

GROTON-DUNSTABLE REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE
HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY
Business Meeting Minutes
October 4, 2006
(approved 11/15/06)

PRESENT:

Ms. Cindy Barrett, Secretary
Mr. Forrest Buzan
Ms. Berta Erickson
Mr. Paul Funch
Ms. Karen Lofgren
Mr. Chuck McKinney, Chair
Mr. Frank O'Connell, Vice-Chair
Ms. Lauren Palmacci, Student Representative

ADMINISTRATION:

Dr. Alan Genovese, Superintendent
Joan Endicott, Director Pupil Personnel Services
Dr. Sue Rubel, Dir of Curriculum
Mr. Tim Sheehan, Interim Business Director

STAFF, PRESS, OTHERS: C. Barrett forgot to leave a sign-in sheet and did not record the members of the press.

CALL TO ORDER

The GDRSC Meeting was called to back to order at 7:43pm by the chair C. McKinney. He stated that the School Committee met in executive session at 6:00pm according to MGL CH 39 Sec. 23B-3 and have no further plans to go back into executive session.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Prepared announcements were read and are attached to these minutes.

A. Genovese said that there have been concerns with safety at schools given the devastating attacks across the nation. He will meet with the Administrative Council (AC) tomorrow to review and promote safety procedures. Per Section 363 in obligations, the superintendent is responsible for school safety. They will also review the FY08 budget calendar.

A. Genovese said at an earlier meeting we had talked about "packaging" or "spotlighting" something happening at the schools beyond the announcements. This idea was from the AC. B. Raucci volunteered for the first spotlight.

SPOTLIGHT-World's Biggest Book on World Peace

B. Raucci explained that this project originated in the Bookmakers and Dreamers Club. B. Raucci introduced Betsy Sawyer, MS teacher. B. Sawyer said that the club was started 2 years ago by 5th graders. Now it has 32 members. Special thanks to parents in the audience, Deb O'Rourke, Susan Wilcox, Laurie Bassnet, and John Ting who is a GD parent as well as the Dean of Engineering at UMass Lowell. Mr. Ting is working with his engineering students on the book.

B. Sawyer said that they started 3 years ago with 8 kids. Originally they were going to make regular sized books. Then they wanted to make a big book and wanted a worthy big topic and they selected world peace. The first letter that they got was from the Dali Lama. They have received letters from Nelson Mandela, Jimmy Carter, Mya Angelou. The kids are excited about the topic and have learned a lot about the conflicts happening around the world. Jimmy Carter said to start a peer mediation group, to get a map of the world and mark where conflicts are and to learn about them.

A "Robie on the Road" (UPN Channel 38) film clip was shown. Details from the tape included that the book will be 10 ft x 12 ft and weigh 600lbs and moved on a flat bed truck. B. Sawyer had gone to a Jimmy Cliff concert and he asked what have you done for world peace? When Ms. Sawyer shared that with the students they decided on the topic of world peace. They wrote letters to celebrities, parents, friends, asking them what is world peace. They sent 1000 letters and got back 250 replies. The current record for the biggest book is 9 ft x 10 ft, 300 pages, and over 500 lb.

B. Sawyer asked the School Committee members to write a letter to the students and mail it to the MS. They currently have over 500 replies.

MINUTES

C. BARRETT MOVED THAT WE APPROVE THE BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 20, 2006 AS WELL AS THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE WORKSHOP MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 27, 2006.

SECONDED BY K. LOFGREN.

C. McKinney asked if there were any questions or comments. There were none.

SO VOTED IN FAVOR UNANIMOUSLY.

PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSIONS**Bridges to Community Fieldtrip**

Marissa Brisson, Dean of Students at the HS presented an overnight field trip through Bridges to Community. M. Brisson said that she had submitted information packets last week and asked for time to present the trip to the school committee. She would like to take students from GDRHS. It is a community service based trip, with cultural immersion, to build homes in Nicaragua for families that live in poverty-like conditions. Nicaragua is the second poorest country in the Western Hemisphere. M. Brisson felt that it linked closely with HS Advisory program and she distributed a memo about the program. M. Brisson said that the NEAC recommended having an advisory program that touched base with each student. M. Brisson felt this trip covered one aspect of the

Advisory Program and that was community service. Also two students are doing their senior project and they would benefit greatly from this type of trip. The first student will be taking a trip similar to this trip and will research how to fundraise for such type of trip like this and for countries or people in need. The second student's project is an International Merit Award and the student needs to do an excursion like trip as well as academics to meet the requirements of the merit award.

M. Brisson said that the trip will take place over April vacation, leaving Saturday and returning Sunday, no school time will be lost. The trip is open to all students in the building who would be interested in a community service like experience. It hadn't been approved by the school committee but she had inquired with students and staff and there is a great deal of interest and there are 3 other staff members interested in chaperoning.

