

GROTON-DUNSTABLE REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE
High School Library
Business Meeting Minutes
October 19, 2005 Approved November 2, 2005

PRESENT:

Ms Cindy Barrett, Secretary
Mr. Paul Fitzgerald
Ms Karen Lofgren
Mr. Chuck McKinney, Chair
Mr. Frank O'Connell, Vice- Chair
Mr. Alan Vervaeke

ABSENT:

Ms Kim Cowie

ADMINISTRATION:

Dr. Alan Genovese, Superintendent
Mr. Craig Young, Business Manager (left at 8:25 p.m.)
Dr. Susan Rubel, Director of Curriculum/Staff Development
Ms Joan Endicott, Director of Pupil Personnel

STUDENT ADVISOR:

Kara Cover

STAFF, PRESS, OTHERS: J. Kulesz, Groton Herald; P. Comtois, Groton Landmark;
B. Erickson, J. Mitchell, P. McGrath, K. Snow,

CALL TO ORDER

C. McKinney announced the GDRSC Meeting opened at 6:00 p.m. and the Committee voted to adjourn to executive session for the purpose of discussing litigation. The GDRSC Meeting reconvened in public session at 7:11 p.m. and was called to order by the chair, C. McKinney.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

C. Barrett announced Prescott had a very successful Fall Festival on October 14th with over 100 families attending. Field trips are well underway. Prescott's Parent Organization invited Dr. Genovese to be their first guest of the new year. He shared his vision for the district in a round table discussion and took questions from parents. She announced Prescott's annual Veterans Day Ceremony will take place on November 10th at 9:15 a.m.

K. Lofgren announced Florence Roche had a very successful Parent/Child Book Fair evening on October 5th. This supported their PTA Book Fair fund raiser and also promoted the importance of personal reading and parents reading to their children. They

hosted a Meet and Greet with Dr. Genovese the same evening. Their third annual Specialists' Open House will be held on November 3rd from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. This is an opportunity for parents to see the wonderful programs provided by the specialists in support of learning beyond the classroom setting.

A. Vervaeke announced Swallow Union will hold a Frightful Feast on October 28th. The first seating is at 5:00 p.m.

C. McKinney announced Boutwell will be announcing the date of their first Parent Night.

K. Cover announced National Merit Semi-Finalists Alyssa Biggs, Elayna Cromwell and Emily Goodale will continue on in the competition. Spencer Capallo and Reid Messinger were Commended Students in the National Merit Competition and Stephan Rountree was recognized by the National Merit competition for special achievement.

K. Cover announced the high school hosted a group of Italian students who spent two weeks visiting the area and attending classes. Special thanks were given to the host families and to Judy Speer for helping to coordinate the visit. K. Cover noted the students' English improved immensely in a short period of time.

A. Vervaeke asked about the Homecoming festivities. C. McKinney said the dance was a success. The sporting events were played on Sunday and they won.

P. Fitzgerald announced the Dunstable Artisans Show took place last weekend at MSN. Thanks were given to Mr. Young, the custodians, Sue Daugherty and the high school choral group.

F. O'Connell announced the middle school held an assembly on Monday and students chose their team names. Open House is Thursday night, October 20th.

F. O'Connell announced the GDEF, in cooperation with GDAY, will present "There's Magic in the Air" on Tuesday, November 1st. It will be an afternoon of fun and magic for pre-school, elementary and middle school students and their families. Pre-ordered pizza and drinks will be served in the middle school cafeteria at noon (families can also bring their own brown bag lunch) and magician Scott Jameson will begin his show at 1:00 p.m. Tickets are \$3.00 in advance or \$5.00 at the door, with a maximum charge of \$20.00 per family. Proceeds will help fund GDEF's fall grant cycle which closes November 1st. Grant awards will be announced the week of December 5th. More information about GDEF can be found at www.gdefinc.org.

J. Endicott announced the paraprofessionals participated in a training last week to review their role in the classroom and to learn more about how to work with students with specific learning disabilities. The SPED staff participated in training on assessment and writing measurable goals and objectives. She announced the parents rights brochure has changed its name to Notice of Special Ed Regulations. It will be mailed out to all parents of children on ed plans by the end of the week and will be given to new families. The brochure will be mailed out once a year and upon request.

