

School Board Liaison Report
School Board Meeting 6/6/2016

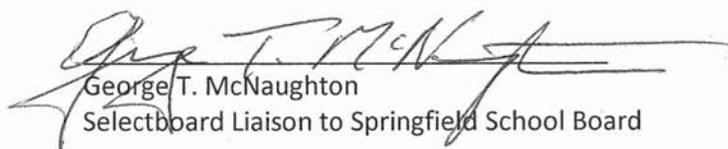
The meeting dealt primarily with the hiring of new personnel, financial matters regarding surplus funds.

Of possible interest to the Selectboard were the following:

- It appears that due to Act 46 that the residential education tax rate will be slightly higher than projected.
- Riverside Middle School appears to have made substantial gains in its proficiency testing.
- The School Board adopted its “Wellness” policy on second reading. I thanked the Wellness Committee for assisting in the drafting of the Health Chapter and invited them to the Planning Commission Meeting in August.
- It appears that Tom Yenneral and Kristi Morris had communication with regards to a drafting an MOU with the Chairman of the School Board and the School Superintendent. Neither the remainder of the School Board or the Selectboard were aware of these discussions until a draft MOU appeared in the School Board Packet.
 - The School Board was advised that anything suggested by Mr. Yenneral and Mr. Morris was strictly on their own behalf and not under the direction of the Selectboard. Having informed the School Board of that, I indicated that I personally had no major problem with the draft, however, I did have some clarification questions and one suggestion which were as follows:
 - I asked what the last two sentences in the section under purposes of the liaison meant. As to the second to last sentence they indicated they had basically no clue, and as far as they were concerned it could be deleted.
 - As to the last sentence they indicated that when there was a formal directive it would be in writing, I indicated that would not really be logistically feasible since Board motions were usually verbal and not available in writing until the minutes were circulated before the next meeting. They seemed to understand that such was not logistically feasible.
 - I also suggested that the fourth preclusion from budget deliberations should be at the option of each board because I suspected that the majority of the Selectboard would in fact be interested in the input from the liaison on various budget items and gave them some pure hypotheticals. The Chairman of the School Board said that what he had intended was that during budget season, their liaison member might not want to attend all our meetings. I indicated, that I understood that but that should not mean that we simply cut the representative off completely. I said I did not have a problem say if the School Board decided they did not want any input from anyone on the Selectboard, but that I “suspected” that a majority of the Selectboard would in fact be interested in input from someone on the School Board during budget deliberations, as Selectboard valued all public input.

- There were two members of the School Board absent, so they decided that they would take the matter up at the next meeting to see what parts of the discussion draft they wanted, or whether an MOU was in fact needed, they saw no particular hurry with regards to adopting an MOU. I advised them that I understood that the MOU would be on the Selectboard Agenda, but that the Selectboard had been having a little trouble getting MOUs discussed of late so I did not know what the Selectboard might do.
- They had been advised by legal counsel to avoid the term "Ex Officio", so I am using the term Liaison.

Submitted electronically from Springfield, this 6th day of June, 2016



George T. McNaughton
Selectboard Liaison to Springfield School Board