

Attleboro Public Schools  
Attleboro, Massachusetts  
School Committee Meeting  
February 23, 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 M. Sheehan, Superintendent, David Sawyer, Assistant Superintendent; Marc Furtado, Director of Finance/Controller; Linda McSweeney, Ed.D., Director of Special Education; Tyler Stowe, Student Representative; and Judy Nelson, Recording Secretary.

The Meeting was called to order at 7:16 p.m. The Vice Chairperson led the Committee in the Pledge of Allegiance and noted the meeting was being electronically recorded.

Drama Festival: Pete Tarsi: Mr. Tarsi gave a historical overview of the Drama Festival and the upcoming Drama Festival hosted by Attleboro High School scheduled for this weekend.

Attleboro High School Cheerleaders: Chairman Murphy announced that the Attleboro High School Cheerleaders were named the Hockomock Champions.

Kindergarten Open House: The Kindergarten Open House will be held this Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. at all five (5) elementary schools. If parents have questions, please call their school and/or all information is available @ [www.attleboroschools.com](http://www.attleboroschools.com)

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

Strategic Planning Initiative Update: Lori Scales, Vice Chairperson and David Sawyer, Assistant Superintendent: Ms. Scales thanked all the people who have participated in the process to-date. Mr. Sawyer summarized the process to this point. A draft will be forthcoming. Mr. Sawyer stated the importance of the community as a driving force to this process.

2015-16 Academic Calendar: Leadership Advisory Board: Bill Runey, Principal – AHS and Tricia Martin, Principal – Hyman Fine Elementary. Mr. Sawyer noted explained the process to-date. This proposal is a 2<sup>nd</sup> revision that was comprised following the worst snowfall in recent history. Mr. Sawyer explained the changed perception and explained the theory behind the changes which result in a proposed last day of June 14<sup>th</sup>.

The Chairman explained that what was trying to be accomplished and the importance of not having the students here late in June.

Mr. Sawyer elaborated on the process which resulted in a proposed start date of September 1<sup>st</sup>. This would be Pre-Labor Day; contains two (2) August Professional Development dates; and has a more realistic approach. It was noted that this process involves both contractual and financial implications that are being reviewed at this point. The half-day professional days have not been defined at this time. The professional dates in August provides teachers the ability to implement the practice at the beginning of the school year. There are six ½ day professional dates built into a school year calendar.

The Chairman explained the objectives and approach of the LAB and administrators collaboration. This process balances many different interests resulting in a proposed calendar that will address both contractual and policy related guidelines. Mr. Murphy noted the 2015-16 Calendar will be finalized at a future meeting. The Committee thanked the LAB members for their input.

Special Education Programming Update: Linda McSweeney, Director of Special Education: The Chairman explained the process and concerns to-date. The goal is to keep the committee apprised of any ongoing issues that need to be addressed. Communication needs to be clear and concise.

Dr. McSweeney summarized the review process noting the process had not gone as smoothly as had been hoped. The programs are being reviewed and concerns addressed. It was noted that student's needs are forever changing. Data analysis is being implemented to assist staff members. Student success is the main goal. Dr. McSweeney will continue to review the programs and report back to the Committee at a later date.

The Committee asked Dr. McSweeney to provide an updated list of program and descriptions. This information should be readily available. This should be available for the March 23<sup>rd</sup> School Committee Meeting. The Chairman noted the importance of the reorganization of the special education department. The Committee would like the necessary staffing resources defined from a staffing standpoint.

Policy EEA Transportation: Chairman Murphy explained the proposed changes. 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.

The Committee asked Mr. Furtado to provide the raw data ridership numbers. The Committee would like actual figures and to know how many students these changes will effect.

Mrs. Sawyer stated her concerns with the sidewalks in the Ward I area particularly in the area of Washington Street along Route 1 and 1A. Ms. Sawyer referenced previous e-mails sent to the Superintendent regarding possible safety issues in certain areas. The Superintendent will review these inquiries.

The Chairman noted the snow removal on city sidewalks and street concerns need to be addressed to the City as this area is overseen by the City not the School Department.

Medicaid Funds: Mr. Furtado noted he met with the Mayor earlier today and received information regarding the FY14 Medicaid Funds.

The Meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

William Larson, Secretary

Attachments:

- Agenda
- Proposed 2015-16 School Year Calendar
- AACS Disc: 02-23-15