Dr. Rubel announced they had their full curriculum professional development day on October 11th. A variety of activities took place and included all levels spending a great deal of time analyzing MCAS scores, the K-2 and reading teachers looking at literacy assessments and math training on new Investigations units being implemented at the elementary school. The middle school continued with writing assessment scoring and the high school's four Theme Teams met.

K. Lofgren announced SPED PAC will be having an evening with Dr. Genovese on October 25th at 7:00 p.m. in the high school library.

A. Vervaeke announced a fund raiser to raise money for the American Red Cross and Hurricane Relief was held in Dunstable on Saturday. He thanked Russell Hoyt and Peter Myerson for allowing them to put collection boxes in the school and public library. About 250 used Halloween costumes were collected and then re-sold and they made \$700. They raised almost \$700 from the Coin Drive that included a \$375.00 donation from the day shift ladies at the Dunstable Dunkin Donuts.

REPORTS FROM SUB-COMMITTEES

Budget and Finance - F. O'Connell reported they met last night and reviewed the monthly financial updates. Dr. Genovese distributed the FY2007 Budget Timeline.

P. Fitzgerald reported they are looking at having administrators present not only a "continuing as we are budget" but also what they need to make the schools better. There will also be some contingency planning for disasters on the revenue side. F. O'Connell reported there will be a joint meeting with the Boards of Selectmen and FinComs on November 10th. He stated they also discussed Dunstable's situation with not being able to collect taxes and pay their assessment to the district. Groton's town meeting to address the debt question will be held October 24th and Dunstable's town meeting will be November 7th. Dr. Genovese stated the administrative team is going back to the Strategic Plan because that was used to drive the budget. It will be reviewed to see where things may need to be changed. He noted it is important to articulate what the needs are as they go through the process. A level service budget will be put together but every program and all the services will be reviewed so they can see what that will look like.

Building Committee - A. Vervaeke reported they have not met. C. Young reported they are continuing to get the high school water system on line and DEP will be out tomorrow to do an inspection. MSN is close to being complete and the landscapers are coming this weekend and the following weekend to finish their work. Some HVAC work also needs to be done and some glass panels need to be changed. A. Vervaeke asked if there is a time frame for demolishing the Smith house and C. Young said no but the prediction is that it will be removed by December 1st.

Personnel and Negotiations - C. McKinney reported they will meet Friday at Tarbell on October 21st at 9:30 a.m.

Policy - K. Lofgren reported the October 25th meeting needs to be rescheduled.

MINUTES

A. VERVAEKE MOVED TO APPROVE THE BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 21, 2005 AND OCTOBER 6, 2005. SECONDED BY P. FITZGERALD

SO VOTED

In Favor: C. Barrett, A. Vervaeke, K. Lofgren, F. O'Connell, P. Fitzgerald

Abstention: C. McKinney

F. O'CONNELL MOVED TO APPROVE THE EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES OF OCTOBER 6, 2005. SECONDED BY P. FITZGERALD

A. Vervaeke questioned whether an addendum of a conversation that occurred after the actual executive session meeting should be part of the minutes. Dr. Genovese feels having a notation after Ms Barrett's signature would be fine and C. McKinney feels the comments should be stricken from the minutes as they do not reflect something that happened in the meeting itself. A determination will be made on the best place to record it.

SO VOTED AS AMENDED

In Favor: C. Barrett, A. Vervaeke, K. Lofgren, F. O'Connell, P. Fitzgerald

Abstention: C. McKinney

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

K. Lofgren shared a light hearted note her daughter left her about people learning lessons from crayons.

C. Barrett stated the Black Box Theater is not large enough to hold all the high school students wanting to attend a dance and asked if it is possible to change the location so everyone who wanted to could attend. K. Cover said they really don't have any options and noted it costs \$500 to lay a special tarp over the gym floor. Dr. Genovese wished this had been brought to his attention before the Homecoming Dance and said it is a shame that some students were not able to participate. He said they will figure this out.

PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSION

Auditor's Report

C. Young introduced Frank Byron and Karen Snow from Melanson Heath & Company, PC. Ms Snow led the audit team.

Annual Financial Statements

Mr. Byron commended the business office for closing their books in a timely manner this year. He highlighted the Financial Statements document. He stated they are hired to provide an opinion as to whether the rest of the financial statements are in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and stated they are. He stated this is called a clean opinion and there are no exceptions. The district is also in compliance with GASBY 34.

