ROCKLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS
ROCKLAND, MASSACHUSETTS

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING,
MONDAY, APRIL 13, 2009, 6:30 PM
HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY

The School Committee met on Monday, April 13, 2009, at 6:30 PM at the High School Library. Committee members present were: Mr. Norris, Mrs. Pezzella, Mr. Mills, Mr. Mullen, and Mrs. Werkheiser. Also present were Superintendent Retchless, Assistant Superintendent Scarpelli, and Mrs. Cusick.

Present in the audience were Mr. Sangster, High School Principal; Mr. Stanish, Middle School Principal; Mrs. Ryan, Middle School teacher, middle school parents and students, Michael Haggerty, Middle School teacher; and citizens broadcasting for WRPS/TV.

Mrs. Pezzella asked that nominations be opened for Chairman. Mrs. Pezzella, as senior member of the Committee, nominated Mr. Norris. Mr. Mills seconded the motion. Mr. Norris was elected Chairman by unanimous vote.

Mr. Norris thanked the Committee for their support.

Mr. Norris asked that nominations be opened for Vice-Chairman. Mr. Mullen nominated Mrs. Pezzella. Mr. Mills seconded the motion. Mrs. Pezzella was elected Vice-Chairman by unanimous vote.

Mr. Norris asked that nominations be opened for Secretary. Mr. Norris nominated Mr. Mills. Mrs. Pezzella seconded the motion. Mr. Mills was elected Secretary by unanimous vote.

Mr. Mills nominated Mrs. Werkheiser and Mr. Mullen to serve on the Sick Leave Committee. Mrs. Pezzella seconded the motion. Mrs. Werkheiser and Mr. Mullen were elected to serve on the Sick Leave Committee by unanimous vote.

Mr. Mills nominated Dr. Levine to continue to serve on the North River Collaborative Board of Directors. Seconded by Mrs. Pezzella. It was a unanimous vote.

Mr. Mills nominated Mr. Mullen to serve on the Community Health Advisory Council. Seconded by Mrs. Pezzella. It was a unanimous vote.

Mr. Mills nominated Mrs. Pezzella and Mr. Norris to serve on the Alcohol/Drug Violation Sub-Committee. Seconded by Mr. Mullen. It was a unanimous vote.

Mr. Norris nominated Mr. Mills to serve as the Athletic Department Liaison. Seconded by Mrs. Pezzella. It was a unanimous vote.

Mr. Mills nominated Mr. Norris to serve on the Fiscal Policy Committee. Seconded by Mrs. Pezzella. It was a unanimous vote.

Mr. Mullen nominated Mr. Mills and Mrs. Werkheiser to serve as the WRPS/TV Community Broadcasting Liaisons. Seconded by Mr. Mills. It was a unanimous vote.

Mr. Mills nominated Mrs. Pezzella to serve on the Early Graduation Committee. Seconded by Mr. Norris. It was a unanimous vote.

Mr. Mills nominated Mr. Mullen to serve on the Cable Advisory Committee. Seconded by Mrs. Pezzella. It was a unanimous vote.

Mr. Norris nominated Mr. Mullen to serve as the Chairman of the Budget Sub Committee. Seconded by Mrs. Pezzella. It was a unanimous vote.

Mr. Norris nominated Mrs. Werkheiser and Mr. Mullen to serve on the Energy Sub Committee. Seconded by Mr. Mills. It was a unanimous vote.

On the motion by Mr. Mills, seconded by Mrs. Pezzella, unanimous, it was voted that the Teachers Collective Bargaining Sub-Committee, the Secretaries Collective Bargaining Sub-Committee, the Custodians Collective Bargaining Sub-Committee, Cafeteria Collective Bargaining Sub-Committee, the Aides Collective Bargaining Sub-Committee remain the same as last year.

On motion of Mr. Mills, seconded by Mrs. Pezzella, unanimous, Robert's Rules of Order for Parliamentary Procedure was unanimously accepted.

Mr. Norris introduced Courtney Burns and Rachele Bernache, Student Representatives.

On motion of Mr. Mills, seconded by Mr. Mullen, unanimous, the minutes of the meeting of March 23, 2009 were accepted.

The minutes of the South Shore Regional School District Committee meeting for February 18, 2009 were noted.

The Superintendent reported that Mr. Walter from Dore & Whittier Architects has examined the floor of the stage and stated that there is no danger at the site and that it can be covered with plywood. Mr. Retchless also noted that the 99 Restaurant has chosen Rockland Public Schools to receive a 1% of sales for a month. This money will be used to repair the stage floor. The Superintendent announced that two High School Math Team members competed recently in the first Annual 11th Grade Western New England College Industrial Engineering Competition. Both teams tied for first place. Team members included: Maura Corbett, Kayla Doyle, Lindsey Murphy, Al Tape, Denny Hologitas, and Brian Strobel. Faculty Advisors Mrs. Hoffman and Mr. Casagrande travelled with the teams to Springfield.

On four motions by Mrs. Pezzella, seconds by Mr. Mills, unanimous, the following March Monthly Reports were approved:

1)	Administrators	Mr. Sangster, Mr. Stanish, Mrs. McGrath, Mr. Kohn/Dr. Levine, Mrs. Sheehan
2)	Guidance	Mrs. Cann
3)	Nurse	Mrs. Ryan
4)	Pupil Personnel Services	Ms. Salem

On five separate motions by Mr. Mills, seconds by Mr. Mullen, unanimous, the following Security Trailer Reports for March were accepted:

1) Almshouse
2) Esten
3) Hartsuff Park
4) Jefferson
5) Memorial Park

The following April Newsletters were noted:

1) Esten
2) Jefferson
3) Memorial Park
4) Middle School

Building Rentals for March were noted.

