

Attleboro Public Schools
Attleboro, Massachusetts
School Committee Meeting
Monday, October 15, 2012 @ 7:00 p.m.
School Committee Conference Room - Attleboro High School
Minutes

Present: Michael Tyler, (At Large), Chairman, Brenda Furtado (Ward IV), Vice Chairperson, Barbara Craw, (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)

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.

Minutes: A motion was made to approve the School Committee Minutes from the meeting held on 09-24-12 as presented: Discussion: None: Vote: 8-0

A motion was made to approve the School Committee Minutes from the meeting held on 10-01-12 as presented: Discussion: None: Vote: 8-0

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

Consent Agenda:

A motion was made to accept the donation of an Epson EX3210 Multi-Media Projector with an estimated value of \$ 449.99 to Hyman Fine Elementary School from DonorsChoose.org: Discussion: None: Vote: 8-0

A motion was made to accept the donation of notebook paper, composition books, and one-subject notebooks with an estimated value of \$100 from Fred Wyatt, President of St. Vincent DePaul in Attleboro for Coelho Middle School: Discussion: None: Vote: 8-0

A motion was made to accept the donation of a Dell Dimensions 4800 computer valued at \$125 from Samrat & Maria Amberwadikar for use at the Hill-Roberts Elementary School: Discussion: None: Vote: 8-0

A motion was made to declare 76 soft-cover Scott Foresman Everyday Reading Workbooks and two (2) Scott Foresman Teacher Edition Books copyright 1998 as surplus as these books are antiquated and no longer used at the Brennan Middle School: Discussion: None: Vote: 8-0

A motion was made to declare 28 Open Court series textbooks copyright 1979 and one Open Wonderful World Encyclopedia set copyright 1963as the books are antiquated and are no longer used at the Thacher Elementary School: Discussion: None: Vote: 8-0

New Business:

The Director of the CTE Program, Ms. Edmonds and Principal Runey provided an overview of Attleboro's CTE program describing the benefits of the programs offered. The CTE program allows our students to work toward becoming contributing members of the community. The graduation rate has a 95% rate of positive placement (state average = 78%). Bristol Community

College, Central Maine, and Ben Franklin recognize and credit Attleboro students for certain courses allowing graduates to be ahead of the game. Student, Dannel Simpson spoke about the Skills USA conference. Ms. Simpson noted this experience gathers students who all strive toward the same goals.

Ms. Edmonds recognized three other CTE students who were present: Ali Jensen, Brant Greenleaf, and Ryan Henry. Ms. Edmonds explained the role of the Advisory Council and the input that is provided through this process. Ms. Edmonds encouraged members to attend the CTE Advisory Dinner on October 25th.

Dr. Durkin thanked all the students and parents for taking the time to attend the meeting this evening.

Mr. Sawyer explained the financial aspect of the program. Mr. Sawyer noted Chapter 74 provides regulations that need to be met in order to receive the funding for this type of programming. Mr. Sawyer explained the difference between the Chapter 70 funding and the Chapter 74 funding provided to the districts.

Mr. Tyler asked how many other districts in Massachusetts offer CTE programs.

Ms. Edmonds noted there are approximately 20 other districts, however, Attleboro offers a more comprehensive program.

Ms. Furtado inquired about the Freshman Exploratory and what it entails. Ms. Furtado was surprised this was added to the program without the school committee approval.

Ms. Edmonds explained the importance of the exploratory process for students. Ms. York and the guidance counselors oversee this program. The schedule and benefits to the exploratory were explained.

Mr. Sawyer noted last year the exploratory process was presented during one of the presentations done to the School Committee. He explained the importance of the exploratory which allows students to be well-informed and guides them in making a decision as to what their schedule for the next four years might involve.

Mr. Runey noted the exploratory process helps students adjust to high school and guides them in developing the organizational skills necessary to plan out their four-year schedule.

Mr. Murphy inquired about the role the advisory council plays with respect to the discipline/program offerings.

Ms. Edmonds explained the process is dictated by state regulations. The advisory council provides the information necessary to insure programs are aligned with the demands of the current industry. They provide input the rubric and frameworks for our programs. The input is important. The goal is to develop students that are prepared, upon graduating, to move forward with their career goals.

Dr. Durkin noted Attleboro is always looking for people/community members to join the advisory council. This insures the high standards are maintained and keeps our programs competitive.

Mr. Murphy asked how the advisory council is comprised.

Ms. Edmonds gave a breakdown. Community members specializing in certain areas of expertise: i.e. engineering, medical, electrical, etc. She noted Attleboro encourages our alumnae to stay involved and not how important that input is.

Mr. Murphy noted the importance of showcasing the CTE program when the new website launches. He also encouraged residents to visit the Culinary Café now that it is open.