Mr. Byron stated pages three through eight of their report, Management's Discussion and Analysis, is a requirement of GASBY 34 and provides a narrative explaining the financial statements so a non-accountant type can read the major accounting principles and how the district did during the course of the year. He reviewed the Statement of Net Assets and stated this collapses all the district's funds into one column and reports them on an accrual basis of accounting. He noted this is different from their budgetary basis which is

more of a cash basis. He stated their fixed assets are \$67,942,031. He noted the \$12,660,799 under Liabilities is down about \$5.4M from a year ago and this is because of the one large amount of money they received from the state for the school construction. Under Net Assets, Mr. Byron stated the \$17,703,661 represents their fixed assets minus related debt (bonds payable and BANS). He stated this is up about \$7M from a year ago, also because of the one large amount of money (about \$5.3M) they received from the state for the school construction. The rest of it relates to their bond payments exceeding their depreciation expense for the year. He stated the Unrestricted Net Assets is \$1,392,490 and represents the overall equity that is not tied up in the capital assets.

The Balance Sheet was reviewed and Mr. Byron explained the fund balances. He stated the undesignated general fund balance of \$733,543 is the most important number in these financial statements and is a starting point for the calculation of the E&D. He explained that they must record interest of \$165,000 from BANS. This is added to the \$733,543 and will bring the E&D balance to about \$900,000. E&D can be used as a funding source for budget purposes but is limited to 5% of the next year's budget.

Mr. Byron reviewed the Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances. He stated expenses beat the revenues by \$155,514 but \$285,000 of E&D was used as a funding source during the course of the year. Whenever E&D is used as a funding source, he stated you are budgeting to have a loss of that amount of money because it is not money coming in. The Budget versus Actual page for the general fund was reviewed. The \$12,779 represents monies not spent or carried forward at the end of the year and Mr. Byron stated this shows they were working off a tight budget and that they did a good job making sure this did not turn into a negative. The \$237,384 represents how they beat the budget throughout the course of the year.

With respect to the accrued liabilities, P. Fitzgerald stated Mr. Byron recorded more liabilities than they would and asked if their expectations for E&D should be different. Mr. Byron referred to the Balance Sheet and stated \$165,000 (BAN interest) will automatically be added back into the \$733,543 figure. He noted there is a potential that they do have a deficit in the land capital project fund and the DOR may deduct that \$73,000 out of the E&D balance, leaving a balance of \$825,000.

Since they have approval to borrow to offset the \$73,000, C. Young asked if the DOR would look at the liability as being satisfied. Mr. Byron said the DOR generally wants to see you issue an Anticipation Note to cover it but it is something that can be argued.

Management Letter

K. Snow stated there are no reportable conditions or material weaknesses and it is a really good Management Letter. She reviewed the three current year issues as well as the two prior year issues.

CURRENT YEAR ISSUES

Address Minor Payroll Processing Issues: They recommend the maintenance supervisor approve time sheets with an original signature rather than using a signature stamp. An employee pay rate increase was approved in August 2004 but was not updated in the payroll system until February 2005. She noted this was corrected prior to them bringing

it to their attention but stated employee pay rate changes need to be communicated to the payroll department in a timely manner.

Monitor Potential Arbitrage Issues: On June 30, 2005, the district had balances of approximately \$800,000 in the capital project funds. The IRS has strict guidelines when you borrow and the funds are suppose to be expended within a three year timetable. If they are not spent and they earn a yield higher than what they are paying, the money has to be rebated to the IRS. Ms Snow said this could become a problem if interest rates continue to go up.

Maintain and Reconcile School Lunch Records with District Accountant: The program's deficit balance increased from approximately \$50,000 in FY04 to approximately \$65,000 in FY05. The School Lunch Director does not maintain an independent financial record of the revenues and expenditures and they recommend this be done. The Director said she would implement this procedure. They also recommend the district continue to monitor the deficit and take appropriate action to ensure that it does not continue to increase.