M. Brisson said Bridges to Community is nonprofit. Part of the fee goes to building cost and materials. Cost of the trip is tax deductible. They recommend 10 individuals, M. Brisson is recommending 2 chaperones per 8 students. M. Brisson now has 10, closer to 20 people interested in going. They have basic dormitories to stay in, we would travel as one group. M. Brisson said that B. Raucci has gone 4 times, former school committee member Judy Converse and her husband Steve Converse have gone. Steve is interested in going again and would go as a parent. In addition to 3 staff, have 2 adults interested in going, one is a parent of a senior project student.

P. Funch said he is very familiar with the group and has been involved in fundraising for years. It should be a great experience for the kids.

M. Brisson said that the cost is \$1100 and does not include airfare. Airfare varies and estimated at \$2100 [total cost]. The student doing the senior project wants to organize fundraising for the entire group, not just themselves.

C. McKinney verified that part of their request is to do fundraising.

M. Brisson said that students have inquired about this in the past and they have not gone as a school activity. They have asked if it can be a school activity as part of senior project and advisory so they could fundraise with members of the school community.

C. Barret said that she knows M. Brisson has read the policy for overnight fieldtrips and she thinks that it is a wonderful trip and very worthwhile but, it does not meet the criteria in the policy. M. Brisson asked how so? C. Barrett replied because it is not part of the curriculum. M. Brisson asked would it fit if it was part of advisory or senior project? C. Barrett asked S. Rubel to comment. S. Rubel said she would have to look at the policy. K. Lofgren read from the policy "purpose, objective and value of the trip for educational or athletic perspective". S. Rubel said we have been very clear about educating the whole child but she would have to look at the policy.

C. McKinney asked to clarify-the independent study project is very worthwhile but it is not appropriate for the school committee to approve a trip for independent study, even if

it turns out there might be more than 1 student, i.e., 7 or 10 students. Is it a school club taking on an activity, for example Spanish Club or sports team. We don't want to approve every single student's April vacation, even if it were a benefit to the school.

B. Raucci spoke from the audience and said that she has taken GD students on 4 trips with Bridges to Community and thinks that one link to curriculum is immersion in a Spanish speaking country. Community service and goals and values are present but the impact on speaking Spanish really stood out.

B. Erickson said based on a cursory look she thinks that it fits in with what they are trying to accomplish. How long has GD been involved? M. Brisson replied that they have never officially done it through the school. Students and faculty have gone for about 10 years. B. Erickson asked if anyone reported back? B. Raucci said that she had 5 or 6 years ago and that the first student went as an internship 10 years ago. B. Erickson wished M. Brisson luck and hoped that it all works out. B. Erickson asked M. Brisson about fundraising ideas. M. Brisson said they have not thought about it, were waiting to see if it was approved first.

K. Lofgren asked what is the link with the advisory program? M. Brisson said that the advisory program is for the entire student body, recommended by the NEAC, students attend 2-3 times per month. There are three focal points, one is community service. Students who go will report back to the entire student body. Hope to use GD News program and students can share video and photos. GD News often airs during Advisory time.

K. Lofgren expressed the same questions/uncertainty as C. McKinney and C. Barrett had. It does not appear to be linked to any particular group. What is the maximum number of students you can take? M. Brisson replied 20 and we could take more but we would not be in the same dorm. M. Brisson said the link of what group would be going would be driven by the senior project curriculum. K. Lofgren concluded that it is a great trip but doesn't belong at a school committee (SC) approval level.

F. Buzan asked what do they gain with SC approval? C. McKinney replied if the SC approves it they can attach fundraising within the school community versus outside fundraising. They are specifically prohibited from fundraising for non school programs. B. Erickson asked can this be worked out with the principal? Why hasn't this been worked out before it came here? C. McKinney said there are lots of trips like this that people take that are educational, trips like these often gain momentum in school but are not school sponsored trips.

M. Brisson said the reasons to request SC approval are

1. it is an overnight trip
2. fundraising
3. link to advisory program, part of our 990, and to Spanish Curriculum.

L. Palmacci asked if it was not approved could they go? C. McKinney replied of course they can still go , just not under the protective umbrella of the SC.

S. Rubel said that to her the advisory program is as important if not more important than a club, even though they don't get credit for it. It is education of the whole child.

F. O'Connell said that it is a pretty significant trip, referencing the agreements and release forms in the packet, has the superintendent or the business manager or the school district attorney had a chance to review our liability?

A. Genovese said that in the past he has recommended trips based on what it related back to. For example, the Spanish Club trip to Spain he can support it. When trips come that don't link back, he has not recommended them. What is hard about this trip is that there are multiple pathways that link back to community service. Which ones are you going to endorse and which ones are you not going to endorse? Parents have done community service projects that do not involve GD. It comes back to ability to fundraise or not. It is problematic that you feel that you need to approve this trip so fundraising can occur. A better reason for approval based on strong link to curriculum and an integral part of the school. If the SC approves you own liability and responsibility. The travel agency has sole ownership if it is not approved by SC. It depends on what your pleasure is in terms of your obligations that would come with your authority to approve it.