Mr. Larson noted as a parent of a CTE graduate, he agreed that the SkillsUSA conference provides a huge amount of information for our students. Mr. Larson commented that the CTE program is also part of our honor society.

District 2012-13 Goals: (see the attached Power Point attached hereto and therefore made a part hereof) In June 2011 new regulations were passed by the state mandating requirements for the evaluation of all Massachusetts educators: teachers, administrators, and superintendents. The administration explained the alignment between district, school, team, and teacher goals. The evaluation cycle was explained as it pertains to all educators and the four standards by which these individuals will be evaluated. The performance descriptors for each standard were also defined. The district goals link to the school goals which link to the team goals that link to the teacher goals. The power and benefits of this concentrated action was noted. The structure of the model rubrics was broken down.

The Superintendent Goals: Student Learning, Growth, and Achievement: Attleboro Public Schools will meet or exceed its gap narrowing targets as set by the State for ELA, mathematics, and science for both the aggregate and high needs groups. Attleboro Public Schools will meet or exceed the state median growth of 50 for ELA and mathematics for both the aggregate and high needs groups. In the high needs group the district will focus on specific action steps for students with disabilities, and continue to sustain and improve its progress with ELL and low income students.

During the 2012-13 School Year, the superintendent will spend an average of 20-50% of the week building the capacity of the Leadership Team through Leadership Team meetings and direct supervision of the administration as 11 of the 19 are new. This will be done through school and classroom visits, onsite coaching and attendance at various venues which include individual grade-level, small group, and large group meetings. The Superintendent will provide timely and focused growth-producing feedback that will result in improvement.

District Improvement: implementation of the new Massachusetts Educator system during the 2012-13 school year so that every educator will be supervised and evaluated according to the new regulations. The superintendent will lead and oversee the needed structures, processes, and resources to ensure an effective and smooth implementation. The administration will oversee, manage, and maintain the FY13 budget and provide a foundation for the construction of the FY14 budget that will support the continuous improvement of Attleboro Public Schools.

Mr. Murphy thanked the administration for this outline.

Mr. Tyler questioned timeline for the funds provided through the Race to the Top Grant.

Mr. Sawyer explained the timeline and requirements, noting Attleboro was in the second year of four year grant process. Mr. Sawyer noted the mandated projects align with the state for example: the evaluation process. This allows Attleboro to use these funds to assist in enacting these regulations.

Dr. Durkin explained the evaluation process is state mandated whether a district participates in the RTTT process or not. Dr. Durkin elaborated on the importance of this process and noted it was very time consuming.

Mr. Tyler noted Attleboro's pro-active attitude and how this grant helps accelerate the process. Mr. Tyler questioned the ability for a student to access curriculum information online.

Dr. Durkin explained the many challenges with the launching of the new website. The Superintendent noted the district needs a webmaster as the IT Department is short-handed. The parent portal is set to launch at the high school.

Mr. Tyler stated the website is a valuable asset.

Ms. Furtado stated two years ago when the committee approved the changeover from Rediker to the X2 program the committee was told these problems would be resolved. The district has spent a great deal of money training individuals. Ms. Furtado voiced concerns with the lack of communication provided to parents. This program was supposed to resolve these gaps in communication.

Mr. Sawyer explained the problems with capacity and support. Mr. Sawyer noted the constant state of catch up.

Ms. Furtado stated the committee was told this was a better network program than Rediker and that this program upgrade would resolve the problems.

Mr. Tyler asked that the committee focus on the goals being presented this evening. The administration will prepare a technology presentation on the information discussed for late November early December before the budget process begins.

Mr. O'Neil inquired about the progress on the evaluation system.

Dr. Durkin explained the work that has been done across the district. The Superintendent stressed the importance of consistency across the district. Dr. Durkin noted feedback is being reviewed and broken down.

Mr. Larson stated going back to the website; the city has many talented people who are able to help with the design/maintenance. Mr. Larson encouraged people to contact the district.

Dr. Durkin noted Mr. Rose supervises the IT Department. Interested parties should contact the Business Office.

Transportation Update: Mr. Rose briefed the committee on the status of the fee for service process. All individuals on the wait list will be accommodated. Families will be receiving this information via mail, students will be eligible to ride the bus on October 22nd, and families will be asked to forward payment for this service within a two week period.

Mr. Tyler confirmed the fee was \$150.00 and that the district was utilizing 29 buses.

Mr. Parent inquired about the use of 11 mini-buses.

Mr. Rose confirmed that there were 29 buses and 11 mini-buses.

Ms. Furtado asked for an update on transportation incident that occurred on Friday.

Mr. Rose explained the accident that occurred on Lindsey Street. There should have been better communication to parents. Bus lists are currently being finalized and this information will better allow the principals to make the connect ed calls to parents informing them of any transportation incidents.

