

Attleboro Public Schools  
Attleboro, Massachusetts  
School Committee Meeting  
Monday, April 8, 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), and 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.

Meeting called to Order at 7:00 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.

Community Update:

Coelho Middle School Lunch Incident: Pia Durkin, Ph.D., Superintendent; Whitson's Culinary Group: Robert E. Whitcomb, FMP Chairman & CEO; Michael Whitcomb, Vice-President; John Gersbeck, FMP, Senior Vice-President; John Prunier, District Manager; and Ozzie Orsillo, Regional Vice President of Business Development:

Mr. Tyler stated the community was trying to find a logical resolution to this incident.

Dr. Durkin explained the unfortunate incident and noted the investigation was ongoing. This was a huge error and lapse in judgment. The Superintendent acknowledged Whitsons' quick response. Dr. Durkin, Dave Sawyer, and Tom Rose will be present, along with the Whitsons' administration at the PTO Meeting this Wednesday at the Coelho Middle School. On Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday of this week all Coelho students will receive a free lunch.

The Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Bob Whitcomb read a statement that had been released to the press earlier. He stated these actions did not reflect the values of Whitsons. He stressed his sincere apologies to the community.

Ms. Furtado asked what led up to the events on Tuesday and how this played out.

Mr. Prunier explained the events and noted this was a gross miscommunication and a poor judgment call not to serve meals. There were approximately 35 to 40 students affected. All the particulars are not known at this time as this is an ongoing investigation.

Ms. Furtado asked if this was a Whitsons' policy.

Mr. Prunier noted the individuals were not operating under any policy. He explained the procedure for delinquent accounts and the process that is supposed to be followed.

Ms. Furtado inquired how families are notified of delinquency.

Mr. Prunier stated there was a collection procedure in place. Whitsons is in the process of changing this system. The new system will not include school personnel. Whitsons plans to implement a point of sale system that will allow electronic access and e-mail communication.

Ms. Furtado asked if this would entail a prepaid system.

Mr. Prunier explained the process was started over a year ago. City Hall needed to work through an integration process. This process has been re-energized and once resolved on the City side will be implemented. Families will be allowed online access to make pre-paid payments.

Ms. Furtado stated the school committee/administration initiated this process and reiterated the process was held up on the city end.

Mr. Gersbeck stated the system is in the process of being integrated.

Mr. Tyler stated these two separate issues are being worked on.

Mr. Murphy thanked the Whitsons administration for attending and inquired about the retraining of the Whitsons employees.

Mr. Prunier explained district-wide the staff would be retrained.

Mr. Murphy asked the Whitsons to update the district as this process moves forward and noted appreciation for the steps taken by Whitsons and the work of Principal Boles. Mr. Murphy stated this was a humiliating experience for the Attleboro community.

Ms. Craw asked about the delinquent process such as reminder slips and if a parent was to pay by check who the check would be made out to.

Mr. Gersbeck explained the process.

Mr. Parent voiced his appreciation for the time given by Whitsons. Attleboro's investigation is ongoing and Attleboro needs to hold itself accountable for this unfortunate event.

Mr. Tyler thanked the Whitsons staff. This has placed Attleboro in a negative spotlight and took away from the good things in Attleboro.

School Sponsored Events: Mr. Murphy announced the School Sponsored Events (a copy of which is attached hereto and therefore made a part hereof).

Recognitions:

The Rome Boulevard Road Race: Todd & Amie Houghton; Travis Hein; Christy Bachelor; Tracy Lombardy; Jim Hawkins; Adeline Bee; Presentation of Donation: The members briefed the committee on the race and the sponsors. A check in the amount of \$2300 was presented to the Committee for Attleboro High School to be used for athletic fee scholarships for those who experience a hardship.

Miracle for Moms Foundation: Golf Tournament Fundraiser for the concession stand at the new athletic facility: Rob Geddes: Mr. Geddes informed the committee that this tournament would donate proceeds to the school system to be used for the funds needed for the new track/field facility. He explained the history of the event and thanked the sponsors involved with this event.

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

John Greaves: Tiffany Street: Parent of student at Coelho thanked Mr. Boles and noted he would have appreciated a call so that he could have brought his child lunch.

Joan Blanchard: South Main Street: Ms. Blanchard stated her son has health issues and this is not the first time this has occurred. Ms. Blanchard reiterated that a phone call would have been nice.

Kevin Lambert: Mr. Lambert's children were not affected. Mr. Lambert stressed the importance of open communication and stated no one should have lost their jobs.

Abigail Aronson: 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Student at Coelho and her mother: Abigail stated no child should be denied food. She was not affected, but her friend was. Her mother thanked Mr. Boles and commended the children that stepped up and shared their lunches with their friends.

