

GROTON-DUNSTABLE REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

High School Library

Business Meeting Minutes

September 6, 2006 - Approved September 20, 2006

PRESENT:

Ms Cindy Barrett, Secretary

Dr. Forrest Buzan

Ms Berta Erickson

Dr. Paul Funch

Ms Karen Lofgren

Mr. Chuck McKinney, Chair

Mr. Frank O'Connell, Vice-Chair

ADMINISTRATION:

Dr. Alan Genovese, Superintendent

Timothy Sheehan, Director of Business and Finance

Dr. Susan Rubel, Director of Curriculum/Staff Development

STAFF, PRESS, OTHERS: R. Savard, Lowell Sun; J. Kulesz, Groton Herald;

P. Comtois, Groton Landmark; K. Icenogle, Dunstable News; Numerous Youth Football players,

See attached sign-in sheet

CALL TO ORDER:

C. McKinney announced the GDRSC Meeting opened at 6:00 p.m. and the Committee voted to adjourn to executive session under M.G.L. Ch. 39, Section 23B-3,6. The meeting reconvened in open session at 7:22 p.m. and was called to order by the chair, C. McKinney.

C. McKinney announced there would be a small change in the order of tonight's agenda. The presentation on the Florence Roche Playground has been postponed in order to allow more time for the Youth Football Update.

MINUTES

C. BARRETT MOVED TO APPROVE THE BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES OF AUGUST 2, 2006.

SECONDED BY K. LOFGREN

In Favor: C. Barrett, F. Buzan, K. Lofgren, F. O'Connell

Abstention: C. McKinney, P. Funch, B. Erickson

C. BARRETT MOVED TO APPROVE THE BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES OF AUGUST 23, 2006.

SECONDED BY K. LOFGREN

In Favor: C. Barrett, C. McKinney, P. Funch, B. Erickson, K. Lofgren, F. O'Connell

Abstention: F. Buzan

C. BARRETT MOVED TO APPROVE THE EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES OF AUGUST 23, 2006.

SECONDED BY K. LOFGREN

In Favor: C. Barrett, C. McKinney, P. Funch, B. Erickson, K. Lofgren, F. O'Connell

Abstention: F. Buzan

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Members read prepared announcements and a copy is attached to these minutes.

Dr. Genovese announced it is a pleasure having the staff and students back and welcomed those present at tonight's meeting.

Dr. Genovese announced they had 2975 students enrolled in the district at this time last year and as of September 6th, they have 2973 students.

Dr. Rubel announced they had a busy opening of the 2006-2007 school year in the Curriculum and Staff Development office. Twenty-three new teachers were welcomed as part of their Teacher Induction Program led by Tom Murray, Amy Snyder and Laurie Penney. Civil rights and non-violent crisis prevention training was provided to all staff and they have circulated a professional development booklet for fall courses and workshops offered to staff. They have published curriculum documents in six of their seven academic areas and these have been distributed to all staff members. Copies will be given to School Committee members at a time to be determined.

PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSION

Youth Football Update

C. McKinney advised a meeting, between several neighbors in the area of Champney Street and the Youth Football Program, was held on August 24th. Unanticipated by himself, a quorum of School Committee members attended and they were not in a posted meeting. He stated members did not directly participate. A second meeting was held on August 31st and as a precaution, it was posted although there was no School Committee agenda. A one point, there was a quorum of members at the meeting. He clarified the primary mission of the members was to listen.

David Howes thanked the kids for coming tonight. He stated this is all about the kids and giving them a safe environment to play in. He reviewed their goals and the breakout of the teams. There are about 173 kids participating and they have received more requests to join their program. He noted five of the six teams registered their first wins last week.

The season began August 7th, with training camp held for a couple of weeks. Once school starts, they go to the mandatory training of six hours per week, two hours a night, and practice on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Practice time ends sharply at 8:00 p.m. There are six weeks of three nights a week left of regular training and they are looking to have lighting. Their first practice with lights would be September 12th and the last night would be October 19th. Their last game is October 22nd.

