

Attleboro, Massachusetts
School Committee Meeting
Monday, May 20, 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, and Judy Nelson, Recording Secretary.

Meeting was called to Order at 7:26 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.

Moment of Silence: Gladys "Glady" Rotenberg who was a volunteer and substitute with the Attleboro Public schools for forty-two years.

Community Update: School Sponsored Events: Mr. Murphy 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.

Consent Agenda:

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

A motion was made to accept a donation in the amount of \$210 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 \$210 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 from SkillsUSA in the amount of \$86 to be deposited in the gifts/donation line at Attleboro High School: Discussion: None: Vote: 8-0

A motion was made to accept a donation from SkillsUSA in the amount of \$485 to be deposited in the gifts/donation line at Attleboro High School: Discussion: None: Vote: 8-0

A motion was made to accept a donation from Ultimate Frisbee in the amount of \$100 to be deposited in the gifts/donation line at Attleboro High School: Discussion: None: Vote: 8-0

A motion was made to declare the following athletic equipment as surplus as it is outdated and unsafe: (one) Smith Press; (one) original universal machine (1978); (one) neck/abdominal/back machine; (one) seated row machine; (one) lateral pull down; (one) one decline press; (one) leg press, curl, and extension machine: Discussion: None: Vote: 8-0

New Business:

FY14 Budget Final Vote: Mr. Rose stated the Committee was being asked to vote on the FY14 School Budget that includes: Net School Spending: \$63,517,402; Transportation: \$3,083,347 for a total School Budget: \$66,600,749.

A motion was made to approve the FY14 School Budget in the amount of \$66,600,749 which includes the necessities for this district to move forward:

Discussion: The committee stressed that this budget was built based on the needs of the district and what is necessary educate the 6000+ students:

Mr. Parent asked Mr. Rose to summarize the technology aspect.

The district submitted the infrastructure upgrade (\$500,000) request. The city classified this request as a Priority One; not urgent at this time. The Mayor's Office is aware of the need for this to be in place for the PARCC testing in FY15. This will be considered as an urgent need for the FY15 Budget.

The district needs to prepare for PARCC. Students must have the necessary computers and internet abilities. The committee asked if an analysis of these needs has been done school-based.

Mr. Sawyer noted the ultimate goal would be for each student to have a computer in the classroom.

Ms. Furtado referenced the analysis done in December of 2010 which broke down the technology needs of the district. The Technology Committee Minutes were provided to the School Committee members in the past as updates.

This committee is still active. Mr. Sawyer will summarize what has been done this year and report back to the committee.

During the Public Hearing it was noted the contractual increases and estimated health care benefit increases contribute to a large portion of the total budget. The committee requested a plan in place should the City provide funding for the 1.2 Million Dollar difference. It was again stressed these funds are what the district needs to provide the best education to our students.

The motion was repeated:

A motion was made to approve the FY14 School Budget in the amount of \$66,600,749 which includes the necessities for this district to move forward:

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

Solar Panel Update: Mr. Rose summarized two (2) developments: cost for the first inverter changer should be paid for by Hudson Solar/Geogenix; and there should be contract language that protects Attleboro School District from ever paying a rate for solar power that is higher than the current electricity market rate.

The committee noted the contract language regarding the warranty should state "shall be covered".

Ms. Furtado inquired about her previous request for references and noted until the warranty language is clarified she could not vote to proceed. Ms. Furtado contacted several roofing companies; in the opinion of these roofing companies, once the roof top is penetrated and/or changed the warranty is null/void.

There is no contract at this time. The administration would like authorization to move forward with a counter-offer. The committee would then review/decide if they would like to move forward with a contract. The requested references will be provided to the committee.

Motion was made to authorize the administration to negotiate a solar energy contract that would provide written guarantee of the roof warranty; cost for the first inverter changer will be paid for by Hudson Solar/Geogenix; and references will be furnished to the committee: Discussion: None: Vote: 8-0

Personnel Report: Mr. Sawyer reported two (2) retirements and two (2) resignations (see Personnel Report dated 05-20-13 attached hereto and therefore made a part hereof).

Committee Reports

Finance, Facilities and Procurement Sub-Committee: Report on meeting held on 05-15-13: The following motions were brought forward:

A motion was made to renew the food service agreement with Whitsons New England, Inc. for the period of July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014: (a copy of which is attached hereto and therefore made a part hereof): Discussion:

Ms. Furtado felt the contract language regarding "profits" was not transparent (see Food Service Agreement: Page 13 §11.10 Surplus Revenues). The district increased the cost of lunch last year as mandated by the federal guidelines. Ms. Furtado noted this is considered a profit and was very concerned about this increase being put on the parents. Ms. Furtado did not condone increasing the cost again when there is a profit being made.

