE MOVED THE SUPERINTENDENT RECRUITMENT PLAN DRAFT, CRAFTED WITH THE DATE OF OCTOBER 13, 2004 , BE USED AS OUR CRITERIA FOR CONSIDERATIONS FOR EVALUATING THE PROPOSALS FOR SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH FIRMS, WITH THE MODIFICATIONS PROPOSED IN EARLIER DISCUSSION. SECONDED BY K. LOFGREN  
SO VOTED IN FAVOR UNANIMOUSLY

## MASC Delegation Selection and Resolution Support

A. Vervaeke stated he is looking forward to attending the MASC conference and would be happy to be the Committee's delegate. The assembly is next Wednesday afternoon. J. Niemoller, P. Murray, C. McKinney and K. Lofgren will also be attending.

J. Converse advised those attending that significant modifications to the resolutions are made on the floor and often end up being very different from what they received in their pre-assembly packet. Committee members provided a consensus on the resolutions.

Resolution 1: School committees and duties relative to the selection and termination of principals. NO

Resolution 2: Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. YES

Resolution 3: Student assessment and accountability

J. Niemoller and K. Lofgren support the resolution, F. O'Connell supports the premise but feels it is too specific and A. Vervaeke, C. McKinney, P. Murray and J. Converse do not support the resolution. NO

Resolution 4: Value added assessment. NO

Resolution 5: MCAS. J. Converse and J. Niemoller are in favor of the resolution,

A. Vervaeke, F. O'Connell, C. McKinney, P. Murray and K. Lofgren do not support the resolution. NO

Resolution 6: Metco. Members agreed they did not have enough understanding and history to form an opinion and will let the delegate decide how to vote after hearing the presentation.

Resolution 7: Reaffirmation of advocacy agenda. YES

A. Vervaeke opened the floor for nominations.

J. Converse nominated A. Vervaeke to be their delegate at the MASC assembly.

There were no other nominations. Members unanimously support Mr. Vervaeke as the School Committee's delegate at the 2004 MASC conference and he will vote as prescribed by the Committee.

## QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

None

## ADJOURNMENT:

C. MCKINNEY MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 10:33 P.M.

SECONDED BY K. LOFGREN

SO VOTED IN FAVOR UNANIMOUSLY

Respectfully submitted,

Susan H. Smith  
Recording Secretary