

School Committee
November 14, 2005

I. Call to Order

Mr. Paolillo called the November 14, 2005 meeting of the Watertown School Committee to order at 7:00 p.m. Members present included Ms. Eileen Hsu-Balzer, Ms. Laurie McManus Mr. William Oates, and Ms. Pam Piantedosi. Also present were Dr. Steven Hiersche, and Dr. Stephen Gould. Mr. Quinn and Mr. Messina were absent.

II. Student Advisors

Ms. Hannah Epstein and Mr. Alex Garbier reported on activities at Watertown High School. SATs were held on October 5, 2005. College Fair held on October 27, 2005. The Seniors hosted a Halloween Dance on October 28th. A successful mock evacuation took place and November 11th ended the first term. On November 17th Watertown High School will hold their Night of Excellence.

III. Public Forum

No Public Forum.

IV. Presentation/Discussion

A. Watertown Education Foundation, Inc

Dr. Hiersche announced that this item is rescheduled for the next meeting.

B. Budget Calendar

Dr. Hiersche announced that the following dates be recommended for the budget calendar:

Monday, February 6, 2006	School Committee Presentation
Monday, February 13, 2006	Budget Work session
Monday, February 27,, 2006	Budget Work session
Monday, March 6, 2006	Public Hearing.

C. Status Report on Grant Proposals

Dr. Gould reported that the total of grants awarded to date is \$2,546,728. This is an increase on the entitlement side compared to last year. .

D. Personnel Report

Dr. Hiersche gave a report on personnel.

V. Action Items

A. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes of the following meetings as written:

9/12/05	Regular Monthly Meeting
9/19/05	Subcommittee on Buildings and Grounds
10/6/05	Subcommittee on Policy

B. Approval of Overnight Field Trip – Middle School to Washington, D.C.

Mr. Dan Cedrone, Science Teacher, Watertown Middle School and Mr. J. Kimo Carter, Principal, requested the approval of the School Committee for an overnight field trip to Washington, D.C. from June 5, 2006 to June 9, 2006 for Watertown Middle School eighth grade students. The purpose of the trip is to provide students an opportunity to visit various offices, agencies, and departments of the Federal Government as well as historic sites and monuments that symbolize our democratic system of government. Approximately one hundred and thirty five students have indicated an interest in attending this trip. The itinerary includes, visit the Nations Capital, and tour the White House, Supreme Court, Holocaust Memorial Museum, Memorials, Arlington National Cemetery and U.S. Naval Academy. The projected cost of the field trip is \$450.00.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the overnight field trip.

Approval of Overnight Field Trip – Bronx, NY

Mr. Thomas Wittenhagen, Cross Country Coach requested the approval of the School Committee for an overnight field trip for members of the Cross

Country Team to the Foot Locker Regional Cross Country at Van Cortland Park, Bronx, New York from November 25, 2005 to November 26, 2005. The purpose of the trip is to compete in the Foot Locker Regional Cross Country Championships. The cost for the trip is approximately \$250.00

A motion was made and seconded to approve the overnight field trip.

C. Vote to Declare the Browne School Surplus for Educational Purposes

Dr. Hiersche reported that at the September 12, 2005 Executive Session meeting it was the recommendation of the School Committee that a letter be sent to the Atrium School notifying them of its intent not to renew the lease agreement. The following motion is recommended:

Moved:

That the School Committee of the City know as the Town of Watertown, being currently vested with the care, custody and control of the property known as the Browne School, hereby determines that said property, including the Browne School building and grounds, is no longer needed for school purposes, and further hereby notifies the Town Council of the City know as the Town of Watertown of its intention to relinquish such care, custody and control as of August 14, 2006, and to transfer the Browne School property to the Town, to be held by the Town in the future for such purpose or purposes as shall be determined by the Town Council pursuant to General Laws, Chapter 40, Section 15A. A roll call vote was made with a unanimous affirmative vote.

D. Superintendent's Evaluation Instrument

Ms. Eileen Hsu-Balzer reported that at the October 6, 2005 Subcommittee on Policy meeting, the Subcommittee approved the Superintendent's Evaluation Instrument that would be used in the future. Copies of the Instrument have been forwarded to the School Committee Members. A motion was made and seconded to accept the Superintendent's Evaluation Instrument.

E. Acceptance of gifts

- 1. Watertown High School**
- 2. Watertown Elementary Schools**
- 3. Watertown High School Science Department**
- 4. Watertown Family Network**

A motion was made and seconded to accept the following gifts:

A gift of \$500 from the Watertown Community Foundation to Watertown High School to support the project to connect secondary and elementary school students in the study of Watertown history.

A gift of \$826 from the Watertown Community Foundation to the Watertown Public Elementary Schools to support the CD production of a student-generated “ABCs of Watertown history.”

A gift of \$2,000 from Boston Biomedical Research Institute to the Watertown High School Science Department to support the activities of the Watertown High School Science League.

A gift of \$3,000 from the Silver Tie Fund to the Watertown Family Network.

VI. Reports

A. Chairman’s Report

Chairman Paolillo announced that there will be three new School Committee Members next year and we are losing three valuable members.

B. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Hiersche requested the approval for the daughter of a 7th grade science teacher to attend Watertown High School. Motion approved. Dr. Hiersche reported that the attendance at parent events has increased this year.

C. Next Meeting

Chairman Paolillo announced that the next meeting of the Watertown School Committee is scheduled for Monday, December 5, 2005.

VII. New Business

Mr. Oates requested that the Athletic Advisory Committee present a report to the School Committee at the next meeting. Mr. Paolillo requested that principal’s present a report at the next meeting. Mr. Paolillo reported that the light at the Middle School sign is still on later than it should be.

VIII. Adjournment

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the November 14, 2005 meeting of the School Committee at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie J. McManus
Secretary