Mr. Tyler read a letter into record from Margaret Crane Lepore. Mr. Tyler acknowledged the mistakes that were made and stressed the need for the district to now move forward.

Minutes:

A motion was made to approve the Minutes from 03-06-13: Discussion: None: Vote: 8-0;

A motion was made to approve the Minutes from 03-14-13; Discussion: None: Vote: 7-0-1 (Furtado)

A motion was made to approve the Minutes from 03-18-13: Discussion: None: Vote: 7-0-1 (Furtado)

Consent Agenda:

A motion was made to accept a donation in the amount of \$548.50 from the SkillsUSA parents to Attleboro High School gifts/donation line: Discussion: None: Vote: 8-0.

A motion was made to accept a donation in the amount of \$245 from New York Life Foundation to be deposited in the gifts/donation line at Thacher Elementary School: Discussion: None: Vote: 8-0

A motion was made to accept a matching donation in the amount of \$245 from New York Life Foundation to be deposited in the gifts/donation line at Thacher Elementary School: Discussion: None: Vote: 8-0

A motion was made to accept a donation in the amount of \$218.62 from Target Take Charge of Education to be deposited in the gifts/donation line at Thacher Elementary School: Discussion: None: Vote: 8-0

A motion was made to accept a donation of the following items through the STEM partnership with Sensata: 4 laptops for STEM; 2 overheads for STEM; 22 desktop computers; 7 printers; and two fax machines to Wamsutta Middle School: Discussion: Principal Coffin described the partnership with Sensata and acknowledged their generosity: Vote: 8-0

A motion was made to accept a donation of four yards of mulch with an estimated value of \$130 from G. Lopez Construction Company of Taunton to the Studley Elementary School: Discussion: None: Vote: 8-0

A motion was made to accept a donation in the amount of \$165 from the Staples Reward Program to be deposited in the gifts/donation line at Studley Elementary: Discussion: None: Vote: 8-0.

A motion was made to approve the Field Trip Proposal for 100 Grade 8 Brennan Middle School Students to attend High Meadows in Granby, Connecticut on June 18<sup>th</sup> funded by the PTO and students: Discussion: None: Vote: 8-0

A motion was made to approve the Field Trip Proposal for 15 Grade 11-12 students to attend the SkillsUSA State Conference in Marlborough, Massachusetts from April 25-27, 2013: funded by students: Discussion: None: Vote: 8-0

New Business:

FY14 Preliminary Budget: Pia Durkin, Ph.D., Superintendent; David Sawyer, Assistant Superintendent; Tom Rose, Business Manager:

Dr. Durkin thanked the Finance Sub-Committee for their input. Dr. Durkin broke down the FY14 Budget priorities: address the staffing needs to reflect shifts in enrollment; address the infrastructure needs to support instructional technology; and account for the increase in healthcare and contractual salary obligations.

Mr. Rose explained the total school budget for FY14: net school spending: \$63,517,402; transportation: \$3,083,347; total: \$66,600,749. Mr. Rose noted the House Budget has not been finalized.

Mr. Tyler inquired about Attleboro's designation as a Gateway City.

This status would make Attleboro eligible for certain grants. This is a funding mechanism status and there is no automatic allocation given. The administration will keep the committee apprised of any grant allocations.

Mr. Tyler asked how the competitive grant would affect the budget set for personnel needs.

Mr. Sawyer explained the process.

Mr. Rose noted this might allow some budget flexibility.

Mr. Murphy asked for the timeline budget.

Mr. Rose stated the intention to hold the FY14 Budget Hearing prior to the School Committee Meeting scheduled on May 20<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Parent noted the state numbers were finalized by the end of May last year and stressed the need to include all the necessary items in the budget. It is the committee's job to bring forward a budget that will allow the district to run the schools effectively and in the best interest of our students.

Mr. Rose explained the contractual pay increases for FY14 and explained the estimated health benefits increases of approximately \$745,539. He explained the decrease in special education tuition request reflected the projected students who will reach the age of 22 and will exit the system.

Mr. Sawyer broke down Slide 8 which pertained to the staffing needs.

Ms. Furtado voiced her concerns in class size.

Dr. Durkin noted the classes would reflect the enrollment numbers. We are encouraging early registration through AACCS.

Mr. Sawyer noted Slide 8 contains absolute needs. Slide 10 contains the additional priority items that the committee asked be included: APS Wireless Network; Textbooks needs; and Athletic Items. Mr. Sawyer noted Attleboro technology is five years behind and in order to move forward with the next phase of the instructional technology needs; this item is key.

Ms. Furtado questioned the technology staff capabilities.

Currently a lot of time is spent maintaining broken systems.

The committee asked about funding through the Gates Foundation.

Dr. Durkin stated she did not believe Attleboro fit the criteria for this type of grant.

