

Attleboro Public Schools
Attleboro, Massachusetts
School Committee Meeting
Monday, February 25, 2013
School Committee Conference Room - Attleboro High School
Minutes

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

Absent: Teri Enegren, (Ward I)

Also Present: Dave Sawyer, Assistant Superintendent, Tom Rose, Business Manager, Marisa McCarthy, Director of Special Education and Student Support Services, Analia Cevas-Ferreras, Student Representative, and Judy Nelson, Recording Secretary.

Moment of Silence: Erin Brady-Lee a Special Education Paraprofessional at Attleboro High School who passed away unexpectedly. The administration and committee members commended Ms. Brady-Lee and acknowledged the loss.

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 Search Update: Mr. Tyler introduced the members of the Superintendent Search AdHoc Committee. Mr. Tyler noted Chairman Struminski was on a well-deserved trip to Florida. Mr. Tyler thanked the members for their professionalism and timely completion of the process. Mr. Tyler briefed the committee on the process that took place.

The Vice Chairperson of the AdHoc Committee, Adeline Bee, thanked the committee for the opportunity to participate in this process. Ms. Bee gave an overview of the process that took place, the number of applicants that were involved in the process, and the applicants that were being brought forward. Ms. Bee gave a brief summary of the backgrounds of the AdHoc members.

Mr. Stors gave an overview of the steps that were taken. He thanked the committee for the hard work and documentation that was provided to the AdHoc Committee. Mr. Stors elaborated on the interview process.

Ms. Bee stated two candidates stood out: Dr. Anthony Azar and Mr. Kenneth Sheehan. Ms. Bee thanked the committee for including the AdHoc Committee in this process. Ms. Bee expressed the importance and urgency of moving this process forward in a timely fashion. She encouraged the committee to shorten the current timeline.

Mr. Tyler thanked the AdHoc members. He acknowledged all the hard work this process entailed. The AdHoc Committee has allowed this process to be moved up. Mr. Tyler contacted the two (2) finalists and informed them of their status.

Ms. Furtado thanked the members and noted she looked forward to meeting the two finalists.

Ms. Crow thanked the members for bringing forward the best possible candidates.

Mr. Murphy and Mr. Parent presented the AdHoc members with certificates of appreciation.

Mr. Murphy explained the Quality Assessment Report. He thanked graphic arts student, Danielle Sharples for designing the cover of the report. Her concept included one of hope for the district in the upcoming years. Mr. Murphy noted approximately 700 people participated in the survey process.

A motion was made to accept the Comprehensive Assessment Report in its entirety: Discussion: None: Vote: 8-0.

Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the Attleboro School Committee and the Attleboro Educators Association re: Trimester Schedule: Chairman Tyler explained the process and approval of same. The Implementation Team is working on the process. He thanked Mr. Sawyer and Mr. Rose for their assistance.

Ms. Furtado noted concern with the language in 13 and 13(a) with regard to class size. She read the language into record (a copy of which is attached hereto and therefore made a part hereof).

13. In the event a teacher is assigned a number of students in excess of the class size limitations as articulated in this Memorandum of Agreement, an overage bonus will be paid to the teachers.

The amount to be paid will be fifty dollars (\$50.00) per student per trimester over the limit in the first year of the agreement (2012-2013) and fifty dollars (\$50.00) per student over the limit in the second year of this agreement (2013-2014). Overage will be determined over any 20 day period in a trimester as evidenced by ASPEN.

- 13.A. Middle School Compensatory Time

In the event class size at any Middle School exceeds twenty-eight (28) students, the teacher impacted will be able to leave school early during so-called "PLC time" for a total of two hours during both 2012-2013 and 2013-2014 school years. These early release opportunities will be scheduled with the principal and will be rotated so that not all impacted teachers are released on the same day.

Ms. Furtado noted class sizes impact the classrooms. Ms. Furtado stated with the upcoming budget preparation the committee should keep in mind the need to control the class sizes. We must keep an eye on this and rectify this problem.

Mr. Murphy echoed these concerns. He noted the need to keep the student to teacher ratio as low as possible. This is a shared objective and the committee should carefully monitor this.

Mr. Tyler stated these were good points. He noted that Ms. Craw and Ms. Furtado voiced these concerns previously. Mr. Tyler noted class sizes are enrollment driven.

