

Attleboro Public Schools
Attleboro, Massachusetts
School Committee Meeting
Monday, January 7, 2013
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, Dave Sawyer, Assistant Superintendent, Tom Rose, Business Manager, Marisa McCarthy, Director of Special Education and Student Support Services, Keith Drucker, Student Representative, and Judy Nelson, Recording Secretary.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

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

A Moment of Silence was held for the victims in the Sandy Hook Tragedy.

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

Community Update: School Sponsored Events: Chairman Tyler welcomed student representative, Keith Drucker. Mr. Drucker updated the committee on the school sponsored events (attached hereto and therefore made a part hereof).

Open Forum: Mr. Tyler explained because this was the beginning of a New Year, he would the guidelines of Open Forum in full into the record.

Dr. Samrat Ambewdikar – 9 Tennant Way – parent of a child at Hill-Roberts voiced his concerns for safety and need for police presence in each building.

Barbara Cecere – 70 Fairway Drive (see attached handout). Ms. Cecere discussed the issues brought before the committee during the December 10th Open Forum. Ms. Cecere asked the committee to review their policy with regard to hearsay information presented at Open Forum.

Mr. Tyler thanked the participants.

Minutes: A motion was made to approve the School Committee Minutes from the meeting held on 12-13-12 as presented:
Discussion: None: Vote: 7-0

Consent Agenda:

A motion was made to accept a donation in the amount of \$1,217.45 from LaPrade Studio to be deposited into the gifts/donation line for Willett Elementary School: Discussion: None: Vote: 7-0

A motion was made to accept a donation in the amount of \$1,728.41 from LaPrade Studio to be deposited into the gifts/donation line for Thacher Elementary School: Discussion: None: Vote: 7-0

A motion was made to accept a donation in the amount of \$245.00 from New York Life Foundation Donor Jenifer Stromfors to be deposited into the gifts/donation line for Thacher Elementary School: Discussion: None: Vote: 7-0

A motion was made to accept a donation in the amount of \$1,970.32 from LaPrade Studio to be deposited into the gifts/donation line at Hill-Roberts Elementary School: Discussion: None: Vote: 7-0

A motion was made to accept a donation in the amount of \$2,018.61 from LaPrade Studio to be deposited in the gifts/donation line for Coelho Middle School: Discussion: None: Vote: 7-0

A motion was made to accept a donation in the amount of \$962. from the Feinstein Foundation to be deposited in the gifts/donation line for the Studley Elementary School: Discussion: None: Vote: 7-0

New Business:

Superintendent Appointments: The Superintendent briefed the committee on the following appointments and review process:

Mr. Bill Runey – Principal of Attleboro High School: Dr. Durkin noted that parents expressed appreciation for the positive energy Mr. Runey displays, his excellent communication skills, and his deep pride for the school and all it stands for. When she met with the group of 30 students representing all parts of AHS, they shared how “connected” they feel toward him and how accessible he is. Staff believe that, with all the changes that the school is going through, Mr. Runey has combined a balance of both “listening and learning” about life in the school and has led the school well during these changes – trimester, the new evaluation tool, a new administrative team, and the basics of transitioning from his long-term successor. Each of the groups expressed in many ways that he is the person “to take us to the next level.” They have faith in him that his leadership will make the school stronger and help its journey on the path to continued improvement.

Ms. Kate Campbell – Principal of Willett Elementary School: Dr. Durkin stated that she met with the PTO which was very well attended and included parents who had voiced concerns in June when she moved Catherine Zinni to Thacher. Several parents were candid and kind enough to express that, though they were upset at the time, and did not know Ms. Campbell then, they have grown to see and experience what a caring, respected, and hard-working administrator she is. Several commented how they regretted their rushing to judgment back in June and find her very accessible and very much understanding of their children’s needs. The staff has found her “deep in their support” of them and the issues they face in the classroom – whether it be helping with difficult students, building a more positive relationship with families, and collaborating with all of them to keep the track record of Willett moving forward.

