

## **SCHOOL COMMITTEE ACTION NOTES**

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### JAMESTOWN SCHOOL COMMITTEE WORKSHOP MEETING: DECEMBER 2, 2010

#### New Business

*Update from Janet McCarthy, School Liaison Officer, Naval War College:* Ms. McCarthy updated the committee on her efforts during the past year, which included working closely with the legislature to secure passage of the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children. Ms. McCarthy provided the committee with military enrollment figures by RI county. She also reported that school social worker Mark Allard recently attended a two-day training session on the transition process; and she complimented the Jamestown administrative team on its collaboration to resolve transition issues for military families; and on the **school's development of a two-part registration procedure** to ensure early notification of the planned enrollment of military children.

*Update from Gwenn Spence including Report on Upcoming Title I Compliance Review and Statewide SELAC Meeting:* Director of Student Services Gwenn Spence informed the committee that Jamestown will be the subject of a Title I compliance review conducted by the Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE). Ms. Spence reported that she received notice of the January 12 review date three weeks ago and that the process includes a long checklist of preparatory tasks required prior to the review. Federal regulations require that compliance reviews be conducted every five years. • Ms. Spence also reported on SELAC activities. She attended, along with four Jamestown parents, the recent statewide SELAC meeting; Jamestown SELAC is planning a February forum on bullying, designed to help special needs students understand and accurately interpret unexpected behavior; and the group is planning an April yoga workshop for special needs children.

*Purchase of K-6 Leveled Bookroom:* The school committee voted unanimously to use stimulus funds to purchase K-6 leveled reading materials from Scholastic Classroom and Library Group. The reading materials, termed a **"bookroom," will allow teachers to pull** appropriate reading materials for their students based on reading level scores. The books, to be housed in a resource room at Melrose, will cover a variety of high-interest topics in the areas of non-fiction, realistic fiction, informational text, fantasy, and traditional literature. Ms. Spence and Principal Melucci reported that they expect the bookroom materials to be on-site, labeled and ready for use by January.

Workshop Discussion Topic- Preliminary Budget Considerations: The committee responded to **Superintendent Marcia Lukon's questions about committee preferences** for budget design and parameters. The superintendent explained that the budget process will be complicated by the need to present line items in the newly required Chart of Accounts format. Committee members shared their support for a zero-based budgeting process; a budget that maintains programs that align with the strategic plan and contribute to student achievement; and a budget that provides the resources

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identified by the administration as necessary for the implementation of the new statewide regulations and evaluation requirements. The superintendent provided a timeline for budget development that includes budget workshops on January 27 and February 3, 15 and 17.

*The next meeting of the Jamestown School Committee will be on December 16 at 7 p.m. in the Lawn Library. A joint session with the Town Council will be held on December 20 at Town Hall, time to be announced.*