

Attleboro Public Schools
Attleboro, Massachusetts
School Committee Meeting
November 17, 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); Michael Tyler (Ward VI); Julienne Singer (At-Large); James Stors (At-Large)

Absent: Frances Zito (Ward V)

Administration Present: Kenneth Sheehan, Superintendent; David Sawyer, Assistant Superintendent; and Judy Nelson, Recording Secretary.

The Meeting was called to order at 7:21 p.m. The Studley students led the Committee in the Pledge of Allegiance. The Chairman noted the meeting was being electronically recorded.

Student Recognition: Feinsteins Scholars from the Studley Elementary School – Feinsteins Junior Scholar Sustainability Contest Winners: Bottlecrap Mural: Ms. Hoelske and Ms. Withers were present along with the nine student who participated. The procedure was explained. The students collaborated on the design, researched, and drew symbols that represent the green environment free from pollution. The Committee commended the students and staff and presented each student with a Certificate. (see attached Power Point Presentation)

Massachusetts Association of Schools Superintendents Excellence Award: The Superintendent summarized the students' achievements the background information leading up to the decision to award Sarah Nordberg and Benjamin Wagner (see attached biographical information). Each recipient spoke thanking all involved. The Committee commended the students.

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

Consent Agenda:

Motion to accept a donation in the amount of \$550 from the Attleboro Police Department to be used for a Special Education Field Trip for students of Attleboro High School: Discussion: None; Vote: 7-0-1 (Scales)

Motion to accept a donation of a "Mobiview" tablet valued at \$449 from Dan Breslin from Integrated Technology Inc. to Willett Elementary School: Discussion: None; Vote: 8-0

Motion to accept an anonymous donation of 13 cases of copy paper, two (2) per Attleboro elementary school and one (1) per Attleboro middle school: Discussion: None; Vote: 8-0

Motion to accept a donation of 150 lacrosse sticks valued at \$10/stick; five goalie nets and four goalie sticks valued at \$55/set for a total donation amount of \$1,775.00 from the Attleboro Lacrosse Association to be used at all five Elementary Schools: Discussion: None; Vote: 8-0

Motion to declare the following items as unsalvageable/disposal: Heideberg Printing Press: (Model KORD Serial: 327071); ATF Davidson Super Chief XLK Printing Press (Model XLK-27 Serial: K88X287); and AB Dick Printing Press: (Model 9810; Serial: 6495): Discussion: It was noted this equipment is quite out-date; Vote: 8-0.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes: Motion was made to approve the Minutes from the 11-03-14 Meeting as presented: Discussion: None; Vote: 8-0.

Around Attleboro - Upcoming Events: Tyler Stowe, SAC Student Representative to the School Committee announced that Blue Pride Night will be held on Thursday, November 20, 2014 at Attleboro High School. Parents and community members were encouraged to attend. People were informed to enter through the pool entrance for this event.

Superintendent's 2014-2015 Goals Presentation: Mr. Sheehan broke down the goals into three categories: (see Power Point attached hereto and therefore made a part hereof). Instruction and Learning; Organization and Management; and Public

Engagement and External Relationships. These goals were based in part on the Comprehensive Assessment done a little over a year ago.

Instruction and Learning: The need to maintain the level of academic achievements and focus on improving academic areas for all students was stated. There has been an increase in the ELA population and the goal would be to narrow the ELA and Math achievement gaps for all subgroups as determined by the DESE. Staff members will continue to be encouraged to complete the DESE ELL Training allowing for implementation in classrooms. The need to continue to develop, implement, and monitor the effectiveness of the Academic Coaches, Coordinators, and District Data and Accountability Team as linked to academic improvement was discussed. We will continue to encourage the development of Advanced Placement classes at the high school while bridging the gap with Honors classes. The Common Core standards will continue to be clarified and aligned as directed by the DESE standards. Professional Development will be structured to enhance the education for all students. The administration will continue to develop 21st Century technology through a plan that enhances education for all students. School Improvement Plans will be reviewed and reassessed to evaluate for the development of future plans.