C. McKinney said he was going to table discussion and asked is there any questions for M. Brisson while she is here and asked policy to come back to see if there is a way to achieve both

1. kids are allowed to do some fundraising
- 2, enable them to go without district approval.

C. McKinney said he can see the line forming, for example Habitat [for Humanity]trip. C. McKinney asked the policy subcommittee to report back.

B. Erickson said there are at least 2 people on policy who do not know what the advisory program is. M. Brisson said that we did a presentation April or May of last year. M. Brisson asked when will policy meet? K. Lofgren said our next meeting is Oct 17. M. Brisson asked will she have to come back to SC to hear from policy or will she get contacted by them directly? F. Buzan asked if M. Brisson had to go to the policy meeting? C. McKinney said that M. Brisson only needs to come back if the committee has more questions.

F. Buzan asked what the exact project that you are taking on is? M. Brisson replied we are building simple cinder block dwellings, it requires no training in advance.

P. Funch asked if this were a club there would be no question? M. Brisson asked is that accurate? Clubs are not curriculum driven. C. McKinney said it would depend on the club. M. Brisson said she would be happy to start a travel club. K. Lofgren said that the history and intent of the policy was to create safeguards and address late night and

overnight travel of students. It came in a year when there were lots of mishaps and events with students traveling. It covers the umbrella of school district responsibility.

P. Funch said that it seems that this has grown to a point of enough interest, it has crossed the threshold, it is clearly part of the school mainstream. He understands we don't want fundraising for all small trips. P. Funch said he does not want to get caught up too much on the fine points of the policy, it seems to fit intent of policy for a large group of students involved in an activity that has lots of connections to the curriculum. He doesn't want us to get caught up in the details. We have lots of history with the trip.

C. Barrett asked everyone to review the policy before we discuss this again.

K. Lofgren asked who can attend the trip? M. Brisson replied the entire student body, it would not be advertised to the general public. C. McKinney asked for clarification. M. Brisson said parents, who would be CORI checked, would not be coming as chaperones, they would travel with the students but would not be part of the school trip.

L. Palmacci said she thinks that it is obvious if there are 20 students who want to go on this trip and have that common interest, that is enough interest to start a club and she would be interested in being the 21st student to join such a community service club.

A. Genovese said to point out the obvious, have a policy review to see if policies reflect practices and does policy need to be modified or are you satisfied.

Washington, DC Trip

B. Raucci spoke about the Washington, DC trip, referenced the packet of information we received. It is an 8th grade interdisciplinary ELA/SS trip. We have visited the Nation's capital for 20 years, we have always used Capital Tours. We wanted to go in April, had to tiptoe through the MCAS schedule, very carefully select the date. There was a question about Easter and a Jewish Holiday and she has checked with both communities and it is a safe time to go. The trip includes 236 8th graders, teachers, parent chaperones. The last few years we have had to draw parents' names out of a hat.

C. Barrett asked if most kids go on the trip. B. Raucci replied that most kids do. Some kids do not like to travel and they plan local field trips for them, switch off with SS teachers, maybe 12 kids stay behind.

C. McKinney said that he has enjoyed chaperoning the trip.

K. Lofgren said that she was very impressed with the trip and how much her daughter got out of it.

F. Buzan asked about places you are not going such as the White House, Capital Building, and the Smithsonian. B. Raucci replied we are going to the Smithsonian and noted the listing for Air and Space Museum. The White House and Capitol Building do not allow tours. F. Buzan added that he is glad to see that you are going to a baseball

game. C. McKinney noted that there is some flexibility in the schedule if sites get opened. B. Raucci noted the Holocaust Museum and relevance to the Penny Project.

B. Raucci passed out Peace Book Tshirts left by B. Sawyer.

F. Buzan noted that the date of the last payment is after the trip. B. Raucci replied that this is just a preliminary itinerary.

GDRSD MASC Resolution

C. McKinney introduced the MASC resolution and said that K. Lofgren would walk us through it.

K. Lofgren said that our resolution is #3 and read from the delegate booklet that the resolution must be presented as submitted because it was submitted by five school committees from at least two divisions. However, the Resolution Committee thinks that a number of points need clarification: # 3, 5, 6,7 and final paragraph.

K. Lofgren presented proposed amendments and stated why the Resolution Committee suggested the change. See attached copy of the original resolution and the proposed amendments.

Item 3-C. Barrett asked is this actual expense versus a formula? K. Lofgren and A. Genovese discussed some numbers. J. Endicott replied that Circuit Breaker is both. We pay our first \$31,000 then what the difference is we are reimbursed 75%. C. McKinney clarified we want special ed transportation to be included in the monies to be reimbursed. A. Genovese said the average state cost is used. J. Endicott said that the state average is \$31,000 but that does not include transportation. C. McKinney said we are just trying to include special ed transportation in Circuit Breaker.

