

AYER SHIRLEY REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

**Page Hilltop Elementary
Professional Development Room
Tuesday, October 5, 2010 7:00 p.m.**

In attendance:

Robert E. Prescott, Chair (S)
Patrick W. Kelly, Vice Chair (A)
James Quinty, Secretary (S)
Daniel W. Gleason, Member (A)
Brenda Magno, Member (A)
Joyce Reischutz, Member (S)

Others in attendance:

Mary Beth Hamel, Superintendent (AS)
George B. Frost, Superintendent (A)
Malcolm P. Reid, Superintendent (S)
Evan Katz, Business Manager (S)
William J. Plunkett, Director of Administrative/Business Operations (A)
Virginia K. DeWitt, Director of Special Education and Student Services (A)
Teri Babetski, Director of Student Services/Early Childhood Coordinator/Grants (S)

Call to Order

The meeting of the Ayer Shirley Regional School Committee was called to order by the Chair, Robert E. Prescott, at 7:03 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

- Regional School Committee Minutes from September 22, 2010

Motioned by Dan Gleason; Seconded by Pat Kelly to approve September 22, 2010 meeting minutes. Unanimous Vote

- Ayer Shirley Regional Planning Board Minutes from September 22, 2010

Motioned by Pat Kelly; Seconded by Brenda Magno to approve September 22, 2010 meeting minutes. Unanimous Vote

Warrant

- None

Comments from the Public Concerning Items on the Agenda

- None

Superintendent's Report

Massachusetts School Building Authority Update (MSBA)

- Ayer Superintendent Frost discussed the expansion of the Municipal Relief Act, specifically Chapter 71, Section 16 which allows Regional School Districts to borrow for the purpose of funding feasibility studies.
- Ayer Superintendent Frost will recommend that the Regional School Committee (RSC) vote, at the next meeting, to borrow \$750,000.00 for a 5 year term, paying interest only for the first year, to fund the feasibility study.
- If feasibility study turns into an actual building project, an estimated 67 – 68 percent of the cost will be reimbursed.
- Need 2/3 votes to carry. Once vote carries, the School Committee must inform the Board of Selectmen within seven days. Board of Selectmen then has 60 days to respond.
- Bob Prescott asked “If move forward with this plan, Region will carry the debt, and not the Town”?
 - George Frost: Until the RSC goes to town meeting for the building project request, if approved, the feasibility study cost will be rolled into long term building project note.
- Joyce Reischutz asked “What is the current interest rate”?
 - Evan Katz: Current 5 year rate for higher quality borrowing is 1.5 percent; Will go out to auction, lowest bidder lends the money through a third party.
- Brenda Magno asked “What happens after the RSC informs the Board of Selectmen?”
 - George Frost: Board of Selectman could call a Special Town Meeting to disallow the borrowing. If Board of Selectman put into writing they will not contest the decision, RSC can move forward with the borrowing, otherwise must wait 60 days.
- If money is borrowed by March, 2011, Architect can be on board by the Spring of 2011. By the end of FY 2012, architect drawing can go out to bid.
- Region will pay interest out of the FY 12 and FY 13 budgets.
- Superintendent Frost informed the RSC that an updated Statement of Interest (SOI) for the Green Repair Program was submitted to Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) for the Page Hilltop School. Priority items included roof repair, windows, and the boiler system.
 - Diane Sullivan of MSBA encouraged the district to submit their application before the early October deadline.
 - The required local officials including the Ayer Town Administrator and the Ayer School Committee chair certified the application.

Health Insurance Update

- Ayer Superintendent Frost stated the next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 7, 2010, 3:30 pm at the Shirley Middle School Library.
- Joyce Reischutz will attend as the Regional School Committee representative.

Technology Consultant

- Shirley Superintendent Reid received a list of recommended technology needs, from Focus Technology, to bring the regional infrastructure up to date. Mr. Reid is waiting for the final report from Focus.

Ongoing Business

Webmaster Update

- Superintendent Hamel met with the current web design subcommittee, Dan Gleason and Pat Kelly, to review the applicants for the temporary webmaster position. The subcommittee agreed to appoint Ayer High School teacher, James Ryan.
 - Superintendent Hamel met with Jim Ryan and discussed moving away from the Transitional website to a more functional Regional site.

Web Design Update

- Superintendent Hamel stated the web design subcommittee members are:
 - Mary Beth Hamel, Interim Superintendent
 - Pat Kelly, RSC Vice Chair
 - Dan Gleason, RSC Member
 - Jim Ryan, AHS Teacher
 - Troy Fanton, AHS Teacher
 - Sarah Gibbons, PHT Staff
 - Tammy Valliere, PHT Staff
 - Al Vachon, Elementary/Middle School Parent

Administration Organization/Search Committees

- Ayer Superintendent presented the Superintendent Search Committee News Release that will be circulated via email agents, the Ayer Public Spirit and the Shirley Oracle.
- Superintendent Frost is recommending the School Committee Chair and Vice Chair select the search committee members.

