

AYER SHIRLEY REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Page Hilltop Elementary

Professional Development Room

Tuesday, November 2, 2010 7:00 p.m.

In attendance:

Robert E. Prescott, Chair (S)
Patrick W. Kelly, Vice Chair (A)
James Quinty, Secretary (S) *{Arrived at 7:09 pm}*
Daniel W. Gleason, Member (A) *{Arrived at 7:12 pm}*
Brenda Magno, Member (A)
Joyce Reischutz, Member (S)

Others in attendance:

Mary Beth Hamel, Superintendent (AS)
George B. Frost, Superintendent (A) *{Left at 7:56 pm}*
Malcolm P. Reid, Superintendent (S)
Evan Katz, Business Manager (S)
William J. Plunkett, Director of Administrative/Business Operations (A) *{Arrived at 8:02 pm}*
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 7:05 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

- Regional School Committee Minutes from October 20, 2010

Motioned by Joyce Reischutz; Seconded by Pat Kelly to approve October 20, 2010 meeting minutes. Unanimous Vote

Warrant

- None

Comments from the Public Concerning Items on the Agenda

- None

Superintendent's Report

Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) Update

- After discussing the appropriate language to be used for the Ayer Shirley Region borrowing funds for the feasibility study with MSBA, Murphy, Hesse, Toomey and Lehane, and Bond Council, Superintendent Frost presented the committee members with the proper motion verbage.
- Jim Quinty: "I believe the funding source should be different from this decision; it should go through the town meeting process".

Motioned by Pat Kelly; Seconded by Dan Gleason to authorize the Ayer Shirley Regional School District to appropriate the sum of seven hundred fifty thousand (\$750,000) dollars for a feasibility study for an addition to and/or a renovation of the Ayer Shirley Regional Middle/High School, 41 Washington Street., Ayer, MA 01432, said sum to be expended under the direction of the Ayer Shirley Regional School Building Committee, and to meet said appropriation the Ayer Shirley School Committee, contingent upon to the approval by the registered voters who vote in a special election to approve the incurring of \$750,000 of debt under M.G.L. Chapter 71, Section 16, Subsection (n), or any other enabling authority, is authorized to borrow said sum; that the Ayer Shirley Regional School District acknowledges that the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) grant program is a non-entitlement, discretionary program based on need, as determined by the MSBA, and any costs the Ayer Shirley Regional School District incurs in excess of any grant approved by and received from the MSBA shall be the sole responsibility of the Ayer Shirley Regional School District, and that the amount of borrowing authorized pursuant to this vote shall be reduced by any grant amount set forth in the Feasibility Study Agreement that may be executed between the Ayer Shirley Regional School District and the MSBA.

Bob Prescott - Yes; Pat Kelly – Yes; Dan Gleason – Yes; Joyce Reischutz – Yes; Brenda Magno – Yes; Jim Quinty – No. Motion Carries

Health Insurance Update

- Evan Katz stated the Group Insurance Commission (GIC) attended the last health insurance meeting.
- The benefits team will meet with Minuteman Nashoba Health Group (MNHG) at their November 18, 2010 meeting.
- They team will also meet with representatives from Massachusetts Inter-local Insurance Association.
- The groups (administration and union) are making good progress.
- They hope to have a joint decision by January 1, 2011.

Technology Consultant Report

- Michael Thibeault and Deb Cutter spoke of the current technology infrastructure.
 - Shirley's infrastructure is a little better than Ayer's; Ayer infrastructure is comprised of equipment manufacture in 1997. Some equipment has ceased to be manufactured since 1999.
- The proposal from Focus Technology will allow creation of a secure, reliable environment with unlimited growth potential, and a limited 12-15 year liability warranty.
- Mike and Deb will need to configure new equipment before installation and are hoping to install new hardware during the winter break.

FY '12 Budget

- Evan Katz presented a high level draft spreadsheet that illustrated what the assessments would have been to the member towns in FY 11, given certain assumptions, had the district been regionalized.
- The spreadsheet lists the total expenditures for region and anticipated revenues. The difference or remaining is the balance to be assessed.
- The analysis compares the assessment by formula and by current resources.
- This comparison indicates that the “gap” between the amount Shirley should be assessed by the formula and the amount they have available through resources has actually increased from \$460,000 to \$550,000 as a result the gap has decreased.

Ongoing Business

Web Design Update

- Superintendent Hamel stated the next website design subcommittee meeting will be Wednesday November 3, 2010 at 6:00 pm in the Page Hilltop Professional Development Room, all are welcome to attend.

Administration Organization/Search Committees

- Superintendent Reid stated the 15 member superintendent search committee has been formed and will begin scheduling meeting dates/times.
- The Superintendent advertisement will go out November 3, 2010 with an application deadline of December 3, 2010.
- Superintendent Hamel stated the solicitation for the High School Principal Search Committee has gone out to all staff, high school students, and to both the Ayer and Shirley communities.

Strategic Plan Update

- Superintendent Hamel stated she is looking for School Committee representation, from Ayer and Shirley, as well as a general education teacher to serve on the strategic planning committee.
 - Brenda Magno (Ayer) came forward, and Joyce Reischutz (Shirley) may be available. Ms. Reischutz to confirm if available.

Policies Plan Update

School Committee Section E & F of Policy Manuals

- First reading of section E and F.

New Business

Massachusetts Association of School Committees Resolution (MASC)

- Joyce Reischutz will be the Ayer Shirley Regional School Committee delegate at the MASC conference November 3, 4, and 5, 2010.

Motioned by Joyce Reischutz; Seconded by Brenda Magno to approve the 7 resolutions as proposed by the MASC 2010 resolutions. Unanimous Vote

Communications

- Ayer Shirley Middle School Newsletter Dated 10/22/2010
- BrainsHarkGrant Award Notification

Future Meetings

- November 17, 2010 Shirley Middle School Library
- December 7, 2010 Page Hilltop Elementary Professional Development Room
- December 15, 2010 Shirley Middle School Library

Motioned, by Joyce Reischutz; Seconded by Pat Kelly and carried to adjourn at 9:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Amanda U. Lewis