

## **BAC MEETING MINUTES 11/18/08**

The meeting began at 7:10 in the Samoset Boardroom Annex.

The following members attended: Gary Carruthers, Liz Morrison, Linda King, Joe Accurso, Paul Killian, Ed Hudson, Jim Mayers, Mike Isernia, Larry Nastramo, Vinny Lopreto, Bill Logan and Regine Remy. From the district office were Dr. Charlie Murphy, Ron Sacks and Bruce Singer. From the Board of Education were Jon Siegel, Rob Scavo, Jim LaCarrubba and Tony Falco.

The following topics were discussed:

- 1) Nine new Budget Advisory Committee members were welcomed to the committee.
- 2) Gary Carruthers reviewed with all the members the rule that if you miss 3 meetings in a row the BOE has the right to remove you from the committee. Some members wanted to take a revote on that policy. The vote was 4 to change the rule and 7 not to change the rule. The rule will remain in effect.
- 3) The committee discussed term limits for its members. The original discussion 2 years ago was for a 3-year limit, but because so many members have left and new members have come the decision is now being revisited. The committee along with Dr. Murphy and the BOE members discussed different scenarios. The committee took a vote, 8 – 3 in favor of no limit. Recommendations were given to the BOE to review and they will notify the committee with their decision.
- 4) Gary Carruthers addressed an allegation that the committee was apposed to bringing in new members. This allegation was not true and has been cleared up.
- 5) The committee reviewed its responsibilities so the new members have a better understanding of how the committee works. The committee requested direction from the BOE members for this year. The following bullet points were items of discussion.
  - What the committee does as a whole.
  - Areas of the budget the BOE would like the committee to focus on.
  - How the committee presents ideas to the BOE and how the BOE makes decisions on those ideas.
  - Basic review of how to read the budget.
  - Items the committee has looked at in the past and why.
- 6) Gary read the mission of the BAC committee from the member application.
- 7) The committee was advised that all requests for information from the district office should be sent to Gary and he will then forward the request to the appropriate person.
- 8) There was a request to stagger meetings between Tuesdays and Wednesdays in an effort to accommodate any members that are not always free on the same night. An effort to do this will not happen till after the holidays.

- 9) The committee agreed meetings will be held 1-2 times per month at the Samoset Boardroom Annex. Meetings will be limited to 2 hours between 7 and 9 pm.
- 10) There was an update made of all members email addresses and phone numbers.
- 11) Dr. Murphy along with Bruce Singer, Ron Sacks and the BOE members discussed the process the district will have to go through due to the possible reduction of \$7 million dollars in State Aide. The BOE is considering several areas of cuts to help reduce the budget. They are reviewing the budget section by section and are open to any suggestions the BAC may have to help reduce the budget for this year and next year. Dr. Murphy explained the difficulty of mid year cuts, how the district has to prioritize what is important and the need to do more for less.
- 12) Dr. Murphy and Bruce Singer explained the State Aide percentage, how to compare budget to budget and how a contingency budget works.
- 13) Dr. Murphy along with the BOE has made the following suggestions for the committee to look at.
  - Look at this year's budget as a starting point for cuts in next years budget.
  - Review revenue streams. Grants, foundations, Community Education programs, Childcare.
  - Contract transportation in and out of the district.
  - Security.
  - Pool usage
- 14) The district would like the BAC to work on priorities and make cut suggestions that will not affect the core education system. They would like suggestions for the 09/10 budget by Jan/Feb.
- 15) 2 new members resigned before starting the committee, so the alternate status for members James Mayers and Larry Levy have been removed and they are now active members. The committee now has 16 active members and no alternates.
- 15) Ron Sacks will review how to read the budget for the new members at the next meeting.

The meeting ended at 9:15 and the next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday Dec 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00pm  
In the Samoset Boardroom Annex.