

SUMMARY OF WALPOLE SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING - March 1, 2010

- The Superintendent and the School Committee (SC) recognized Coach Lee Delaney for thirty years of dedicated coaching to Walpole and for his recent induction into the Massachusetts State Soccer Coaches Association Hall of Fame.
- Student Representative to the SC, Ali Gallivan, reported on recent activities at Walpole High School.
- Superintendent Lynch presented an update on the FY '11 budget.
- **At this point the School Department has a \$2.1 million gap.**
 - **Level 1** cuts totaling \$500,000 were approved by SC last month. The specific cuts have not been voted.
 - **Level 2** cuts totaling \$1.0 million will be presented to the SC March 15.
 - **Level 3** cuts totaling \$600,000 will be presented by early April.
- If the SC were to rely on layoffs alone, the District will lose 3 teachers per grade K-8 and 3 teachers per department at the High School. Class sizes would approach and/or exceed 40 students per class.
- The SC prefers to seek several avenues to balance the budget. Without efforts to identify other means to reduce the budget, layoffs would bear the brunt of the cuts. Personnel represent over 80% of the budget. Health insurance premiums alone are up approximately \$500,000.
- We continue to pursue state, local and federal revenues and employee concessions.
 - Chairman Desmond indicated that at the Joint Meeting of the SC, Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee a unanimous consensus was reached to ask our legislators to publically support an amendment to the "Municipal Relief" package. This will provide cities and towns the same health insurance plan design flexibility enjoyed by state government and the private sector.
- The SC voted to approve a self-funded Elm Street School field trip as follows:
 - Grade 3 to visit the RISDI Museum on Wednesday, March 31, 2010.
- Superintendent Lynch updated the SC on the Strategic Plan Meeting. A total of 54 individuals participated, including: parents, students, teachers, town officials, citizens, principals and central office administrators. Each of the four subcommittees developed Actions Plans for the school year 2010-2011 to present to the SC on March 15.
- Superintendent Lynch updated the SC on the Walpole High School principal search. He indicated there will be site visits for the two finalists this week. A decision will be forthcoming by March 15, 2010.
- Superintendent Lynch mentioned it has come to his attention that the NEASC High School Accreditation report was not publicized as it should have been. At the next SC meeting, Assistant Superintendent Jean Kenney and Interim Walpole High School Principal, Dr. Sambuceti will give an update on the status of the NEASC.
 - The NEASC Commission looked at seven standards and they commended Walpole High School on six of these standards. They placed the School on "warning" status for Standard #6, Assessment of Student Learning. This is a non-public status. That means it is not published and has no impact on student college applications. It is a one year opportunity for the high school to strengthen "Standards on Assessment of Student Learning". A committee has been developed at the high school to address the shortcomings. We expect to be out of warning status shortly. The Superintendent indicated that the NEASC letter will be posted on the Walpole Public Schools website.
- Attorney Dan Brown presented suggested changes to the Policy Manual. Chairman Desmond reported that a Policy Subcommittee met on Monday, February 22, 2010. Mr. Desmond indicated that the Subcommittee went through all the major sections and based on discussions

and recommendations of Attorney Dan Brown they would like to have a vote to accept the housecleaning and legal policy updates. More review and discussion is needed from the Subcommittee regarding the remaining policies.

- Mrs. Gallivan mentioned the “Rachel’s Challenge” program to be held at Walpole High School on Tuesday, April 6, 2010. It is an anti-bullying program that will first be presented to the students during the day and then to parents that evening. This program is named after Rachel Scott, who was the first Columbine victim. Her family began this challenge because they learned through reading Rachel’s journals that she had a dream to start a chain reaction of kindness and that is what the foundation is built upon. All parents and community members are invited.