

Attleboro Public Schools
Attleboro, Massachusetts
School Committee Meeting
November 3, 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); Stephen Withers, Jr., (Ward III); Frances Zito (Ward V); Michael Tyler (Ward VI); Julienne Singer (At-Large); James Stors (At-Large)

Administration Present: 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 6:45 p.m.

Motion was made to convene in Executive Session pursuant to M.G.L. c.30A §21(a) (3) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the School Committee. The School Committee will 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
Stephen Withers	Yes
James Stors:	Yes

Vote: 9-0: Motion passes.

The Meeting was reconvened at 7:00 p.m.

The Chairman led the Committee in the Pledge of Allegiance and noted the meeting was being electronically recorded.

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

New/Old Business:

Briefing on the transition of certain Special Education programs to new locations within the Attleboro school system: Linda McSweeney, Director of Special Education and Student Support Services: Chairman Murphy summarized the information being discussed.

Dr. McSweeney gave an overview of the current demographics (see attached Memorandum) and explained that program descriptions can be altered at any time to address the current needs of our students. Instruction in the least restrictive educational setting in which the student makes effective progress is the ultimate goal. In a case where a student is not making effective progress within in a particular program and/or delivery of service, the team will reconvene to discuss program options and/or re-evaluate the student's skills and needs.

Dr. McSweeney discussed the program changes that were made from the 2013-14 School Year to the 2014-15 School Year. The recent changes based on student needs were described. It was noted the Student Support Classroom was previously called the ABLE Program.

The Committee inquired about the process and continued monitoring of these changes; and/or a timeline for these changes to be complete.

Dr. McSweeney stated the process is ongoing, monitoring will continue; and it is the intention of the administration to have these programs up and running within the next few weeks.

The Committee inquired about the progress of the Insights Program. The postings are in process, supports to develop the program are in place, student needs continues to be priority, district staff will assist with the necessary training, and the services at Thacher are currently being assessed. The importance of continued communication as these processes are developing.

Briefing on Massachusetts School Building Authority's visit to Attleboro High School regarding HVAC/Window project:

Marc Furtado, Director of Finance/Controller briefed the Committee on the recent site visit which included the Executive Director of the MSBA, two representatives, the Superintendent, the Facilities Manager, and Mr. Furtado. This project has been applied for several times. The need for window/HVAC repair was reiterated. The MSBA was impressed with the condition of the building for its age. The MSBA process was explained. The MSBA will continue applicant site visits; review the applications; and make a decision between January and March. Mr. Furtado will keep the committee apprised.

Briefing on the implementation of ASPEN X2 information system: David Sawyer, Assistant Superintendent gave a brief summary of the progress with ASPEN since January (see the attached outline). The district has expanded the use of Aspen to manage the district. The improved communication piece, improvements to the security of this program, and the different system integrations were discussed.

The Committee inquired about the limitations to this system. The Administration stated limitations are caused by the current technology in place. As technology advances, the Aspen system will improve and allows for the expansion of utilization.

Update: Chairman Murphy gave an update on the following:

Teamster Local 653 Agreement: The Committee has reached an Agreement with the Teamster Local 653.

Strategic Planning Initiatives: Mr. Murphy announced the planned upcoming meetings and noted an update will be presented in December.

Quarterly Briefing City Council: Chairman Murphy is scheduled to present to City Council tomorrow, November 4th. Assistant Superintendent Sawyer will give a brief overview of the MCAS Scores and Julie Little, AHS Guidance Coordinator, will brief the Council on the Guidance Initiatives.

Consent Agenda:

Motion to accept a donation in the amount of \$80.00 from New York Life to the PTES gifts/donation line: Discussion: None: Vote: 9-0

Motion to accept a donation in the amount of \$18.92 from Coca-Cola Refreshments to the HRES gifts/donation line: Discussion: None: Vote: 9-0

Pursuant to MGL 53A ½, a motion submit to the Attleboro Municipal Council a request for the acceptance of the following tangible property item from Deborah Cerrone: one (1) Magnavox DVD/VCR MWD22054 with an estimated value of \$65.00 to WES: Discussion: None: Vote: 9-0

Pursuant to MGL 53A ½, a motion submit to the Attleboro Municipal Council a request for the acceptance of the following tangible property items: Dictionaries for each third grade student in the Attleboro Public Schools from the Attleboro Elks with an estimated value of \$300: Discussion: The committee thanked the Elks for the continued support and generosity. Vote: 9-0

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes: Motion was made to approve the Minutes from 08-13-14; 08-18-14; 09-08-14; 09-22-14; 10-02-14; 10-06-14; 10-20-14 as presented: Vote: 9-0

Upcoming Subcommittee Schedules: Finance and Budget: 11-04-14; Strategic Planning Sub-Group Meeting: 11-05-14; Strategic Planning Mission/Vision Sub-Group: 11-06-14 & 11-18-14; Policy: 12-01-14; Infrastructure & Facilities: 12-03-14.

Motion was made to convene in Executive Session pursuant to M.G.L. c.30A §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
Stephen Withers	Yes
James Stors:	Yes

Vote: 9-0: Motion passes.

Meeting adjourned at 7:46 p.m. The Committee took a two (2) minute recess before reconvening in Executive Session.

Respectfully submitted,

William Larson, Secretary

Attachments:

- Agenda
- Draft Minutes: 08-13-13; 08-18-14; 09-08-14; 09-22-14; 10-02-14; 10-06-14; 10-14-14; 10-20-14
- Special Education Memorandum
- Aspen Update: 11-03-14
- AACCS Disc – 11-03-14