D. Howes said he walked the middle school field several times with Mr. Young, Mr. Byrnes and Mr. Twomey and this field was selected because it was not being used after 5:30 p.m., it accommodates parking, is large enough to handle six football teams and four cheerleading teams, is in a convenient location and the drop-off/pick-up area is very safe. A storage area is also available for their equipment. Students can also stay after school for an activity and still make it to practice.

He stated Mr. Young had advised lighting would not be a problem if the program could raise the money. The cost of the permanent lighting is about \$10,000 and they are willing to gift the lighting to the school. The coordination of the lighting would be by volunteers, the setting of the poles would be done by Groton Electric Light Company and the final connection and hookup would be managed by S. Byrnes. He stated they will reimburse the school for any charges they incur and they estimate this will be about \$200-\$300. They came to the School Committee on July 26th as they had raised the money. They received tentative approval and were asked to inform the abutters. They are hoping to receive an okay tonight to have the permanent lighting.

D. Howes explained that four Class A poles with cross-arm brackets would be installed and two poles would have two fixtures each and two poles would have four fixtures each. The lights are LGS sports lights of 1500 watts. D. Howes reviewed the practice field and proposed lighting layout. A gentleman asked the height of the poles and was advised they are forty-five feet high and ten to twelve feet is below grade. F. Buzan asked if the track area is being used and was told no. He asked why the lights are not being placed around the outside so they all face inward and D. Howes said the field drops off into a gully and they would not get the use of lighting in that area. F. Buzan asked if there are any views from this location showing the surrounding residences and D. Howes showed some views from the upper track and of the entire area and stated the

poles should not be seen behind the sixty foot trees. F. Buzan asked what kind of trees surround the field and a resident said they all loose their leaves in September. K. Lofgren said peak is usually around October 15th. The resident said there is an open area to a house.

If they receive approval for the permanent lighting, D. Howes stated it will take time and coordination to get it done and they are looking for approval for portable lighting as well. They are looking to have four trailer mounted light towers, twenty-eight feet in height, with four heads per tower (4000 watts total). The power source is a water cooled diesel engine. They are looking to light the fields for approximately 32 hours starting next week. The cost is \$500 a month per tower and there is a transportation cost of \$75 per tower, for a total cost of approximately \$3800.

D. Howes stated they are trying to promote good health through exercise, build community spirit, keep the kids busy, teach discipline and team work and promote good grades. He stated the program involves more than football such as the cheerleaders, band, the radio station and the Booster Club. Tonight he received a call from the cable channel personnel, asking for some kids interested in video taping the games. He stated they hope to get permission from the Committee tonight to install permanent lighting at the middle school field and permission to bring in portable lighting next week.

Albert DeMeo, representing the residents and abutters surrounding the playing fields, stated six weeks ago the School Committee approved a proposal from a private organization to use the soccer and baseball fields behind the middle school for youth football practices and voted unanimously to make the approval "contingent upon favorable abutter feedback". He stated the abutter's concerns were included in an August 15th letter to the School Committee and he summarized those and other concerns that have arisen since the proposal was made public. A copy of the "Abutter Statement to the School Committee", dated September 6, 2006, is attached to these minutes.

A. DeMeo stated the lights will change the character of the neighborhood and noted Lawrence Academy was denied permission to install lights for their tennis courts in order to preserve the night sky and character of the town. He stated the lights on the back of the middle school addition all ready shine into some homes and reduce the blackness of the sky for amateur astronomers and residents. Powerful field lights will flood yards, homes and streets when the leaves fall and the lighting of the field will encourage other uses over the years which may include concerts. He stated residents of Champney and Common Streets have accommodated the impact of soccer, baseball, field hockey, lacrosse, track and field for many years but none of them want to extend these activities into nightfall when families begin quieter nighttime activities.

A. DeMeo stated abutters were not informed until nearly one month after the Committee's vote and then they were simply informed in a letter from the football organization that practices were to begin and lights would be installed. He stated they were not asked for feedback. A handful of abutters met twice with the football organization and were only given two days notice while others were not notified of the meetings at all.

A. DeMeo stated there is a question as to whether lights can be installed on the field because of an alleged provision in the gift of the land and there is a question as to whether the Planning Board requires a Site Plan Review.