Mr. Sawyer stated the administration does not want large class sizes. He reiterated that class sizes are enrollment driven which can change throughout the year.

Personnel Report: Mr. Sawyer noted five (5) retirements; three (3) resignations; and one (1) appointment (School Committee Personnel Report attached hereto and therefore made a part hereof).

Ms. Craw commented on the retirement of Ms. Ricker and her dedication to the district.

Ms. Furtado asked if the administration was working on the replacement of Ms. York.

Community Update: School Sponsored Events: Chairman Tyler welcomed student representative, Analia Cuevas-Ferreras who updated the committee on the school sponsored events (attached hereto and therefore made a part hereof).

Open Forum: Mr. Tyler explained the guidelines of Open Forum. There were no participants.

Minutes:

A motion was made to approve the School Committee Minutes from the meeting held on 01-07-13 as presented. Discussion: None: Vote: 8-0.

A motion was made to approve the School Committee Minutes from the meeting held on 01-07-13 as presented. Discussion: None: Vote: 8-0.

A motion was made to approve the School Committee Minutes from 02-13-13 as presented: Discussion: Change the reference date to Wednesday, February 13th: Vote: 6-2 (Furtado, Craw)

Consent Agenda:

A motion was made to accept a donation in the amount of \$771.00 from LaPrade Studio to be deposited into the gifts/donation line for Hyman Fine Elementary School: Discussion: None: Vote: 8-0.

A motion was made to accept a donation in the amount of \$608.29 from LaPrade Studio to be deposited into the gifts/donation line for the Early Learning Center at Thacher: Discussion: None: Vote: 8-0.

A motion was made to accept a donation in the amount of \$1,846.20 from LaPrade Studio to be deposited in the gifts/donation line for Brennan Middle School: Discussion: None: Vote: 8-0.

A motion was made to accept a donation in the amount of \$1,890.70 from LaPrade Studio to be deposited into the gifts/donation line for Wamsutta Middle School: Discussion: None: Vote: 8-0.

A motion was made to accept a donation of three (3) Chromebooks from Donor's Choose to be used in Mrs. Chace's 6th Grade Math/Science classes at Wamsutta Middle School: Discussion: None: Vote: 8-0.

A motion was made to accept a donation in the amount of \$39.60 from Coca Cola to be deposited into the gifts/donation line for Attleboro High School: Discussion: None: Vote: 8-0.

A motion was made to accept a donation in the amount of \$16.42 from Coca Cola to be deposited into the gifts/donation line for Hill-Roberts Elementary School: Discussion: None: Vote: 8-0.

A motion was made to accept a donation in the amount \$1,000 from the Feinstein Foundation to be deposited into the gifts/donation line for Studley Elementary School: Discussion: None: Vote: 8-0.

A motion was made to accept a donation in the amount of \$90.00 from the Booster Club 50/50 to Cheerleading at the High School: Discussion: None: Vote: 8-0.

A motion was made to accept a donation in the amount of \$107.10 from the Booster Club 50/50 to the Class of 2014: Discussion: None: Vote: 8-0.

A motion was made to accept a donation in the amount of \$48.15 from the Booster Club 50/50 to the Class of 2014: Discussion: None: Vote: 8-0.

A motion was made to accept a donation in the amount of \$91.71 from the Booster Club 50/50 to the Class of 2014: Discussion: None: Vote: 8-0.

A motion was made to accept a donation in the amount of \$680.00 from Balfour to the Class of 2015: Discussion: None: Vote: 8-0.

A motion was made to accept a donation in the amount of \$107.10 from the Booster Club 50/50 to the Class of 2016: Discussion: None: Vote: 8-0.

A motion was made to accept a donation in the amount of \$48.15 from the Booster Club 50/50 to the Class of 2016: Discussion: None: Vote: 8-0.

A motion was made to accept a donation in the amount of \$400.00 from the Whitefield Foundation to Cross Country at the High School: Discussion: None: Vote: 8-0.

A motion was made to accept a donation in the amount of \$27.50 from Cartridge Rebate to SkillsUSA at the High School: Discussion: None: Vote: 8-0.

A motion was made to accept a donation in the amount of \$104.40 from the Booster Club 50/50 to Team Up at the High School: Discussion: None: Vote: 8-0.

