



School Committee

MINUTES OF THE CHELSEA SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING March 31, 2011

Approved April 28, 2011

The Chelsea School Committee met on Thursday, March 31, 2011, in the City Council Chambers, City Hall, 500 Broadway, Chelsea.

Members Present: Chairman Ed Ells, Vice-Chairman Rosemarie Carlisle, Michael Caulfield, Lucia Colon, Ramona Foster, Ana Hernandez, Morrie Seigal, Lisa Lineweaver and Melinda Alvarado-Vega.

Also Present: School Superintendent Dr. Thomas S. Kingston, Deputy Superintendent Dr. Mary Bourque, Executive Director Administration & Finance Gerry McCue, Human Resources Director Tina Sullivan, Delegate from the City Council Deborah Washington, Student Representative Ugo Cvjetan and School Business Manager and Clerk to the School Committee Barbara Martin.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance:

School Committee Minutes: The minutes of the February 17, 2011 meeting were unanimously approved.

Public Comment: Mary Ferriter, president of the Chelsea Teachers' Union (CTU) noted that the lines of communication are open and she has been in week long talks with members of the negotiating committee. Ms. Ferriter reported that the CTU will be proposing additional changes.

Beverly Hajazi, teacher said that the classroom teacher is there day in and day out and deserve their pay. She called upon the City to prioritize education and asked them to come close to what other cities and towns pay their teachers.

Report of the Superintendent of Schools:

Student Achievement: Dr. Bourque reviewed the District Indicators for Success. Indicator 1 district-wide attendance was down slightly in February at 92.7% compared with 93.6% the month prior. Indicator 11 shows 14 dropouts this month, which is a

concern. Administrators and teachers have been meeting with the students to work on exit plans. Overall there are 26 fewer dropouts this year to date, compared to last year. A copy of the report is enclosed and forms a part of these minutes. Questions and discussion ensued.

Next, Dr. Bourque discussed the IOWA Test. Dr. Bourque noted that the test was required by the state until 1997. The district continues testing grade 3 students because it is useful in predicting student performance in vocabulary, reading comprehension, and spelling. The Curriculum & Instruction Subcommittee, at a later date, will discuss whether to continue using the IOWA test. A copy of the presentation is attached and forms a part of these minutes. Questions and discussion ensued.

Personnel Report: Dr. Kingston commended the personnel report to the record.

Enrollment Report: Dr. Kingston commended the Enrollment Report to the record. As of March 24, 2011, the district-wide enrollment was 5,693 students, including 113 students in out-of-district placements. There are three Chapter 768 students that Chelsea Public Schools is financially responsible for through June, 2011.

Other Matters: Dr. Kingston reported that the Art Show was very well attended and that some of the art will be hung at City Hall, the MITC building and at other local businesses throughout the city.

Dr. Kingston reminded everyone that Monday April 18 is Patriot's Day and the start of spring vacation. He also noted that Energy Secretary Stephen Chou visited Chelsea High School and spoke to the students.

Dr. Kingston reported that Commissioner Chester from the Department of Elementary & Secondary Education (DESE) will be visiting Chelsea High School next week as a result of an invitation from the District.

Next, Dr. Kingston noted that requested modifications to the District's Anti-Bullying Policy have been forwarded to the DESE.

Lastly, Dr. Kingston spoke about the proposed budget, noting that it is a plan and is not set in stone and the administration will take all suggestions seriously.

New Business: Ms. Foster moved to adopt the following new textbook for the 2011-2012 school year: *Communicating for Success*, by Hyden, Jordan and Steinaure, published by Thomson Southwestern. Questions and discussion ensued. On a voice vote the motion was approved unanimously.

Mr. Caulfield moved to forgo School Choice for the 2011-2012 school year. Questions and discussion ensued. On a voice vote the motion was approved unanimously.

Ms. Colon moved to approve the proposed school budget for FY2012 in the amount of \$63,929,950.00. Questions and discussion ensued.

Chairman Ells called for a roll call.

1	Edward Ells	Y
2	Michael Caulfield	Y
3	Ramona Foster	Y
4	Ana Hernandez	Y
5	Rosemarie Carlisle	Y
6	Lucia Colon	Y
7	Melinda Alvarado-Vega	Y
8	Lisa Lineweaver	Y
9	Morrie Seigal	Y

Having nine votes in the affirmative the motion was approved.

Mr. Ells moved to adopt the following resolution: Be it resolved that the School Committee endorse a recommendation that the net savings incurred as a result of lower than expected health insurance rate increases, and any other savings yet to be realized, be used to reduce the impact on school department employees,

and be it further resolved that any future action to resolve the gap between revenue and expenses be accomplished with minimal disruption to the District's instructional priorities. Questions and discussion ensued. On a voice vote the motion was approved unanimously.

Committee Reports:

- **Budget & Finance:** Ms. Colon reported that the subcommittee last met on February 15, 2011. A copy of the report is attached and forms a part of these minutes.
- **Curriculum & Instruction:** Ms. Vega reported that the subcommittee last met on February 17, 2011. A copy of the report is attached and forms a part of these minutes.
- **Student Representative:** Mr. Cvjetan reported that the baseball, softball and track teams have all started their seasons. He also noted that a boy's volleyball club has been established and hopes that next year it will be a varsity sport. Mr. Cvjetan also reported that the Internship Program has been very successful. Lastly, he thanked the upper-classmen for their help with the Peer Tutoring Program.

Announcements: Ms. Foster donated *The Care & Keeping of You* by *Valorie Lee Schaefer*. Mr. Ells volunteered for the Book of the Month for April.

Dr. Kingston announced that the Chelsea High School Drama Club will be performing *Hairspray* on April 8-10th.

Ms. Carlisle asked for a moment of silence on memory of Mark Moschella, former Chelsea High School hockey coach.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Recorded by

**Barbara A. Martin
Business Manager
Clerk to the Chelsea School Committee**