The abutters feel the football league should look into developing playing fields in an area that is all ready used in that manner. They have been told there may be funds available from the Community Preservation Act and perhaps from other sources within and beyond the town. A. DeMeo stated the league seems unwilling to explore options that take abutter concerns into account. Parents have not been expected to adjust their schedules for afternoon and weekend practices.

A. DeMeo stated the league has told them that viable fields at Cutler, Cow Pond Brook and the Town Center Field are not available because there are no storage buildings, they are too far away, they are too busy, they cannot accommodate parking and other teams refuse to share town fields. He stated they commend the league for their efforts to expand sport options and some of them have offered to help with efforts to develop town fields at Cow Pond Brook.

A. DeMeo stated that while the league has been praised by some as a feeder organization for a future high school team, they have been told that space cannot be made available for them at the high school. The abutters find this lack of support discouraging since significant land is available on the high school grounds.

The abutters feel the temporary lighting will be just as invasive and there is no guarantee they will not face the same situation next year. A. DeMeo stated it has been suggested that it is the abutters who are at fault if this football season gets off to a rocky start. He stated steps that should have been taken were not and leadership by the district has not been apparent. The abutters feel pressured to accept the proposal and that their concerns are not considered important enough to cause anyone to change their plans. He stated they must insist that no lights be used on the fields because it is too much to ask of the residents in a residential/agricultural zoned neighborhood. A. DeMeo stated it was difficult to make these decisions and it being all about the kids was in the back of their minds every day but they are the ones that are forced into making all the compromises.

F. Buzan asked if the residents are opposed to the use of the fields in general or just the use of lights and A. DeMeo said just the lights. They are opposed to extending the daytime into the nighttime hours. F. Buzan asked the distance to the closest house from the general playing field areas and A. DeMeo said it is about 100 yards from the center of the field to a house on Common Street and his house is about 100 yards away and no trees buffer his property from the fields. He stated the elevation is higher than the fields. F. Buzan asked how many families about the field and was told forty. C. McKinney clarified this includes houses on Route 119 in the front of the school as the Board of Assessors defines an abutter as being within 350 feet of the school property, not just the fields. F. Buzan said he looked at a satellite photo with the road overlay and it looked like there were a lot of trees and the houses were remotely located. A. DeMeo said he cannot see the houses on either side of him right now but that changes every fall.

C. Barrett asked if the town is following up on the question as to whether lights can be allowed on the land. Dr. Genovese stated he has a copy of the deed and there are no restrictions on lighting and it references suitability for use as an athletic field. He stated the School Committee voted to accept the land on October 23, 1991 and no restrictions are reflected in the minutes.

At one of the meetings with the abutters and league representatives, Dr. Funch stated there was discussion about a compromise to use temporary lights for a single year until something more permanent could be found and he asked if there was subsequent follow up to come to an agreement. A. DeMeo said the only compromise offered was portable lights. D. Howes said it was agreed that he would look at other forms of lighting options and send them out in an e-mail. He stated six power point slides were sent. He stated they did their homework before choosing the middle school field.

B. Erickson asked Mr. DeMeo if he touched on the lighting of the parking lot in the statement and he said no. She said she would like to know the process that was followed for that. If the abutters are uncomfortable with this use of the land and the lighting in general, F. Buzan asked what they would consider to be an appropriate use. A. DeMeo said everything, just not at night. They do not have a problem with the fields being used but they do not want the night sky, darkness and quietness disrupted.

K. Lofgren requested a copy of the statement and Ms Johnson said she will e-mail it to the members.

R. Greco stated she is the field coordinator for the Groton Dunstable Youth Soccer Association and Cow Pond is in full use with two teams practicing on every field for two hours almost every night and games are played on Saturdays. Practices are also held on Larter Field every night and games are played there as well.. She stated it is not a matter of being able to give up the fields; they do not have enough space for themselves and teams play on Cutler Field as well. It was asked if any of the fields are lit and R. Greco said no but they would love them to be.

K. Johnson said she has spoken with Mr. Cunningham and he has said there is land at Cow Pond that can be

developed for fields. She stated she was told the soccer organization did develop land at Cow Pond to suit their needs. Lights could exist there and no abutters would be bothered. She stated there is also land at the high school.

