

Attleboro Public Schools
Attleboro, Massachusetts
School Committee Meeting
Monday, October 1, 2012 @ 7:00 p.m.
School Committee Conference Room - Attleboro High School
Minutes

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

Absent: Teri Enegren, (Ward I) and Brenda Furtado (Ward IV)

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, Student Representative, Keith Drucker, and Judy Nelson, Recording Secretary.

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m.

Salute to the Flag: Mr. Tyler led the Committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Notice of Electronic Recording: Chairman Tyler noted the meeting was being electronically recorded.

Moment of Silence: A Moment of Silence was held for Marianne Ward a special education teacher for 32 years for Attleboro Public Schools. The Superintendent noted what a privilege and honor it was to work with Ms. Ward. Dr. Durkin stated Ms. Ward took students under her wing and supported what she referred to as "her kids".

Mr. Murphy noted Ms. Ward devoted her entire life to advocating for students and working throughout the community. Mr. Murphy noted her legacy will live on through these memories.

Community Update: School Sponsored Events: Chairman Tyler welcomed student representative, Keith Drucker. Mr. Drucker updated the committee on the school sponsored events (attached hereto and therefore made a part hereof).

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

Consent Agenda:

A Motion was made to accept a donation in the amount of \$1,000.00 to the Wamsutta Middle School from Walmart for the gifts/donation line for the funding of the "A World of Difference Institute": Discussion: None: Vote: 7-0

New Business:

Adams Scholarship Recipients Class of 2013 – Pia Durkin, Ph.D., Superintendent: For the fourth consecutive year the maximum allowable number of students qualified for free tuition at a state college or university under the John and Abigail Adams Scholarship program. Dr. Durkin noted 107 students or 25% of the high school's Class of 2013 received this honor. This being the maximum the guidelines allow. Out of that number 22 students or 21% of those eligible classified as low income, 44 were male, and 63 were female. Dr. Durkin noted the district has made great strides since 2005 when only 70 students qualified which was about 17% of the graduating class. Dr. Durkin congratulated Student Representative, Keith Drucker, for his receipt of this scholarship.

The committee congratulated Mr. Drucker and all the recipients of this scholarship.

Mr. O'Neil asked who the committee might petition to expand this program for students.

Mr. Sawyer noted state representatives and/or a plea to the state college system.

Dr. Durkin explained the scholarship is tuition-only which does not cover room/board and/or other expenses which do add up. This program does assist students, but does not cover all costs incurred.

Mr. Murphy asked if the threshold was set by the DESE and/or Board of Education.

Mr. Sawyer stated this was driven by a current statute.

A motion was made to have administration draft a letter to state legislators asking for support to pursue more funding for this program: Discussion: None: Vote: 7-0

Mr. Tyler will be in touch with Mr. Sawyer and Dr. Durkin to discuss this.

SAT Update: Dave Sawyer, Assistant Superintendent: Mr. Sawyer noted the national trend of declining scores over the past five years for the SAT scores in reading, writing, and math. At the state level the declines are not quite so pronounced and there is a slight increase in Math. Attleboro appears to be mirroring the national trend. The scores in writing are slightly down, reading have gone up slightly; almost flat lining. Attleboro has seen an improvement in Math scores. The high school is currently conducting an in depth analysis of this data and will bring forward a more detailed report at later this Fall.

Transportation Update: Tom Rose, Business Manager: Effective today; Bloom Transportation added two (2) additional buses (total 29). September data was reviewed by Bloom prompting this decision. This allows students to be brought home more quickly providing a more efficient operation. The late school runs begin this week. There are approximately 208 fee for service requests. These applications will be reviewed and within the next two weeks, parents will receive an answer as to whether transportation will be provided.

Mr. Tyler thanked Mr. Rose. Mr. Tyler has heard very few complaints. The committee appreciates Mr. Rose's hard work.

Mr. Rose commended transportation (Terry and Sue) working along with Bloom Transportation (Mark Bloom, Arleen, Lisa, and Marianne).

Mr. Murphy asked if there would be an adjustment period with the addition of the two new buses.

Mr. Rose noted there will be some glitches. Notification went out to parents last week informing them of any changes that would be made this week. Mr. Rose explained the process that Bloom would take to determine the fee for services that will be provided. Mr. Rose will keep the committee apprised.

Mr. Tyler asked if the addition of the two buses would change the information that the committee authorized to be forwarded to City Hall regarding the transportation deficit.

Mr. Rose stated this information will not change. When the purchase order was processed by the business office it was prepared for 29 buses. The deficit was built in using the maximum amount of buses allowed by the contract.

Request School Committee action to forward IKON Lease Contract to City Council for approval: Tom Rose, Business Manager: Mr. Tyler asked Mr. Rose to explain to the committee why this request was being brought before them for action.

Mr. Rose explained if a contract/lease crosses from one fiscal year to another, this requires city council approval. The IKON lease as written for two (2) copiers goes from March 2011 through March 2014. When the purchase order was presented to the City Auditor the overlapping was noted. The Business Office was contacted. Mr. Rose noted when the contract expires in March of 2014, this process will be corrected.

A motion was made to approve the lease for two (2) copy machines through IKON which began in March of 2011 and will terminate in March 2014 and authorize the forwarding for approval to City Council: Discussion:

Mr. Tyler noted this lease allows consolidation of copying costs for the district which has saved the district money.

Mr. Rose stated the Copy Center run by Ms. Woodbury is being run very efficiently.

Vote: 7-0

Transportation: Mr. Parent asked Mr. Rose to update the number of mini-buses being used at this time.

Mr. Rose noted the district currently uses (11) mini-buses which is consistent with the contract terms.

Committee Reports

Finance, Facilities and Procurement Sub-Committee

Notification of bills and warrants:

Warrant: 5CS012 09-26-12 \$301,741.87

The next meeting will be held on 10-24-12 @ 7:00 p.m.

Curriculum and Instruction Sub-Committee: The next meeting will be held on 10-16-12 @ 6:30 p.m.

Policy Sub-Committee: Tabled Policy CBD: Superintendent's Contract: The Chairman noted to allow for the two-week tabling process which allows for public comment/input. This policy will be placed on the Agenda for October 15th The next meeting will be held on 10-22-12 @ 7:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Crow, Secretary

Attachments:

1. Agenda dated October 1, 2012
2. School Sponsored Events: 10-01-12
3. 2013 Recipients of the Adams Scholarship Memorandum dated 09-26-12
4. IKON Lease Memorandum dated 09-26-12
5. Warrant: 5CS012
6. Policy CBD: Superintendent's Contract: tabled 09-24-12