A motion was made to accept a donation of two (2) computers valued at \$100 each for the Studley Elementary School: Discussion: None: Vote: 8-0.

A motion was made to approve the Field Trip Proposal for 150 8th Grade Students at Coelho Middle School to attend High Meadows in Granby, Connecticut on June 18, 2013: Discussion: None: Vote: 8-0.

A motion was made to approve the Field Trip Proposal for 20 Grade 9-12 High School Students to attend the National High School Cheerleading Championships in Orlando, Florida from 04-05-13 through 04-08-13: Discussion: None: Vote: 8-0.

A motion was made to approve the Field Study Proposal for 16 Grades 9-12 Students to attend the MASC Spring Conference on March 6-8: Discussion: None: Vote: 8-0.

A motion was made to declare the following CTE machines as surplus: (see attached list of machines): Discussion: None: Vote: 8-0.

The committee commended the generosity of the 50/50 Club.

A motion was made to accept a donation in the amount of \$2,400 from the Whitefield Foundation to be distributed in equal allocations of \$300 amongst the five elementary and three middle schools for procurement of books that are available for the use by all students in the respective school building libraries: Discussion: None: Vote: 8-0.

The committee commended the work of the Whitefield Foundation. This foundation turned a tragic event into a positive thing for Attleboro students.

Mr. Larson commented on the inspiring presentation Mr. Feinstein gave to the children. This foundation does special things for the children.

Mr. Larson also commented on the Teacher of Excellence Award in Math and Science received by high school teacher, Pete Tarsi.

Mr. Sawyer noted the district's involvement in the MMSI program has benefited the district.

Mr. Murphy noted the state Drama Festival is March 1st and 2nd.

Committee Reports

Finance, Facilities and Procurement Sub-Committee

Mr. Parent explained the motions from the meetings held on 01-16-13 and 02-06-13:

A motion was made and seconded for approval to reduce the user fee for each student from Bishop Feehan High School by \$25.00 for lack of meets in our pool: Discussion: None: Vote: 8-0.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the RFP and Scope of Work on the re-tube #2-200HP Cleaver Brooks boiler at the Coelho Middle School. Discussion: None: Vote: 8-0.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the disposal of the five vehicles now considered to be off road: Discussion: None: Vote: 8-0.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the 2nd Quarterly Transportation Memo to forward to the City Administration: Discussion: None: Vote: 8-0. Mr. Parent asked Mr. Rose to forward a copy of this to Mayor Dumas and Barry LaCasse.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the setting up of a meeting to determine the criteria decided of the provider of legal services, the methods of advertising to use, and the process of interviewing and selection. (2:1:0) {Larson}:

Ms. Furtado asked Mr. Parent to explain this motion.

Mr. Parent stated the committee would meet to discuss the criteria for a search committee and the process that would take place to review legal services.

Mr. Murphy noted with all the changes in the district, this would be a bad time to change attorneys.

Ms. Furtado stated the importance of knowing what we are paying for. She asked how much counsel is per hour.

Mr. Parent noted current counsel gets about \$225/hour.

Ms. Furtado asked what the contract obligations were to the district for example: do we pay mileage or other fees.

Mr. Parent noted this would set up the parameters for the process and establish a methodology.

Mr. Murphy stated we were in line with state standards. He noted Attleboro benefits from the expertise Attorney Lenox has in this field. If we hired an attorney with less experience it might cost in the end due to the billable hours needed for research.

Ms. Crow questioned where Mr. Murphy received this information from. Ms. Crow stated the need to look to see what is best out there for the district.

Mr. Parent encouraged the committee to vote on the motion on the table.

Ms. Furtado stated the importance of knowing this information from a budgetary standpoint.

Mr. Rose noted according to the M.G.L procurement laws (30b) we do not have to go out to bid because of the uniqueness of these services. He explained the \$60,000 retainer and how the munis reports provided show what expenses are encumbered. Mr. Rose stated this is a delicate area and he noted that an experienced attorney saves a lot of money.

Mr. Tyler asked if this information could be reviewed and provided to him for background information.

Mr. Murphy noted the current lawyer has 22-years experience with Attleboro. Attleboro has six bargaining units. We have had zero losses in arbitration and avoided many arbitration processes all-together.

Ms. Furtado expressed the need to have background information before voting on this motion.

Mrs. Zito recommended holding the motion until questions were answered and information presented in order to make a proper decision.