L. Stewart stated her son plays football and she feels regardless of where they tried to put lights, the same conversations would be taking place. She said they cannot use Cow Pond because the soccer fields are there. She stated working parents cannot make it to the field for a practice that starts at 4:00 p.m. She stated most people do not get home until 6:00 p.m. or 6:30 p.m. and by the time they are settling in with their families, the kids will be off the fields by 8:00 p.m. She stated her son is having a great time. They googled the fall foliage and it is at its peak from October 5th through October 18th and their last regular season practice is on October 19th. She stated the residents knew a school was there when they moved into the neighborhood.

T. Svarczkoff stated his house was built in 1810 and the land was not deeded to the school until 1991. He stated it is not their job to find an appropriate field for the football league. They are saying the fields are not appropriate for a lighted use and he stated there are a variety of opinions among the abutters. He said they are all very concerned with "use creep" and what will happen later on and who will have the right to say no at a later date.

R. Murphy said rather than this being about neighbors against the football league, fundamentally this facility is a school. He practices real estate law and does land use permitting for a living and stated the athletic fields are part of the educational campus. He stated the School Committee is the caretaker of the campus and they have the opportunity to enhance the facility at no charge to the taxpayers. He stated they can attach controls and decide if and when the lights go on and off. He noted the school day is getting longer and opportunities for practice time are getting shorter and the population is growing. He stated at some point, they will have to come to grips with the fact that the athletic fields and schools need lights. While it is great that people can use the fields, he stated it is not an observatory nor its primary purpose. He stated this is also an opportunity to improve conditions that may become unsafe because as people become more pressed for time, programs creep later into the day. He stated there is very limited zoning control and power of the town over that and the Committee has discretion over what they want to do with the facility. He stated they are not subject to site plan review because of the Dover Amendment, which is part of the town bylaw. He urged members to enhance the facility for the benefit of the kids.

C. Henry stated Champney Street is about fifteen feet above the track and a typical house is twenty feet high. He stated they can see high above the trees and with all these lights, it will be like an airport.

J. Niemoller thanked the Committee for the work they do and thanked the abutters and the football program. She stated the football program has done an outstanding job providing an opportunity for the children. As a former Committee member, she remembers discussion about seventy boys trying out for eighteen positions on the high school soccer team. She stated there is a need for another sports program given the results of the GDAY studies with regards to idle children and studies with regards to obese children. She noted this is coming to the district free of charge and is a win-win situation. After reviewing policies and Mass laws, she believes jurisdiction is within the Committee's purview. She stated it is not about the lighting but about what is reasonable and noted they are talking about 6 nights when abutters might see some lighting for about an hour and a half. She does not believe this would infringe upon an astronomer's ability to look at the night sky. She stated they need to come together as a community and no one is trying to bully anyone. She referred several policies (KCD, BDF, KCB, KF) to the Committee and suggested the Policy sub-committee can make it clear about when the lights go on and off. She stated in the absence of policy, Policy CHD gives the superintendent full authority over making a policy.

K. Johnson, of Champney Street, stated she has a direct view of the field as there is a gap in the trees and three houses on Common Street look across an open field. Mr. DeMeo will also be able to see the lights. She stated the existing lights on the back of the school addition glow through the gap in the trees and the sky

is lighter than it used to be. When the trees are bare, they get the lights right in their face. She stated these lights are more powerful and there are a lot more of them. She stated this is not about not having a youth football program. She and Ms Davis have offered to help find a more suitable place and help raise money to develop fields at Cow Pond Brook where there are no abutters. She stated policies can be changed and it is a known fact that "if you build it, they will come" and if there are lights, they will be used more and more over time. She stated a lawyer has told her the Planning Board has jurisdiction and the Planning Board feels the same way.

M. Greco stated she is a cheerleader and has made a lot of friends. She said she is a flyer and if it is dark out, they cannot practice and if they cannot practice, she could be badly hurt at a game when asked to fly.

C. Higgins said she has been driving her son to Westford for the last eight years so he can play football on a lighted field and is thrilled to see Groton Dunstable football jerseys on their younger sons. She appreciates the Committee lending them the field and hopes they will lend their support with the lights and let them finish a strong season. She stated there is no time to switch fields.