PRIOR YEAR ISSUES

Address Ongoing Student Activity Fund Issues: Ms Snow stated everyone gets this comment in their Management Letter and reviewed the five concerns. They recommend the Accountant or Business Manager discuss the issues with the principals to ensure policies and procedures are being followed. It is also recommended that the district establish formal policies for the treatment of funds relating to graduating classes.

Modify Treasurer's Checkbook to Include Reconciling Items in Vendor and Payroll Accounts: The Treasurer's cashbook does not track balances or activity for the district's vendor and payroll accounts. There were outstanding transfers in these accounts that were not accurately reflected in the Treasurer's cash balance. She stated she is confident the Treasurer will correct it.

Ms Snow stated the district is doing a wonderful job and the staff is extremely helpful.

Understanding that the revenues and expenditures from the school lunch program could not be compared with the general ledger, P. Fitzgerald asked if they could look at any of the revenues and expenses. Ms. Snow said no, everything was turned over to the district, including the Director's originals. She noted the revenues are the most important piece.

C. Young thanked Melanson Heath for their great job and stated he is pleased with the results. He recognized Ms McGrath for her work. He echoed the comment that the student activity funds are a persistent issue. With respect to the payroll issue, he stated this was an error in rate off an old payroll sheet and this has been fixed.

Dr. Genovese asked if the information from the students swiping their cards in the school lunch program is looked at. Ms Snow said she did not do the departmental audit but will let him know. C. McKinney commended Mr. Young for managing such a tight budget.

Funding Considerations

Members were given a memo updating them on the funding considerations for the eminent domain judgment. As they move into the town meetings, C. Young said the question will be asked. He stated there should be an unexpended balance of \$300,000 from the high school building project and E&D may be as high as \$900,000. He stated they will submit a request to certify E&D before the week is out. They still have the authority to bond \$400,000 from the original \$2.4M for the initial eminent domain taking. The audit also showed a figure of \$55,713 reserved from debt service which could be used.

A. Vervaeke asked what the mechanism would be for using the remaining funds from the high school building project. C. Young said it is a vote of the School Committee. They all ready had the authority to borrow the money and the money can be used for a similar purpose for which you can borrow long term.

MCAS Presentation/ Dr. Susan Rubel

Dr. Rubel stated grades 3, 4, 7 and 10 were tested in Reading/ELA in the spring of 2005. Grades 5, 6 and 8 were tested for the first time and they will have those results next spring. Math has been tested in grades 4, 6, 8 and 10 for a number of years and tryout tests were given in grades 3,5 and 7. Science has been tested in grades 5 and 8 for many years. Grade 10 had a tryout test in Biology only. A history and social science test will be given to grades 5, 7 and 10 in 2006.

Dr. Rubel presented bar graphs showing the percentage of students scoring in the Advanced/Proficient and Needs Improvement/Warning for ELA and stated they have a high level of proficiency, especially in grades 7 and 10. A bar graph was also shown for math and noted there is a flatter profile, especially at grade 4. Since the percentage categories are not broken down, C. McKinney clarified the 12% Needs Improvement/Warning combination under tenth grade math does not mean 12% failed. Dr. Rubel said it is actually 1% that failed and they have never had a student not be able to graduate because they did not pass MCAS.

C. Barrett asked why the numbers are slightly different on the DOE website. Dr. Rubel said there is a difference between a district report and a school report and the out of district placements are not included in the school scores. She is presenting district results.

Slides showing progress over a period of years were shown for ELA and math. Dr. Rubel noted grade 4's proficiency level went down in 2005 and they are not sure what this is attributed to. One of the questions raised, and not yet answered, is that the profile is similar at the state level and what is it about the 4th grade test? A. Vervaeke stated there are three different curricula in the elementary schools and asked why one school is coming out significantly better than the other two. Dr. Rubel said they have one curriculum in the three schools, monitored by three different administrations, there are socioeconomic differences and three different populations. She said it is difficult to draw comparisons among the schools and the differences are negligible going from elementary to the middle school.

P. Fitzgerald asked if they can be provided with the data from the three elementary schools and Dr. Rubel said yes.

Dr. Genovese said they do a detailed analysis of the MCAS results, look at problem areas and look at the budget to see if there is an area that needs to be addressed.

