

School Committee Business Meeting/Workshop
Washington Oak Elementary School
801 Read School House Road

December 14, 2010

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Patenaude at 6:05 p.m.

Members present: Chairperson Katherine Patenaude, Vice-Chairperson Nancy Sprengelmeyer, Members Thomas Hetherman, Judith Liner, Superintendent Michael Convery, Assistant Superintendent James Erinakes, Finance Director Robin Pelletier, Special Education Director Susan Lyons, Human Resources Director Mary Lou Buonaccorsi, and Timothy Groves, Esq.

Recording Secretary: Donna A. McDonald

Executive Session: Personnel, Litigation, Negotiations

Motion No. 10-12-1 by Member Sprengelmeyer, seconded by Member Hetherman, that the Committee recess into executive session at 6:06 p.m. to consider matter(s) relating specifically to personnel, litigation and negotiations; said action being taken in accord with Open Meetings Act, Sections 42-46-5(a)(1)&(2).

<u>Roll Call Vote:</u>	Chairperson Patenaude	<u>AYE</u>
	Member Sprengelmeyer	<u>AYE</u>
	Member Hetherman	<u>AYE</u>
	Member Liner	<u>AYE</u>

Motion No. 10-12-2 by Member Hetherman, seconded by Vice-Chairperson Sprengelmeyer, to recess to the Open Meeting at 7:12 p.m.

<u>Roll Call Vote:</u>	Chairperson Patenaude	<u>AYE</u>
	Member Sprengelmeyer	<u>AYE</u>
	Member Hetherman	<u>AYE</u>
	Member Liner	<u>AYE</u>

Motion No. 10-12-3 by Member Liner, seconded by Vice-Chairman Sprengelmeyer, that the records of the executive session be kept closed pursuant to Sections 42-46-4 and 42-46-5. Motion unanimously approved.

Business Agenda:

The regular business meeting reconvened at 7:15 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a moment of silence for the pending school business. Washington Oak Principal Dr. Donna Raptakis notified the public of emergency exits and Member Liner read the Mission Statement.

Personnel:

Certified Leaves of Absence:

Motion No. 10-12-4 by Vice-Chairperson Sprengelmeyer, seconded by Member Hetherman, to approve a paid leave of absence for Rebecca Henderson, Technology Teacher at Feinstein Middle School, from approximately 4/7/11 to 5/25/11. (maternity) Motion unanimously approved.

Motion No. 10-12-5 by Member Hetherman, seconded by Vice-Chairperson Sprengelmeyer, to approve a paid leave of absence for Jennifer Donnelly-Taylor, School Psychologist at Feinstein Middle School, from approximately 5/12/11 to 6/17/11. (maternity) Motion unanimously approved.

Coaching Resignation:

Motion No. 10-12-6 by Vice-Chairperson Sprengelmeyer, seconded by Member Hetherman to affirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the resignation of Thomas Campbell, Assistant Boys' Basketball Coach at Coventry High School, effective 12/14/10. Motion unanimously approved.

Coaching Appointment:

Motion No. 10-12-7 by Vice-Chairperson Sprengelmeyer, seconded by Member Hetherman, to affirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to appoint Mark Livingston to the position of Assistant Boys' Basketball Coach at Coventry High School, for the 2010/2011 school year, effective 12/14/10. Motion unanimously approved.

Classified Resignations:

Motion No. 10-12-8 by Member Hetherman, seconded by Vice-Chairperson Sprengelmeyer, to affirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the resignation of Jill Beliveau, one-on-one Teacher Assistant (RN) for the District, effective 12/14/10. Motion unanimously approved.

Motion No. 10-12-9 by Member Liner, seconded by Member Hetherman, to affirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the resignation of Mary Ellen Robertson, Reading Teacher Assistant at Tiogue School, for the purpose of retirement, effective 1/7/11. Motion unanimously approved.

Classified Appointments:

Motion No. 10-12-10 by Member Hetherman, seconded by Vice-Chairperson Sprengelmeyer, to affirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to appoint Sandra Croce to the position of .5 (3 hr/day) one-on-one Teacher Assistant (LPN) for the District, for the 2010/2011 school year, effective 12/14/10. Motion unanimously approved.

Fiscal Reports:

Bills, Warrants, Payroll: In the amount of \$4,438,343.20 for the month of November, 2010.

Fiscal Municipal Reports: In the amount of \$65,523,328 as of the month of November, 2010 for the 2011 fiscal year-end projection.

Motion No. 10-12-11, by Member Hetherman, seconded by Vice-Chairperson Sprengelmeyer, to approve the Fiscal Reports as presented. Motion unanimously approved.

Washington Oak Presentation:

The presentation by the principal, student teachers and students of Washington Oak Elementary School began at 7:24 p.m.