A. DeMeo understands this will put a lot of people out and stated it will put them out as well. He said the area is zoned for agricultural residency and is not made for putting up lights and changing the character of the neighborhood. He noted Champney Street's elevation is higher and the lights will cause more of an impact than it appears. He said the cheerleaders could practice in the gym and this would let the football players go to a smaller playing field for practice.

C. Reardon stated development costs money and takes time. He stated Mr. Howes put this program together in nine months and got the funding, the kids and got them on a field. He stated they are talking about six weeks until the end of the season and feels they will have this same discussion again and again at each property. He stated this field is perfect - each team fits, it has good grass, and is flat. He pointed out football is played at night and asked where they will play. He asked members to make a timely decision to help the kids finish the season.

C. McKinney thanked everyone for coming and noted it is important for the Committee to see direct participation and get feedback. He stated he and Dr. Genovese share some of the responsibility for the way this process got started and they endorse the philosophy of an open process. C. McKinney said their intention to be responsive to one organization led to concerns, and probably suspicions, on the part of the residents.

C. McKinney assured residents this was not the case and said it was a failure of good intentions and a failure of the process. He stated many issues have been raised that cannot be reconciled 100% this evening. He stated the Committee's discussion, deliberation and potential motions will focus on a way to continue the program, at a minimum, through the end of this season, and provide a short term solution knowing that doing so, defers a proposal for permanent lighting somewhere.

**K. LOFGREN MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO ADVANCE FOR POSSIBLE VOTE THE DISCUSSION OF TEMPORARY LIGHTING FOR THE GROTON DUNSTABLE YOUTH FOOTBALL PROGRAM. SECONDED BY B. ERICKSON
SO VOTED IN FAVOR UNANIMOUSLY**

C. Barrett asked if the Planning Board memo covers temporary lighting and C. McKinney believes the reference to site plan review seems to indicate it is for the erection of permanent structures.

Dr. Funch stated the Committee's vote approving the lighting at the end of July was contingent on obtaining positive feedback from the abutters and he is disappointed there is still no agreement and no real dialogue between the abutters and the football league. He feels this does a disservice to all of them and by not talking to each other and trying to find a common ground, teaches the wrong lesson to the kids. He stated they were close to an agreement at the last meeting and it might have been reached if pursued. He does not feel the Committee has been put in a good position by having to make the decision since the league and abutters

have not talked. He feels the issue is not that they do not want a football program, the question is how it is best developed and it sounds like it is not at the middle school. He said they can have a temporary solution for this season and they want the program to succeed. He said it is unfortunate that the kids are being pushed out to the front of this when it should have been done by the adults behind the scenes. This has been proposed as a feeder to the high school and noted the high school is not set up for football either. He feels they need to get the facilities they need to support and grow the program and there needs to be a long term vision of where the program needs to be. He feels temporary lighting would provide an experiment and allow people to calm down, reassess, think about options and let the kids finish out what was promised to them.

F. Buzan agrees temporary lighting gives them time to find a common solution. He stated they have a school complex and the fields exist and are huge. If they are lucky, usage will increase with time and he would hate to think they have dying athletic programs. He stated the abutters always need to be considered because they have to live there but once it becomes a school neighborhood, they get the pluses and the minuses. He feels there are solutions such as more vegetation.

B. Erickson agrees with a lot of what Dr. Funch and F. Buzan have said and feels they need to find a way to act like a community and continue to work with the neighbors and plant a few more trees to fill in the gaps. She stated they need to have procedures in place to approach neighbors when the Committee is looking at these types of things. She stated she is in favor of the temporary lights to finish out the season. She stated she is strongly in favor of the program and has seen a lot of positive development in a short period of time and the coaches need to be applauded.

K. Lofgren thanked former School Committee member J. Niemoller for bringing the policies to their attention and stated they will fill the Policy Committee's agenda on September 19th.

F. O'Connell said he is surprised by the number of kids participating and expects there will be quite a few more next year. He agrees with the temporary lighting solution since logistically, there is no time to change things and it will be a good test. When the Committee made the recommendation to contact the neighbors in July, he noted the program was for about sixty hours of lighting and is now reduced to thirty-six hours, which is more favorable.

