ROCKLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS
ROCKLAND, MASSACHUSETTS

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING,
MONDAY, APRIL 27, 2009, 6:00 PM
HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY

The School Committee met on Monday, April 27, 2009, at 6:00 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, Mrs. Cusick, and Student Representative Ashley Wilkie.

Mrs. McGrath, Esten School Principal, and Ms. Russo, Ms. Smith, Ms. Corbett, and Ms. McDonnell, Esten teachers, and students were present in the audience.

Mr. Norris called the meeting to order. On the motion by Mr. Mills, seconded by Mr. Mullen, unanimous, the School Budget Public hearing was opened.

The Superintendent gave an overview of the budget including the chronology of the budget development, Finance Committee vote, level funding information, override numbers, specific cuts, and consequences. It was noted that the School Committee had voted to use $1.8 million as the override figure. On a motion by Mrs. Pezzella, seconded by Mr. Mills, unanimous, the Committee voted on a figure of $17,183,086 for the FY10 Budget without the override and $18,983,086 with the override. On the motion by Mr. Mills, seconded by Mr. Mullen, unanimous, the hearing was closed.

On the motion of Mr. Mills, seconded by Mrs. Pezzella, unanimous, the minutes of the Budget Sub-Committee meeting of April 13, 2009 were accepted.

On the motion of Mr. Mills, seconded by Mr. Mullen, unanimous, the minutes of the regular meeting of April 13, 2009 were accepted.

On the motion of Mr. Mills, seconded by Mr. Mullen, unanimous, the minutes of the meeting of April 21, 2009 were accepted.

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

The Superintendent commented on the Internet Safety Program for parents that had been set up by Ms. Linehan. Mr. Retchless commended Ms. Linehan for her efforts. Other topics in the Superintendent's Report included: the Key Club road race to benefit a family in need in Rockland, a successful trip by the high school band to Washington, DC, and an announcement sent to parents regarding precautions to be taken against the swine flu.

On three separate motions by Mr. Mills, seconds by Mrs. Pezzella, unanimous, the following Financial Reports for March were accepted:

1) School Department
2) High School Student Activities
3) Middle School Student Activities
4) Cafeteria

Ms. Russo, Ms. Smith, Ms. Corbett, and Ms. McDonnell, Esten School teachers gave an overview of the Leprechauns/Writing Projects. Students display their leprechaun traps and read a story that they created about the traps. The Committee commended the students on their poise, appearance, and presentation.

Mrs. Werkheiser noted that the next School Building Committee will be held on May 5, 2009. Mr. Retchless related news about a meeting at the MSBA attended by Mr. Walter, Mr. Fennell, Dr. Rogers and the Superintendent. The MSBA appears to be very interested in the aspect of linkage between the high school and the middle school. There will be a conference call with the same people to discuss enrollment numbers. The options should be ready by the end of July with a design ready by September.

Mr. Mullen noted that the Budget Sub-Committee had not met since the last School Committee meeting.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, it was voted to approve the 2009-2010 High School handbooks. Motion by Mr. Mullen, seconded by Mrs. Pezzella, unanimous.

The Superintendent noted that financial negotiations with the teachers will continue and RIF language negotiations with the aides on Wednesday, April 29, 2009.

The Committee reminded everyone that the Annual Town Meeting will be held on Monday, May 4th and the override election will be held on Saturday, May 30th.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, it was voted to approve a Cub Scout flyer distribution for elementary students. Motion by Mrs. Pezzella, seconded by Mr. Mills, unanimous.

On the motion of Mr. Mills, seconded by Mr. Mullen, unanimous, it was voted to allow the Superintendent to apply for any grants that are available for the 2009-2010 School Year.

On the motion by Mr. Mills, seconded by Mr. Mullen, unanimous, it was voted to declare a listing of obsolete titles as surplus property.

On the motion by Mrs. Pezzella, seconded by Mr. Mills, unanimous, it was voted to approve a McDonald's fundraiser for the art department.

On the motion by Mr. Mills, seconded by Mr. Mullen, unanimous, it was voted to approve a Student Government fundraiser for the cancer society.

After a general discussion regarding an article from the MASS Municipal Association about local aid cuts, it was voted to send a letter to the Governor, Senate President, House Speaker, State Representative, and State Senator to ask them to look at all options to restore local funds and to explain the impact of the loss of funds for Rockland. Motion by Mr. Mills, seconded by Mrs. Pezzella, unanimous.

The Superintendent announced the appointment of Melanie Shaw as Guidance Director. The Committee requested that Ms. Shaw come to a future meeting of the School Committee.

Mrs. Werkheiser announced that Mr. Cruz, Plymouth County District Attorney, will be addressing high school students on the subject of drinking and driving. Also there will be a fundraiser for the Great Schools-Great Town Committee at the Harmon Golf Course on Friday evening, May 1st.

On motion by Mrs. Pezzella, seconded by Mr. Mills, unanimous, the meeting adjourned at 7:14 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas F. Mills, Jr.
Secretary

ROCKLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS
ROCKLAND, MASSACHUSETTS

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING,
MONDAY, APRIL 21, 2009, 6:30 PM
SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

The School Committee met on Tuesday, April 21, 2009, at 6:30 PM in the Superintendent's office. Committee members present were: Mr. Norris, Mr. Mullen, and Mrs. Werkheiser. Also present were Superintendent Retchless, Assistant Superintendent Scarpelli, and Mrs. Cusick.

There was a general discussion with regard to the proposed override question including: the bus transportation contract, Federal Stimulus, possible savings with utilities, and teacher negotiations.

It was noted that the 2010 School Budget will be voted on at the Budget Public Hearing on Monday, April 27, 2009.

On the motion by Mr. Mullen, seconded by Mr. Norris, unanimous, it was voted to use $1,800,000 as the override figure.

On motion by Mr. Mullen, seconded by Mrs. Werkheiser, unanimous, the meeting recessed at 6:50 PM.

The Committee attended the Rockland Board of Selectmen's meeting at the Town Hall.

On motion by Mr. Mullen, seconded by Mrs. Werkheiser, unanimous, the meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas F. Mills, Jr.
Secretary