The staffing needs were explained. The committee stressed concerns with staffing needs with regard to the trimester programs at the high school.

This has been figured in and there is a plan to minimize these overtures and review the best use of our resources. It is the intent of the administration to eliminate this all together. There are more needs than funding. The important needs have been included in the budget numbers.

Mr. Parent stressed the importance of including these numbers in the budget to reflect the necessary amount to operate the district.

Ms. Craw agreed with Mr. Parent. These additional needs should be included in the final budget numbers.

Ms. Furtado stated the need to have a budget that will allow us to educate our kids.

A motion was made to set the FY14 Budget at \$66,600,749: Discussion:

The committee agreed the priorities needed to be included in the final budget presented to City Hall.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Mr. Tyler: Yes

Vote: 8-0, Motion passes.

The administration will be prepared to back up the request with the different priorities and reasons for these priorities.

School Calendar – 2013-14 – Update: Mr. Sawyer explained the new format was user friendly and will be placed on the website. This calendar is all inclusive.

Personnel Report: Mr. Sawyer : There was one retirement; one resignation; and three appointments. See Personnel Report attached hereto and therefore made a part hereof.

Superintendent Search Closing Remarks: Michael Tyler, Chairman: Mr. Tyler thanked all involved. He thanked the finalists and noted at this time the he was officially dissolving the Ad Hoc Committee.

#### Committee Reports

##### Finance, Facilities and Procurement Sub-Committee

Mr. Parent reported on the meetings held on 04-02-13. The following motions were brought forward:

A motion was made to approve the current rate schedule for file JQ-E with the update and increase in the fee structure for the fee-for-service transportation for the proposed 2013-2014 Schedule: Discussion: None: Vote: 8-0

A motion was made to approve the fee schedule for file KFB-R with no changes in rates and to remain at the current level: Discussion: None: Vote: 8-0

A motion was made to approve that the fees for the Peer Model Program and the Teen Parenting Program remain the same for the 2013–2014 School Year: Discussion: None: Vote: 8-0

A motion was made to approve the collapsing of accounts by the Business Office to move funds among accounts where the first two numbers do not match to assist with the FY13 closeout on June 30, 2013: Discussion: None: Vote: 8-0

A motion was made to approve to put forth a RFP for glass repair services using similar standards as the 2010-2011 proposal: Discussion: None: Vote: 8-0

A motion was made to approve the renewal of the extension of the alarm service agreement with Home Electronic Life Protection (HELP): Discussion: None: Vote: 8-0

A motion was made to approve to forward the invoice for \$5,002.78 by the Learning Clinic to the City Council for approval: Discussion: None: Vote: 8-0

A motion was made to approve the use of the AHS Parking Lot by Camp Ramsbottom for the Summer of 2013: Discussion: None: Vote: 8-0

Notification of bills and warrants:

5CS037 03-20-13 \$267,022.13  
5CS038 03-27-13 \$501,451.46  
53C039V 04-03-13 \$244,960.92

The next meeting will be held on 05-15-13 @ 7:00 p.m.

Curriculum and Instruction Sub-Committee: Mr. O'Neil noted the next meeting will be held on 05-07-13 @ 6:30 p.m.

Policy Sub-Committee: Per policy the tabled Policies from: 03-18-13 will now be finalized:

- Policy EEAB: Special Education Transportation with the amendments as presented:
- Policy JBA: Teen Dating Violence: with the amended language change from CHINS (Child in Need of Services) to CRA (Child Requiring Assistance)

- 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)

The next meeting will be held on 05-13-13 @ 7:00 p.m.

The Meeting adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Crow, Secretary

Attachments:

1. Agenda
2. School Sponsored Events
3. The Rome Boulevard Road Race Flyer
4. Draft Minutes: 03-06-13
5. Draft Minutes: 03-14-13
6. Draft Minutes: 03-18-13
7. FY14 Preliminary Budget
8. Field Trip Proposal: BMS – 06-18-13
9. Field Trip Proposal: AHS – 03-25-13
10. Personnel Report: 04-08-13
11. User Fee Memorandum: 04-02-13
12. Collapsing of Accounts Memorandum: 03-28-13
13. Krystal Glass Contract
14. Home Electronic Life Protection Contract
15. Memorandum: Bills to Go Before City Council:
16. Camp Ramsbottom Insurance Information
17. 5CS037
18. 5CS038
19. 53C039V
20. Policy EEAB: Special Education Transportation with the amendments as presented:
21. Policy JBA: Teen Dating Violence; with the amended language change from CHINS (Child in Need of Services) to CRA (Child Requiring Assistance)
22. 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)
23. Miracle MOM Foundation Information
24. Letter from Margaret Crane-Lepore