Mr. Glenn Bryant – Assistant Principal of Brennan Middle School: Dr. Durkin spoke with over 30 staff members to share their experience of working with Mr. Bryant and how he has acclimated himself to the role of Assistant Principal at Brennan. Mr. Bryant has been a particular presence in the special education classrooms and multiple parents came forward to email her how, though their child may have misbehaved – how Mr. Bryant communicated with them as parents and helped them move through some difficult situations. Mr. Bryant’s respectful tone with all children and their families – has garnered him deep appreciation of his understanding of middle school students.

Dr. Durkin is confident that these three professionals will continue to contribute to the community of each of their schools and make a difference in leading those they are charged with to do the same.

Mr. Tyler thanked and asked the new appointees to come forward.

Mr. Runey praised the vision of the Attleboro district and the powerful leadership team. He thanked the Superintendent for the faith and support. Mr. Runey also thanked Mr. Sawyer for his assistance during this process.

Ms. Campbell thanked Dr. Durkin for this opportunity. She commended the leadership team and their support. Ms. Campbell looks forward to continuing her work at Willett.

Mr. Bryant stated he was grateful for this opportunity. Mr. Bryant enjoys working with the staff and families. Mr. Bryant thanked Mr. Runey his work regarding the 8th Grade transition process.

Mr. O’Neil commended Ms. Campbell. He spoke with parents who appreciate the positive attitude and new energy she has brought to the Willett community.

Mr. Larson thanked all three administrators for their commitment and hard work.

Mr. Murphy commended the Superintendent on the quality of the leadership team she has brought to Attleboro. He commended each administrator on the positive qualities they bring to each position.

Dr. Durkin thanked the committee for their efforts and support during this process.

School Safety Procedures and Policies Update: Pia Durkin, Ph.D., Superintendent, Dave Sawyer, Assistant Superintendent, Jason Parenteau, Facilities Manager, Deb Ebert, Nurse Coordinator:

Chairman Tyler explained that as soon as this tragedy occurred the administration was working with the Mayor, Police, and Fire Department. The administration was present tonight to answer any questions. The Mayor, Chief of Police, and Fire Chief will present at the next meeting on January 28th.

Dr. Durkin stated that there was not a person in the room who was not affected by the Newtown tragedy. She stressed the importance of the relationships between the city/school/police/fire. The Superintendent provided an overview of our current safety procedures and building protocols to help assure families and the community of the systems in place that help ensure the safety of Attleboro's children. Dr. Durkin explained that fire drills and lockdown drills are mandatory. Due to the incident in Newtown lockdown drills will be scheduled more often so that they become routine. Dr. Durkin gave examples of several lockdown incidents that have occurred over the past few years. Dr. Durkin explained that certain information needs to be kept confidential to ensure the safety of the students and staff. Two meetings were held with the Mayor and the Chief of Police. The Safety Plans are continually reviewed.

Mr. Tyler noted that some procedures and protocols cannot be discussed. He stressed the importance of keeping the students/teachers/and support staff safe.

Mr. Murphy asked how the safety information would be communicated.

Dr. Durkin explained that principals have included the safety topic on their PTO Agendas. When a lockdown drill occurs, parents will be informed of this through school connect messages. The Superintendent thanked the parents who called and encouraged a parent with questions or concerns to contact their principal and/or administration. Safety plans are different for all buildings to accommodate the characteristics of the individual buildings. Dr. Durkin stated before this tragedy occurred the high school administration had already decided to increase the lockdown drills due to the trimester scheduling to ensure students were familiar with the process.

Mr. Tyler stressed the importance of people being aware of their surroundings.

Dr. Durkin asked the community to be patient when attempting to visit/enter a building. This might take longer and the person might be asked to identify themselves and/or provide the reason for this visit. The Superintendent stated the building personnel are following protocol. The Superintendent stated this morning she was asked to identify herself when the clerk was unable to identify the person at the door.

Professional Development Update: Mr. Sawyer reported on the events of the two days of system-wide professional development that took place on December 20 and 21 (see attached Professional Development packet attached hereto and therefore made a part hereof). There were 75 different workshops held. Mr. Sawyer broke down topics for example: evaluation system, new frameworks, technology, and the partnership with Sensata to review the new science frameworks that involve engineering.

Dr. Durkin thanked the 450 staff members who participated and reiterated the important partnership the district has with the Sensata Corporation.

