

SCHOOL COMMITTEE ACTION NOTES

"SCAN," issued by the Superintendent's Office in conjunction with the School Committee, is designed to inform staff members and interested others of matters discussed and actions taken by the Jamestown School Committee at its most recent meeting. SCAN does not represent meeting minutes.

JAMESTOWN SCHOOL COMMITTEE BUSINESS MEETING: DECEMBER 16, 2010

Consent Agenda: The committee approved payment of bills; the minutes of November 18 and December 2, with revisions; and the appointments of Jo Ann Robitaille as part-time state reporting agent (3-6 hours weekly) and Cheryl Henselder as part-time transportation adviser (as needed, up to 10 hours weekly).

Correspondence

Letters received:

- **From Rodney Bowley, Director of Beth's Quest**, a request to address the health and wellness committee and/or school committee to provide information on Lyme disease prevention and related curriculum materials available free of charge to schools. The principals and school nurse will review the materials and make a recommendation to the school committee.
- **From Robert Rocchio, Managing Engineer/Traffic Engineering**, a response to Superintendent Marcia Lukon's request for improved signing in the vicinity of the crosswalk on North Road at Watson Avenue. Mr. Rocchio indicated that the maintenance division will install new fluorescent school crossing signs at the crosswalk and at both approaches to the crosswalk. In addition, maintenance will install a "reduced speed ahead" sign in advance of the 25-mph speed zone.

Old Business

Food Service Update: The school committee reviewed Sodexo's year-to-date -- and three-year -- sales figures. The committee remains concerned about the decrease in Lawn participation and will continue to monitor the numbers carefully. Principal Almanzor reported that the December menu, which features (healthy versions of) menus requested by the student focus group, is proving popular.

FY12 School Budget: The superintendent asked school committee members for their expectations for the Dec. 20 joint meeting with the town council. The committee agreed that the meeting is not intended for discussion of specific budget areas but rather will set the tone for the upcoming budget season.

New Business

Formation of JESPA Negotiating Team: Ms. Kaiser and Ms. Held volunteered to serve on the negotiating team for the next JESPA (Jamestown Educational Support Personnel Association) contract.

North Kingstown Tuition Contract: In response to a request from the North Kingstown School Committee, the Jamestown committee approved extension to Jan. 15 of the January 1 deadline for notifying North Kingstown if Jamestown will not be sending additional students to NKHS and vice versa if NK cannot accept additional Jamestown students. Previously, the committees had extended

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the deadline from Nov. 1 to Jan. 1 to allow the two communities to complete tuition contract negotiations.

High School Tuition Request: Upon recommendation by the superintendent, the committee voted-- based on special consideration for the education of the requesting student --to waive terms 1 and 2 of its policy on criterion for public high school vouchers. The committee then approved the request of Joan Jordan to allow her grandson, Michael Jordan, a junior at Chariho High School, to continue to attend the school through the completion of his senior year (in accordance of criterion 3, 4, and 5 of the policy). As per the policy, Jamestown will not be responsible for transporting the requesting student. Ms. Kaiser commended the superintendent for doing the necessary research to achieve a solution that is in the best interests of the requesting student.

Information and Proposals:

Superintendent's Report: The superintendent received notification from Chief Tighe that background checks will now be conducted through the Attorney General's office. Parents wishing to volunteer in the school will now incur a \$5 charge for the background check. Families eligible for free and reduced lunch may apply for a fee waiver. The superintendent reported that before the change in procedure, 230 parent volunteers were checked through the Jamestown Police Department and that these checks are good for three years. • Dr. Lukon also reported on the Dec. 7 flu clinic and thanked the administrators who helped organize and run the clinic. • Dr. Lukon, Principal Almanzor and school committee member Julia Held attended a presentation by Ken O'Connor on "Tackling the Grading Dilemma." All agreed that the presentation was thought-provoking and raised many grading-practice questions that the district must address as Jamestown adopts the curricula and assessments aligned to the new common core standards.

Principals' Report: The principals reported on the Grade 6 trip to Alton Jones; the success of the December parent conferences; the well-received 5th/6th grade and 7th/8th grade band concerts; concerts in both schools by the RI Philharmonic; the annual Young Shoppers Club sponsored by (and benefiting) the PTO; a professional development workshop on "social thinking" attended by the principals and select teachers; and a recent Ipad workshop attended by both principals and tech specialist Samira Hakki (at which participants received Ipads).

Committee Reports:

Lawn School Improvement Team: The group discussed the district's use of a variety of strategies to ensure that all students are being challenged.

Melrose School Improvement Team: Sub-committees of SIT met and will reconvene as a group in January.

SELAC: The group reviewed the results of the statewide parent survey and discussed conducting an in-district parent satisfaction survey.

North Kingstown High School: The NK School Committee elected a chair, Dick Welch, and co-chair, Kim Page; recognized NKHS all-state musicians; voted to share costs with the town of an independent energy audit (the committee had voted previously not to participate in the Washington Regional Planning Council ESCO); voted to hire an outside firm to review the possible consolidation of the school and town IT departments; and voted to withdraw from SORICO (Southern Rhode Island Collaborative).

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SORICO: The SORICO board is exploring leasing or selling the building. Member districts have agreed that they can work together (without a facility) on projects such as implementation of Race to the Top initiatives. Members will be liable for building/operation costs not covered by lease income; they will also benefit from the equity realized if the building is sold. Three districts have withdrawn as members of SORICO. Ms. Kallfelz **will speak with South Kingstown School Department's** lawyer to learn the reasons that committee was advised to withdraw from the collaborative.

Legislative: No report.

Facilities: No report.

Wellness: No report.

Policy: The sub-committee will meet to the need for policy revision in advance of the January Title I compliance review.

The next workshop meeting of the Jamestown School Committee will be on January 6. The next business meeting will be on Thursday, January 20. All open meetings begin at 7 p.m. in the Lawn Avenue School Library.