

Attleboro Public Schools
Attleboro, Massachusetts
School Committee Meeting
Monday, May 21, 2012 @ 7:00 p.m.
School Committee Conference Room - Attleboro High School
Minutes

Present: Michael Tyler, (At Large), Chairman, Brenda Furtado, (Ward IV), Vice Chairperson, Barbara Crow (At Large), Secretary, William Larson, (Ward II), Christopher O'Neil (Ward III), Frances Zito, (Ward V), Kenneth Parent, (Ward VI), David Murphy, (At Large)

Absent: Teri Enegren, (Ward I)

Also Present: Pia Durkin, Ph.D., Superintendent, Nancy Sprague, Director for Teaching and Learning Excellence, David King, interim Business Manager, Student Representative, Taylor Beland, and Judy Nelson, Recording Secretary.

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m.

Salute to the Flag: Mr. Tyler led the Committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Notice of Electronic Recording: Chairman Tyler noted the meeting was being electronically recorded.

Community Update: School Sponsored Events: Mr. Murphy updated the committee on the upcoming events.

Consent Agenda:

School Choice Public Hearing: Mr. Tyler opened the Public Hearing.

The Superintendent gave her recommendation stating that Attleboro Public Schools should not participate in the School Choice Program for 2012-13 School Year. She noted The FY13 Preliminary Budget will not accommodate the costs for additional staff associated with School Choice; the historical data indicates that the limited availability of seats in the Career and Technical Program yielded minimum interest; and the Attleboro Public Schools risks financial exposures in that once a student is accepted under School Choice she/he remains a student throughout his/her entire school career, thereby incurring additional costs to the district for all mandated special education and/or other services that may be deemed appropriate for that student.

There were no participants. The Public Hearing was closed at 6:50 p.m.

The committee took a ten minute recess and re-opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Community Update: School Sponsored Events: Mr. Murphy updated the committee on the upcoming events.

Student Recognition:

Dr. Durkin commended two (2) Attleboro students: Joseph Kelley and Amanda Schramm who were recipients of the 2013 National Merit Scholarship. Dr. Durkin noted Joe Kelley was unable to attend this evening. Amanda was present with her parents. Amanda loves math and physics and anticipates a career in the mathematics field. Outside of school she dances for a local dance studio. Joe Kelley is active in student council and the Leo Club. Outside of school, Joe currently participates in a group of high school students who are field testing an online electrical engineering course for MIT.

Open Forum: Chairman Tyler explained the guidelines of Open Forum.

Ari Neurenberg a high school student advocating for the Trimester Schedule addressed the committee.

Elizabeth Murphy-Zielinski of Green Drive: was a parent advocating for the trimester schedule. She noted it was a viable alternative. Block schedule no longer works. Ms. Murphy-Zielinski stated how proud she was of the school district. She voiced

concerns with some of the actions of the school committee members. She thanked members for the time and efforts they have put in, but encouraged them to be cautious moving forward.

Lori Scales of Constitution Avenue: Ms. Scales quotes Policy BCA which defines the areas of responsibilities for the school committee members which are: She stressed the priority is the children.

Rebecca Tsevetzis - a parent of a student at Willett spoke about a problem she had been having with her child. The Superintendent and Principal are scheduled to meet with this parent on Friday. The Superintendent will keep the committee updated.

Consent Agenda:

A donation in the amount of \$1,000 from the Bob's Furniture Store for the Coelho Arts Program to be deposited in the gifts/donation fund: Discussion: None: Vote: 8-0

A donation in the amount of \$600 from Sensata Technologies for the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) Expo being held on May 24th at Bridgewater State University – these funds will be used to allow 30 6th Grade Students the ability to attend to attend the Expo: Discussion: None: Vote: 8-0

A donation in the amount of \$135 from Prometrics Inc to support College Board testing at Attleboro High School to be deposited in the gifts/donation fund at the high school: Discussion: None: Vote: 8-0

A donation in the amount of \$250 from CollegeBoard to support College Board testing at Attleboro High School to be deposited in the gifts/donation fund at the high school: Discussion: None: Vote: 8-0

A Field Trip Proposal for one to four Grade 9-12 students to attend the New England Track & Field Championships in Saco, Maine: Discussion: None: Vote: 8-0

New Business:

Superintendent's Recommendation to the School Committee for the vote to approve: David Sawyer as the Assistant Superintendent of Attleboro Public Schools with a three-year contract at an initial salary of \$115,000 for the first contract year 2012-13:

Mr. O'Neil described the process that took place. Mr. O'Neil stated the Ad Hoc Committee approves the candidate. He thanked all involved.

A motion was made to appoint Dave Sawyer to the position of Assistant Superintendent of Attleboro Public Schools with a three-year contract at an initial salary of \$115,000 for the first contract year: Discussion:

Ms. Furtado expressed her concerns after reviewing all the resumes. She expressed concerns with the lack of K-8 experience noting Attleboro's K-12 Agenda.