Dr. Rubel showed slides that follow the same class of students. The data for math shows a pattern of improvement in grade 10. C. Barrett stated she did the same analysis but included students that Need Improvement/Failure in the table and felt the data showed the classes of 2006/2007 had wonderful results for ELA and math but the classes of 2008/2009 showed an increase in the number of students in the Warning/Failure category from 4th grade to 8th grade in ELA and higher for 4th and 8th grade in math. She said this is a red flag to her. With respect to math, Dr. Rubel said students actually went down in the Advanced/Proficient category from 6th grade to 8th grade. The corollary to that is that there would be more in the Need Improvement/Failure category.

P. Fitzgerald agreed with Ms Barrett, stating in math, the class of 2009 went from 7% to 11% and the class of 2008 went from 4% to 11%. Dr. Rubel agreed it is a concern and they are in the process of addressing it. She stated numbers cannot be turned around overnight.

Dr. Rubel stated test items change somewhat every year. MCAS is a criterion reference test and is based on the criteria which are the state standards. Dr. Rubel said it is not an intelligence test nor a measure of giftedness but is rather a measure of how well students have attained the standards developed by the state. She said they have to focus on not teaching to the test but making sure what they are teaching is aligned to state frameworks.

Dr. Genovese said the results show patterns and trends, given the information they have. Until the state has a value added component to their testing where an individual student is tracked through a system, he stated they will not truly know what the aspects are - the material, instruction etc. With respect to students who did not do as well, he noted they need to look at the student's daily average attendance, whether they were in the district from first grade or if they were new students.

Dr. Rubel highlighted types of questions that are strengths for the district. These include questions that test the core skills and concepts in their curriculum, basic factual knowledge and questions that can be solved in one step. Types of questions that need to be looked at include open response, geometry and probability and poetry and topic development. They are looking at how they move students from the Need Improvement/Warning to the Proficient category. She stated they especially need to look at the SPED population as there are significant differences.

Dr. Rubel reviewed the next steps for each grade level. Math instructional time has been increased at the elementary level, new Investigation units have been added and training is being provided. Currently teachers are teaching from two different math programs. A new standards based math program (CMP-2) is being phased in at the middle school and teachers are being introduced to it individually. Title 1 support services are being provided and those teachers are in some of the SPED classes. They are also moving toward more inclusion. There will be more professional development in literacy.

At the high school, they continue to monitor the curriculum to be sure it is aligned with the standards and a Theme Team is learning how to use a structured protocol to look at student work using the benchmark assessments they developed over the past three years. They are also working to improve the transition between the middle school and the high school.

Dr. Rubel stated she and Ms Endicott are focusing on the SPED students and have developed a list of those students, as well as non-SPED students, who have performed at the warning level and they are looking at revising their Individual Student Success Plan protocol. They are developing a concrete action plan for all Warning students and will monitor and assess it on a more regular basis.

A. Vervaeke said Dr. Rubel mentioned non-fiction and textbooks with respect to the elementary school and he thinks of non-fiction as history and biography and not how to read textbooks since reading a textbook does not seem to be a problem. She said it does include history and geography and non-fiction books and noted they make assumptions around what students know how to do when reading. Elementary students do not necessarily read the instructions or the charts and graphs. He said they have seen a fair amount of turnover of teachers at the elementary level and training needs to be provided. He asked if the programs are out of the mainstream and teachers are having problems with a particular course of instruction or if they just need to get up to speed and the time it takes to do so is having a negative effect on the final outcome. Dr. Rubel said there is no proof this is a determining factor but they would never hand a set of books to a teacher and say "teach". She stated elementary teachers are not specialists but are generalists.

Dr. Genovese said there should be a program review to see if the program did what they wanted it to do. Dr. Rubel said you will not find turnaround results in a year. It generally takes five years to see results after a new program is implemented.

K. Lofgren asked Dr. Rubel if she has the special subgroup data. Dr. Rubel said she has it but it is really tied to the AYP (Adequate Yearly Progress) report. They have the preliminary data from the state. Dr. Genovese said this is a presentation by itself.

K. Lofgren is pleased Dr. Rubel and Ms Endicott will be working on the SPED population and stated it warrants a global look throughout the district. She would like to see a look at Reading Recovery and using the DRA's as an assessment.

A. Vervaeke asked why they need to wait to see the data. He feels any differences they have may be at the ability level and would like to see the SPED data. Dr. Rubel said they have the preliminary data for all students and the only subgroup of note is the SPED population.

