

AYER SHIRLEY REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
Shirley Middle School
Middle School Library
Wednesday, December 15, 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 7:05 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

- Regional School Committee Minutes from December 7, 2010
 - Page 4 was resubmitted to the committee, reflecting the removal of the “roll call” double entry.

Motioned by Joyce Reischutz; Seconded by Dan Gleason to approve December 7, 2010 meeting minutes with the change noted. Unanimous Vote

- Ayer Shirley Regional Executive Session Minutes December 7, 2010 – Not for Immediate Release

Motioned by Dan Gleason; Seconded by Pat Kelly to approve December 7, 2010 executive session meeting minutes. Unanimous Vote

Warrant

- Evan Katz presented:
 - December Payables
 - December Payroll

Comments from the Public Concerning Items on the Agenda

- Pat Lynch reserved the right to speak on Agenda 6a – FY 12 Budget Update

Superintendent's Report

Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) Update

- Superintendent Frost presented two documents relating to the February 5, 2011 Special Election with the language that has been vetted with legal council, bond council, MSBA and shared with the Ayer and Shirley Town Clerks.
 - Warrant for Special Election to the registered voters of the Towns of Ayer and Shirley
 - Ballot Question
- Superintendent Frost stated the town clerks offices have requested the Regional School Committee vote to approve the precise language of the ballot and question as presented.
- Superintendent Frost stated there would be two public informational nights regarding the special election vote (1 in Ayer, 1 in Shirley).
 - Shirley information night: Tuesday, January 18, 2011, 7 pm at the Shirley Middle School
 - Ayer information night: Wednesday, January 31, 2011, 7 pm at the Ayer High School

Motioned by Dan Gleason; Seconded by Pat Kelly that the Ayer Shirley Regional School Committee accepts the special election Ballot Question as presented. Unanimous Vote

Health Insurance Update

- Superintendent Frost stated the last meeting was November 18, 2010; the group met with representatives' from Minuteman Nashoba Health Group (MNHG) and Massachusetts Inter-Local Insurance Association (MIIA).
- The group will meet next on December 16, 2010 to discuss plan design; timeline for the request for proposals (RFP's)

Technology Update

- Superintendent Reid stated the final element of the technology start up package is the phone system. Mike Thibeault and Deb Cutter have been working with four vendors on the design of, estimates for, a new/functional phone system.
 - The Technology administrative team have received quotes of \$50,000, \$52,000, \$70,000, and \$100,000.
- Superintendent Reid stated the Technology administrative team have made a recommendation to move forward with a basic, but functional system from Valley Communication.
 - Valley Communication is on the state bid list
- Mr. Reid also stated all the technology infrastructure expenses, to date, have come out of the non operational, grant funded monies – not tax dollars.
 - Originally, \$177,300 had been allocated to technology/infrastructure from the ARRA funds (grant money).
 - \$70,400 is being spent on infrastructure
 - \$23,500 towards Unifund lease & disaster recovery system
 - \$50,000 estimated phone system purchase

- Balance of \$33,400 from original \$177,300 allocation.

Ongoing Business

FY '12 Budget

- Superintendent Reid and Evan Katz provided additional information to assist in the budget development process that addressed questions about the projected budget amount and estimated deficit.

Administration Organization/Search Committees

- Superintendent Reid stated the 31 Superintendent applicants have been narrowed down to 10 semi finalists.
 - The Superintendent search committee will interview the 10 semi finalists the first two weeks in January and present three to five finalists at the January 19, 2011 regional school committee meeting.
- Superintendent Reid requested the committee discuss the final interview process.
 - What interview questions would the committee like to ask
 - Who will do the reference checks
 - School Committee Member → School Committee Member
 - Superintendent → Superintendent
 - Teacher → Teacher
 - Parent (PTA member) → Parent (PTA member)
 - Would the committee like to invite the candidates to spend a day in the district
 - Would the committee like to visit (as an individual or a team) the candidates district
- Bob Prescott requested a checklist be generated for the January 4th meeting to discuss these tasks, and assign roles.
- Superintendent Frost stated the brochure/invitation to apply for the High School Principal will be advertised on January 3, 2011; the next principal search committee meeting is scheduled for January 11, 2011.

Policies Plan Update

School Committee Section G & H of Policy Manuals

- Second reading of section G and H.
 - Joyce Reischutz requested sections GBD, and GBEA be put on hold
 - Superintendent Hamel stated section GBEB is still on hold
 - Dan Gleason requested to replace the word “company” with “district” in policies GBJ, GCF, and GDF
 - Superintendent Frost stated there is no longer a “Fringe Benefit Policy”. Benefits are referred to in the collective bargaining contracts, and stated the “Refs: Fringe Benefit Policy 2001” should be removed.

Motioned by Pat Kelly; Seconded by Dan Gleason to accept second reading of Section G and Section H with amendments noted. Unanimous Vote

New Business

- None

Other Topics for Discussion Not Reasonably Anticipated 48 hours in Advance of this Meeting

- None

Communications

- The Massachusetts High School Graduation Initiative (HSGI) Competitive Grant Opportunities – Overview 2010-11 School Year
 - Districts with high schools with drop out rates exceeding the state average in school year 200-2009 are eligible to apply for 1 - 3 grant programs beginning with school year 2010-2011.
- Invitation from Patrick Murray Inaugural Committee dated 12/6/10
 - Eight graders Sarah Gibbons (Ayer) and Zachary Winslow (Shirley) were chosen from the Ayer Shirley Regional School District to participate in Governor Patrick's Project 351, a day of community service in Boston on January 8, 2010

Future Meetings – 7:00 pm

- First Tuesday of the month, in Ayer
 - Page Hilltop Elementary Professional Development Room
- Third Wednesday of the month, in Shirley
 - Ayer Shirley Middle School Library

January 4, 2011	Page Hilltop Elementary	PD Room
January 19, 2011	Shirley Middle School	MS Library
February 1, 2011	Page Hilltop Elementary	PD Room
February 16, 2011	Shirley Middle School	MS Library
March 1, 2011	Page Hilltop Elementary	PD Room
March 16, 2011	Shirley Middle School	MS Library

Motioned by Pat Kelly; seconded by Dan Gleason and carried to adjourn at 9:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Amanda U. Lewis