

Attleboro Public Schools
Attleboro, Massachusetts
School Committee Meeting
October 20, 2014
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); Frances Zito (Ward V); Michael Tyler (Ward VI); Julianne Singer (At-Large); James Stors (At-Large)

Absent: Stephen Withers, Jr., (Ward III)

Administration Present: Kenneth Sheehan, Superintendent; David Sawyer, Assistant Superintendent; Linda McSweeney, Director of Special Education; Marc Furtado, Director of Finance and Controller; and Judy Nelson, Recording Secretary.

The Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. The Chairman led the Committee in the Pledge of Allegiance and noted the meeting was being electronically recorded.

A moment of silence was done for Christopher Hutcheon, a student from the Class of 2014 who passed away unexpectedly. The committee offered their condolences to the Hutcheon Family.

Student Recognition: Commended Scholars - 2015 National Merit Scholarship Program: The school committee recognized two members of the Attleboro High School class of 2015 who were recently named Commended Scholars by the National Merit Scholarship Program for having scored in the top 3% nationally on the PSAT: Matthew Girczyc, AHS '15; and Donald Shultz, AHS '15. Mr. Runey explained the process for this commendation. The committee congratulated the students. The students spoke about their school involvement and thanked their teachers and parents.

Open Forum: The Open Forum Guidelines were read into record. There were no participants.

Consent Agenda:

Motion to accept a donation of three (3) NEC L406T3 flat screen televisions with an estimated value of \$900 (\$300/unit) for use at Willett Elementary School from Bank of America: Vote: 8-0

Motion to accept a donation in the amount of \$500 to the 12 Plus Program at the High School from Mayor Dumas: Vote: 8-0

Motion to declare one (1) Canon IR 210S Copy Machine (ID11622531) and one (1) Canon IR2870 Copy Machine (ID11678175) as surplus as they are beyond repair; Vote: 8-0

Motion to approve the Field Trip Proposal for 52 Attleboro High School students, grades 11-12, to attend a tour of the University of Massachusetts Amherst on November 17, 2014, funded by individual students: Vote: 8-0

Around Attleboro - Upcoming Events: Tyler Stowe, SAC Student Representative to the School Committee discussed the upcoming events throughout the district. Mr. Stowe spoke about speaker, Chris Herron thanking him for donating back the fee received for the presentation, doubling the amount for the funeral expenses for Chris Hutcheon.

Presentation: Public Health Briefing: Kenneth Sheehan, Superintendent; Deb Ebert, Health Coordinator; Jackie O'Brien, City Health Nurse, and Jason Parenteau, Facilities Manager: The Committee was briefed on the process in place to help prevent the spread of illness including: cold, flu, and the enterovirus (see attached printout). Mr. Parenteau explained the process in place for maintenance; and noted this is a standard procedure that has been in place for the last five or six years.

Electronic Communications Initiative: Chairman Murphy provided the background for this initiative. Mr. Sawyer summarized the communication plan and participants in this process. Mr. Sawyer noted the different forms of communication: Aspen, Facebook, Twitter, etc. The goal is to have a systemized district-connection. Mr. Sawyer will keep the committee apprised of the process.

Preview – School Committee Spotlight 2: Chairman Murphy noted the planned Spotlight Event involving Technology needs to be postponed. City Council has a conflict with the schedule. A new date will be scheduled. This will be finalized within the week.

Policy: In the absence of Policy Chairman Withers, Mr. Murphy discussed the possible amendments to School Committee Policy EEA, which governs student transportation. Specifically, the school committee continued the discussion that began at the September 15, 2014 Policy Subcommittee meeting on the future of the Fee-For-Service program. This will not effect this year's transportation (see the attached information provided by Finance Director Furtado). Mr. Furtado briefed the committee on the different possibilities. A demographic approach was discussed.

The Committee voiced concerns with the possible changes; and costs involved with this process. The question was posed that if the fee-for-service fee were eliminated what would be the financial implications.

It was noted that the money collected now goes solely to the maintenance of the aging fleet and does not cover the complete costs incurred. Mr. Furtado explained over the next six months a decision needs to be made regarding: what to do with the aging fleet; what capital is needed to own a district fleet; and what would be the costs for vendor provided services.

The Committee noted a previous vote to authorize the leasing process had been brought to City Council for action. Of note, no action was taken by City Council.

The Committee stated their concerns with regard to the process. The administration acknowledged the frustration noting approximately 500 fee-for-service applications and the timing of the deadlines set. The district was also inundated with summer registrations. These processes are being reviewed, along with the fiscal implications involved, and options for improvement.

The Committee stated information needs to be provided in a timely manner so that an informed fiscal decision can be made. The administration will continue to work on this and report back to the Committee at a later date.

Finance and Budget: Mr. Larson stated a meeting was held on October 7th and that there were no motions to be brought forward at this time.

Infrastructure and Facilities: Mr. Tyler reported on the meeting held on October 15, 2014 and noted the Infrastructure and Facilities Subcommittee recently met with representatives from the Flagship Task Force about that group's call for a professional examination of the Attleboro High School campus. The subcommittee discussed the importance of incorporating this need into the district-wide infrastructure and facilities priorities. Mr. Tyler noted the next meeting will be held at the Coelho Middle School. The following motion was brought forward:

A motion to endorse a professional and comprehensive space-needs study of the school district contingent upon identification of an appropriate funding source: Discussion: the committee commended the people involved on the work to-date. Vote: 8-0

Upcoming Subcommittee Schedule: Policy: 10-27-14; Curriculum & Instruction: 11-18-14; Finance and Budget: 11-04-14; Infrastructure & Facilities: 12-03-14

Motion was made to convene in executive session pursuant to M.G.L. c.30A §21(a)(1) to discuss the physical condition of an individual, §21(a)(2) to conduct a strategy session in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel, and §21(a)(3) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation. The school committee will not reconvene in open session.

Julienne Singer:	Yes
Frances Zito:	Yes
Michael Tyler	Yes
William Larson	Yes
David Murphy	Yes
Lori Scales	Yes
Dianne Sawyer	Yes
James Stors:	Yes

Vote: 8-0: Motion passes.

Meeting adjourned at 8:11 p.m. The Committee will take a five minute recess before convening in Executive Session.

Respectfully submitted,

William Larson, Secretary

Attachments:

- Agenda
- Health Printout
- Policy EEA: Student Transportation
- Revised Transportation Policy Analysis
- Field Trip Proposal: 09-30-14
- AACS Disc – 10-20-14