

SCHOOL COMMITTEE WORKSHOP  
SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION OFFICES  
1675 FLAT RIVER ROAD

January 27, 2008

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

Members present: Chairman Katherine Patenaude, Vice-Chairman Andrew 'Ben' Perra, Member Thomas Hetherman, Member Lisa Tomasso, Superintendent Kenneth Di Pietro, Assistant Superintendents Michael Convery and James Erinakes, and Attorney Frederick Tobin. Member Nancy Sprengelmeyer arrived at 6:30 p.m.

Recording Secretary: Donna A. McDonald

Executive Session: Student Hearing, Personnel, Litigation, Negotiation

Motion No. 09-1-1 by Vice-Chairman Perra, seconded by Member Hetherman, that the Committee recess into executive session at 6:07 p.m. to consider matter(s) relating specifically to personnel, litigation and negotiation; said action being taken in accord with Open Meetings Act, Sections 42-46-5(a)(1)&(2).

<u>Roll Call Vote:</u>	Chairman Patenaude	AYE
	Vice-Chairman Perra	AYE
	Member Hetherman	AYE
	Member Tomasso	AYE

Motion No. 09-1-2 by Member Tomasso, seconded by Member Hetherman, to recess to the Open Meeting at 7:05 a.m. p.m.

<u>Roll Call Vote:</u>	Chairman Patenaude	AYE
	Vice-Chairman Perra	AYE
	Member Hetherman	AYE
	Member Tomasso	AYE
	Member Sprengelmeyer	AYE

Motion No. 09-1-3 by Vice-Chairman Perra, seconded by Member Tomasso, 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 7:10 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence for two staff members who lost family members. Vice-Chairman Perra notified the public of emergency exits and read the Mission Statement.

Personnel:

Certified Resignation:

Motion No. 09-1-3 by Member Tomasso, seconded by Member Sprengelmeyer, to affirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to accept the resignation of Andrew Merdinyan, Mathematics Teacher at CHS, effective 2/13/09. Motion unanimously approved.

Motion No. 09-1-4 by Member Sprengelmeyer, seconded by Vice-Chairman Perra, to affirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve a paid leave of absence for Bethany Leavitt, Resource Teacher at CHS, from approximately 3/7/09 to 4/27/09. (maternity) Motion unanimously approved.

Motion No. 09-1-5 by Vice-Chairman Perra, seconded by Member Tomasso, to affirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve an unpaid leave of absence for Peter Corr, Social Studies Teacher at CHS, from approximately 2/2/09 to 2/13/09. (parental) Motion unanimously approved.

PTA/LAC Dialogue:

See attached (Appendix A)

Citizens' Comments:

A parent thanked Chairperson Patenaude for attending PTA meetings.

Scheduling of Next Meeting:

Motion No. 09-1-6 by Vice-Chairman Perra, supported by Member Hetherman, that the next meeting of the School Committee be scheduled for Tuesday, February 10, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. Motion unanimously approved.

Adjournment:

Motion No. 09-1-7 by Member Hetherman, supported by Member Sprengelmeyer, that the meeting be adjourned at 9:15 p.m. Motion unanimously approved.

Approved by the School Committee: 4/14/09

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Parent Dialogue

Parents:: Holly Furtado, Sue McMahon (BR PTA), Lisa Vanasse (WC PTA)), Deana Joyal (WC PTA), Susan Wallbank (WO PTA), Judi Liner (FMS PTA), Karen Landry (TI PTA), Roxanne Burrill (LAC), Tracy Collucci (HH PTA), Lisa James (HH PTA), Pam Petrarca (WO PTA/LAC), Arlene Carpenter (FMS PTA)

Principals: Alicia Castle (BR), Jan Sullivan (WC), Kathy Miner (OH), Mike Hobin (CHS), Tracey Whitehead (FMS), Donna Raptakis (WO)

Others: Terri Gralinski (SRP Rep), Sheila Morgan (Teacher), Charles Vacca (Resident)

Commendations:

Coventry High:

- Teachers are phenomenal – fast response to questions
- Concerning; care about the students
- Principal knows about everything!
- Outstanding principal and teachers
- I-Parent is awesome

Feinstein Middle School:

- School atmosphere engaging, i.e. office staff, climate
- School got on board with PBIS this year
- Constant presence of administrators (during lunch, drop-off and pick-up)
- School-wide communication (listserve 2x/week)
- Staff attend social events
- Walk & Talk session during the school day (1 hour)
- Q &A and tour of building
- Large number of volunteers for SIT (increased parental involvement in education, nationally-sponsored program, subcommittees in all content areas)
- Teachers engage in different ways to get students involved in learning
- Warm and welcome school
- Fast response to questions
- Outstanding principal and teachers
- Principal visited 5<sup>th</sup> grade students in June to tell them what to expect at the middle school
- Locker night – students get to decorate their lockers before school starts
- Meet and Greet Night

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Commendations (continued):

Blackrock:

- Students understand what is expected of them
- Principal came to the school as new and ran with it
- Students learn how to treat other students

Hopkins Hill:

- Upgrades to technology in the library this year

Tiogue:

- PBIS – students receive a gold slip for doing a good job
- SWIS program tracks the data regarding the frequency and severity of infractions
- Wrap-around services go beyond school; specialists go to the homes when necessary
- Principal is excellent

Washington Oak:

- Children learn friendship and kindness in all grades (TEACH Program)
- Children received acknowledgement by certificate or Pod meetings
- LAC services change to meet the needs of children
- Warm, welcoming family atmosphere
- Outstanding principal and teachers
- Principal turns no one away; knows all the children in the school
- PBIS incorporates special needs students
- The students understand the rules; they respect each other
- Special education staffing and program changes at the beginning of the school year – Jim Erinakes and Sue Lyons arrived at the school immediately to help with the changes – there is a lot of communication with them and the principal
- There is an increase in the percentage of members in the PTA

Western Coventry:

- All teachers are good in the system
- PBIS working well

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Recommendations:

Feinstein Middle:

- PBIS – school has seen a decline in behavioral issues
- Discipline problems occur during passing times
- Poor physical condition
- A ceiling tile fell in the hallways
- The roof leaks
- I-Parent is limited to tracking attendance; parents want access to their child's progress
- The traffic situation is dangerous

Hopkins Hill:

- What is being done with technology at the schools:
  - Electrical system may not handle technology
  - Wireless is available only to 5<sup>th</sup> grade students

Washington Oak:

- No PBIS reflection sheets are sent home; discipline reports are not communicated. The only way of knowing what is going on is when the students tell their parents.
- Parents have to be partners with the school
- Problem with parking at Washington Oak

LAC:

- Complaint about new IEP plan; interventions not being implemented quickly enough
- Parents feel there is not enough happening with the plan
- Concern that students are not getting the attention they need

Other:

- Concerns were expressed regarding the mathematics curriculum at the middle school. Students appear to need stronger basics in elementary and less redundancy at middle school to prepare for high school.
- Is Math Masters supporting IEP students?
- Traffic patterns particularly at dismissal are a concern – FMS, BR, TI