

Attleboro Public Schools
Attleboro, Massachusetts
School Committee Meeting
Wednesday, February 13, 2013
School Committee Conference Room - Attleboro High School
Minutes

Present: Michael Tyler, (At Large), Chairman, 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), Brenda Furtado (Ward IV), Barbara Craw, (At-Large)

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, Sonia Walmsley, Tim Traut-Savino, Denise Stevenson, Julianne Daniels, Laurie Scales, Angela Pereira, Gayle Marr, Catherine Zinni, and Joanne Bradshaw, Recording Secretary.

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m.

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

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

New Business:

Superintendent's Recommendation to the School Committee to vote to approve: Ms. Marisa McCarthy as the Director of Special Education and Student Support Services for Attleboro Public Schools with a three-year contract with the salary for the first year (2013-14) to be negotiated according to the parameters set by the School Committee:

Mr. Tyler turned the meeting over to Dr. Durkin. Dr. Durkin explained that with the help and support of the Chairman a Screening Committee was created. The position was posted on School Spring at the end of January and it is still posted. Mr. Tyler asked Dr. Durkin to convene with the Screening Committee as to their interactions and work moving forward. They met for one and one half hours and individuals came forward very positive about her work. The Screening Committee was concerned that a change could disrupt planned changes. Mr. Tyler listened to the feedback and the Screening Committee asked Dr. Durkin to make this recommendation to the School Committee.

Mr. Tyler explained that when somebody is under a one year contract we always put back the Screening Committee to discern how this person has functioned in the job. Here there was a sense of urgency. The overwhelming majority of comments were very positive as to what Marisa had brought to the City of Attleboro. Mr. Tyler explained the difference between an ad hoc committee and a search committee.

Mr. Tyler stated that Ms. Craw and Mr. Larson were also on the Search Committee. In the absence of Ms. Craw being here, Mr. Tyler asked Mr. Larson to speak. Mr. Larson stated it was his pleasure to participate in the Search Committee. It was evident to him that there was a high level of professionalism to the job and her passion for the job. Marisa is extremely well knowledgeable. Out of 6,000 students 1,000 fall within the realm of special education. It is a pleasure tonight for him to participate in this vote to make this happen.

Mr. Tyler stated that Dr. Durkin's administration has made great effort to keep these special education children here within our school district.

Marisa at this time read a prepared overview of what special education duties she has taken on over the past seven months.

Open Forum - Mr. Tyler explained the guidelines of Open Forum.

Angela Pereira who has three children in the school district, two who participate in special education support, spoke in favor of Marisa McCarthy.

Laurie Scales of 66 Constitution Ave. spoke in favor of Marisa McCarthy.

Gayle Marr, Student Services Coordinator, spoke in support of Marisa McCarthy.

Catherine Zinni, who gave an address of 7 James Street, supports Marisa McCarthy.

At this time the following motion was made:

A motion was made and seconded to go into negotiations with Ms. Marisa McCarthy as the Director of Special Education and Student Support Services for Attleboro Public Schools for a three-year contract with the salary for the first year (2013-2014) to be negotiated according to the parameters set by the School Committee.

Discussion: Dave Murphy stated that it is the right vote and it is also a popular vote. The amount of feedback he has received in support of Ms. McCarthy has been unbelievable. In this instance he has received more telephone calls than about anything else and it has been overwhelmingly positive. It is an honor and a pleasure to be here and take this vote.

Vote: 6-0-0: Motion passed unanimously

Congratulations to Ms. McCarthy. Dave Murphy thanked Mr. Tyler and Dr. Durkin for making this happen.

Finance, Facilities and Procurement Sub-Committee: Mr. Parent briefed the committee on the meetings held on 01-16-13 and 02-06-13:

A motion was made and seconded to purchase a van from Quality Van Sales, Inc. in the amount of \$23,200.00 for use by the Transition Program under grant number 94-142: Discussion:

Chris O'Neil questioned if it was grant funded. Ken Parent answered yes.

Vote: 6-0-0: Motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made and seconded to resubmit the application to the MSBA regarding the SOI for the replacement of the HVAC System at the Attleboro High School: Discussion:

Mr. Parent explained this would upgrade the current system. Mr. Tyler stated no problem with resubmitting the application but noted the need for a backup plan. If the application were rejected, an alternative plan should be in place.

Vote: 6-0-0: Motion passed unanimously.

OTHER: Mr. Tyler spoke of the snow storm "Nemo" and that it has been difficult to return all of the telephone calls regarding the schools closing and the road conditions. He commended the School Department staff with doing a phenomenal job with the conditions.

Dr. Durkin praised Jason Parenteau.

Mr. Murphy requested that Mr. Parenteau receive a certificate of service at future school committee meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Tyler, Chairman

Attachments:

1. Agenda dated: 02-13-13
2. Quality Van Sales, Inc. – Quotation
3. Mass School Building Authority - FY2013 SOI Process Opening
4. MSBA Submission Documents – 01-11-12