Mr. Parent noted a yes vote would move the process forward.

Vote: 3-5 (Larson, Murphy, O'Neil, Tyler, Zito) – Motion fails.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the requirement of the School Committee to review legal services and vote to retain the current provider or put forth a search on an annual basis. (2:1:0) {Larson}: Discussion:

Mr. Parent stated the importance of yearly review and noted the committee would be doing their due diligence.

Mr. Murphy stated he did not have an issue with the intention, but questioned that this would send “mixed signals” to the attorney and bargaining units.

Mr. Tyler stated this motion made sense in that the committee would review the services provided and provide constructive criticism.

Ms. Crow noted the need to review this information. Ms. Crow also stated what if Attorney Lenox were to retire. The committee needs to review this information and not just accept it at face value.

Mr. Murphy stated the need to review the line items and the need to get the services paid for. Mr. Murphy did not like that this would obligate a committee in the future.

Ms. Furtado stated in reviewing this information. The committee would know if the vendor was providing services needed and keep the checks and balances in line.

Mr. Larson noted we already do this in a simplistic matter. The committee approves the budget yearly line-by-line.

Mr. O'Neil stated this information is currently reviewed at the Finance Committee level. Mr. O'Neil believed this was an unnecessary motion.

Mr. Parent noted a yes vote would instruct the committee to review this yearly. A no vote would allow the process to remain as is.

Vote: 4-4 (Larson, Murphy, O'Neil, Zito): Motion fails.

Notification of bills and warrants

5CS027: Pay Date: 01-09-13:	\$ 83,966.73
5CS028: Pay Date: 01-16-13:	\$509,714.33
5CS023A: Pay Date: 01-23-13:	\$ 23,359.73
5CS029: Pay Date: 01-23-13:	\$244,474.22
5CS030: Pay Date: 01-30-13:	\$348,913.92
5CS031: Pay Date: 02-06-13:	\$701,183.35
5CS032: Pay Date: 02-13-13:	\$130,184.44

The next meeting will be held on 03-13-13 @ 7:00 p.m.

Curriculum and Instruction Sub-Committee

Mr. O'Neil updated the committee on the meeting held on 01-08-13. He explained the presentation that was provided to the sub-committee on Advanced Placement and Data Usage.

Mr. Sawyer elaborated on the survey findings and the right course of action taking place.

Mr. Murphy noted perhaps a presentation in the future to full-committee would be helpful.

Ms. Craw asked what the surrounding towns do with regard to honors and Advanced Placement offerings. For example: North Attleboro and Mansfield.

Ms. Furtado stated the need to offer the honors courses at the high along with the Advanced Placement courses.

Mr. Sawyer stressed the need for rigorous college preparation. He noted the benefits to the Advanced Placement courses. Research shows students who participate in the Advanced Placement courses are better prepared for college.

Mr. O'Neil explained the unfunded "fingerprint" mandate.

Mr. Sawyer noted Massachusetts is the only state that does not fingerprint. This will be mandatory as of July 1st as part of the CORI process.

The next meeting will be held on 03-05-13 @ 6:30 p.m.

Policy Sub-Committee: Ms. Furtado updated the committee on the two meetings held on 01-14-13 and 02-04-13:

A motion was made to forward the Superintendent Job Description to the Full Committee for approval as presented: Vote: 8-0

The next meeting will be held on 03-11-13 @ 7:00 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Crow, Secretary

Attachments:

1. Agenda dated 02-25-13
2. School Sponsored Events dated: 02-25-13
3. MOA – 01-23-13
4. School Committee Personnel Report – 02-25-13
5. Draft Minutes: 12-19-12
6. Draft Minutes: 01-07-13
7. Draft Minutes: 02-13-13
8. Field Trip Form: Coelho: 01-25-13
9. Field Trip Form: AHS: 01-30-13
10. Field Trip Form: AHS: 02-06-13
11. Surplus List: CTE Equipment:
12. Draft Finance Minutes: 01-16-13
13. Draft Finance Minutes: 02-06-13
14. Draft Policy Minutes: 01-14-13
15. Draft: Superintendent Job Description
16. 5CS027:
17. 5CS028:
18. 5CS023A:
19. 5CS029:
20. 5CS030:
21. 5CS031:
22. 5CS032: