

MINUTES OF THE DURHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING HELD THURSDAY, JANUARY 10, 2008 FOLLOWING THE JOINT MEETING AT THE DURHAM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LIBRARY. (NOTE: These Minutes are not official until approved by the School Committee. Such action, either to approve or amend and approve, is anticipated at the February 7, 2008 meeting.)

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**Members Present:** Laurie Poissonnier, Linda Pfaffinger, George Szadis, Jim Beaulieu; Shannon L. Welsh, Superintendent of Schools

**Members Absent:** Amber Snell (excused)

**Administrators Present:** Robert Kahler, Assistant Principal; Susan Matthews, Special Education Director; William Pidden, Principal; Catherine Messmer, Business Manager

**Administrators Absent:**

**Others Present:**

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**CALLED TO ORDER:**

Vice Chairperson Poissonnier called the meeting to order at 7:10 P.M. and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**4. CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES:**

A. **VOTED: (1)** To receive and approve the Minutes of December 13, 2007 meeting of the School Committee. (Pfaffinger – Beaulieu) (4 – 0)

**5. ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA:**

None

**6. GOOD NEWS & RECOGNITION:**

The Geography Bee was held today at DES and was won by Jeffrey Turgeon. Congratulations! John Ricker and Patsy Smith were invited to present at a conference the work they've been doing in math, science, and technology with middle school students and their laptops.

**7. REPORT FROM ADMINISTRATORS:**

A. William Pidden – Update: The staff has looked at use of the NWEA – a technology based assessment in place of the Terra Nova. A pilot will be done this spring with the recommendation for fall implementation with grades 3-8.

A pipe burst over the holiday break but was noticed very quickly so only minimal damage occurred to some instructional materials. The water was cleaned up immediately so there are no concerns about mold growth.

**B. Catherine Messmer – COLA**

Business Manager Messmer reported that the Selectmen are considering a change in their contribution toward Maine State Retirement System (MSRS). Durham's retired employees who are members of the MSRS do not currently receive a cost of living increase after retirement. The Selectmen are planning to recommend changing this practice at the April Town Meeting. Such a change will require the Town to pay a liability of \$135,391 for past cost of living increases. Using MSRS surplus funds would bring the amount to \$84,191.

The school's share of this liability is \$14,178 per year for 4 years. The school would need to pay an additional \$4,855 annually.

We have not added the total \$19,033 to the 08-09 budget. If the citizens vote to approve this change, we will then have them add the funds to our budget.

**8. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:**

A. Building Committee Update: Superintendent Welsh noted that the Building Committee continues to meet to consider issues related to the new school. Most recently, the Committee discussed a plan for the hiring of an Owner's Representative for the project. We have advertised for this position and plan to bring a nomination to the School Committee at their February meeting.

B. Consolidation Update: Superintendent Welsh provided information discussed at the previous night's meeting of the Reorganization Planning Committee. Durham's RPC is asking the School Committee to consider a referendum vote on the School Choice issue. Durham would enter a two-year contract with Freeport for Durham's secondary students. Students who are enrolled in grades 6-12 on July 1, 2009 would retain subsidized school choice. Transportation would be subsidized for students enrolled in grades 9-12 as of that same date. All other students would be required to attend Freeport High School.

This would allow the Town to grandfather some current students while entering an RSU with Freeport and Pownal that would ultimately eliminate school choice.

Durham's citizens would need to vote on this contract as would Freeport's Town Council. School Committee members stated this seemed fair but will give it further consideration.

- C. Legislative Update: The Legislature is considering changes to the current consolidation legal requirements but has not yet acted on any legislation. Discussions are on-going. Superintendent Welsh will keep the Committee informed as decisions are made at the State level.

**9. PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

None

**10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

None

**11. NEW BUSINESS:**

None

**12. FINANCIAL REPORTS:**

- A. Durham Elementary School – None
- B. Durham School Department – As of January 3, 2007

**13. COMMUNICATIONS:**

None

**14. COMMITTEE COMMENTS:**

Member Szadis noted that the State raised a question about the Woolwich K-8 state funded project. Woolwich voted to consolidate with Bath and the State is now suggesting a K-6 School with 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders attending Bath Middle School. Member Szadis asked how this might impact Durham's project. Superintendent Welsh assured the School Committee that Durham's project was farther along, having passed referendum, and would not be impacted by such a request.

**15. PERSONNEL:**

**A. Resignations:**

- 1. Karen White Librarian effective at the end of school year, June 2008.

**16. POLICY REVIEW:**

A. Policies 08 Packet #4 was distributed for review with plans for 1<sup>st</sup> Read on February 7, 2008 and Final Adoption on March 13, 2008.

B. 1<sup>st</sup> Read on the Following Policies: 08 Packet #3

- |    |      |                                                                            |
|----|------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. | ACAD | Hazing                                                                     |
| 2. | AD   | Educational Philosophy/Mission                                             |
| 3. | ADA  | School System Goals and Objectives                                         |
| 4. | ADAA | School System Commitment to Standards for Ethical and Responsible Behavior |
| 5. | ADC  | Tobacco Use and Possession                                                 |
| 6. | ADF  | School District Commitment to Learning Results                             |
| 7. | AEC  | Accountability – Reporting to the Public                                   |

C. 2<sup>nd</sup> Read/Adoption on the Following Policies: 08 Packet #2  
(Szadis – Pfaffinger) (4 – 0)

- |     |       |                                                                        |
|-----|-------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1.  | EFBA  | Menu Development/Options-Offer vs. Serve Lunch Concept                 |
| 2.  | KB    | Parent Involvement in Education                                        |
| 3.  | KBF   | Parent Involvement with Title I                                        |
| 4.  | KDA   | Public Information Program                                             |
| 5.  | KE    | Public Concerns and Complaints                                         |
| 6.  | KF    | Community Use of School Facilities                                     |
| 7.  | KI    | Visitors to the Schools                                                |
| 8.  | KLG   | Relations with Law Enforcement Authorities                             |
| 9.  | KLG-R | Relations with Law Enforcement Authorities<br>Administrative Procedure |
| 10. | LDA   | Student Teaching and Internships                                       |
| 11. | LF    | Relations with State Education Agencies                                |

D. 08 Packet #1 was distributed for policy book update.

**17. WORKSHOP:**

Budget Presentation - Initial Presentation of the proposed 2008-2009 budget was provided by administration. The School Committee will deliberate further at their next meeting on January 17, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.

**18. EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

A. **VOTED: (2)** To enter Executive Session to discuss labor contract proposals for Durham Administrators/Directors, pursuant to Freedom of Access Statute, Title I, M.R.S.A. Section 405(6)(D).

(Pfaffinger – Szadis) (4 – 0) (09:26 p.m.)

**19. GENERAL SESSION:**

Returned to General Session at 10:19 p.m.

**VOTED: (3)** To authorize the Superintendent of Schools to renew Durham Administrator/Director Contracts as discussed in executive session.

(Pfaffinger – Szadis) (4 – 0)

**20. ADJOURNMENT:**

**VOTED: (4)** To adjourn. (Szadis – Beaulieu) (4 – 0) (10:20 p.m.)

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Shannon L. Welsh  
Secretary, Durham School Committee

SLW:sjc