F. Buzan asked if it is accepted by MASC, they are just going to present it to the legislature, then legislature will rewrite. So we should just get it in a form that expresses our intent. K. Lofgren clarified that the MASC just wants us to clarify so \$35 million doesn't become a fixed appropriation.

C. McKinney gave the history of our resolution-it was a local effort for representatives, legislators and it moved on to MASC level and we never went back to change the language. A. Genovese asked if the resolution can be amended on the floor? Yes replied K. Lofgren.

F. Buzan said that he has not yet received the MASC delegates manual.

K. Lofgren read the proposed amendment.

Item 5-K. Lofgren read the original text and the proposed amendment.

Item 6- K. Lofgren read the original text and the proposed amendment and said that this was specific for FY07, last year. We will make it more generic so it can move forward. P. Funch said that it seems to be saying the same thing twice and suggested changing to would versus might otherwise.

Item 7-K. Lofgren read the original text and the proposed amendment.

Final paragraph-P. Funch said you are asking them to file legislation. C. Barrett suggested the text in other resolutions “Therefore be it resolved etc”. K. Lofgren said and then pull out each point and list. K. Lofgren will make the revisions and we can vote on all 5 resolutions at the next meeting and we can elect a delegate.

REPORTS FROM SUBCOMMITTEES

Budget and Finance- F. O’Connell said that the next meeting will be Oct 10 at 6pm at Tarbell

Policy- K. Lofgren said the next meeting will be Oct 17 at 6:30pm in Rm 219, the Fish Bowl, at the HS.

Chair- C.McKinney asked C. Barrett to go over the School Committee Calendar and Agenda Topics. C. Barrett explained that we took the presentations given last year plus the AC made a list of suggested topics and the SC members checked off the topics that they wanted to learn more about. A calendar was created with 2 presentations per meeting and lists the date, business, presentations and spotlight topic. Also there will be a SC liaison for each topic. The liaison will collect questions from all SC members and give to the presenter in a timely fashion. It worked very well last year.

S. Rubel said that it was very helpful to know the questions ahead of time. And noted that presenters have to have the presentation for the next SC meeting done by next Friday. C. Barrett referenced an AC document that listed the Curriculum topic description and said that was very helpful.

Liaisons were assigned as listed below:

Oct 18 Curriculum Development Process-C. Barrett

Dec 6-Conversation with HS School Council-F. O’Connell

Dec 20-site-based Special Ed practices-K. Lofgren

Jan 17-Standards Based Math K-8-F. Buzan

Feb 7-District wide assessments-P. Funch

Feb 7-Youth Football and Cheering comprehensive plan-send questions to Dan Twomey

Feb 28-Three year plan/budget/capital maintenance-F. O’Connell

Mar 7-HS looking at student work-P. Funch

April 4-Teaching and learning using technology-C. McKinney

April 4-District Athletic programs-C. McKinney

April 25-Celebrate the Arts-F. Buzan

May 2-HS handbook revisions-send questions directly to Joe Dillon

May 16-Superintendent’s public evaluation-C. McKinney

June 6-Foreign Language Review-B. Erickson

Discussion took place during the assignments:

C. McKinney noted that last year we only did a liaison for SC requested presentations. The SC discussed that even though the Conversation with the HS School Council was an AC topic, it would be helpful to have a liaison.

F. Buzan asked if the youth football presentation will be presented by the club? C. Barrett said that it would be by the Youth Football League, it is their version of a comprehensive plan. A. Genovese asked that Dan Twomey be the liaison. B. Erickson asked who is giving the youth football league the charge to do this, the SC? Yes.

Topics were briefly discussed if people had questions.

S. Rubel said that we have a new Foreign Language Coordinator and asked for the Foreign Language Review to be moved from Jan 3. C. Barrett suggested June 6 and the date was agreeable.

A. Genovese asked about the school improvement plans (SIP). C. Barrett said we had talked about making modifications and refinements. Presentations were made last Spring. S. Rubel noted that SIP are reviewed annually.

SC Workshop on Goals

C. McKinney said we are trying to level set the role of SC in district operations. Over time we believe that will be an evolving goal for us. C. McKinney read the 4 goals developed during the school committee workshops:

Groton-Dunstable Regional School Committee Annual Goals for 2006-2007

1. Support the development and execution of the superintendent's and district's goals including improved achievement for all students and integration of technology into the curriculum.

2. Create and implement a policy plan that includes

A. review of policy

B. implementation of policy priorities

(C. McKinney noted that he is glad to see that policy is well on their way)

3. Strengthen relationships with constituencies by clearly defining roles, relationships, and expectations.

A. Community

B. Municipal Officials

C. Administrative Council and Staff

D. School Councils

E. Each Other

4. Continue taking an active role with groups such as Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC) and state legislators to advocate for public education.