F. O'Connell acknowledged there are some issues to be worked out and stated he is not sure lighting this field is the best alternative and putting a committee together that includes administration and other constituencies to do an inventory of all fields and address the shortage would be ideal. This will also give them time to resolve the Planning Board issue and gives them another year to see just what this program will become. He understands the neighbors' concerns about the "scope creep" and noted they expanded the middle school, the PTYC is there and lights are in the parking lot. He said there may be better alternatives and they need to have a few different groups looking at it. He suggested they move forward with the temporary solution and not make a decision about permanent lighting right now.

K. LOFGREN MOVED THE GROTON DUNSTABLE REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE AUTHORIZE THE USE OF TEMPORARY LIGHTING AT THE MSS FIELDS FOR THE GROTON DUNSTABLE YOUTH FOOTBALL PROGRAM UNTIL THE END OF THE 2006 SEASON WITH A SHUT OFF TIME AT 8:00 P.M. SECONDED BY P. FUNCH

C. Barrett asked Ms Lofgren to add "the last practice date will be Thursday, October 19th" which is the regular season. K. Lofgren said she would prefer not to add that. She wants to leave it as a "season" to see how the team does. C. McKinney stated the motion would not restrict the teams if they happened to make the playoffs. D. Howes stated the second playoff game would be October 29th and they could then move onto the conference super bowl in Westford on November 5th.

F. Buzan said it is not clear that they have adequately removed the motion they passed in July on this topic. C. McKinney said that motion referred to permanent light approval and has certain contingencies attached to it. He stated it is his rule as chair that this motion does not interfere with that motion; it is a mutually exclusive

motion for lighting the fields this year.

C. Barrett asked Ms Lofgren if she is willing to amend her motion to encompass some of the abutter's issues, as to basically guarantee them they would not use lights on that field in the 2007-2008 season. K. Lofgren said the basis of her motion was to find a compromise on how to finish out this year while they allow time in the future to deal with that specific issue. She stated she respectfully would not amend her motion because her focus is specifically temporary for this year and until this body, and the abutters, can come to a solution on what to do for the future.

SO VOTED

In Favor: B. Erickson, F. Buzan, K. Lofgren, C. McKinney, F. O'Connell, P. Funch

Opposed: C. Barrett

Florence Roche Playground Design (informational)

Postponed

Peter Twomey Youth Center Roof

C. Barrett suggested postponing discussion until their next meeting since they have lost their timeline on the agenda. Dr. Genovese said they met with the Advisory Board this morning about the different options and members of that board indicated it made sense to them to do this as part of the FY08 budget process.

REPORTS FROM SUB-COMMITTEES

Budget and Finance - F. O'Connell reported they will be meeting at Tarbell on September 12, 2006 at 6:00 p.m. .

Policy - K. Lofgren reported they will be meeting at Tarbell on September 19, 2006 at 7:00 p.m.

Report of Director of Business and Finance

Update on Florence Roche Playground - T. Sheehan reported the encapsulation of the arsenic contaminated soil has been completed. Some paperwork needs to be filed with the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and a report will be filed with them in early October. The contractor is aware of the deadline.

Update on Prescott CO2 - T. Sheehan reported Phase One of the plan included the installation of an Actuator that would open and close the dampers on the existing Univent heaters. Those units have been installed and in the process of the installation, they found some ventilation blowers and motors that were in a state of disrepair or were missing. The district maintenance staff is in the process of replacing those so the units will operate as designed. Phase Two involves a comprehensive plan to address the exhaust system and they do not currently have a timeline for that aspect of the project.

Peter Twomey Youth Center Roof Replacement - T. Sheehan referred members to his August 31, 2006 report to Dr. Genovese. Committee members had asked for a timeline to replace the roof immediately and one for replacing it in the spring of 2007. Should the Committee choose to authorize the project tonight, the deadline for posting the work in the Central Register is September 12th and October 12th would be the earliest they could proceed with a contract. Assuming they would not run into any unanticipated problems, it is estimated it would take four weeks to complete the work. Two weeks would need to be added to the timeline if the HVAC unit is added since the bid documents would have to be revised. It is the architect's opinion that planning roof work with a completion date of mid to late November is pushing the weather envelope and recommends they not do this. T. Sheehan stated it would also not be possible to authorize and issue bonds in time to support the projected work schedule.

