

Attleboro Public Schools  
Attleboro, Massachusetts  
School Committee Meeting  
February 18, 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); James Stors (At-Large).

Absent: Michael Tyler (Ward VI). Julienne Singer (At-Large)

Administration Present: David Sawyer, Assistant Superintendent; Marc Furtado, Director of Finance and Controller; and Judy Nelson, Recording Secretary.

The Meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. The Vice Chairperson led the Committee in the Pledge of Allegiance and noted the meeting was being electronically recorded.

Open Forum: Vice Chairperson Scales explained the guidelines. Open Forum was closed as there were no participants.

Consent Agenda:

Motion to accept a donation in the amount of \$1,387.00 from Chestnut Hill Studios to the gifts/donation budget line of Attleboro High School: Vote: 6-0

Motion to accept a donation in the amount of \$1,800.00 from Absorbent Specialty Products (Erica Vincent) for purposes of athletics and softball: Vote: 6-0

Motion to accept a donation in the amount of \$1,000 from the Feinstein Foundation for deposit into the Studley gifts/donation line: Vote: 6-0

Of note, Chairman Murphy entered the meeting at 7:03 p.m.

Motion to accept the donation of \$20,000.00 to the Attleboro School District by Bristol County Savings Bank: Vote: 7-0

Motion to accept a donation in the amount of \$331.70 from the Wamsutta Middle School Student Council to be deposited into the gifts/donation line: Vote: 7-0

Motion to accept a donation in the amount of \$160.00 from the Benevity Community Impact Fund to be deposited in the Peter Thacher Elementary School gifts/donation line: Vote: 7-0

Motion to accept the attached list of books from the Book Donation's Project for use in the Hyman Fine Library: Vote: 7-0

Motion to ratify approval of a Field Trip Proposal for AHS students to attend the United Nations Conference at the Sheraton Hotel in Boston from 1-29-15 through 02-01-15: Vote: 7-0

Motion to approve the Final Field Trip Proposal for 24 AHS students to attend the National High School Cheerleading Championship in Orlando, Florida from 03-20 to 03-23-15: Vote: 6-0-1 (Stors)

Pursuant to MGL 53A ½ a motion to accept and forward to the Municipal Council for approval the following tangible property items from the Willett PTO: One KDP90 Kawai Digital Home Piano (SN:100N00F30000-G229471) valued at \$1,149; One UMOmeMk2 – Roland 1x1 USB MIDI Interface (SN:411032E92F7E3766) valued at \$39.99: Vote: 7-0

Motion to declare the following item as unrepairable: One FP-8G Roland Digital Piano (SN:BG64159H): Vote: 7-0

Recess: The Chairman called for a recess at 7:03 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 7:06 p.m. The Chairman noted this special meeting was being held to replace previous meetings cancelled due to repeated storms.

Winter Storm Update: The Chairman gave a brief summary of the events to-dated. Assistant Superintendent, David Sawyer, explained the educational impact that occurs when there are repeated cancellations. The decision to postpone the recent scheduled professional development day on Friday allowed for a full-day of instruction. The implications of the cancellations as they pertained to the current school year calendar were explained. As of today the last day of school is scheduled for June 29<sup>th</sup>.

No decision would be made this evening, but the Chairman explained the three (3) possible options: the cancellation of the currently scheduled holiday scheduled for April 3<sup>rd</sup>; cancellation of April vacation; and possible school on Saturdays. It was noted that the decision involves contractual and financial implications as the new fiscal year commences on July 1<sup>st</sup>.

The cancellations may also have impact on the upcoming scheduled MCAS/PARRC testing. The DESE alluded to some flexibility. The Assistant Superintendent explained the Commissioner of Education is scheduled to provide guidelines. The testing schedules are already in place at each building. The administration will monitor closely and keep the committee apprised of any new information.