The Committee noted that the report on Parent Teacher Conferences was useful information.

Mrs. Ryan, Middle School Computer teacher, gave an overview of a project that was done by middle school students concerning students in Romania. Mr. David Manville, former Rockland graduate, now a Fulbright Scholar is teaching in Romania. The two teachers set up a liaison program between the two schools with video and internet communications. Students at the middle school created twelve questions that were asked of Grade 5 students at Memorial Park School. Mr. Murphy, WRPS manager, filmed an overview of the entire project and it was suggested that it be shown on WRPS at a later time. Several students gave the Committee details of their involvement in the project. A video was made and will be shared with the students in Romania.

The Superintendent reported on the Budget Sub-Committee meeting with regard to the proposed override, which will be less than level funding of the budget with a cut of $350,000. Mr. Norris commended Mr. Retchless and Mr. Scarpelli for their efforts in this area.

Mrs. Werkheiser announced that the state has approved Dore & Whittier as the architect for the Middle School Project. The next meeting of the School Building Committee will be May 5th. The Superintendent noted that Mr. Walter from Dore & Whittier has met with the staff at the Middle School and they will tour schools in Hanson and at Silver Lake. As a result of a meeting with Ms. Craven at the MSBA there seems to be enthusiasm for the plans for a linkage between the high school and the middle school.

On the motion of Mr. Mills, seconded by Mr. Mullen, unanimous, the three year School Bus Transportation Bid was awarded to First Student Inc. in the amount of $1,311,601.70.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, it was voted to approve the proposed 2009-2010 School Calendar. Motion by Mr. Mills, seconded by Mr. Mullen, unanimous. Mr. Norris thanked the teachers for their cooperation regarding the start date of school.

It was noted that the 2009-2010 School Budget Public Hearing will be held on Monday, April 27, 2009 at 6:00 PM. The regular meeting will begin immediately following the hearing.

On the motion by Mr. Mills, seconded by Mr. Mullen, unanimous, it was voted to table the vote on the proposed 2009-2010 High School Handbook. It was noted that the only change would be the format of the book. Mr. Sangster stated that the signature page for students is still in effect.

The Superintendent gave an overview of the 2008-2009 No Child Left Behind Report Card highlighting the Adequately Yearly Progress and MCAS. It was noted that the report card shows that Rockland is ranked high in Math and very high in English. It was also noted that there is a positive feeling on the part of students and staff regarding MCAS testing this year.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, it was voted to declare several recorders at Esten School as surplus property. Motion by Mr. Mills, seconded by Mr. Mullen, unanimous.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, it was voted to declare a listing of technology equipment as surplus property. Motion by Mrs. Pezzella, seconded by Mr. Mills, unanimous.

On the motion by Mr. Mills, seconded by Mrs. Pezzella, unanimous, the proposed timeline for the Superintendent's Evaluation Process was approved.

The proposed graduation procedure and senior activities were noted. Mr. Sangster announced that the senior week activities will include a trip to Six Flags New England on Monday, June 1, 2009, Senior Prom at the Canoe Club on Wednesday, June 3, 2009, Senior Banquet and Class Night on Friday, June 5, 2009 and graduation on Saturday, June 6, 2009.

On the motion of Mrs. Pezzella, seconded by Mr. Mills, unanimous, it was voted to approve advertising for the 3-year HVAC Contract.

On the motion of Mr. Mills, seconded by Mr. Mullen, unanimous, it was voted to approve advertising for the Design Services Contract.

On the motion of Mrs. Pezzella, seconded by Mr. Mills, unanimous, it was voted to approve advertising for the Rockland Energy Committee/RHS Solar project.

On the motion of Mr. Mills, seconded by Mrs. Pezzella, unanimous, it was voted to approve advertising for the Contracted Special Education Transportation quotes.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, it was voted to approve an out-of-state field trip for the High School Band to Washington, DC. Motion by Mr. Mills, seconded by Mrs. Werkheiser, unanimous.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, it was voted to approve an out-of-state field trip for the High School Social Studies Department to Newport, RI. Motion by Mr. Mills, seconded by Mr. Mullen, unanimous.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, it was voted to approve the proposed 2009 Special Education Summer School program. Motion by Mrs. Pezzella, seconded by Mr. Mills, unanimous.

On the motion by Mr. Mills, seconded by Mr. Mullen, unanimous, it was voted to approve a proposed car wash fund raiser for the High School cheerleaders.

Mrs. Werkheiser announced the Art Festival that will be held on Thursday, April 16th. The Committee congratulated the winners in the recent town election. Mr. Norris announced that the Little League Parade will be held on April 25th starting from Jefferson School. Also it was announced that Town Meeting will be held on Monday, May 4th with babysitting available.

On motion by Mr. Mills, seconded by Mrs. Werkheiser, unanimous, the meeting adjourned at 7:48 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas F. Mills, Jr.
Secretary

ROCKLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS
ROCKLAND, MASSACHUSETTS

SCHOOL COMMITTEE
BUDGET-SUB COMMITTEE MEETING,
MONDAY, APRIL 13, 2009, 6:00 PM
SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

The School Committee Budget Sub-Committee met on Monday, April 13, 2009, at 6:00 PM at the Superintendent's Office. Committee members present were: Mr. Norris, Mrs. Pezzella, Mr. Mills, Mr. Mullen, and Mrs. Werkheiser. Also present were Superintendent Retchless, and Assistant Superintendent Scarpelli and Mrs. Cusick.

The Committee discussed the School Department Budget, stimulus money and the override question. The Superintendent gave the Committee various scenarios regarding money issues.

On motion by Mr. Mills, seconded by Mrs. Pezzella, unanimous, the meeting adjourned at 6:29 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas F. Mills, Jr.
Secretary