

Attleboro Public Schools
Attleboro, Massachusetts
School Committee Meeting
April 29, 2015

School Committee Conference Room - Attleboro High School

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

Absent: Lori Scales, (Ward IV);

Administration Present: Kenneth M. Sheehan, Superintendent; David Sawyer, Assistant Superintendent; Marc Furtado, Director of Finance/Controller; Tyler Stowe, Student Representative; and Judy Nelson, Recording Secretary.

The Meeting was called to order at 8:03 p.m. The Chairman led the Committee in the Pledge of Allegiance and noted the meeting was being electronically recorded.

Overarching Attleboro Public School Goals: The Chairman gave an overview of the ongoing process. He commended the Strategic Planning Sub-Group for their commitment.

Assistant Superintendent, David Sawyer summarized the strategic planning initiative and overarching goals. The Four Pillars were explained: Learning; Culture; Engagement; and Infrastructure. The draft overarching goals were read into record (attached hereto and therefore made part hereof).

- APS will place students at the center of all educational decisions through guided planning to achieve personalized goals. (guided, personalized planning)
- APS will improve the quality of education for all students by providing learning experiences that are personalized, challenging, and have real-life value. (quality learning experiences)
- APS will cultivate and extend community partnerships to improve outcomes for students through outreach, collaboration, and reciprocal support. (partnerships)

Mr. Sawyer explained the Strategic Planning Graphic (attached hereto and therefore made a part hereof). The foundation of the process is based on the essential beliefs. The Mission creates a stronger foundation and the pillars and/or action plans are: learning; culture; engagement; and infrastructure which are strengthened by the objectives that create the overarching goals. These umbrellas all fall under the Vision for the future of the District. The Subgroup will continue to keep the Committee updated.

At 8:15 a brief recess was taken. At 8:20 p.m. the Meeting reconvened. The Finance Director, Marc Furtado entered the Meeting.

The School Committee was briefed on, and discussed, the Superintendent's current proposed budget proposals for FY16. This summary was based on a level-serviced budget (see the attached Power Point attached hereto and therefore made a part hereof). Required net school spending costs were discussed along with the administrative service credits received by the City. It was noted that the estimated new district initiatives would cost an estimated 2.9 Million Dollars.

The Director of Finance explained the FY16 Budget proposal summary (see attached graphic breakdown). It was noted that the FY16 Superintendent's Budget was enrollment driven and included the necessary personnel and programs to move the district forward. It was noted that Attleboro's per pupil expenditure is below the state average and relatively low.

The Superintendent explained the summary of requested changes that was broken down by school level and district needs. The budget sequence was discussed. It was noted the final vote of the School Committee comes in June and is based on the appropriation given to the District by a City Council vote. The unique aspects of the school budget were discussed.

The annual budget challenges were discussed. It was noted that the budget crisis cannot be an annual event. The repetitive nature of these discussion warrants systemic reform. It was noted that the FY15 Budget was stretched very thin as evidenced by classroom sizes, unfilled administrative positions, and several other staff and material shortfalls. In response to the fiscal

difficulties a spending and wage freeze was initiated for both administrators and discretionary personnel. The Committee has focused on the strategic planning process incorporating a stricter scrutiny of investments.

After extensive discussion on the value and potential of the components of the proposed budget, the school committee voted to reduce the current proposed budget request by \$370,000 (eliminating three proposed ES assistant principal positions @ \$90,000 each and the proposed position of director of instructional technology @\$100,000).

Motion to eliminate the positions of both the Director of Instructional Technology: Vote: 5-3 (Larson; Tyler; Sawyer)

Motion to eliminate the three proposed elementary school assist principal positions: Discussion: the committee agreed to make the Thacher position a 1.0 and a .5 position at Studley. It was noted this was not definite. Further cuts will most likely occur as the process continues: Vote: 8-0

The Committee will hold a Public Hearing on the Budget prior to the scheduled Policy Meeting on May 11th.

Motion pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A §21(a)(3) the School Committee will convene in Executive Session for the purpose of discussing strategy with respect to collective bargaining as an Open Meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the school committee. The school committee will not reconvene in Open Session:

Roll Call:

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

Vote: 8-0

The Open Meeting adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

William Larson, Secretary

Attachments:

- Agenda
- Preliminary FY16 Budget Information
- Attleboro Public Schools Draft: Vision, Mission, Essential Beliefs
- Strategic Planning Graphic
- AACS Disc: 04-29-15