T. Sheehan stated a spring timeline would give them a lot more time to proceed with the work. With a decision made in February, construction would start in mid-April and there would be time to put permanent financing in place. That process should begin in December, 2006. The projected cost is approximately

\$250,000 and T. Sheehan stated there are several ways they could possibly finance the work.

Dr. Genovese stated trying to do roof work when it is cold is not a good idea. He stated it is also not a good idea to do it in the fall or spring with the kids on site. The programs would need to be relocated, safety protections would need to be put in place as well as procedures for monitoring the work. He stated they feel they can patch the roof for under \$5000 and it would get them through the winter. By waiting until spring, they should have conversations with Budget and Finance, and Committee members, and consider doing this as part of their budget process and involving the towns. This would give a better frame to include more people and get their ideas. He said it would be their intention to patch the roof and undertake this project as part of the budget process. Their intent would be to do the project in the summer.

C. McKinney asked if the Committee needs to authorize funding for the patch and Dr. Genovese said they have a roofing account that can be used to pay for the repair.

Dr. Funch agrees with not wanting to do the work when the kids are there and noted kids are there for the summer youth program. Dr. Genovese said the other buildings are empty and the program could be moved to the middle school. Dr. Funch asked how long the work will take and T. Sheehan advised the estimated construction time is approximately four weeks from the time the notification to proceed is given to the contractor.

F. Buzan asked if they have a high confidence level that they know where to patch. T. Sheehan said they have a generally good idea but there are no guarantees. He stated this is a fairly comprehensive patch. The area where the vertical roof on the gym meets the flat roof of the lower building is where there is the most deterioration.

B. Erickson asked where the gym floor is in relation to the leaks. T. Sheehan said the leaks come down the outer edges of the gymnasium and agrees there is some risk they could continue to have some leaks. Agreeing that the kids should not be displaced, she stated she will agree to the patch but feels they are putting off something that should be done right away.

High School Water - Dr. Genovese had asked that they try to capture how much money has been spent on trying to fix the water system problems and T. Sheehan reported it was a difficult number to grasp since many of the contractors are involved with the ongoing operation of the water system as well as the remediation. Approximately \$30,000 has been spent from the high school building construction fund to deal with the remediation of the lead and copper and additional expenditures totaling \$52,824 have been identified from the engineering fund. It is estimated that \$70,000 to \$80,000 has been spent in trying to remediate the water problems.

C. Barrett stated Tata & Howard was going to send a letter to DEP and asked if DEP has given their nod for the water system proposal. T. Sheehan said he will check on this.

C. McKinney asked if there is a timeline for having a timeline for Phase Two of the CO2 remediation. T. Sheehan believes the next step is to see if the improvements in the supply side of ventilation have resulted in improvements in the CO2 readings and he would recommend taking additional readings in early to mid October. If the readings are notably reduced, this would tell them they have a handle on the situation but if they are consistent with what they have seen before, it would lend more urgency to address the ventilation exhaust aspect. They need a period of cold weather when the building is contained and the children are inside to simulate what happened the previous winter and this is when the readings need to be done.

F. Buzan said Mr. Sheehan's report stated contractors were changed at Florence Roche. T. Sheehan said there were two phases to that plan. Phase One was to remove the existing asphalt and start bringing in fill and gravel. One contractor was awarded this contract and it was anticipated the same contractor would be used for Phase Two, which was the paving operation. The first contractor declined to participate and they were forced to get a second contractor on relatively short notice.

Report of the Chair

Workshop - C. McKinney reported they will be having a follow-up workshop at Tarbell on September 27th at 6:00 p.m.

Potential Agenda Items - C. McKinney requested members that have not responded to C. Barrett do so as soon as possible. C. Barrett suggested they review this at their workshop.

C. McKinney reported President Maurice Hancock has appointed K. Lofgren to participate on the regional sub-committee of MASC and the first meeting will be in Marlboro on September 14th. He stated the Committee will be well represented.

Report of the Superintendent - Dr. Genovese reported the server at Tarbell had to be replaced and Public Comments were going directly to Ms Magnuson's e-mail and it was not always clear whether it was a public comment or an e-mail. This will be rectified in a couple of days and he asked people who may have been waiting for a response to send another comment.