Ms. Furtado acknowledged her understanding, but noted next year this cannot occur. A majority of students are on the same bus from year-to-year. She stated the importance of principals being provided with this information.

Mr. Rose corrected his previous comment. The principals do have bus lists which are being fine-tuned at this time. This should be finalized by the end of October. Mr. Rose apologized for any confusion.

Ms. Furtado stated an on-call should have gone out to parents informing them of the delay. Communication is very important.

Request School Committee Action to Approve Budget Transfer in the amount of \$5,000: In the future this type of request will be presented to the Finance Sub-Committee for action before reaching this level. Mr. Rose explained the account for Interpreter/Nonprofessional salary was not funded in the FY13 Budget. This transfer will move funds from the Speech/PT/OT professional salary line to the interpreter/nonprofessional salary account. This item will be placed in the FY14 Budget request to avoid this shortfall in the future.

A motion was made to transfer \$5,000 from 02320020 to 02110020 to allocate funding to the underfunded line for interpretations and translations of special education documents and meetings: Discussion:

Mr. Rose noted the administration will carefully monitor these accounts.

Ms. Craw stated the district needs to ensure they are staying in-line and are in compliance with all Individual Education Plans (IEPs).

Dr. Durkin stated the IEP services are being met.

Ms. Crow asked if some Occupational Therapists were being shared between buildings.

Ms. McCarthy explained some staff is shared based on the needs of the individuals.

Ms. Crow asked if this transfer would take away from staffing or jeopardize any IEPs and Mr. Rose assured the committee that this would not happen and this was verified by Ms. McCarthy who said that all children are receiving the services stated in their IEPs and this would not affect them in anyway.

Vote: 8-0. Motion passes.

Request School Committee Action to Award the paving contract for the Attleboro High School parking lot to the lowest bidder:

Mr. Rose explained the bid process. A motion was made to award the contract to the low bidder, Classic Seal Coat, Inc. to complete the renovations on the AHS parking lot as outlined in the bid documents: Discussion:

Mr. Murphy inquired if this project would disrupt any planned events at the adjacent fields and buildings.

Mr. Rose stated the paving schedule has been carefully planned.

Mr. Larson noted, for clarification purposes, the parking lot is being seal-coated and repainted. Mr. Larson did not want to mislead anyone.

Mr. Tyler inquired about the security of the parking lot. He wanted to ensure the police would be monitoring this area until the project was finalized.

Ms. Crow inquired about the warranty on the project.

Mr. Rose will review and report back.

Mr. Tyler noted the specs followed the federal guidelines.

Vote: 8-0. Motion passes. It was noted this process should be completed over a period of two weekends.

Personnel Report: Mr. Sawyer reported two (2) appointments (see attached Personnel Report attached hereto and therefore made a part hereof).

Finance, Facilities and Procurement Sub-Committee:

Notification of bills and warrants

Warrant: 5CS013: 10-03-12	\$276,466.08
Warrant: 5CS014: 10-10-12	\$351,258.96

Curriculum and Instruction Sub-Committee: The next meeting will be held on 10-16-12 @ 6:30 p.m. There will be a presentation on the Advanced Placement Programs at the High School and a presentation on the Specials Schedule at Coelho Middle School.

Policy Sub-Committee: There has been no public input/comment with regard to tabled Policy CBD: Superintendent's Contract: This policy is now finalized. The next meeting will be held on 10-22-12 @ 7:00 p.m.

Superintendent Search Progress: The committee briefed the public on the process and explained the upcoming focus meetings. The committee discussed the funds involved to print and distribute the survey and informational documents. Mr. Tyler explained the process that led to this request.

A motion was made to transfer \$500 from account 534100 to 575000 (school committee/other expenses) to complete this task. Vote: 8-0. Motion passes.

Mr. Tyler thanked Mr. Sawyer, Mr. Rose, and Ms. McCarthy for their assistance during this process. The next update will be given during the November 5th School Committee Meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Crow, Secretary

Attachments:

1. Agenda dated 10-15-12
2. School Sponsored Events: 10-15-12
3. Draft School Committee Minutes 09-24-12
4. Draft School Committee Minutes 10-01-12
5. Memorandum dated 10-12-12 – Educator Evaluation System: Teacher/Administrator/Superintendent Goals with attachments
6. Power Point Presentation – Educator's Goals – 10-15-12
7. Memorandum dated 10-11-12 – Special Education Transfer: with attachments
8. Memorandum dated 10-11-12 – Request for Proposal Document and Vendor Proposal Summary
9. School Committee Personnel Report dated 10-15-12
10. Warrant: 5CS013
11. Warrant: 5CS014
12. Policy CBD – Superintendent Contract: Tabled 09-24-12
13. Draft Policy Sub-Committee Minutes dated 09-17-12
14. Superintendent Search Calendar; School Building Focus Groups