

BAC MEETING MINUTES 3/1/07

The meeting began at 7:30 in the Sagamore library.

The following members attended: Gary Carruthers, Pete Kersich, Liz Morrison, Marty Ronning, Alan Sacher, Sal Tripi, Frank Christiano, Linda King, Roy Dragotta and Ed Hudson. Also attending and speaking were Ron Sacks, Jill Gierasch and Stephen Shadbolt. There were 2 visitors.

The following topics were discussed:

- Approval of the BAC minutes from the 2/12 meeting.
- The introduction of Roy Dragotta who was an alternate member who has now become an active member.
- The committee had several questions in regards to the new teacher-coaching program proposed in the 2007/08 budget. Jill Gierasch, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction, Staff Development and Assessment, attended the meeting to address those questions. Ms. Gierasch talked about the theory of coaching and why this approach has been considered over the past 2 years. She explained how the district already has 1 teacher coaching at the elementary level and has worked extensively with K-2 grade. She also shared the knowledge gained by observing other districts that already have this program. Ms. Gierasch gave an overview of how the program will include staff workshops, improving teaching practices, coaching, sharing research, tracking programs, focus groups and creating a partnership between teachers and coaches. Ms. Gierasch also explained that this program would be in addition to the mentoring program already in place. The committee expressed concerns about future expansion to this initial investment without a documented plan on measuring the programs success.
- Stephen Shadbolt, Transportation Supervisor, addressed the committee in regards to questions they had about transportation lines on the proposed budget. Mr. Shadbolt covered mechanics, clerical, overtime, buses, district vehicles and the Towne Bus

contract. He also explained the benefits of adding a dispatcher. Ron Sacks also talked about transportation in regards to budget costs and the process of adding new Sachem buses.

- The committee again addressed Hall Monitors in the elementary schools.
- There were questions discussed about custodial overtime, the increased cost of custodial supplies and the cost of having to use green products. The BAC will be requesting the facilities director to address the committee in regards to these questions. While this was addressed in the past, the committee is still concerned about the level of overtime used within the department.
- The members discussed the purpose of the BAC committee and how they, in regards to the budget, represent the districts tax payers. While the committee agrees that the Superintendent's office has been very supportive and forthcoming with information, the committee feels that the Board should observe more meetings than they have in the past. To date, there has been very minimal Board attendance at the meetings. The committee feels that in order for the Board to understand the needs of the taxpayers, they should observe these meetings and understand what areas concern them. The committee will be making a presentation to the BOE in regards to this matter at the 3/8 meeting.

The meeting ended at 9:55 and the next meeting is scheduled for 3/12/07 at 7:30 in the Sagamore library.