C. Barrett stated there was a state performance target graph from 2001 to 2014 in their packets. Dr. Rubel said this part of the AYP.

Finalize School Committee Calendar

Dr. Genovese stated he met with the administrative council and appreciates this was a partnership in putting the calendar together. He reviewed a couple of changes that were

made. "Understanding the impact of NCLB (financial and compliance issues)" was moved from December 21st to December 7th. "Revisit old class size goals grade by grade in the context of literary research" is now called "Review research in terms of class size and review class size guidelines" and was moved from February 15th to February 1st.

C. Barrett feels the three topics under February 15th are closely linked. With respect to the "School Committee goals and objectives" under November 2nd, she thought they had discussed having this as a Saturday workshop. K. Lofgren stated MASC has facilitated this in the past and members agreed this should be done at a Saturday workshop. November 5th was tentatively set for their workshop and Dr. Genovese will attempt to reach Mike Gilbert.

A. Vervaeke believes they need to have a public forum on block scheduling and would also like a presentation or a synopsis on the history and future of block scheduling. He stated there are parents in the middle school who want to understand block scheduling and there are parents who are not fond of block scheduling and are having to make the decision about keeping their children in the district. Dr. Genovese said this sounds like a parent university thing where parents of eighth graders would have an indepth conversation. P. Fitzgerald agreed with A. Vervaeke's comments.

C. McKinney asked if they have initiated a list of liaisons into the presentations. Dr. Genovese has advised the administrative council that as topics come up, Mr. McKinney may assign someone to meet with them and provide questions.

C. McKinney requested the policy subcommittee give as much pre-notification as possible if they are not going to use the time allocated on the calendar.

Food Allergy Policy/First Reading

C. Barrett feels this should be the second reading of the policy. Dr. Genovese said comments were received and discussed at their last meeting prior to a first reading. A. Vervaeke said in the past, they have not read every policy. He noted they have put them on the website. Dr. Genovese feels a policy should be read when possible for the public's sake. C. McKinney feels the Policy Committee should determine the best way to communicate new policies. K. Lofgren read the Food Allergy Policy.

C. McKinney stated the word "food" was omitted after the words "life threatening". (Note: the copies of the policy available as handouts were correct).

C. Barrett asked if the Committee will see the implementation at the individual school levels when they are finalized. Dr. Genovese said they would not normally see them but he will provide them as a handout. K. Lofgren feels they would be guidelines that go behind the policy. Dr. Genovese said they will be there as a reference but they will change and the changes will not come to the Committee as DPH offers other suggestions or there are better practices than what they know today.

Dr. Genovese said this is a great policy, is global and set the conditions. It does not say when it will be implemented and he asked if they hold it until everything is in place or do

they set a target date. He stated they need to have procedures and protocols in place before adoption of the policy.

A. Vervaeke suggested they have an implementation plan prior to the second reading.

Dr. Genovese said there is communication from MASC that says there may be some tweaking of the CORI Policy and they will wait to see what their suggestion may be.

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of Middle School trip

C. BARRETT MOVED THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE A TRIP TO WASHINGTON, D.C. FROM APRIL 10, 2006 THROUGH APRIL 13, 2006, SPONSORED BY CAPITAL TOURS, FOR THE EIGHTH GRADE CLASS FROM THE MIDDLE SCHOOL. SECONDED BY F. O'CONNELL

C. Barrett asked if this trip will be the same as it has in the past in terms of CORI checks for the transportation providers and for the security officer(s) in the hotel hallway(s).

C. McKinney feels the bus company provided this service in the past and it was clear to him that it was a professionally run organization. If this is approved, Dr. Genovese stated he will send Ms Raucci a memo stating it is the expectation of the School Committee that there will be a security officer in the hallway in the evening.

A. Vervaeke asked if interior tours of the Capitol are no longer offered and C. McKinney said the security measures associated with many of the buildings create a logistics snafu for tour groups.

SO VOTED IN FAVOR UNANIMOUSLY

Vote on MCAS Resolutions

P. Fitzgerald said he objects to the first eleven Resolutions and only supports the twelfth. He would hope their delegate would vote no on the first eleven.

