

Attleboro Public Schools  
Attleboro, Massachusetts  
School Committee Meeting  
Monday, March 18, 2013  
School Committee Conference Room - Attleboro High School  
Minutes

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

Absent: Teri Enegren, (Ward I), a Christopher O'Neil (Ward III), and Michael Tyler, (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, Keith Drucker, Student Representative, and Judy Nelson, Recording Secretary.

Meeting called to Order at 7:00 p.m.

Salute to the Flag: Ms. Furtado led the Committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Notice of Electronic Recording: Ms. Furtado noted the meeting was being electronically recorded.

Moment of Silence: A Moment of Silence was observed for Eileen Curtis who worked for Attleboro Public Schools for 39 years. Ms. Curtis was a 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Teacher at Willett Elementary School before her retirement in 2005.

Community Update: School Sponsored Events: Mr. Drucker updated the committee on the school sponsored events (attached hereto and therefore made a part hereof).

Open Forum: Ms. Furtado explained the guidelines of Open Forum. There were no participants.

Minutes: A motion was made to approve the Minutes from 02-25-13 and 03-04-13 as presented: Discussion: None: Vote: 6-0. Motion passes.

Donations:

A motion was made to accept a donation in the amount of \$67.50 from the Class of 2013 to Attleboro High School gifts/donation line: Discussion: None: Vote: 6-0

A motion was made to accept a donation in the amount of \$197.10 from the Attleboro Varsity Booster Club Inc. to the Cheerleaders from 50/50: Discussion: None: Vote: 6-0

Personnel Report: David Sawyer, Assistant Superintendent: Mr. Sawyer noted two (; one (1) resignation; and one (1) appointment (see School Committee Personnel Report attached hereto and therefore made a part hereof).

Finance, Facilities and Procurement Sub-Committee: Mr. Parent noted there was a meeting held on 03-05-13, but there was nothing to be brought forward at this time.

Notification of bills and warrants:

Warrant: 5CS035: Pay Date: 03/06/13: \$894,416.95

Warrant: 5CS036: Pay Date: 03/13/13: \$421,315.75

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 04-02-13 @ 7:00 p.m.

Curriculum and Instruction Sub-Committee: Mr. Murphy updated the committee on the meeting held on March 5<sup>th</sup> (see the attached Draft Minutes attached hereto and therefore made a part hereof). The items discussed were: changes in the Science

curriculum. This presentation dissected the National Standards noting the changes that will be occurring in the next couple of years across the nation. It was noted there will be an incorporation of technology-based curriculum to bring this initiative up-to-date in the workforce today.

Mr. Sawyer noted the new standards are both complex and challenging. He noted this is being done to prepare students for the jobs of the future.

Ms. Furtado asked if this change aligned with the upcoming PARCC testing.

Mr. Sawyer noted at this time they are two separate initiatives that will be brought together down the line.

Mr. Murphy stated this is better in terms of education and will be helpful to educate our students in the fields of the jobs of the future.

Mr. Sawyer stated this will prepare our students for the expectations that will need to be met in two years.

Honors/Advanced Placement: A memo was provided to the sub-committee and full committee in the subcommittee packet which broke down feedback gathered since the last sub-committee meeting. The administration's recommendation is to keep the workload manageable by providing guidelines to our staff and to set realistic expectations for the Advanced Placement courses. The pre-requisite element was discussed.

Mr. Sawyer explained the concept is to have a flexible system that allows our students to make good choices. The 9<sup>th</sup> Grade pre-requisite was put in place to start the process and guide our students to build on their objectives.

Ms. Furtado stated the positive aspects of defining the AP workload. She noted the pre-requisite allows students to prepare for their choices. She also noted the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Algebra course is a plus for students and prepares them for high school mathematics.

Mr. Sawyer explained the pre-requisite allows teachers to set the criteria that a student will need to meet, decide who will do best in what courses, and allows the time to review the student's grades, MCAS scores, and attendance records to give guidance on what range of courses a student would do best in. Mr. Sawyer stated the pre-requisite is inclusive of both Honors and Advanced Placement courses.

Dr. Durkin stated this process will ensure success. It provides our students with the confidence and guidance to succeed. She noted it was not in the best interest of our students to discourage their interest in AP courses.

Ms. Furtado commented on the AP class sizes and how large they are.

Mr. Sawyer noted this is not just AP class sizes. This is something that is being monitored across the board. It is a building-wide concern and is being monitored.

Mr. Murphy noted there will be an AP Potential Presentation on March 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. in the Mini Auditorium.