Dr. Durkin commended Mr. Sawyer's work. She described his experience at different levels and believed he would have no problems with this transition.

Ms. Furtado questioned an expenses amount that had been increased in the contract.

The Superintendent explained the reasoning.

Mr. Larson noted he enjoyed the presentation Mr. Sawyer gave to the Ad Hoc Committee.

Mrs. Zito stated Mr. Sawyer would be a good edition to the Central Office.

Mr. Murphy was not part of the process. He attended the public interviews. Mr. Murphy noted the outstanding job Mr. Sawyer has done. He stressed the major challenges ahead and hoped Mr. Sawyer would help build a bridge between the 8th and 9th Graders in Attleboro.

Roll Call Vote:

Mrs. Zito:	Yes
Mr. Larson:	Yes
Mr. Parent:	Yes
Ms. Craw:	Yes
Mr. Tyler:	Yes
Ms. Furtado:	Yes
Mr. Murphy:	Yes
Mr. O'Neil:	Yes

Vote: 8-0

Mr. Sawyer thanked the committee. Mr. Sawyer is honored to have the opportunity to serve in this position.

Superintendent's Appointment: Principal of Attleboro High School: The Superintendent announced the appointment of Bill Runey to the position of Interim-Principal for Attleboro High School. She briefed the committee on his background and reasons for this decision.

Mr. Runey thanked the Superintendent and Committee for this opportunity.

Superintendent's Transfer: Assistant Principal of Attleboro High School: Joseph Connor: Mr. Connor will be transferred from his Assistant Principal position at Brennan Middle School. She is confident that Mr. Connor will do an excellent job at AHS and allay many concerns about the changes in the district.

Ms. Furtado voiced concern over the transfer. Brennan has had a year of transition with the placement of Mr. Connor and now he will be transferred back to the high school. She questioned the stability.

The Superintendent noted the transfer is at her discretion. She weighed heavily on this decision and believes this is a good move for the district.

Ms. Furtado noted it was her job to voice the concerns of her constituents.

The Chairman noted the school committee has no control over this process. It is at the discretion of the Superintendent.

Mr. Connor thanked the Superintendent and Committee. He looks forward to this new opportunity.

Superintendent's Appointment: Brennan Middle School Assistant Principal: The Superintendent will appoint Glenn Bryant, current dean at Attleboro High School to serve as Brennan's Interim Assistant Principal (taking the place of Mr. Connor). Before becoming a dean at AHS, Mr. Bryant served as a Physical Education teacher at Brennan. Mr. Bryant will be appointed as an Interim Assistant Principal for the year and a full search process will be launched next year to which he will apply.

Mr. Bryant thanked the Superintendent and Committee. Mr. Bryant looks forward to returning to Brennan where he served for almost 15 years.

Mr. Murphy commented on the challenges that remained. He extended his gratitude to all involved.

Mr. Larson felt these moves were a win-win for both schools.

School Choice:

A motion was made for School Committee vote not to participate in School Choice for 2012-2013 School Year: Vote: 8-0

Personnel Report: Ms. Sprague reported one (1) retirement; one (1) resignation; four (4) appointments (see the attached personnel report).

FY 13 Budget Discussion/Final Vote: Mr. Parent led the discussion as this item would fall under the purview of the Finance Sub-Committee (see the attached PowerPoint); Mr. King explained this Power Point was edited to include Slide 12; Additional Funding Priorities as requested at the Finance Sub-Committee Meeting. The additional funding priorities were explained. The total cost of additional priorities is \$350,000. This request would be an increase of 1/2 % over net school spending and would include the committee's priority items. The total budget request: \$62,907, 602.

Ms. Furtado questioned the language under FY13 Budget Priorities: reinstitute "some" after-school opportunities for middle school students.

Ms. Sprague explained the rationale. She explained where the funds were derived from for each middle school. It was noted each school had different needs for example Brennan Middle School has more walkers and requires less funding. Ms. Sprague noted this area contains less than the original amount because of these breakdowns.

The committee asked how the administration prioritizes the after-school activities.

Ms. Sprague explained it was a school-based decision. MCAS grant funded other activities. This decision is at the discretion of the principal as they know the needs of their school.

Ms. Craw questioned Slide 3. She stated the committee has already set this as a priority. This should be an automatic line item.

Ms. Sprague stated the priorities were not determined before the preliminary budget process began.

Mr. Parent explained that the total cost of additional priorities is \$350,000. This request would be an increase of 1/2 % over net school spending and would include the committee's priority items.

A motion was made to approve a total budget request in the amount of: \$62,907,602:

Discussion:

Ms. Furtado questioned Slide 12: Middle School Teacher: \$65,000

Ms. Sprague explained the rationale behind this figure. This figure includes the salary plus the benefits.