A. Vervaeke stated he has a problem with #2 (Opposing the addition of science and technology/engineering MCAS testing as a requirement of the competency determination) as he feels testing on basic science should be included. He stated it is a comprehensive testing system and comprehensive means testing everything. He stated he has a concern with #7 (Value added assessment) and wants it to be passed in a way that is economically feasible across all cities and towns.

F. O'CONNELL MOVED THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE SUPPORT THE RESOLUTIONS OF THE 2004 DELEGATE ASSEMBLY AS WRITTEN WITH THE EXCEPTION OF NUMBER 2 AND NUMBER 10. SECONDED BY K. LOFGREN

Understanding that these resolutions may be changed on the floor, it was clarified that this process is to give Mr. Vervaeke a general sense from the Committee and not absolutely instruct the delegate how to vote.

P. Fitzgerald feels they are trying to weaken and water down the MCAS test and they have seen tonight how performance goes up as they implemented MCAS and it seems to be working. He would like Mr. Vervaeke to support keeping the MCAS preminent and a graduation requirement. K. Lofgren disagrees with Mr. Fitzgerald and stated she likes the spirit of accountability in MCAS but she does not like that it is high stakes as it is only one way for a child to show what they know. A. Vervaeke agrees they need to have multiple assessments. His issue is with the state not providing adequate funding for all the work they have to do. Dr. Genovese agrees money needs to be provided for professional development and consumable materials. He stated MCAS is not the only criteria and assessment for students to get a degree from Groton Dunstable. They must pass the standards in place and feels they are much more rigorous than an MCAS test.

SO VOTED

In Favor: C. Barrett, A. Vervaeke, K. Lofgren, C. McKinney, F. O'Connell

Opposed: P. Fitzgerald

P. FITZGERALD MOVED THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE DIRECT THEIR DELEGATE TO OPPOSE RESOLUTION #2. SECONDED BY A. VERVAEKE

P. Fitzgerald stated this opposes establishing science and technology and feels science and technology are appropriate since they live in a high tech state. C. Barrett said it states establishing science and technology MCAS "as a sole determinant of competency" and said they want to use high school grades, not just science and technology MCAS and agrees with the Resolution. A. Vervaeke said the basic understanding of science and scientific fact should be measured.

SO VOTED

In Favor: A. Vervaeke, C. McKinney, P. Fitzgerald

Opposed: C. Barrett, K. Lofgren, F. O'Connell

P. FITZGERALD MOVED THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE DIRECT THEIR DELEGATE TO VOTE NO ON RESOLUTION #10 (SOCIAL SECURITY)

SECONDED BY K. LOFGREN

SO VOTED

K. Cover asked for an explanation of this Resolution and C. McKinney stated the MASC is taking a stand against social security reform.

In Favor: C. Barrett, C. McKinney, P. Fitzgerald

Opposed: K. Lofgren, F. O'Connell, A. Vervaeke,

Vote to Approve School Committee Calendar

Postponed

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

With respect to the Process for Collecting Names by Naming Committee document that was in their packets, C. Barrett feels #4 is substantially different from what the

Committee discussed and does not feel their consensus agrees with what is written. Dr. Genovese said he had written down that comment verbatim and passed his notes along to Ms Kowie. F. O'Connell said this is a process, not a policy or binding to what they do. He stated A. Vervaeke had a question about the policy in place and process being followed and he (F. O'Connell) suggested that things in the policy that might need to be looked at be brought up at a meeting. He feels the process they are following is the same. C. Barrett feels the word "relevant" means if they do not want to follow policies FF and FFA, they will not follow them. Dr. Genovese feels the intent was to have the policies come to the Policy Committee to be "tweaked" if necessary.

F. O'Connell stated Budget and Finance will meet at Tarbell on November 1st at 2:00 p.m.

Dr. Genovese stated he does not feel executive session minutes should be voted on in a public meeting until they are ready to be released. He will check with their attorney about this. With respect to the October 6th executive session minutes voted on earlier tonight, C. McKinney will give a clarification to Ms Barrett on how they need to be revised. It was stated minutes must reflect conversation that happened within the context of the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT:

K. LOFGREN MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 10:25 P.M.

SECONDED BY P. FITZGERALD

SO VOTED IN FAVOR UNANIMOUSLY

Respectfully submitted,

Susan H. Smith

Recording Secretary