

Attleboro Public Schools
Attleboro, Massachusetts
School Committee Meeting
June 8, 2015

School Committee Conference Room - Attleboro High School

Present: David Murphy, Chairman (At-Large); Lori Scales, Vice Chairperson (Ward IV), Stephen Withers, Jr. (Ward III); Frances Zito (Ward V); James Stors (At Large); Michael Tyler, (Ward VI).

Absent: Dianne Sawyer (Ward I); William Larson, Secretary (Ward II); Julienne Singer (At-Large);

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

The Meeting was called to order at 7:22 p.m. The Chairman led the Committee in the Pledge of Allegiance and noted the meeting was being electronically recorded.

Rome Boulevard Race: Representatives from Houghton Physical Therapy, Bluefish Swim Club, and Jim Hawkins briefed the Committee on the long-time event; and the funds raised. The representatives presented a \$3,900 check to the School District. The amount to be split: \$1,950 for student athletics fees for those in need; and \$1,950 toward the completion of the maintenance of the William-Dentch Natatorium. The representatives acknowledged their sponsors and the volunteers.

The committee thanked the long-time supporter for their continued contributions to the district.

Motion was made to accept a donation in the amount of \$1,950 from the proceeds of the Rome Boulevard Race to Attleboro High School to be used for athletic fees for those less fortunate: Discussion: None: Vote: 6-0

Motion was made to accept a donation in the amount of \$1,950 from the proceeds of the Rome Boulevard Race to be used for the maintenance/repair work being done on the William-Dentch Natatorium: Discussion: None: Vote: 6-0

Open Forum: The Chairman explained the Open Forum Guidelines. There were no participants.

The Chairman acknowledged the Sun Chronicle's coverage of the impending Superintendent Search. Mr. Murphy summarized the process and reviewing the previous Superintendent search noting the candid discussions, public opportunities for input and outreach. The upcoming process will also include public input and be transparent. The Chairman stated one of the most important roles of the governing body is to appointment the Superintendent of Schools.

Consent Items:

Motion to accept a donation in the amount of \$1300 from the Feinstein Foundation to the Studley gifts/donation line: Vote: 6-0

Motion to accept a donation in the amount of \$510 from the Studley Art Auction to be deposited to the Studley gifts/donation line: Vote: 6-0

Motion to accept a donation of two (2) 42" LG Plasma Televisions with an estimated value of \$250 each; one (1) Sharp LCD television (\$150); and three (3) mounting brackets (\$25/each) for a total donation valuing \$725 to the Willett Elementary School: Vote: 6-0

Motion to declare four (4) 32" JVC CRT televisions that are obsolete as surplus from Willett Elementary School: Vote: 6-0.

Middle School Improvement Plans: Chairman Murphy summarized the building level discussions and plans noting the importance and value of these internal documents.

The Assistant Superintendent, David Sawyer gave an overview of the process in reference to the Mass General Laws stressing the contribution and value of these plans. The plans reflect work in progress and what is really happening in the buildings. Mr. Sawyer thanked the Data and Accountability Coordinator, Jean Dyer for her contributions with these documents as well.

The Building Principals elaborated on the goals and process (see Power Point attached hereto and therefore made a part hereof). The importance of student improving on a whole was stressed. Growth data reflects where the student starts and individual progress. Family and community culture along with professional culture was clarified. The reciprocal learning approach was explained. The value of teacher's individual creativity was discussed.

The Committee commended the process and thanked the principals for their insight.

FY16 Budgetary Contingency Plan: the Finance Director, Marc Furtado briefed the Committee on the budgetary process including the gaps and needs. Mr. Furtado explained the loss of grant revenues and the impacts effecting the budget to-date. It was noted that 98% of the budget is fixed costs contingent on contractual obligations.

The Superintendent reiterated the budget presented was a level-service budget inclusive of contractual obligations. The Superintendent stressed the increased class sizes and elaborated on the effects the remaining cuts would make.

The Committee stressed the importance of community involvement and need to understand the process. It was noted due to the budgetary constraints the district is in danger of regressing and the financial process is not sustainable. The reductions in staff will continue to effect the process. The Committee asked the Administration to keep them apprised of the process of layoff notices and/or any other budgetary impacts.

Special Education Update: The Chairman summarized the ongoing process. The Committee continues to voice concerns regarding special education.

The Superintendent explained the processes to-date updating the Committee on the Special Education Committee. The complexities and intricacies of special education were noted (see attached summary). The new and updated job descriptions were discussed.

The Committee asked the administration to post for the necessary positions and not wait until the job descriptions were finalized. The Committee noted the challenges and problems with the different special education programs/schedules. The Committee stated the importance of no surprises and need for open-communication at all times.

Food Services Contract: The Finance Director explained the proposed Whitsons Contract (attached hereto and therefore made a part hereof). It was noted there would be no increase in lunch cost to the students/families.

Motion was made to approve the Food Services Contract as presented by the Finance Director: Vote: 6-0

Landscaping Contract: The Finance Director explained the background of the bidding process for the Maintenance/Grounds Contract (attached hereto and therefore made a part hereof) noting the recommendation was to go with the lowest bidder. The payment period was schedule down.

Motion was made to approve the Maintenance/Grounds Contract as presented: Vote: 6-0

Sub-Committee Reports:

Policy Sub-Committee; Sub-Committee Chairman Withers summarized the policies and specific changes:

Motion to approve Policy JE: Student Attendance (attached hereto and therefore made part hereof) as presented: Vote: 6-0

Motion to approve Policy: JE-E: Attendance Notifications (attached hereto and therefore made a part hereof) as presented. It was noted this change will create uniformity throughout the district: Vote: 6-0

Policy: JE-E-2: Guiding Principles for APS Attendance Background Information: This policy is now obsolete.

Motion was made to declare Policy JE-E-2 obsolete: Vote: 6-0

Middle School Attendance Notification and Middle School Tardy Notification Schedules: These documents outline the process and will be placed in the Handbooks for reference.

High School Attendance Notification Schedule: This document outlines the process at the high school level and will be included in the Handbooks for reference.

Policy BDE and BDEE: The Chairman summarized the proposed changes that were made to align the policies with the goals created during the Strategic Plan process. These changes will hold sub-committee accountable and allow for tracking of work progress.

Curriculum and Instruction: In the absence of Sub-Committee Chairperson, Julienne Singer, the Assistant Superintendent explained the reasons for the proposed modifications to the Middle School Schedules. It was noted that this will align the middle school grading schedule and structure with the district as the elementary and high school are already on trimester scheduling.

Motion was made to approve the proposed Middle School schedule modifications: Vote: 6-0

Consideration of District-Determined-Measures (DDMs): Mr. Sawyer explained the state regulations changes and timeline for same. The administration recommends aligning this process now to be ready for the timeline involved. Mr. Sawyer elaborated on the pros to implementing this at this time.

Motion was made to endorse the administrations recommendation and timeline for the District-Determined Measures (DDMs): Vote: 6-0

The Meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

David Murphy, Chairman

Attachments:

- Agenda
- Middle School Improvement Plans
- Special Education Team Chair
- Special Education and Student Services Coordinator
- Amendment 3 to Attleboro Public Schools Food Service Amendment
- Agreement – Shady Tree Landscaping of Medfield Massachusetts
- Memorandum: Student Attendance Policies
- Proposed Policy JE
- Proposed Policy JE-E
- Middle School Tardy Notification Schedule
- Middle School Attendance Notification Schedule
- Attleboro High School Attendance Notification Schedule
- Trimester Information
- DCAP Information
- FY16 Proposed Budget
- AACS Disc: 06-08-15