F. Buzan asked about the Public Comments process. Dr. Genovese said if something comes through Public Comments addressed to the School Committee, it is sent to each member. If it is addressed to the chair, it is forwarded to Mr. McKinney and a decision is made where it appropriately belongs.

C. McKinney said he sees everything that comes in and responds to the person by saying the matter has been referred to "whomever". The Committee will see this response on a forwarded e-mail.

High School Landscaping - Dr. Genovese reported there was a newspaper article about concerns people have regarding the landscaping at the high school and he said they do need to look at what is sustainable, what they have for vegetation and how they are going to stay on top of it. He said they are looking at making sure they take care of what they have and reviewing to see if what has been planted is appropriate. He noted gardening is a full time project and they will see what they can do to make the landscaping more presentable. He recognized the maintenance staff for trying to get everything accomplished this summer and workers were trying to beautify those areas right after school opened.

B. Erickson asked if the Horticultural Club can get involved and Dr. Genovese said he welcomes partnerships with the school. He stated they do not have a landscaping account. Dr. Funch believes the district has the responsibility to maintain the buildings and grounds but that does not prevent them from looking to other people and organizations to help them do that. Dr. Genovese agrees and believes in this particular case, it was a matter of manpower and summer schedules.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

None

ACTION ITEMS

Dr. Genovese stated the estate of Lorraine Riel has donated two items to the district. MSN PE teacher Sue Casey will be taking the exercise bike and Sue Daugherty, Fine Arts Curriculum Leader, will be the caretaker of the coronet.

VOTE: Accept Donations from Riel Estate

K. LOFGREN MOVED THE GROTON DUNSTABLE REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE ACCEPT DONATIONS MADE FROM THE ESTATE OF LORRAINE RIEL, SPECIFICALLY A KEYS FITNESS CARDIOMAX 850 RECUMBENT EXERCISE BIKE AND A GETZEN B CORONET WITH CASE AND MOUTHPIECE. SECONDED BY F. BUZAN

SO VOTED IN FAVOR UNANIMOUSLY

VOTE: Accept Donations from Waters Fund

F. O'CONNELL MOVED TO ACCEPT TWO PIECES OF EQUIPMENT FROM THE FRANK WATERS

VOCATIONAL EDUCATIONAL FUND, AN LCD PROJECTOR FOR THE GDRHS HEALTH DEPARTMENT AND PHOTOGRAPHY AND GRAPHIC DESIGN ENHANCEMENTS, FOR A TOTAL OF \$12,000.

SECONDED BY K. LOFGREN

SO VOTED IN FAVOR UNANIMOUSLY

C. Barrett asked if the many items on the May 21, 2006 memo were checked because the Committee did sign a scholarship that was in a warrant. Dr. Genovese said he researched this but he cannot remember the mechanism and will follow it up.

VOTE: Use High School Construction Funds for Water Remediation

Since there is no Building Committee, it is Dr. Genovese's understanding that if money is to be taken from the building construction fund, the School Committee needs to vote on it. He stated they will put this in the "hopper" of possible reimbursable items. T. Sheehan said the amount was \$10,000 to implement the recommendations of Tata & Howard. They have recommended about \$4,000 of additional equipment and estimated approximately \$4,000 for installation. A contingency of \$2,000 was added.

K. LOFGREN MOVED THE GROTON DUNSTABLE REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE AUTHORIZE A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$10,000 FOR THE PURPOSE OF IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF TATA & HOWARD FOR THE PURPOSE OF WATER REMEDIATION AT THE HIGH SCHOOL, THE MONEY TO BE TAKEN FROM THE HIGH SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION FUND.

SECONDED BY B. ERICKSON

SO VOTED IN FAVOR UNANIMOUSLY BY ROLL CALL

VOTE: Peter Twomey Youth Center Roof

A vote is not needed as the decision was made to patch the roof at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

K. LOFGREN MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 10:08 P.M. SECONDED BY B. ERICKSON

SO VOTED IN FAVOR UNANIMOUSLY

Respectfully submitted,

Susan H. Smith
Recording Secretary

With attachments