

MINUTES OF THE DURHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING HELD TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2008 AT 7:00 P.M. 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 March 13, 2008 meeting.)

Members Present: Amber Snell, Linda Pfaffinger, Jim Beaulieu, George Szadis; Shannon L. Welsh, Superintendent of Schools

Members Absent: Laurie Poissonnier (excused)

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

Administrators Absent:

Others Present:

CALLED TO ORDER:

Chairperson Snell called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

4. CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES:

A. **VOTED: (1)** To receive and approve the Minutes of January 10, 2008 (1), January 10, 2008 (2), and January 17, 2008 meeting of the School Committee. (Pfaffinger – Beaulieu) (4 – 0)

5. ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA:

None

6. GOOD NEWS & RECOGNITION:

Mr. Pidden noted that we've only had 4 full weeks of school since mid November due to holidays and snow. The children and staff have done a great job of focusing on education.

7. REPORT FROM ADMINISTRATORS:

A. William Pidden – Update: Mr. Pidden provided a draft calendar for the 08-09 school year. The staff met to discuss the draft and is in support of beginning the year with staff prior to Labor Day with students starting after Labor Day. The December break would be for two full weeks due to the Thursday

holidays. This is the first read for the calendar and the School Committee will vote on the calendar in March. This will provide time for public feedback.

Later this month, grant money will be used to purchase iPods for a fifth grade After School iPod Book Club. The goal is to expose children to a wider variety of literature and an opportunity to discuss those texts.

Another initiative is Adventure Writing and aimed at 3rd and 4th grade students. There would be an initial activity and then writing a piece related to the activity for later publication.

These both support the school's efforts to improve student writing.

8. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

- A. Building Committee Update: A representative group from the Building Committee was established as an interview team for the Owner's Representative position on the Durham Elementary School construction project. We received five applications for the position and the team interviewed 3 applicants. Two people were recommended for an interview with the Superintendent. After a thorough review of the references, we are recommending a candidate to this contracted service provider position. There is an agenda item for authorization to enter into a contract with the provider. The full contract needs a review by the Bureau of General Service and the Department of Education.
- B. Legislative Update: The Legislature took no action on consolidation or budget validation referendum. Superintendent Welsh informed the School Committee that there is now almost \$200 million revenue shortfall which will impact State subsidy but the full impact of subsidy reduction is unknown at this time.
- C. Consolidation Update: Superintendent Welsh provided referendum language related to authorizing the School Committee to enter into a contract with Freeport for our Secondary Students. If approved, a second question authorizes the School Committee to set policy establishing parameters around School Choice and transportation for our Secondary Students. There will be opportunities to present information to the voters through a public meeting and written information prior to the vote.

9. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- A. **VOTED: (2)** To adopt the proposed 2008-2009 Durham School Department budget as discussed and revised. (Pfaffinger – Szadis) (4 – 0)

- B. **VOTED:(3)** To request a referendum vote on a secondary student contract with Freeport High School and on establishing parameters around future subsidized choice for secondary students. (Szadis – Pfaffinger) (4 – 0)

11. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. **VOTED: (4)** to authorize the Superintendent to enter into a contract with an Owner’s Representative for the Durham Elementary School Construction Project. (Beaulieu – Szadis) (4 – 0)

12. FINANCIAL REPORTS:

- A. Durham School Department – As of January 31, 2008
- B. Durham Elementary School – Month Ending January 31, 2007

13. COMMUNICATIONS:

None

14. COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

None

15. PERSONNEL:

- A. New Hires:
 - 1) **VOTED: (5)** To employ Sarah Cass as Drama Advisor at the Durham Elementary School for the 2007-2008 school year. (Pfaffinger – Beaulieu) (4 – 0)
 - 2) **VOTED: (6)** To employ Carolyn Stackpole as Ed Tech III for the 2007-2008 school year. (Beaulieu – Pfaffinger) (4 – 0)

- B. Resignations:

None

16. POLICY REVIEW:

- A. Policies 08 Packet #5 were distributed for review with plans for 1st Read on March 13, 2008 and Final Adoption on April 10, 2008.

- B. 1st Read on the Following Policies: 08 Packet #4

- 1. ADC Tobacco Use and Possession
- 2. EBCA Compressive Emergency Management Plan

- 3. EBCF Automated External Defibrillators (AED's)
- 4. JEA Compulsory Attendance
- 5. JHB Truancy
- 6. JLF Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect
- 7. KHB Advertising in the Schools

C. 2nd Read/Adoption on the Following Policies: 08 Packet #3
(Szadis – Beaulieu) (4 – 0)

- 1. AC Non Discrimination/Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action
- 2. ACA Non-Sexist Language
- 3. ACAA Harassment and Sexual Harassment of Students
- 4. ACAA-R Student Discrimination and Harassment Complaint Procedure
- 5. ACAB Harassment and Sexual Harassment of School Employees
- 6. ACAB-R Employee Discrimination and Harassment Complaint Procedure
- 7. ACAD Hazing
- 8. AD Educational Philosophy/Mission
- 9. ADA School System Goals and Objectives
- 10. ADAA School System Commitment to Standards for Ethical and Responsible Behavior
- 11. ADC Tobacco Use and Possession
- 12. ADF School District Commitment to Learning Results
- 13. AEC Accountability – Reporting to the Public

D. 08 Packet #2 was distributed for policy book update.

17. **WORKSHOP:** State of Schools Presentation

18. **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

19. **GENERAL SESSION:**

20. **ADJOURNMENT:**

VOTED: (10) To adjourn. (Szadis – Beaulieu) (4 - 0) (9:06 p.m.)

Shannon L. Welsh
Secretary, Durham School Committee