Dr. Raptakis spoke about the following:

- The PTA is an integral part of the success of Washington Oak School. They donate their time, creativity and expertise in fundraising enhancing numerous initiatives and providing supplemental materials, supplies and equipment to the school.
- The students of Washington Oak School are encouraged to be respectful, responsible and safe citizens in our learning community. Washington is part of the district-wide PBIS program.
- Washington Oak continues to be at the forefront in the area of technology.
- A Principal Coffee Hour was established this year in an effort to maintain direct communication with parents.

- Washington Oak has reduced their consumption of paper and the expenses associated with traditional mailings through the use of technology resources. They have an up-to-date website where faculty posts WebPages that provide parents with news and information on a regular basis.

Challenges that Washington Oak School faced this school year include:

- Elimination of the music room – music is currently being held in the classroom which has made the music teacher travel to each classroom with a cart.
- Elimination of the Parent Center that was used for PTA events, health screenings, childcare during PTA meetings, and a meeting space for the ULSS staff.
- Parking and entering the building in a safe and orderly fashion through the main driveway area has become a concern. Currently the faculty park along the right side of the emergency roadway in the back of the building. A new parking area has been outlined in the grassy area to the right of the parking area and is to be constructed in the future.
- Due to the increase of students and faculty, Washington Oak is seeking additional technology grants and donations to keep the school on the cutting edge.
- Student and staff schedules have been revised to meet the needs of PBIS, Rtl, CPT, SIT and faculty meetings. The school is still in need of more time for the PD Coordinator due to the large number of classes and faculty in the building.

There was a presentation on iClickers by Mrs. Bibeault's Grade 1 students and their student teachers from Rhode Island College. There has been a six-year partnership with Dr. Kniseley and the science student from RIC. One advantage of the partnership is the innovative approaches to current research on teaching and learning and cutting edge use of technology in the classroom. A positive use of technology in the classroom is displayed in the use of iClickers. This is a creative way to engage students in the lesson; and there is immediate feedback for assessment that students can reflect on. Rules of the use of iClickers teacher the students to respect the equipment. The clicker remote is a learning tool – not a toy. The remote is kept on the student desk at all times. The students learn to listen for "Ready, Set, Vote", then they key in their vote. The Committee members and administrators were engaged in a demonstration by the student teacher and the students.

Chairperson's Report/Executive Session Report:

The Committee discussed personnel, litigation and negotiations in Executive Session.

Public Agenda:

Report-Out of Town Council Meeting:

Superintendent Convery presented the annual three-year projections to the Town Manager. The Town Council will vote on the budget calendar soon and share it with the school department. The Financial Town Meeting has been set for 6/7/11 at Coventry High School.

Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act/Federal Health Care Reform:

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) allows group and individual health plans that were effective on March 23, 2010 to choose to be "grandfathered". Grandfathered status would exempt the plan from certain (but not all) requirements of PPACA. Finance Director Pelletier attended a health care group meeting. A decision by the School Committee is needed before January 1/2011 to vote on whether or not Coventry will grandfather. Self-insured plans have the option to be grandfathered. A law came into effect in March. After 9/23/10 new federal regulations will impact us on 7/1/11. We need to develop different plans. Mrs. Pelletier suggest that the Committee vote to grandfather. We can opt out any time. Once we decide we don't want to, we can't go back. Children of our employees, age 26, are able to come onto the plan. If health insurance is available at another job, an employee does not have to come onto the plan. If an employee has a screening, he/she currently pays a co-pay. Under preventative care the screening would be completely paid for by the plan. The projection is that age 26 will impact the plan by 2%.

Motion 10-12-12 by Member Hetherman, seconded by Vice-Chairperson Sprengelmeyer, to grandfather our health plan as is under the stipulation that we can change it at any time in the future and be reviewed under the next collective bargaining unit. Motion unanimously approved.

Citizens' Comments:

A food service worker addressed the issue about Aramark workers' insurance running out at the end of the month. According to their contact, workers are able to roll into a plan that is substantially equal. A meeting is scheduled for 12/14/10 CHS at 2:30. The workers are asking for School Committee support. There are eight people on the insurance; only three with families. Vice-Chairperson Sprengelmeyer asked if the issue is not resolved, should we be concerned about any labor action or refusal to serve the student? The reply was 'no'. There is a no-strike clause in the contract. Negotiations have been going on since September. Chairperson Patenaude wished the workers her best to get the best plan. She believes everyone has to pay something towards health care.

Scheduling of Next Meeting:

Motion No. 10-12-13 by Member Hetherman, supported by Vice-Chairperson Sprengelmeyer, that the next meeting of the School Committee be scheduled for Tuesday, January 11, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. at Blackrock School. Motion unanimously approved.

Adjournment:

Motion No. 10-12-14 by Vice-Chairperson Sprengelmeyer, supported by Member Liner, that the meeting be adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

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Approved by School Committee 2/22/11