

Attleboro Public Schools
Attleboro, Massachusetts
School Committee Meeting
Monday, April 22, 2013
School Committee Conference Room - Attleboro High School
Minutes

Present: Brenda Furtado (Ward IV), Vice Chairperson, 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); Michael Tyler, (At Large); Barbara Crow, (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.

Community Update: School Sponsored Events: Mr. Drucker updated the committee on the school sponsored events (attached hereto and therefore made a part hereof). At Attleboro High School there will be a blue/yellow day to raise money for the victims of the Boston Marathon tragedies.

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.

Consent Agenda:

A motion was made to accept the donation in the amount of \$2,300 from the Bluefish Boosters Inc. from the Rome Blvd Race proceeds to Attleboro High School Athletic Department for athletic fee scholarships due to financial hardships: Discussion: None: Vote: 6-0

A motion was made to accept the donation of four (4) Compaq CQ662 laptops with a total estimated value of \$800 from Mr. and Mrs. Crowley, owners of Infomotion Sports Technology/94 Fifty Sports to Studley Elementary: Discussion: None: Vote: 6-0

New Business:

Superintendent's Recommendation: Appointment of Jean Hickox as Assistant Principal at Attleboro High School: Pia Durkin, Ph.D., Superintendent: Dr. Durkin explained the process. Dr. Durkin gave a brief history of Ms. Hickox tenure with Attleboro.

Mr. Runey acknowledged the work of Ms. York and the strong administration team at the high school. He commended the Screening Committee for this process and all their work.

Ms. Hickox thanked the administration for this opportunity. She was both humbled and honored for this appointment.

Presentation: Geogenix: Philip Stone, Commercial Manager; Tom Rose, Business Manager: Mr. Rose gave the background of this company. This was discussed during the Finance Sub-Committee Meeting. He explained the plan was to install panels at Hill-Roberts, Hyman Fine, and Attleboro High School. Mr. Rose explained the process to this point. (see the attached Geogenix information attached hereto and therefore made a part hereof)

Geogenix explained the financial perspective that would be involved and the ideas behind this process.

Hudson Energy explained the history to the company and the process that has gone on in the New York and New Jersey area. There are currently six Massachusetts projects. The company feels Attleboro would be a good long-term partner.

The committee inquired if the other projects in Massachusetts were school districts. The Hudson Company noted there are two supermarkets and two schools.

Geogenix highlighted the project and explained their skills and abilities. The current electric rates are low and to lock in at a low rate for 15 years would be another benefit. The solar panels will pay for themselves and the utility bills will decrease. The cumulative savings were explained. The maintenance is minimal. The panels have a 25 year manufacturer's warranty.

It was noted the district would see savings in the first year of the project. It is estimated that 75% of the electricity would be generated through the solar panels. The district currently pays \$.12 per kw combined from National Grid and Direct Energy. The Geogenix proposal would call for a charge of \$.89 per kw combined or 74.2% of what the district currently pays. It is estimated that the Attleboro District would save \$53,765 or 19.7% with the current costs and/or if Geogenix installed the solar panels. This would be an immediate savings to the district.

The committee asked how the installation and maintenance of these panels would be handled. It was noted that the installation would not interfere with school sessions and the maintenance is minimal and would be the responsibility of Geogenix and Hudson Services. There is minimal noise involved with the installation for example: power drills.

At the end of 15 years, Attleboro would own the panels, start to see the tax benefits, and it was noted Hudson plans to give the panels to Attleboro for a minimal cost. The panels have a life expectancy between 25-30 years.

The administration will review this information and bring this back before the committee sometime in late May, early June.

Ms. Furtado asked the administration to provide references to the committee.

FY14 Preliminary Budget Update: Pia Durkin, Ph.D., Superintendent: David Sawyer, Assistant Superintendent: Tom Rose, Business Manager: the Superintendent noted the information previously requested by the School Committee has been incorporated in the current presentation. Slides 1-4 are the same. Slide 4 incorporates the information to create a total school budget for FY14 of \$66,600,749.

The committee asked the administration to ensure that all transportation costs are covered in the Transportation Line. For example: the money needed for late buses.

Dr. Durkin noted Slides 5-7 are the same as previously presented.

Mr. Sawyer broke down Slide 8: Staffing Needs.

The Committee voiced concerns with one district-wide science coordinator and asked if this was sufficient.

There is currently one math and one literacy coach. The Coaches utilize the help of the department heads at the high school level, and the head teachers at the lower levels. This is a beginning point to meet the needs of the rigorous science standards and the need for proficiency in science for Grades K-8.

Mr. Rose explained Slide 9. The FY13 Net School Spending Budget was: \$60,078,913. The Preliminary Budget: Transportation costs: \$3,083,347 for a total of \$63,162,260 with the itemized needs broken down: Total Budget: \$66,600,749. This includes the items the committee asked the administration to incorporate into the total budget amount.

Slide 10 contains the additional funding priorities. The primary item was the \$500,000 needed for the APS wireless network update. This would allow Attleboro to handle the necessary requirements for the upcoming PARRC testing. The second item breaks down the textbook needs at all three levels for a total of \$96,055. The third request is from athletics for a total of \$42,000.

Mr. Rose noted there is a meeting tomorrow at 10:00 with City Counsel to discuss capital planning items and the intent is to stress the importance of the wireless network upgrade as this is not on the list for capital improvements at this time. The administration expressed the importance of this item.

The committee inquired about the breakdown for athletic needs. Mr. Rose broke down the contractual service needs; need for upgrade of equipment at the high school and supplies district wide. Mr. Rose explained the different needs in this category.

The committee noted the 1.2 Million Dollar difference in the school number versus the Mayor's numbers. The committee stands by its request and feels this is what is needed to properly educate our students.

Mr. Rose will keep the committee informed of any new information.

Special Education Compliance: Marisa McCarthy, Director of Special Education & Student Support Services; Ms. McCarthy explained what compliance is (see the attached Power Point) She noted how compliance is reviewed. Ms. McCarthy broke down Attleboro's compliance support staff. The training for compliance in Attleboro was defined. Ms. McCarthy noted the Special Education Procedural Manual and its contents. The DESE is scheduled to perform its mid-cycle monitoring on May 2 and 3rd. Ms. McCarthy will keep the committee informed of any new information.

The committee inquired how many student service coordinators there were. Ms. McCarthy noted there were four in the district.

The committee asked that the easy IEP process be explained. Ms. McCarthy explained and noted this can be done online utilizing the Aspen system.

The committee inquired about the mid-cycle monitoring process. The administration noted the DESE considers all areas when reviews are held. Ms. McCarthy noted the DESE might look for trends and discuss these areas. Compliance is student focused and based on the special education laws.

Personnel Report: Mr. Sawyer noted one retirement; one resignation; and two appointments (see Personnel Report attached hereto and therefore made a part hereof).

Finance, Facilities and Procurement Sub-Committee

Notification of bills and warrants:

Warrant 5CS040	04-10-13	\$239,089.10
Warrant 5CS041	04-17-13	\$324,392.79

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

Curriculum and Instruction Sub-Committee: The next meeting will be held on 05-07-13 @ 6:30 p.m.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Furtado,
Acting Secretary

Attachments:

1. Agenda
2. School Sponsored Events
3. FY14 Power Point and handout
4. Geogenix Spreadsheet and pamphlets
5. Special Education Compliance Power Point
6. Personnel Report dated 04-22-13
7. Warrant 5CS040
8. Warrant 5CS041