Strategic Plan Update

- Superintendent Hamel stated Dr. William Connors, of Ribas Associates, will be working with the District to develop the strategic plan.
- Superintendent Hamel stated volunteers will be sought to form a strategic planning committee to help develop the mission statement and goals.

Policies Plan Update

School Committee Section A & B of Policy Manuals

- Superintendent Hamel stated the need to change under the Wellness Policy: “Students in grades K-8 will have the opportunity...” to “All students will have the opportunity...”
- Brenda Magno stated “Ayer High School” should be replaced with “Ayer Shirley Regional High School.
- Joyce Reischutz requested holding ADF Wellness Policy for further review/discussion.
- Dan Gleason requested holding ADA for further review/discussion.
- Jim Quinty requested holding AD for further review/discussion.

Motioned by Dan Gleason; Seconded by Pat Kelly to approve second reading, holding sections AD, ADA, ADF with corrections in ACAB, pages 1 and 2. Unanimous Vote

District Naming Update

- Pat Kelly informed the committee of the District Naming survey results.
- Ayer Shirley Regional School District – 293 votes (77%)
- Nashaway – 48 votes (13%)
- Shayer Regional School District – 21 votes (6%)
- Nashoba Village Regional School District – 17 votes (4%)

Motioned by Pat Kelly; Seconded by Dan Gleason to follow the lead of the people surveyed and name the region Ayer Shirley Regional School District. Unanimous Vote

New Business

Transportation Payment Process

- Bill Plunkett updated the committee on developing an operational procedure:
 - The transportation provider, Dee Bus, will invoice the region.
 - Business Office will send assessment invoices to the Town.
 - The region will pay Dee Bus from the regional warrant once check has been received.
- The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) is requiring a paper trail for transportation reimbursements; assurance that the region is authorizing payments.
- Procedure will be vetted with DESE – Mr. Plunkett will draft a memo for the next meeting.

Citizens Request

- Frank Mastrangelo presented the concern of having proper medical coverage at after school sports. He has been an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) for 20 years, as well as an athletic trainer for 26 years.
- EMT's do not have "return to play" protocols to follow; athletic trainers are responsible for an Emergency Action Plan.
- Athletic trainers obtain a 4 year degree certification; can recognize, diagnose, and provide rehab care.
- Dan Gleason asked "What is the best practice at other schools"?
 - George Frost: The need is there; depends on the size of the school/program; larger schools tend to have an athletic trainer on staff.
- Pat Kelly: Will take it under advisement, put on a future agenda to discuss further.

FY '12 Budget Information

- Superintendent Frost stated he, Superintendent Hamel and Superintendent Reid have begun overseeing the budget process.

Communications

Letter from Massachusetts Association School Committees (MASC)

- Acknowledge waiver of membership fees for fiscal year 2011

Policy News from MASC

- Bullying Prevention and Intervention, Facebook and Social Networking Sites policy updates

Massachusetts Association of Regional Schools October 12, 2010 meeting Agenda

Ayer Shirley Middle School (ASMS) Newsletter dated September 24, 2010

Public Service Announcement from David Maher

- Town wide yard sale October 9, 2010

Future Agenda Items

- Athletic Trainer Discussion

Future Meetings

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| • October 20, 2010 | Shirley Middle School | Library |
| • November 2, 2010 | Page Hilltop Elementary | Professional Development Room |
| • November 17, 2010 | Shirley Middle School | Library |
| • December 7, 2010 | Page Hilltop Elementary | Professional Development Room |
| • December 15, 2010 | Shirley Middle School | Library |

It was moved and seconded to enter Executive Session to discuss negotiation strategy only to return to open session to adjourn. Roll call: Mr. Prescott-yes, Mr. Kelly, Mr. Quinty-yes, Mr. Gleason-yes, Mrs. Reischutz and Mrs. Magno-yes. Unanimous Vote - Meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

It was moved and seconded to leave Executive Session and return to open session to adjourn at 9:38 p.m. Roll Call: Roll call: Mr. Prescott-yes, Mr. Kelly, Mr. Quinty-yes, Mr. Gleason-yes, Mrs. Reischutz and Mrs. Magno-yes. Unanimous Vote

Mr. Prescott called back to order the regular session at 9:38 p.m.

Moved, seconded and carried to adjourn at 9:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Amanda U. Lewis