C. McKinney thanked everyone for the several hours it took to get to this point.

Superintendent-

1. A. Genovese passed out the SC calendar and said that maybe we can add the presentation topics to this list.

2. A. Genovese passed out the enrollment as of Oct 1, 2006 as an informational item. These numbers go to DOE.

3. A. Genovese said that at a B&F meeting held a few weeks ago, it was very productive, we made a draft budget calendar and A. Genovese and T. Sheehan matched it up with the AC timeline. The timeline was passed out as an informational item. A. Genovese said that he and T. Sheehan have begun visits with the towns, they recently went to Dunstable. There are several new faces on Fin Com. Hope to get on the Groton calendar soon. We reviewed a number of topics and formally introduced T. Sheehan. We are looking at the Union Building roof, the PTYC roof, possible changes to the foundation budget, dates for joint meetings. K. Lofgren and B. Erickson noted a date in conflict with the MASC conference.

4. A. Genovese said that the Planning Board approved temporary lighting. We need to step back and reassess all of the field use at GDRSD. He will talk with Dan Twomey about recovery time for fields in between seasons. To get a better understanding of field use in the district. It would be a productive exercise on the town side if we could get a better understanding of use on all town fields, is that Parks Department?, maybe do that as a joint effort as we get an idea what the demands will be for football as well as other uses of the fields in the town. A. Genovese thanked the Planning Board for approving this. They were helpful but there is still a lot of work to be done.

5. Lyle Kirtman proposal. The proposal had been previously distributed. A. Genovese said that the proposal had been discussed during the SC workshop as a way to improve AC-SC and SC-SC relationships, for strategic plan development, for efficient ways of conducting business. A. Genovese said that he thought that there was consensus to move forward. He had asked T. Sheehan for available funding sources.

T. Sheehan passed out a memo. T. Sheehan suggested budget line item 1786 of \$5500 for SC outside consultation, recommend to use \$4000. Recommend \$7000 from another source. There are surplus funds in salary for the Director of Business and Finance. We have used some money for Craig Young's consulting fees. The proposal estimate is \$10,000, we want a little extra. T. Sheehan's memo included a suggested motion.

C. McKinney said there is some confusion if the SC line item was earmarked for the HS land study. T. Sheehan said that he can confirm that it has not been spent or encumbered as of today. A. Genovese said that has come from the HS building funds.

6. A. Genovese said as a follow-up to CORI discussion, A. Genovese sent out to the superintendent's listserv to ask who does a SORI. Many districts do not do SORIs. It was informational to many districts that there was no cost to it. A. Genovese said that he has resolved the dilemma how to pay for an out of state applicant. He had the applicant pay for that, by writing out their own check for \$15. A. Genovese said that Connecticut has a national [background]check. It is not uncommon for a state to do this.

B. Erickson asked does this speed things up? She suggested setting up an advance account.

F. Buzan asked are we doing this for everyone or only if they have gotten further down in the interview process? A. Genovese replied further down in the interview process. Don't want them to incur cost if they are not far in interview process. We have only done this for New Hampshire, not if person has lived in a number of states. We have not decided how to handle that yet.

F. Buzan said that he finds it awkward to ask people to submit a check, it sounds like college applications. Also what if someone lived in a foreign country? He thinks that we need to look into this further. Is it a policy or administration? C. McKinney said that there is no policy to direct the superintendent on this. K. Lofgren said that the policy only states that a CORI must be done. B. Erickson said that she thinks the superintendent should do it as he is the ultimate hiring source. A. Genovese said at the last meeting that he will investigate it and will package it and report back and explore options on how we will implement it and hear our feedback.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS: none

ACTION ITEMS

Bridges to Community Trip

C. McKinney said that the first action item has been postponed.

Washington DC Trip

C. McKinney said the second action item is the Washington DC trip.

VOTE: Approve Washington, DC Trip

F.O'CONNELL MOVED THAT WE APPROVE THE MIDDLE SCHOOL WASHINGTON, DC TRIP.

SECONDED BY K. LOFGREN.

C. McKinney asked if there were any other questions or comments. There were none. C. McKinney asked all those in favor of approving the overnight field trip of MS students, 8th graders, to Washington, DC to raise their hands.

SO VOTED IN FAVOR UNANIMOUSLY.

Disposal of dump truck

C. McKinney asked T. Sheehan to introduce the next action item.

T. Sheehan said that the district has a 1989 C30 Cheverolet dump truck that is not in running condition, it is still registered, it is not road worthy. Disposal of surplus material is covered under MGL Chapter 30B. If the value is under \$5000 we do not need to do a public auction or sealed bids, it can be disposed of according to district policy. The district does have a policy on disposal that requires us to advertise in newspapers and to notify other schools but he believes the policy was written in light of disposing of surplus text books and educational materials. The law also states that if an item has no value at all it can simply be disposed of. T. Sheehan believes that this item has no value at all based on discussion with scrap dealers. T. Sheehan asks the SC to do two things: declare the truck to be surplus and authorize the administration to dispose of it.