The operational effects of the storm were addressed by the Director of Finance/Controller, Marc Furtado. The Chairman expressed gratitude to the maintenance department for their work during the repeated storms. Mr. Furtado noted our staff and contracted vendors had the schools ready to open. Mr. Furtado stated at there were no significant effects of the storm. Both Brennan and Wamsutta sustained some minor water damage that is currently being fixed.

The financial implications of the concurrent storms were explained. Mr. Furtado stated to-date between \$150,000-160,000 had been spent on snow removal resulting in a deficit of \$90,000. The City has reached out to the Governor's Office to have these costs included with the request for state relief being offered.

Motion was made to request the municipal government provide appropriate relief to offset the costs expended to-date for snow removal: Discussion: The committee noted the district has a limited budget. The City has avenues to pay for such costs. The Committee noted the district is currently at a deficit of \$90,000 for snow removal costs due to the unprecedented snow fall. Vote: 7-0

The Committee stressed the student safety was a priority. The Committee asked the administration to review the current bus routes and areas surrounding the schools and to map out the "problem" areas experienced due to snow i.e. sidewalks not being cleared. The Committee would like this information before school commences in September.

The Chairman announced the Public Hearing would be scheduled. The purpose of the public hearing will be to provide community members the opportunity to comment on the proposed changes to School Committee Policy EEA governing the fee-for-service transportation program in the Attleboro schools. The proposed policy changes would be effective for the 2015-2016 academic year. The draft language of the policy amendments is available at [www.attleboroschools.com](http://www.attleboroschools.com) and will be considered by the Policy Subcommittee on Monday, March 2, 2015.

MSBA Project: Mr. Furtado explained the next step is for the district to complete preliminary requirements pertaining to local approval and formation of a local school building committee. Upon timely and successful completion of the Eligibility Period requirements, the district becomes eligible for an invitation into the Feasibility Study phase of the capital pipeline, subject to a vote of the Board of Directors. Mr. Furtado stressed how critical the eligibility period is to acceptance and the importance of follow through.

The Committee stressed the importance of this project as part of the updating process of the flagship building to the district. The short and long-term priorities being worked on through the Task Force is important. The district wants to advocate for a top tier 20<sup>th</sup> Century environment for our students. The committee thanked Mr. Furtado for his work with the Mayor on this process.

Bi-County Collaborative Agreement: the amendments were explained and this document has been reviewed by legal counsel: legal counsel noted these amendments conform with the new regulations under the Governance Section of 603 CMR 50.04(1)(a) adopted by the Board of Education in 2013 (attached hereto and therefore made a part hereof).

Motion was made to approve the amended Bi-County Collaborative Agreement as presented: Vote: 7-0

Finance & Budget Report: Mr. Larson briefed the Committee on the January 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting. The following motions were brought forward:

Motion to deem the following four vehicles as surplus; 2007 Freightliner Chassis Bus, 1998 Chevy Cutvan Minibus, 1998 Chevy Cutvan Minibus, and a 1990 Chevy SPOVAN Van: Vote: 7-0

Motion to direct the administration to create an RFP for a district-wide solar program for review at the next Finance & Budget Subcommittee Meeting: Vote: 7-0

Infrastructure and Facilities Report: In the absence of Chairman Tyler, Mrs. Scales briefed the Committee on the meeting held on 2-4-15 at City Hall and noted the Capital Improvement Meeting that was held immediately following with the Mayor and City Council Members.

At 8:32 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. 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
Mrs. Zito:	Yes

Vote: 7-0 - The Open Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

William Larson, Secretary

Attachments:

- Agenda
- Field Trip Proposal: AHS 01-17-15
- Field Trip Proposal: AHS 01-25-15
- Policy EEA
- Proposed Policy EEA
- MSBA Memorandum: 01-14-15
- Proposed Agreement for the Bi-County Educational Collaborative
- List of Donated Books to the Hyman Fine Library
- AACCS Disc: 02-18-15