Mr. Rose cautioned the use of "profit" and explained why the district needs to finish the year in the "black" The revolving funds are used to ensure when the new school year begins the district has monies in the accounts to cover any costs incurred before state funding might be received for example: free/reduced lunch, etc. There is a decrease in the surplus account because the participation rate has declined.

Ms. Furtado inquired why sales were down.

Due to the stricter requirements of the USDA, offerings have changed. The nutritional restrictions have required Whitsons to remove some offerings.

Mr. Tyler asked if the entire Whitsons staff has received the promised training.

Mr. Rose will report back to the Committee on this status.

Ms. Craw asked about the "special service line" offered at the high school.

This was being done by Whitsons to increase participation.

Mr. Murphy noted the reserve funds are only used to cover contingencies such as a piece of equipment requiring maintenance and/or replacement. There are restrictions on the use of such funds.

Ms. Furtado asked if this money should be placed in the budget under a line item.

The budget is used for the educational purposes of our students. The administration does not recommend any line item be placed that would deter from the educational needs for the students.

Ms. Craw stated parents should not have to pay more money to cover these costs and felt this was double dipping.

Mr. Parent stressed the importance of having funds available to cover a major problem; this amount should provide the district with a three month back up.

A motion was made to renew the food service agreement with Whitsons New England, Inc. for the period of July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014: (a copy of which is attached hereto and therefore made a part hereof): Vote: 6-0-2 (Craw, Furtado)

School Lunch Prices:

A motion was made to approve an increase to school lunch and breakfast prices for FY14 by a weighted average amount of "\$0.15" (see memorandum and attachments attached hereto and therefore made a part hereof): Discussion:

Mr. Larson stated the district does not want to deplete and then have to rebuild these funds. The district has eleven (11) kitchens in nine (9) schools. The district needs to have a contingency plan in place in case of equipment failure.

Mr. Tyler agreed with the need for contingency funds, but did not agree with increasing the cost to parents at this time.

Ms. Furtado asked the administration to provide a break down of the money and where there funds have been dispersed this year.

Mr. Parent noted at the Finance Committee Meetings this information is regularly reported on.

Mr. Murphy asked the administration to work with Whitsons on ways the district could assist with promotional information.

A motion was made to approve an increase to school lunch and breakfast prices for FY14 by a weighted average amount of "\$0.15" (see memorandum and attachments attached hereto and therefore made a part hereof): Vote: 5-3 (Craw, Furtado, Tyler). Motion passes.

The upcoming online payment option was discussed and should be in place by September. The district is awaiting confirmation from City Hall. Parents will be informed and instructions provided.

A motion was made to approve of the amount of approximately \$2,500.00 for an engineering study to be completed on the Attleboro High School Pool: (see memorandum attached hereto and therefore made a part hereof): Discussion: None Vote: 8-0. Motion passes.

A motion was made to approve to begin the process of an RFP for the Attleboro High School Pool's main drain. (see memorandum attached hereto and therefore made a part hereof): Discussion: There is no definitive timeline at this point. Vote: 8-0. Motion passes.

A motion was made to approve to begin the process of an RFP for the Attleboro High School Pool's filtration system: (see memorandum attached hereto and therefore made a part hereof): Discussion: There is no definitive timeline at this point. Vote: 8-0. Motion passes.

A motion was made to approve the increase the rates for the ABACUS Program for the 2013-2014 school year and February, April, and Summer Programs per the schedule provided: (see memorandum and attachments provided hereto and therefore made a part hereof): Discussion: The committee asked if there were any changes made to this contract. There were not. Vote: 8-0. Motion passes.

A motion was made to continue the lease with Akuity Technologies for web filtering services for FY14: (a copy of which is attached hereto and therefore made a part hereof); Discussion: The committee asked how this works. The administration explained the lease and its benefits. Vote: 8-0. Motion passes.

A motion was made to continue the lease with RICOH for the Copy Center copiers for FY14: (a copy of which is attached hereto and therefore made a part hereof): Discussion: The committee inquired about the success of centralizing this process. The administration noted this process works quite well. Vote: 8-0. Motion passes.

A motion was made to approve the contract between the Attleboro Public Schools and ABACUS for FY14: (a copy of which is

attached hereto and therefore made a part hereof); Discussion: there are no changes to this lease. The committee asked that the authorization language be added regarding Superintendent. Vote: 8-0. Motion passes.