The Committee inquired how data might be assessed with regard to the MCAS versus PARCC. The transitioning of MCAS to PARCC still provides district scores that can be analyzed. The standardized tests are based on the common core standards and this information will be tracked. The process was explained.

The Committee inquired about science at the elementary level and if hands on teaching along with the Math/ELA association methodology would be used.

Mr. Sheehan stated research specific to this tactic states the best way for a student to learn is through hands on experimentation. The science programs are being reviewed and overhauled to meet the needs of students. Mr. Sheehan stressed the importance of certified science teachers.

The Committee inquired as to the percentage of teachers who have completed the ELL training to-date. The exact numbers were not provided, but it was noted that as of last year 1/3 of our teachers were trained. The district keeps a close eye on this process.

The Committee stressed the importance of prioritizing science. A Science Coordinator was planned for, but due to budgetary constraints not allowed for. This continues to be a priority.

Organization/Management: The administration continues to participate in the development of the Leadership Advisory Board (LAB). This will be discussed in detail following this presentation. Mr. Sheehan continues to meet regularly with the AEA Leadership and plans to develop a schedule for regular meetings with other bargaining unit leadership. Mr. Sheehan will continue to visit all schools as part of a mentoring process for all leadership. The administration will continue to support work with our funding partners encouraging continued investment in our students. After School Middle School Programs are being developed as an extension of 21st ideas and topics. This will be presented at a later meeting. Mr. Sheehan will continue to mentor central office administrators meeting on a weekly basis. The importance of the Strategic Plan process was stressed which will allow for a new up-to-date District Plan. The need to analyze and evaluate the entire special education department to increase efficiency, effectiveness and student opportunities was noted. This will allow for the development of a special education continuum of services for our Pre-K -12+. The need to enhance our CTE programs and provide greater opportunities for our students was stressed. The creation of a comprehensive Safety and Security Plan coinciding with the MA Task Force Report was noted; and work has been in progress since August.

The Committee stressed the importance of mentoring administration allowing for long-term administrators throughout the district. The importance of building our administration teams in house was reiterated. The principle behind this allows us to invest within which is beneficial to the system.

Public Engagement: the prioritizing of transparent communication was stressed. The administration will continue to maintain a positive and productive relationship with city officials, media, and the press was stated. The Superintendent will continue to be a visible, accessible, educational leader. We will continue to research effective means of communication which allows for parental engagement along with the community as a whole.

The Committee stressed the importance of communication and the importance the Strategic Plan will provide.

Briefing on the transition from the Human Resources Pilot Project to the Leadership Advisory Board: (see attached LAB Document). Assistant Superintendent, David Sawyer broke down the inner workings of this process. It was noted this process will have a real impact on our student learning process. The historical process of the HRPPP grant process was outlined. The premise is to improve educational outcomes by improving the quality of our educators. Education equals profession is the foundation. Collaboration with our teachers on certain decision-making aspects will allow for positive outcomes. This group will work together to create improved outcomes for our students.

The Committee commented that top-down decision making will allow for long-term sustainable growth. The importance of communication was again stressed.

Subcommittee Reports:

Finance and Budget: An overview of topics discussed at the meeting held on November 4th was provided by Mr. Larson. The next meeting is scheduled for December 9th.

Infrastructure and Facilities: Mr. Tyler provided an overview noting significant milestones were met with regard to the concession stand construction. Mr. Tyler thanked all involved noting the concession stand will be utilized for the Thanksgiving Game on even though not complete. The final stages of construction are upcoming including the plumbing and electrical aspects.

Upcoming Subcommittee Meeting Schedule: The Chairman announced the following: Policy: 12-01-14; Infrastructure & Facilities: 12-03-14; and Finance & Budget: 12-09-14

Meeting adjourned at 8:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

William Larson, Secretary

Attachments:

- Agenda
- SES Power Point
- 11-03-14 Draft Minutes
- Superintendent Goals Power Point
- LAB Outline
- AACS Disc – 11-17-14