MMSI Grant: A cost analysis was done and administration has determined that Attleboro will be better served to disassociate itself with MMSI at this time. This is an amicable parting. This program transformed the AP culture and has served Attleboro well. This would have terminated in FY15. This will have no effect on the Advanced Placement Program at the High School.

SMARTS Collaborative: it was noted due to the changes at the state level, SMARTS has asked that this motion be made. This will allow the SMARTS program to disassociate itself with the DESE.

The following motion was brought forward: Motion to approve the termination of the SMARTS Collaborative as a MA DESE Educational Collaborative: Discussion:

Mr. Rose explained the change in classification and noted it was no longer fiscally feasible for SMARTS to continue as a Collaborative.

Mr. Parent asked if the motion should include the reference to the 501c(3) entity language.

It was decided that two motions would be brought forward: the motion already on the table and a second motion which would include the 501(3) language.

Motion to approve the termination of the SMARTS Collaborative as a MA DESE Educational Collaborative: Vote: 6-0: Motion passes.

Motion to recognize SMARTS as a 501c(3) entity and Attleboro will continue to have a working relationship with SMARTS: Vote: 6-0

OCR Guidelines (1.25.13) Administration explained the United States DOE issued guidelines in January for the participation in extra-curricular activities by children with disabilities. It was noted that Attleboro has already been practicing this process will all extra-curricular activities.

The next meeting will be held on 03-05-13 @ 6:30 p.m. Mr. Murphy noted there may be an additional meeting scheduled in April; the date yet to be determined.

Policy Sub-Committee: Ms. Furtado briefed the committee on the meeting held on 03-11-13 (see attached Draft Minutes attached hereto and therefore made a part hereof:

A motion was made to approve the Minutes from the Policy Meeting held on March 11, 2013 as presented: Discussion: None: Vote: 3-0. Motion passes.

Handbooks School Year 2013-14: Ms. Furtado presented the Handbooks for approval for the 2013-14 School: Ms. Furtado noted the minor changes being brought forward.

Ms. Furtado noted the addition of the "cough drop" language in the elementary handbooks. Ms. Furtado noted the addition of the following language at the middle school level: All electronic devices and any item deemed inappropriate to the educational process are prohibited from the classroom and must be stored in student lockers except with expressed permission from the teacher. This language puts the practice into writing.

A motion was made to approve the Handbooks for 2013-2014 with the recommended changes: Discussion: None: Vote: 6-0

Policy: EEAB: A Motion to approve Policy EEAB: Special Education Transportation with the amendments as presented: Discussion: None: Vote: 7-0: This policy will be tabled for two weeks for public input according to policy:

Policy: JBA: A Motion to approve Policy JBA: Teen Dating Violence: with the amended language change from CHINS (Child in Need of Services) to CRA (Child Requiring Assistance): Discussion: None: Vote: 7-0: Motion passes. This policy will be tabled for two weeks for public input according to policy:

Policy JE-E-1: A Motion to approve Policy Exhibit JE-E-1: Attendance Notification throughout Attleboro Public Schools: with the updated language change from CHINS (Child in Need of Services) to CRA (Child Requiring Assistance) Discussion: None: Vote: 7-0: Motion passes. This policy will be tabled for two weeks for public input according to policy.

Storm Protocol Update: Dr. Durkin updated the community of the process that will be used if there is a need for cancellation/delay due to the impending storm predictions. Dr. Durkin will send out a message at 5:30 a.m. informing parents of the decision if one is necessary. The City maintains the roads and the school staff prepares the parking lots when a storm occurs. Dr. Durkin noted safety is the priority and will not be compromised.

Mr. Sawyer noted parents could also get this information on the new Attleboro Twitter Account @Attleboro\_ps.

The next meeting will be held on 04-01-13 @ 7:00 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Crow, Secretary

Attachments:

1. Agenda dated: 03-18-13
2. School Sponsored Events
3. Draft Minutes: 02-25-13
4. Draft Minutes: 03-04-13
5. School Committee Personnel Report dated 03-18-13
6. Warrant 5CS035
7. Warrant 5CS036
8. Draft Curriculum & Instruction Minutes: 03-05-13
9. Memorandum dated: 01-15-13: SMART Collaborative: Tom Rose, Business Manager
10. Draft Policy Minutes: 03-11-13
11. Memorandum: 03-06-13: Changes to Student Handbooks with attachments:
12. Policy EEAB: Special Education Transportation with edits
13. Policy JBA: Teen Dating Violence with edits
14. Policy JE-E1: Exhibit: Attendance Notification throughout APS with edits