VOTE: Disposal of truck

F.O'CONNELL MADE A MOTION THAT WE DECLARE THE 1988 DUMP TRUCK AS SURPLUS TO BE DISPOSED OF AS SALVAGE.

SECONDED BY B. ERICKSON.

C. McKinney asked if anyone had any questions about the nonfunctioning dump truck.

F. Buzan said that since we have appraised it as having no value, do you have any idea why anyone would want to haul it away for free? T. Sheehan replied that he thinks we would be lucky not to have to pay to have it removed, he has been in the same circumstances when disposing of his personal cars. C. McKinney said that he was in Central Office when Steve Burns and Tom Delaney, Groton Highway Dept., were talking about how to get any parts of value off of the truck. He was encouraged by their frugality.

SO VOTED IN FAVOR UNANIMOUSLY BY ROLLCALL.

Accept Bucket Truck

C. McKinney asked T. Sheehan to introduce the next action item.

T. Sheehan said that the town no longer has need of it but the truck is still serviceable and Mr. Burns believes it can be of use in some of our projects to maintain the buildings and grounds and T. Sheehan believes it is SC policy to vote to accept a gift such as this gift from the town of Groton to the district.

A. Genovese said that they are pretty excited about this because they can waste a lot of time changing light bulbs near the roof or repairing flagpoles. There is the understanding that we would let the fire department use it if they need it. A good partnership between the town and schools.

VOTE: Accept Bucket Truck

F.O'CONNELL MADE A MOTION THAT WE ACCEPT THE BUCKET TRUCK FROM THE GROTON HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT.

SECONDED BY F. BUZAN.

C. McKinney asked if there were any questions. F. Buzan jokingly asked if SC members can use it. C. Barrett asked if we have a good spot to store this truck. T. Sheehan replied that he did not know off hand but will inquire about that. C. McKinney asked all those in favor signify by raising your hand.

SO VOTED IN FAVOR UNANIMOUSLY.

Lyle Kirtman Proposal

C. McKinney asked A. Genovese if it was his intention that we approve the Lyle Kirtman proposal from the intended sources? A. Genovese said that at the bottom of T. Sheehan's memo there is a recommended motion. C. McKinney asked if there were any questions.

F. Buzan asked when will this take place? A. Genovese replied that there will be a series of activities, at least 4. Some you will be doing online along with the administrators. There will be some joint meetings to discuss the information that Lyle is gathering.

P. Funch said that he does not understand why it is coming out of the SC budget. We are part of it but not all of it and he doesn't see why there would not be some sharing between line items with AC. Another thing is he honestly does not see the value for the SC for some parts of the program, particularly the profiling activities. He thinks it is valuable for the AC and it is a good thing for the AC to go through with the superintendent. He does not see the value for SC. At \$110 per person is it worth it? He questions the amount of money and where the money is coming from. Since it is not to exceed he can support that but, we need further discussion on what will actually be spent on the contract.

A. Genovese said that members can opt in and out. Members would not have to do the profiling.

B. Erickson said that she had a recollection that this was part of our goals, to increase our communication with AC and staff and thought that this would prove to be helpful.

P. Funch thinks our interaction with AC is a good thing and we should do it but, does not think that we need a working relationship with them. Do they work once per month? Twice? A. Genovese replied it is weekly. P. Funch said that it is a more intensive team interaction that we do not go through with them and he doesn't think the kind of exercises that they go through will be useful for a board like us that only meets once or twice per month. P. Funch said that he does not want to see a large amount of money spent on it.

F. Buzan asked how many members are on AC? A. Genovese replied 12.

C. McKinney asked for a motion

VOTE: Approve Lyle Kirtman proposal

K. LOFGREN MOVED THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE AN EXPENDITURE NOT TO EXCEED \$11,000 FROM THE OPERATING BUDGET TO PAY FOR MANAGEMENT CONSULTING SERVICES TO THE ADMINISTRATIVE

COUNCIL AND THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE, SAID TO SERVICES TO BE PROVIDED BY MR. KIRTMAN AND FUTURE MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS INC. SECONDED BY C. BARRETT.

C. McKinney asked for additional comments or questions.

P. Funch said that since he did not get an answer he will have to make an amendment "The cost shall be divided between AC and SC."

