

Attleboro Public Schools
Attleboro, Massachusetts
School Committee Meeting
Monday, November 5, 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, 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); 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, 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 10-15-12 as presented: Discussion: None: Vote: 6-0

Community Update: School Sponsored Events: Mr. Drucker 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:

Motion to accept the generous donation from the Attleboro Elks Club of dictionaries for all 3rd Grade students: Vote: 6-0.
Discussion: None: Motion passes.

Motion to accept the donation of a \$25.00 gift card to Hill Roberts Elementary School from Target for educational needs: Discussion: None: Vote: 6-0. Motion passes.

Motion to accept a donation in the amount of \$179.35 to the Wamsutta gifts/donation line from the Target's Take Charge of Education Program: Discussion: None: Vote: 6-0. Motion passes.

Motion to accept a donation in the amount of \$32.62 from Coca Cola to Attleboro High School to be deposited in the gifts/donation line: Vote: 6-0. Discussion: None: Motion passes.

Motion to accept the donation of the following items to the Medical Assisting Program at Attleboro High School from Cardinal Health, Inc: disposable surgical masks with an estimated value of \$400; disposable surgical gowns with an estimated value of \$100; surgeon gloves with an estimated value of \$800: Discussion: None: Vote: 6-0: Motion passes.

Motion to accept four (4) tennis ball carts and one (1) box of latex gloves values to be determined to Attleboro High School from Margaret Lynch: Discussion: None: Vote: 6-0: Motion passes.

Motion to accept the donation of a \$25.00 gift card to Studley Elementary School from Target for educational needs: Discussion: None: Vote: 6-0: Motion passes.

Motion to accept the donation of the following items: one HP Office Jet 6100 printer with an estimated value of \$50.00; one HP Office Jet Pro 8600 printer with an estimated value of \$100; one HP Office Jet Pro printer with an estimated value of \$75.00; one Canon Pixma MG4120 Printer with an estimated value of \$90.00; one Canon Pixma IP100 printer with an estimated value of

\$130; one Jabra Telephone Headset with an estimated value of \$124.98 and one megaphone with an estimated value of \$99.99 from Tom Howes from 20th Century Fox to the Studley Elementary School: Discussion: None: Vote: 6-0: Motion passes. Motion to accept the donation of three (3) GPS Systems with an estimated value of \$83.00 each to Studley for use by staff for out of the district travel from Tom Howes from 20th Century Fox: Discussion: None: Vote: 6-0: Motion passes.

Motion to accept the donation of miscellaneous school supplies with an estimated value of \$30.00 to Studley from Tom Howes from 20th Century Fox: Discussion: None: Vote: 6-0: Motion passes.

Motion to accept a donation of 60 office folders with an estimated value of \$40.00 to Brennan from Ritvars Reinbergs: Discussion: None: Vote: 6-0: Motion passes.

Motion to accept a donation of school supplies with an estimated value of \$150.00 to Coelho from Gabriel Cano: Discussion: None: Vote: 6-0: Motion passes.

Motion to declare outdated textbooks as surplus for the Studley Elementary School as they are no longer used (see attached list of books): Discussion: None: Vote: 6-0: Motion passes.

Motion to approve the Field Trip Proposal for eight (8) Attleboro High School students to attend the Skills USA Competition in Marlborough, Massachusetts on November 18-20, 2012 (funding sources: fundraiser/student): Discussion: None: Vote: 6-0: Motion passes.

Mr. Larson thanked everyone for the above-referenced donations.

New Business:

AHS – Whole School Improvement Plan (WSIP): Pia Durkin, Ph.D., Superintendent, Dave Sawyer, Assistant Superintendent, Bill Runey, Principal, Joe Connor, Assistant Principal, Ann Montagano, Dean, and Libby Murphy-Zielinski, Parent: The summary of the 2011-12 WSIPs were discussed: Student Achievement. The student proficiency rate for English Language Arts (ELA) MCAS goal: increase from 88% to 90% proficiency: the ELA proficiency remained at 88% for the 2011-12 school year: goal not yet met. The MCAS Math proficiency rate: increase from 79% to 85%: 50% of students are now rated advanced, but goal not yet met. AHS four year graduation rate for Class of 2012 improved to 84.2% and the SPED four-year-rate improved to 62.3%: improved but goal still not met. Professional Learning Communities: All ELL students receive full support services. The trimester schedule is in place, CTE exploratory course work is in place for all freshmen, a three-year plan was created to expand communications and plumbing programs in CTE. School climate and culture goals were met as well as the public engagements expectations.

The administration discussed the focus for the 2012-13 goals. Attleboro will meet or exceed its gap narrowing proficiency targets as set by the state for ELA, Mathematics, and Science for the Aggregate and High Needs Groups, as well as the state median growth of 51 for ELA and Math for both groups. The High School will meet or exceed the 80% four-year-graduation rate in 2014 for the high needs subgroup and continue to lower the dropout rate under the 2.2% reported in 2012. By the end of the 2012-13 school year, the new curricula for trimester courses will include an assessment plan. AHS will reduce the number of teacher-centered lessons observed and noted and increase in active student engagement as measured by the conducted Learning Walks. AHS will improve its capacity by utilizing web-based communication with students, parents, and community stakeholders by establishing direct electronic contact with at least 1000 families by 2013. AHS will improve the culture of the school community and foster teacher leadership as measured by improvement in teacher ratings on the Mass Teaching Learning and Leading (TELL) Survey by the end of the year.

