

SOUTHAMPTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Minutes of the Monthly Meeting
Library-William E. Norris School

August 27, 2008
6:30 PM

Call to Order: Kim Schott, Chair called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Present: Kimberly Schott, Don Abel, Lauren Carmichael, John Fitzpatrick, Barbara Ripa, Bill Collins, Cindy Landers.

Visitors: Ann Roy, Select Board Liaison to School Committee, Dave Strong-Strong Bus Corp., Ben Hammer-Safe Routes, Mikki Carmichael

Routine Matters: On a motion (Fitzpatrick, Carmichael) the minutes of the July 23rd meeting were unanimously approved.

On a motion (Abel, Carmichael) the minutes of the special meeting of August 5th were approved (Abel abstaining)

Warrants were circulated for review and signature. John raised the issue of consolidating orders to save on shipping charges for multiple orders from the same provider. The school department and the central office will work on revising the current purchase order process in order to consolidate orders. There should also be a continued effort to shift capital expenses to the town's capital planning budget.

John Fitzpatrick raised the issue of placing budgetary matters earlier on the agenda so that decisions could be made based on the most current financial data, in contrast to the process involved in addressing the emergency lighting issue. The agenda is a matter of policy, which will be reviewed.

Tiger Talk to be published the second week of school, Kim Schott to prepare a welcome to the community.

Visitors: Ben Hammer made a presentation of the Safe Routes program, at the request of Bill Collins, in response to interest on the part of the Committee. Safe Routes is a federally funded program administered through the Executive Office of Transportation, and through Ben's organization, MassRide. Safe Routes is a program designed to encourage walking and biking by school children and the community, to promote healthy habits and discourage obesity, and for environmental benefit. The program incentivizes walking programs in the school, including to and from school, and during the school day. After one year of participation in the program, the community is eligible to participate in an engineering study of the community and its infrastructure to identify barriers and dangers to walking to school within a 1 mile radius of the school. Based on that study the school would be eligible to apply for funding to address those issues in order to promote

walking to and from school. The program does not require a financial or participatory obligation on the part of the School. There are a number of local communities participating, and Lauren Carmichael advised that there has been a very positive response to the program implemented in Northampton. Bill Collins will review the program's literature, and based on his assessment the School will determine whether to participate.

Dave Strong of the Strong Bus Corp., informed the Committee of the financial issues facing his company with respect to the increases in fuel prices. The contract contains a fuel escalation clause, but it does not apply to "dead" miles, when the buses are not transporting students, but are traveling between schools. There was a discussion regarding the consolidation of bus routes. Strong will attempt to provide some quantification of the savings from implementing consolidation, both as a matter of time and fuel.

Cindy Landers advises that the mapping software obtained by the School Department should be implemented in October/November, with the busing bids prepared for November/December.

Principal's Report: Bill presented information regarding the Promethean Active Boards. The quotes obtained are \$6,090.00 for each board, with an installation cost of \$1,100.00. However, Bill advises that the staff is able to install the boards. Bill envisions the acquisition of three boards with funding from various sources, depending on grants and budget issues.

Bill provided a staffing update and a report on the new teacher induction program.

Bill reviewed the concept of recommending staff members for recognition by the Committee, and after discussion, it was determined it would be too difficult to develop specific criteria for recognition. The Administration and the Committee will continue to recognize individuals on a case by case basis.

Old Business: Cindy Landers will explore the state contract rates for carpeting, which will not require another bidding process. The issue of staggering the installation over the winter and spring breaks was raised, as the staff had suggested that clearing all the rooms, carpeting them, and moving back in would not be possible in one week. It was suggested that volunteers could assist, and that with volunteer assistance we would look to have all installation done in February so as to reduce costs.

The roofing contractor (JP Stevens) stripped the areas between the new and old structures and the elevator shaft and installed new material. There have been no leaks since, pending future weather situations. There was a discussion regarding the spraying of the walls to seal them. The walls are designed to be porous, with a drainage system incorporated, but there are apparently breakdowns in this drainage causing leaking. The drainage deficiencies have not been identified and may require an engineering study. Walls in the area of the kindergarten were sprayed which was successful in stopping leaking that had been occurring in one classroom. It is estimated that spraying the walls

in the identified areas will cost \$13,000.00 per application, and will have to be done every 4-5 years.

Proposed Policy JRA-Student Records was reviewed. Issues regarding the definition of a student record and costs for reproduction of other media were raised. It was determined that the school department would adopt a practice for reproduction of records as proposed, and the policy regarding student records would be discussed further.

It was determined that the School would continue with its current cafeteria software program.

New Business: The issue of building use by groups displaced by the Larabee renovations was raised. At this time, no groups have requested use.

Future Business: The next meeting is scheduled for September 24, 2008 at 6:30 p.m.

Adjourn: On a motion (Abel/Fitzpatrick) the meeting was adjourned at 10:05 p.m.