C. McKinney asked you are proposing to change the funding source? P. Funch replied, yes between AC and SC. C. McKinney asked T. Sheehan if the AC has a budget. T. Sheehan said there is an account 842 under system wide for in-district workshops and professional development, perhaps that money could be made available. K. Lofgren asked if it has been encumbered or earmarked? T. Sheehan said he believes there are still funds left, he did not know the figure. A. Genovese said you could say "and funded by FY07 budget" and we got the message about trying to cost share. Let us look at our options. S. Rubel said there are numerous lines from which we could take it. K. Lofgren referenced her motion and emphasized that she said from the operating budget.

F. Buzan asked what the SC budget is usually used for? C. McKinney replied the SC has 4 line items: advertising, consultants, professional development, and expenses. K. Lofgren said that professional development is our workshops and conferences. A. Genovese said and expenses like affiliations with MASC. F. Buzan asked are we expected to encumber more cost within the budget year? A. Genovese replied that he did not know. There are still some funds in there and if needed to we could make a transfer at another time. A. Genovese said that he asked T. Sheehan to find a couple of sources we could take it from. Ideally we would like to take it from one line.

C. McKinney asked P. Funch if he would be satisfied if we make it more generic and hear back from the superintendent where he is going to cost share? P. Funch replied yes. K. Lofgren clarified that her motion did not specify a line item. K. Lofgren said we need to add FY07 operating budget. B. Erickson asked if the budget we were discussing was the FY07 operating budget? Yes.

A. Genovese said that if it is alright with you, we will discuss this with B&F and get their blessing on what line item to transfer. C. McKinney noted as is done with most line item transfers.

SO VOTED IN FAVOR UNANIMOUSLY BY ROLLCALL.

ADJOURNMENT

F. BUZAN MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT APPROXIMATELY 10:12 PM.

SECONDED BY F. O'CONNELL.

SO VOTED IN FAVOR UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Barrett, School Committee Secretary

Announcements October 4, 2006

Boutwell School

- The Boutwell Early Childhood Center is going a field trip! The children will be going to Parlee Farms in Tyngsboro in Early October. They will be exploring Preschool Learning Guideline #12 in the area of Life Sciences when they “Observe and describe seasonal changes in plants, animals and their personal lives.”

Prescott School

- Field trips are in full swing now that October has set in.
 - The kindergarten classes are off to UMass Lowell to see a production of Eric Carle's *The Hungry Caterpillar* this week. They have read the book and are excited about seeing it come to life on the stage. Admission to this production is courtesy of the Groton Trust Funds.
 - The 4th graders are set to climb Mt. Wachusett on the 19th and learn about survival techniques. This climb comes at the perfect time following a class read of *Lost on a Mountain in Maine*.
- In addition to field trips, we will be having several visitors to Prescott this month.
 - On the 13th, the Groton Fire Dept. will arrive on the scene and children in K - grade 2 will have the opportunity to view and inspect fire equipment and learn about fire safety.
 - On the 17th, a representative from the Worcester Tornadoes Baseball Team will host an all school assembly on respect and "doing your best". Their mascot "Twister" will make an appearance. There will be two assemblies - K-1 @ 9:30 am and 2 - 4 @ 10:15 am.
 - Author Chris Demarist will visit Prescott and present two assemblies on weather and tornadoes. Mr. Demarist has written several books and has flown over a tornado!
- School pictures are slated for October 24th.
- There are two Principal's Coffees slated for October. The first is this coming Friday @ 9:30 am with Dr. Genovese and Mr. Tim Sheehan as the featured guests. The second is on October 25th @ 9:00 am and the topic is " Transition from Grade 3 to Grade 4". Parents and guests are invited to attend both.
- Peer Mediators are in the final stages of being trained. Training will be completed this Wednesday and mediators will begin their recess responsibilities the week of October 9th.

- The Prescott Ambassadors held their first meeting last week and their goals for the year include community service and acts of kindness. The next meeting of the Ambassadors is October 18th at 8:00 am.

Florence Roche

Kindergarten Students “Discover Fall” on a Field Trip to Beaver Brook

- Flo Ro Kindergarten students will make their annual trek to Beaver Brook on Monday, October 16th. During the visit, students will talk about the seasons and use their senses as they walk through the woods to experience fall. This field trip supports the science curriculum habitats’ unit through exploration in “the field”. Students and teachers will peak into and under some rotting logs in the forest to see what lurks beneath and compare their discoveries to the insect/forest habitat science displays in their classrooms. Many thanks to the Commissioners of the Trust for its support of this program.

Enrichment Series Kick Off

- Parent and PTA Enrichment Program Coordinator, Lisa O’Neill, has arranged a fantastic launch of our 2006-2007 Enrichment Program. Children and staff will be treated to a highly praised program, Poetry in Motion with David Zucker, at the PAC on Wednesday, October 18th.

In Poetry in Motion, now in its 17th year with Young Audiences, DavidZucker brings to vivid life the best of English language poetic literature. This participatory program recreates the fine tradition of spoken verse with the poems of such authors as A.A. Milne, Lewis Carroll, Langston Hughes, James Whitcomb Riley, and many more. David’s rare talent as a mime and his masterful acting are aided by various props, costumes pieces, masks and puppets. This program has been rated "excellent" by several schools in our area and has won awards as a Cultural Enrichment event.

