

STONEHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS
STONEHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
CENTRAL MIDDLE SCHOOL
SEPTEMBER 24, 2015**

The meeting of the School Committee was held at 7:30 P.M. on Thursday, September 10, 2015 at the Central Middle School with the following members present: S. MacNeill, Chair; D. Maurer, Vice-Chair; S. McCarthy, M. Christie and J. Craigie. Also present were Dr. Les Olson, Superintendent of Schools; Francine Bouchard, Director of Finance; and Jonathan Schores, Student Representative.

Also: Board of Selectmen members Thomas Boussy, Chair; Ann Marie O'Neill, Vice Chair; John DePinto, F. Vallarelli, Caroline Colarusso; and Town Administrator D. Ragucci.

S. MacNeill called the open session of the School Committee to order at 7:30 P.M.

A. Pledge of Allegiance

B. Action to Approve the Minutes of:

September 10, 2015 Regular Meeting

ACTION: A motion was made by J. Craigie and seconded by M. Christie to approve the minutes of September 10, 2015. The motion was approved 4-0-1 with S. McCarthy abstaining.

C. Approval of Warrant

ACTION: A motion was made by S. McCarthy and seconded by J. Craigie to approve Bill Warrant #16-5 in the amount of \$430,439.11. The motion was approved 5-0.

D. Student Representative

Jonathan reported on Student Council, fall sports and the Drama Club's upcoming production of "*You Can't Take It With You.*"

E. Public Comment

None

F. Strategic Plan Discussion and Adoption

Dr. Olson announced that the final meeting of the Strategic Planning Committee was on Monday and recommended adoption and approval of the plan.

ACTION: A motion was made by J. Craigie and seconded by S. McCarthy to adopt the Strategic Plan. The motion was approved 5-0.

Dr. Olson thanked the Planning Committee. The Plan will be distributed at the Special Town Meeting and placed on the school website.

G. Bi-Board Meeting with Board of Selectmen

ACTION: A motion was made by J. DePinto and seconded by C. Collarusso to open the Board of Selectmen's meeting with the School Committee. The motion was approved 5-0.

The Bi-Board discussed the following agenda items:

Stoneham High School Building Needs/MSBA Application/Feasibility Study

Dr. Olson announced that after three years of submitting applications to the MSBA, the High School application has advanced to the second stage. A site visit has been scheduled for next Tuesday to verify the information that was submitted with the application. If the project is approved, the next steps would be to bring it to Town Meeting, appoint a building committee and do a feasibility study.

See Click Fix

T. Boussy reported that See Click Fix has been a valuable tool for the Town but had concerns that complaints are being closed out before the issues are resolved.

Recycling Programs and Coordinator

S. MacNeill reported that the organic recycling at the schools had to be put on hold because no one came to pick it up and after two weeks it became a public health issue. The program had been implemented by the town's recycling coordinator but the position had been funded by a grant and the grant ran out. F. Vallarelli believes that organic recycling is a part of the Hiltz contract and requested that D. Ragucci follow up with Hiltz.

Robert and Diane Raniri of Cowdry Street were present at the meeting and voiced their displeasure over the elimination of the position of recycling coordinator and their concerns that organic recycling was not being done in the schools.

School Safety

C. Colarusso reported that she has met with crossing guards and Officer Joe Ponzio regarding the traffic problems in town and the safety of students. She asked that the School Committee work together with her, the Town Administrator and Safety Officer to address some of the traffic concerns. Dave Maurer volunteered to work with them.

She also stated that she has had some complaints regarding student activity on the buses and asked if a bus monitor could be placed on the busses. Dr. Olson replied that he has not received any complaints since the first week of school and that the bus driver has been communicating with the principals and reporting any issues with student behavior.

A discussion followed regarding several new housing developments throughout town that could increase enrollment in schools. Dr. Olson reported that there is some room for growth in all of the schools. S. MacNeill questioned C. Colarusso's promoting charter schools and the impact on the school budget when students go to charter schools. C. Colarusso responded that she felt parents should have a choice where they educate their children. Dr. Olson explained that the state gives \$1,600 per student in Chapter 70 funds but the appropriation is cut by over \$800,000 total for the 73 students attending charter schools.

Budget

C. Colarusso extended an invitation to the School Committee to participate in a "Compact Community" program with Governor Baker's office and work together on budget and budget formatting. For this year, T. Boussy suggested mirroring Reading's format using Munis reports with narratives.

The Committees also discussed Capital Funding and Warrant Articles for the upcoming Town Meeting.

ACTION: A motion was made by F. Vallarelli and seconded by J. DePinto to adjourn at 9:40 P.M. The motion was approved unanimously by the Board of Selectmen.

ACTION: A motion was made by J. Craigie and seconded by S. McCarthy to adjourn at 9:40 P.M. The motion was approved unanimously by the School Committee.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED
LES E. OLSON, SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

DOCUMENTS REVIEWED:
Minutes September 10 2015
Bill Warrant 16-5
Strategic Plan