Mr. King confirmed this would be an average hire cost.

The mentoring program was discussed. The administration noted certain aspects are mandated by the state. Attleboro has a strong program.

Mr. Parent noted the budget total would be voted on. The committee would then designate line items at a future time. He explained the process to members. Vote: 8-0

New Business:

Superintendent Contract: Mr. Tyler informed the community that the Superintendent's contract has been agreed upon to extend through to June 30, 2013 with the same benefits/compensation defined in the current contract.

Special Education Director: Ms. Furtado voiced concerns about the process. Ms. Furtado requested the committee advertise for a permanent position utilizing the Boston Globe; Providence Journal; and notification to the Association for Special Educators. Ms. Furtado felt the committee should be aware of this extended process.

The administration voiced concerns with the public discussion of this confidential process. The Superintendent explained that School Spring provides a wide range of search mechanisms that involve national searches online.

The Superintendent noted the search committee was committed to do their due diligence. She stressed the importance of time constraints. The interim needs to be brought on board to work with Ms. Martiesian before she exits. The Superintendent explained the time constraints involved due to the Extended School Year (ESY) programs. Ms. Martiesian is currently overseeing this process.

Mr. Parent questioned advertisement in the Boston Globe. He noted a candidate is needed by June 13th to allow the district to move forward with the ESY Program that begins on July 1st. Mr. Parent stated the Superintendent is well versed in Special Education.

Ms. Craw stated concerns with advertising for an interim. She noted the person needs to be able to work with Ms. Martiesian to ensure a smooth transition.

A motion was made to advertise for a Special Education Director in the Boston Globe, Providence Journal and any other advertising source as soon as possible:

Discussion:

Mr. Murphy stated the committee could not fill the interim position and advertise for a permanent position at the same time. Applicants will not be apt to apply for a position that would not be available further down the road.

Mr. Parent voiced concerns with advertising for two positions. He stated the committee needs to focus on the interim position at this time.

Mr. Larson stated the screening committee has not been established for the permanent Director. He cautioned the committee to remain focused on the task at hand.

Ms. Craw felt the advertising would provide a better pool of candidates.

Mr. Parent stated the committee needed to focus on the interim position.

Ms. Furtado felt the committee should be advertising for a permanent Director of Special Education.

Mr. Parent felt if the committee waited until next year, there would be a better pool. This is a tough time to fill this position. Most applicants have already applied and been appointed to position.

The Superintendent asked the committee to focus on the interim position. In November/December a decision could be made. She noted there are currently 17 school districts looking for a Director of Special Education. The Superintendent stated the need to attract a candidate who understands the scope and depths of the programs. She recommended waiting six months to a year before filling a permanent candidate.

Mr. Tyler stated these were valid points.

Ms. Furtado stated the importance of this position. She felt hiring an interim is not fair to the district and the children. Ms. Furtado believed by fully advertising this position could be filled.

Vote: 2 (Furtado, Craw) – 5 – 1 (Tyler): Motion failed.

Finance, Facilities and Procurement Sub-Committee: Mr. Parent reported on the meeting held on 05-11-12:

Sodexo: The motion was made to award to Sodexo a three year contract with two (2) one (1) year renewal options: Vote: 8-0

Notification of bills and warrants:

Warrant: 5BS044: 05-09-12: \$234,479.31

Warrant: 5BS045: 05-16-12: \$307,145.09

The next meeting will be held on 5-23-12 @ 7:00 p.m.

Curriculum and Instruction Sub-Committee: Mr. O'Neil reported on the meeting held on 05-16-12. An overview of the K-8 Programs will be presented.

Policy Sub-Committee: Ms. Furtado reported on the meeting held on 5-14-12. The handbooks changes/edits were explained for the Handbooks School Year 2012-13: A motion was made to approve the 2012-13 Handbooks: Vote: 8-0. The next meeting will be held on 6-11-12 @ 7:00 p.m.

A motion was made to enter into Executive Session, not returning to Open Session, for the purpose of discussing possible negotiations with union personnel:

Roll Call Vote:

Mrs. Zito:	Yes
Mr. Larson:	Yes
Mr. Parent:	Yes
Ms. Craw:	Yes
Mr. Tyler:	Yes
Ms. Furtado:	Yes
Mr. Murphy:	Yes
Mr. O'Neil:	Yes

Vote: 8-0

Meeting adjourned @ 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Craw, Secretary

Attachments:

1. Agenda dated 05-21-12
2. Vote on School Choice – Superintendent's Recommendation
3. School Committee School Sponsored Events
4. Field Trip Proposal – 05-14-12
5. School Committee Personnel Report 05-21-12
6. FY13 Superintendent's Revised Preliminary Budget
7. Warrant – 5BS044 – 05-09-12
8. Warrant – 5BS045 – 05-16-12
9. Changes in Handbooks Memorandum