Bus Driver Appreciation Breakfast

- Our PTA sponsored Bus Driver Appreciation Breakfast is scheduled for Tuesday, October 17th from 9:00-10:00 in our school cafeteria. This is our opportunity to thank the drivers for their support and efforts to transport our students to and from school safely and quickly.

Playground Update

- Our basketball/dodge ball court fence is in and the court, kickball, and 4-square courts have been striped as of Tuesday, October 2nd! Many thanks to Director of Grounds and Maintenance, Steve Byrne, for arranging to have the striping done as soon as possible. With the striping done, our Recess Rodeo program begins this week! Stay tuned for the date of our ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate our new playground.

Swallow Union

- A seven member study group will be meeting on a weekly basis for the next couple of months to discuss and put into the practice strategies from the book, "Reading For Meaning". This book concentrates on teaching reading comprehension at the primary level. This professional development supports the School Improvement Goal to strengthen instructional practices.
- On Monday, October 23 we are having a visitor from Plimouth Plantation share the experiences of what Colonial America was like for our third graders. It is a wonderful program that supports our social studies curriculum.
- We are revitalizing our "Healthy Snack Wednesday". The goal is to teach the students that there are many healthy snacks that are tasty. It is also part of the district's health initiative.

Middle School

- The middle school will be hosting our annual Open House on Thursday evening, October 5th from 7-9 pm. Details of the evenings's schedule are on our website and have also been sent home with students in last Friday's Friday folder.
- The after school student activities program began this week with 28 clubs offered. A record 525 students are participating.
- The eighth grade will be visiting the Pequot Museum this week as part of their social studies curriculum.

High School

- Thank You to the students, staff, parents, and community members who helped to make Homecoming 2006 a great success. Special thanks to Marisa Brisson and Dan Twomey who organized the Homecoming events that took place over three days.
- **Students in the News**
Congratulations to the following students from the Class of 2007 who received Letters of Commendation in the National Merit Scholarship Program
 - George Staruch
 - Karthik Prakhya
 - Alexander McKinnon
 - Samuel Kulvete
 - Megan Searle

- Craig Ferrere
- Kevin Bates
- Joseph Sheahan

- As announced earlier, Thomas Mann has reached the semi-finalist stage of the competition.

- Guidance Department College Planning and Financial Aid Nights:
 - ❖ **College Planning for Parents**
 - Date: Thursday, October 19, 2006
 - Time: 6:30pm - 8:30pm
 - Location: High School Black Box Theater

 - ❖ **Financial Aid, MEFA**
 - Date: Thursday, November 2, 2006
 - Time: 6:30pm - 8:30pm
 - Location: High School Black Box Theater

Faculty in the News

- Congratulations to science teacher, Melissa Hult, who has been selected to participate in a Biotechnology Exchange program. Melissa will be among 5 teachers from Massachusetts visiting schools in Switzerland from October 16th through the 20th. During the week, Melissa and her fellow teachers from MA will be visiting Novartis Institute for Biomedical Research in Basel as well as visiting schools and attending workshops.

- Congratulations to History Teacher Colin Murphy who was selected to address the 10th Annual National War of 1812 Symposium which is held on October 7th in Baltimore, MD. Colin's presentation is on the "Battle of St. Leonard's Creek and the Resulting Controversy Surrounding the Outcome".

Twomey Center

- The Children's Enrichment Program began this week with many children taking advantage of them.

- Also, this week begins the Fall Community Education session with classes such as Yoga, Watercolor Painting, and Parents: Prepare Yourself for College.

District Announcements:

- The Groton and Dunstable Granges have created a program to raise money to buy dictionaries for all the third grade students in Groton and Dunstable. This year they will be donating a total of 163 dictionaries to the students of Groton and Dunstable. We would like to thank them for their generous gift.
- There is no school on Tuesday, October 10, it is a full day curriculum day,

Upcoming School Council meetings

- High School: November 1, 4:00 pm
- Florence Roche: October 17, 3:00 pm, FR Shared Literature Room
- Prescott: October 16, 3:30 pm, Prescott Rookery
- Swallow Union: October 16, 3:15-4:30 pm
- Middle School: October 26, 2006

Announcement regarding Seven Hills Extended Care at Groton, Inc.

We would like to thank Mary Cassidy Conway of the Seven Hills Extended Care at Groton, Inc. She sent a letter to the School Committee chair and the Superintendent, which was copied and distributed to the School Committee members on September 6th. This letter informed the district of the fact that they relocated their educational space to a new space within the existing building at 22 Hillside Ave in Groton. This relocation increased the square footage of space allocated for the school program by more than 5,000 square feet.