Personnel Report: Mr. Sawyer reported three (3) appointments (see Personnel Report dated 01-07-13 attached hereto and therefore made a part hereof).

Committee Reports

Finance, Facilities and Procurement Sub-Committee: Mr. Larson briefed the committee on the meeting held on 12-11-12 (Draft Minutes attached hereto and therefore made a part hereof):

A motion was made to authorize the maintenance department to spend from its regular budget approximately \$4,800.00 from its approximately \$600,000.00 balance to hire an engineering and consultant to inspect the AHS school's filtration system, access of the filtration system, and to provide the school department with some recommendations: Discussion:

Mr. Parenteau informed the committee of the concerns with the pools filtration system losing water. He explained the balancing tank was bottoming out; not processing as much water and filtering, as we thought we should. We found the 8" line was down to 3" due to calcium and sediment build up. Several contractors were contacted. We thought we could clear out the existing pipe and put a PV sleeve in to fix the problem, but this fix would cost approximately \$30,000.00, which would have been absorbed into the maintenance budget. The project was reviewed more thoroughly. It was decided we wouldn't be able to do sufficient

cleaning of this drain line to fix the problem. We looked at replacing the entire line and our lowest quote for that project was about \$69,000.00. The cost put us in the position of tabling the project temporarily. We believed through close monitoring of the filtration system that we would be able to properly filtrate the water. Last summer when the filters were opened to prepare for the drain line project, we saw there was significant deterioration of the interior tank and scaling on the exterior. Both filters were failing by rotting out from the inside. About 6-7 weeks ago, we began to find large amounts of sand in the swimming pool. Jason gave a brief explanation of the failings of the tanks. We have found we aren't able to maintain the pool for any large volume events. We are having challenges keeping the pool open for practices. We need to address these problems before we can use the pool for large volume events.

Mr. Larson noted the age of the equipment and the need for the professional input.

Vote: 7-0

The Superintendent exited the meeting at 7:55 p.m.

Notification of bills and warrants:

Warrant: 5CS023:	12-12-12	\$869,215.75
Warrant: 5CS024:	12-19-12	\$310,477.62
Warrant: 5CS025:	12-26-12	\$ 91,067.89
Warrant: 5CS026:	01-02-13	\$256,586.64

The next meeting will be held on 01-16-13 @ 7:00 p.m.

Curriculum and Instruction Sub-Committee: The next meeting will be held on 01-08-13 @ 6:30 p.m.

Policy Sub-Committee: The next meeting will be held on 01-14-13 @ 7:00 p.m.

Moment of Silence: A Moment of Silence was held for the husband of former school committee member, Jackie Romaniecki and the husband of our City Auditor, Deb Gould. The Chairman noted their thoughts and prayers were with these individuals during this time.

Superintendent Search:

Mr. Murphy explained the survey results have been tallied. The process has been quite time consuming. This information will be combined and a brief summary will be presented at the meeting on January 28th. The purpose of the survey was to gauge the performance of the district as a whole. Over 500 people participated. According to MASC this is a very high response rate. Mr. Murphy thanked everyone who participated in this process.

Mr. Parent entered the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Mr. Tyler thanked both Mr. Murphy and Mr. Larson for their involvement in the survey tallying process. Mr. Tyler noted Mr. Murphy has gone above and beyond during this process. Phase I and Phase II are now complete. Phase III involves the AdHoc Committee. The names of the AdHoc members will be made public at the next meeting. Mr. Tyler thanked the individuals who volunteered. Mr. Tyler stressed the importance of community input during this appointment.

The meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Crow, Secretary

Attachments:

1. Agenda dated: 01-07-13
2. SAC Agenda dated: 01-07-13
3. School Sponsored Events: 01-07-13
4. Draft Minutes: 12-13-12

5. Professional Development: December 20-21-2012 Information
6. School Committee Personnel Report: 01-07-13
7. Finance Sub-Committee Draft Minutes: 12-11-12
8. Back-Up Documentation for Agenda Item – AHS Pool
9. Warrant: 5CS023
10. Warrant: 5CS024
11. Warrant: 5CS025
12. Warrant: 5CS026
13. Kindergarten Orientation; Flier (English/Spanish)