A motion was made to approve the agreement between the Attleboro Public Schools and the Bi-County Collaborative for the use of space in Attleboro High School during FY14: (a copy of which is attached hereto and therefore made a part hereof): Discussion: The terms have not changed. Vote: 8-0

A motion was made to approve the agreement between the Attleboro Public Schools and the Bi-County Collaborative for the use of the space at the Finberg School for FY14: (a copy of which is attached hereto and therefore made a part hereof): Discussion: There were no changes to this contract. The committee asked the administration to inform them of any work done at this site before done. This would come before Finance and then to the Full Committee: Vote: 8-0

A motion was made to approve the agreement between the Attleboro Public Schools and Bishop Feehan High School for the use of the Attleboro High School Pool for FY14: (a copy of which is attached hereto and therefore made a part hereof): Discussion: Ms. Furtado inquired if the rate Feehan was paying contributed to the upkeep costs for the pool. This was brought up during Finance. The administration has a meeting scheduled with Blue Fish. The Chairman asked that all contracts have the language authorizing the Superintendent to sign if applicable: Vote: 8-0

A motion was made to approve the agreement between the Attleboro Public Schools and Project Connect to use the Briggs Corner School for FY14: (a copy of which is attached hereto and therefore made a part hereof): Discussion: It was noted this is the last year of the grant for this program. The district will have to be aggressive in seeking grant funding for this program. The administration plans to apply for this funding: Vote: 8-0

A motion was made to approve the agreement between the Attleboro Public Schools and SMARTS for the use of space at the old high school for FY14: (a copy of which is attached hereto and therefore made a part hereof): Discussion: This contract will be approved with the above-referenced authorization language: Vote: 8-0

A motion was made to approve the quarterly transportation report for the 3rd quarter for distribution by the School Committee to City Administration: (a copy of which is attached hereto and therefore made a part hereof): Discussion: The Committee instructed Mr. Rose to get this information to the Mayor's Office. Vote 8-0

Notification of bills and warrants:

Warrant 5CS044 05-08-13 \$319,953.05
Warrant 5CS045 05-15-13 \$240,634.49

The next meeting will be held on 06-05-13 @ 7:00 p.m.

Curriculum and Instruction Sub-Committee: Mr. Murphy reported on the meeting held on 05-07-13 (see Draft Minutes attached hereto and therefore made a part hereof).

K-12 Library System: Mr. Murphy explained this grant funded program would develop a K-12 Automated Library System. This is a web-based program with 24 hour access. There would be only one (1) database for K-12. Currently each library has their own databases. This will allow one catalogue for the district, which will allow sharing of library resources district-wide. The student interface will be interactive for both students and teachers. Having one database will allow the district to do detailed reporting and be more efficient. There are 20-30 languages available with this program, which will help our ELL Learners. This system will allow us to monitor content and what children are accessing. E-books can be integrated into this program. It was explained that this program will allow us to better utilize the resources currently only available to the High School. The district has 9 libraries with 9 different levels of resources available. This program will be a better opportunity because of the 21st Century Skills and new Frameworks. With one system in place for the district, student's histories will follow them through each level. This system will be accessible from home because it is web-based.

Ms. Sawyer noted students can reserve books from home and review books. He believes this will encourage students to read more.

Middle School After-school Clubs/Activities: This was informational. Brennan surveyed their students. The administration stated there should be a balance of academic; athletic; and artistic opportunities. This will engage students and encourage them to be more involved at the high school level as well.

Ms. Furtado noted the late bus costs need to be considered during this process as well.

Policy Sub-Committee: The next meeting will be held on 06-10-13 @ 7:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Crow,
Secretary

Attachments:

1. Agenda
2. APS FY14 Superintendent's Preliminary Budget
3. School Sponsored Events
4. Memorandum: Solar Panel Proposal: 05-16-13
5. Personnel Report dated 05-20-13
6. Memorandum: Possible Lunch Prices for FY14 with attachments (4)
7. New Online Meal Payment Program Flyer
8. Memorandum: AHS Pool Update: 05-16-13
9. Memorandum: ABACUS Program Fees: with attachments
10. Akuity Technologies: Master Agreement
11. Ricoh Order Agreement
12. APS FY13 3rd Quarterly Transportation Report with attachments
13. 5CS044
14. 5CS045
15. Draft Curriculum & Instruction Minutes – 05-11-13