

Attleboro Public Schools
Attleboro, Massachusetts
School Committee Meeting
February 3, 2015
School Committee Conference Room - Attleboro High School

Present: David Murphy, Chairman (At-Large); Lori Scales, Vice Chairperson (Ward IV); William Larson, Secretary (Ward II), Dianne Sawyer, (Ward I); Stephen Withers, Jr. (Ward III); Frances Zito (Ward V); Michael Tyler (Ward VI). Julienne Singer (At-Large); James Stors (At-Large).

Administration Present: Kenneth Sheehan, Superintendent; David Sawyer, Assistant Superintendent; Joan DeAngelis, Director of Student Services; Marc Furtado, Director of Finance and Controller; Linda McSweeney, Director of Special Education; Tyler Stowe, Student Representative; and Judy Nelson, Recording Secretary.

The Meeting was called to order at 7:36 p.m. The Chairman led the Committee in the Pledge of Allegiance and noted the meeting was being electronically recorded.

The Committee was asked to remain standing for a Moment of Silence for two individuals of the Attleboro Community that recently passed away: Russ Marchand and Diane Bergeron-Coates. The Committee's extended their sympathies.

Winter Storm Update: The Committee explained the historical background of the calendar and the five days built in to account for unpredictable weather-related cancellations. The Chairman noted as of today the last day of school based on the missed time is June 26th. The administration explained the protocol in place to make a decision to cancel school.

The decision is based 100% on safety of our students. Mr. Sheehan explained the parties involved: Mayor's Office, Department of Public Works, Police Department, and our Property's Manager. The Superintendent also communicates with seven or eight of the surrounding Superintendents. It is important that parents have time to plan accordingly. When asked, it was noted the Property Manager had the buildings cleared and ready to re-open on Thursday. Unfortunately, this was not feasible as the administration was informed that 2/3 of the sidewalks throughout the City had not been cleared. Mr. Sheehan visited all schools today, accessed the areas, and communicated with the Mayor's Office about any and all concerns.

The need to have a contingency plan in place in the event of additional cancellations was noted. The options were discussed: possible time taken from the February vacation, possible time taken from the April vacation; and/or feasibility of Saturdays. The Administration along with the Committee will continue to monitor this situation and the Committee will be kept apprised.

Fee for Services Changes: the proposed policy language incorporating the principle reforms for Policy EEA was summarized. The proposed amended Policy EEA would read as follows:

STUDENT TRANSPORTATION

The safe and secure passage of students from home to school, and from school to home, is the school committee's chief priority with regard to student transportation. In order to provide for such safety, and to ensure the efficient administration of the school district's transportation services, the school committee adopts Policy EEA.

The Superintendent or his/her designee, working with the bus contractor and other administrators as necessary, will be responsible for establishing bus schedules, routes, stops, and all other matters related to the administration of transportation services.

Elementary School Transportation Services

Kindergarten and 1st Grade Students

- Students enrolled in Kindergarten and 1st grade will be entitled to district-funded transportation services.

2nd Grade – 4th Grade Students

- Students enrolled in grades 2 – 4 residing outside of a .5 mile radius from their assigned school shall be entitled to transportation services.
- Students enrolled in grades 2 – 4 residing outside of a .5 mile radius from their assigned school, but within a 2 mile radius from their assigned school shall be considered fee-for-service students and will receive transportation services contingent upon payment of a fee set by the school committee.
- Students enrolled in grades 2 – 4 residing outside of a 2 mile radius from their assigned school shall be entitled to district-funded transportation services.
- Students enrolled in grades 2 – 4 residing within a .5 mile radius from their assigned school shall be designated as walker students and will not be entitled to transportation services. Exceptions for safety purposes to walker designations may be made by the superintendent after consultation with the Attleboro Police Department.

Middle School and High School Transportation Services

- Students enrolled in grades 5 – 12 residing outside of a 1 mile radius from their assigned school shall be entitled to transportation services.
- Students enrolled in grades 5 – 12 residing outside of a 1 mile radius from their assigned school, but within a 2 mile radius from their assigned school shall be considered fee-for-service students and will receive transportation services contingent upon payment of a fee set by the school committee.
 - Middle School and High School Transportation Services (cont.)
- Students enrolled in grades 5 – 12 residing outside of a 2 mile radius from their assigned school shall be entitled to district-funded transportation services.
- Students enrolled in grades 5 – 12 residing within a 1 mile radius from their assigned school shall be designated as walker students and will not be entitled to transportation services. Exceptions for safety purposes to walker designations may be made by the superintendent after consultation with the Attleboro Police Department.

Calculation of Route Distances

The distances contemplated by Policy EEA are pedestrian distances from the home address to the school address. The district will maintain a record of the distances for each address in their transportation routing system.

Length of Routes

All transportation routes to and from the Attleboro Public Schools will be scheduled for 45 minutes or less. The 45-minute window will run from the initial bus stop pick up to the arrival at the school, and from the departure from the school to the final bus stop drop-off, excluding unforeseen or extraordinary circumstances.

Waivers and Exemptions

Students eligible for free and reduced lunch shall be exempt from the fees imposed by Policy EEA. The superintendent may grant other such waivers as required by the educational needs of individual students, and other applicable school committee policies, including but not limited to: Policies EEAA and EEAB.

The Chairman noted the policy language was still at the Policy Sub-Committee level. The administration will provide all the implications of these recommended changes. The Committee will hold a Public Hearing to allow for public comments and/or concerns. The benefit to this new process would be that routes would be in place before the end of the school year; families would be informed via mail about the process and/or if their child was entitled to transportation. There would be no more wait

lists. When a student registers, their transportation eligibility will be based on their residency. The Committee plans to act upon this process in the beginning of March.

The Committee inquired about the effects on private schools i.e. St. Johns and/or Bishop Feehan. Mr. Furtado explained that this would be consistent with the current provisions which are based on the laws. The Committee asked to be updated on the kindergarten registration process. The Chairman plans to have Kindergarten Registration placed on an upcoming Agenda so that the community will be well-informed.

At 8:40 the following motion was made: Motion to convene in Executive Session pursuant to M.G.L. c.30A §21(a) (3) and (4) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the school committee and to discuss the deployment of security personnel or devices, or strategies with respect thereto. The Committee will not reconvene in Open Session:

Roll Call:

Mr. Stors:	Yes
Mr. Withers:	Yes
Ms. Sawyer:	Yes
Ms. Scales:	Yes
Mr. Murphy:	Yes
Mr. Larson:	Yes
Mr. Tyler:	Yes
Mrs. Zito:	Yes
Ms. Singer:	Yes

Vote: 9-0

The Committee will take a brief recess and reconvene in Executive Session: The Open Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

William Larson, Secretary

Attachments:

- Agenda
- Policy EEA
- Proposed Policy EEA
- AACS Disc: 02-03-15