Ms. Furtado questioned the reinstatement of honors programs. There is no English option for students. It is either Advanced Placement or college preparation. Ms. Furtado noted there is either a high or low; no honors course offering.

Mr. Runey noted there are course options. Mr. Runey explained Advanced Placement courses are encouraged and he explained the benefits to this option noting advancement placement courses better prepare a student for the college expectations.

Mr. Connor explained the course offerings and the enrollment numbers. He noted this is being monitored.

Of note, at 7:36 p.m. Mr. Parent entered the Meeting.

Ms. Furtado was relating the concerns of parents. Advanced Placement courses call for a tremendous amount of homework. Parents want their children to be well-rounded. Parents know their children and want their children to have the option of honors courses rather than advanced placement.

Mr. Sawyer noted this area will be evaluated. Input will be gathered from teachers, parents, and students. A decision will be made based on the results rather than the perception. Mr. Sawyer explained the different levels and noted attention will be placed on this area.

Dr. Durkin encouraged parents to contact the high school administration with any concerns. Teachers and deans are there to assist parents.

Mr. Murphy noted the assessment should include both students and teachers. The decision should be made on substantive evidence and the actual data. This will allow an accurate conclusion.

Mr. Tyler stated Attleboro High School is unique in that it offers both the college preparation courses as well as a successful CTE program.

Mr. Runey noted Attleboro High School offers a very redeeming experience. It offers something for everyone. He explained 70% of students who take the advanced placement classes have qualifying scores between three and five.

Mr. Tyler noted advanced placement is global.

Mr. Connor noted the Attleboro average of 71% versus the state average of 74%. Attleboro is ahead of the global range and gaining on the state.

Transportation Update: Mr. Rose informed the committee of an administrative change at Bloom with Charleen Penney replacing Arleen Menard as the Bloom Transportation Site Manager.

The routes continue to be tweaked and the number of bus route changes have significantly declined. Mr. Rose elaborated on the distance for determination of eligibility for bus service. There have been no complaints of any overcrowding on buses. Mr. Rose thanked the principals and staff for the incredible job working with transportation on this process.

Mr. Tyler thanked Mr. Rose for update on the staff change and stated a phenomenal job was done processing the fee for service applicants.

Mr. Larson stated he has received calls complimenting Mr. Rose on his timely response.

Mr. Murphy noted people have commented on the staff and the smooth process.

High School Track and Field Complex: Mr. Rose stated the purpose of the Memorandum included in the packet (see Memorandum and enclosure attached hereto and therefore made a part hereof). The City has requested that the school committee makes and approves the motion as follows: "That the Attleboro School Committee hereby authorizes the City of Attleboro, by and through the School Building Committee, to proceed with the design and construction of the Attleboro High School track and Field Complex. The School Building Committee will forward all final design plans to the School Committee for their approval prior to advertising the final plans for construction bidding."

Ms. Furtado questioned the wording of the motion and felt it was not specific enough.

Mr. Parent explained the final design needs the school committee approval. This motion would allow the process to begin. The final design will include the school committees' input.

Mr. Tyler spoke with Mayor Dumas. This project is not funded by the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA). This project will be City funded. A presentation from the architect is planned. Mr. Parent is the School Committee representative on the School Building Committee. These meetings are public and anyone can attend.

Mr. Parent noted the next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall. This is a community project and invoicing will be billed directly to the City.

Mr. O'Neil asked if an architect was on board at this point.

Mr. Rose stated Gale Associates is the architectural firm assigned to this project. Gale Associates will be providing a preview of the project and bring the City up-to-date on the process.

Mr. Parent suggested a presentation be done for the School Committee. This should be done soon and will be requested.

Ms. Furtado stated the motion as presented would be sufficient with the addition of language stating the school committee will be informed every step of the way.

A motion was made to authorize the City of Attleboro, by and through the School Building Committee, to proceed with the design and construction of the Attleboro High School track and Field Complex. The School Building Committee will forward all final design plans to the School Committee for their approval prior to advertising the final plans for construction bidding with the stipulation that the Attleboro School Committee be kept apprised of the step-by-step process:

Roll Call:

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

Vote: 7-0: Motion passes

Personnel Report: Mr. Sawyer announced one (1) resignation and one (1) appointment (see School Committee Personnel Report attached hereto and therefore made a part hereof).

A motion was made to Approve Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the School Committee and the Attleboro Public School Administrators' Association: re: Educator Evaluation System (a copy of attached hereto and therefore made a part hereof): Discussion: Mr. Tyler commented on the agreeable negotiation process and thanked all involved. Vote: 7-0: Motion passes.

Committee Reports

Finance, Facilities and Procurement Sub-Committee

Mr. Parent noted the Draft Minutes included in the packets for the meeting held on 10-24-12 (attached hereto and therefore made a part hereof).

Notification of bills and warrants

Warrant: 5CS015:	10-17-12	\$413,481.94
Warrant: 5CS016:	10-24-12	\$171,253.84
Warrant: 5CS017:	10-31-12	\$836,419.59

The next meeting will be held on 11-28-12 @ 7:00 p.m.

Curriculum and Instruction Sub-Committee

Mr. O'Neil briefed the Committee on the meeting held on 10-16-12 (see the attached Draft Minutes attached hereto and therefore made a part hereof). He summarized the topics covered: Pilot Alternative "Specials" Rotation at Coelho. This initiative will be reviewed this spring.

Ms. Furtado questioned if this Pilot Program was brought before the school committee before implementation. She stressed the importance of parents' awareness of changes to their child's scheduling before implementation begins.

Mr. O'Neil noted this is an operation of the administration. This is specific to Coelho.

Mr. Sawyer noted this was presented to all three middle schools last year. This was a Coelho idea. The curriculum is unchanged. This is a schedule choice of the principal. Mr. Sawyer noted the school committee will be updated on the progress as the data is reviewed.

Mr. O'Neil noted that teachers really step up with regard to the Advanced Placement programs. Adjustments are made when necessary. Mr. O'Neil noted the importance of reviewing the data.

Mr. Murphy noted chemistry is a good example. The decision was based on the evidence. Mr. Murphy stated the importance of the AP programs, but noted high expectations and standards are expected for all programs.

Mr. Sawyer explained AP teachers feel their other classes benefit from this as well. High standards are expected in all subject areas.

Dr. Durkin stated Attleboro continues to outpace the state in all areas of Pre-K -12. Attleboro teachers stretch their students.

Ms. Furtado commented on the success of the 8th Grade Math.

Dr. Durkin noted more classes are being offered and students are being given every opportunity to succeed.

Mr. O'Neil noted the next meeting will be held on 12-04-12 @ 6:30 p.m.

Policy Sub-Committee

Ms. Furtado updated the committee on the meeting held on 10-22-12 (see the attached Draft Minutes attached hereto and therefore made a part hereof).

A motion was made to approve the Draft Minutes from 10-22-12. Discussion: In Ms. Craw's absence. Chairman Tyler was asked to vote to create a quorum of policy sub-committee members. Vote: 2-0-1 (Tyler). Motion passes.

Motion to approve the following policies with the recommended MASC edits: Policy AC: Nondiscrimination; Policy ACA: Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex; Policy BEC: Executive Session; Policy EBC: Emergency Plans; Policy Exhibit: EBC-E1: Medical Emergency Response Plan; Policy Exhibit: EBC-E2: Emergency Medical Plan and Ambulance Procedure; Policy Exhibit: EBC-E3: Automated External Defibrillators (AED); Policy: GBA: Equal Employment Opportunities; Discussion: None; Vote: 7-0; Motion passes. According to policy, these policies will be tabled for two weeks for public input/comment.

Policy GCF: Professional Staff Hiring:

Mr. Murphy noted these changes articulate what is already being done. This does not expand or garner any school committee authority. Mr. Murphy had noted reservations questioning the effects it might have on the screening committee process as it would pertain to the open meeting law requirements.

Ms. Furtado consulted with MASC about these concerns. There would be no violation of the Open Meeting Laws.

Motion was made to approve Policy GCF: Professional Staff Hiring; Vote: 7-0. Motion passes. According to policy, this policy will be tabled for two weeks for public input/comment.

Policy M-JLC: Student Health Services and Requirements: The edits recommended by MASC were included as presented.

Motion was made to approve Policy M-JLC: Student Health Services and Requirements as presented: Vote: 7-0. Motion passes. This policy will be tabled for two weeks for public input/comment.

Policy M-JLC- A – Physical Examinations of Students: The administration have requested the removal of the line that states the "school physician will be available for those families who, for economic reasons, do not have a primary care physician." This line needs to be removed for several reasons. First because the school physician does not do physicals; he functions as a "consultant" to the schools. Second, conducting physicals and taking on new patients is not part of his contract. It was noted that removal of this line will NOT impact student services in any way. The nurses will continue to use the multiple resources available to them: (1) To make sure students are covered by insurance; and (2) To establish a medical "home" for these families.

Motion was made to approve Policy M-JLCA: Physical Examinations of Students as presented: Vote: 7-0. Motion passes. This policy will be tabled for two weeks for public input/comment.

The next meeting will be held on 11-26-12 @ 7:00 p.m.

Superintendent Search: Mr. Murphy briefed the committee on the status (see Power Point slides attached hereto and therefore made a part hereof). It was noted the committee plans to have the electronic version of the survey online this week. The next update will be provided on November 19th.

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Tyler, Chairman

Attachments:

1. Agenda dated 11-05-12
2. School Sponsored Events: 11-05-12
3. Draft School Committee Minutes 10-15-12
4. School Committee Personnel Report dated 11-05-12
5. Warrant: 5CS016
6. Warrant: 5CS017
7. Warrant: 5CS018
8. Draft Policy Sub-Committee Minutes dated 10-22-12
9. Superintendent Search Calendar; School Building Focus Groups