

Attleboro Public Schools
Attleboro, Massachusetts
School Committee Meeting
Monday, November 19, 2012
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), 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, Keith Drucker, Student Representative, and Judy Nelson, Recording Secretary.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 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.

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: A motion was made to accept the donation of \$2,246.25 from the Feinstein Foundation to the Studley School for the Jr. Scholar T-Shirts: Discussion: None: Vote: 7-0. Motion passes.

New Business:

Presentation by the Superintendent: the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents (MASS) – Excellence Award: Morgan Martini and Jonathan Giara: Pia Durkin, Ph.D., Superintendent: Dr. Durkin gave a brief summary on each student's achievements and presented the awards. The students spoke about the Attleboro Public Schools and encouraged upcoming students to be involved in their schools. Dr. Durkin congratulated the parents. The School Committee also presented the recipients with Soaring Eagle Awards.

Middle School Whole School Improvement Plans (WSIPs): (attached hereto and therefore made a part hereof). Andrew Boles, Principal of Coelho; Karol Coffin, Principal of Wamsutta; and Karen Saltzman, Principal of Brennan: the student achievement focus areas were broken down. The three areas reviewed this evening were: student achievement and growth; curriculum planning and assessment; and professional cultures.

Mr. Boles addressed the student performance. He noted the work done on the delivery of service for special education students. Mr. Boles discussed the common core writing assessments and the high expectations the district has.

Mr. Parent entered the meeting at 7:22 p.m.

Mr. Boles explained writing is expected in all subject areas for example in unified art a student may write a poem to describe an image.

Ms. Coffin discussed curriculum planning and assessment and the focus of closing the achievement gap. Instruction will align with the new common core standards for example: focus on vocabulary, promotion of reading, consistent writing skills, and the student participation expectation. Visible thinking strategies are being taught to ensure understanding. The focus is moving toward pre-AP activities to prepare students for high school. Staff is working with students to share strategies to ensure success.

Ms. Saltzman discussed professional cultures. She explained staff works together collaboratively on expectations and styles. Individual goals and/or team goals align with the district goals. Peer observations have been increased. There are district based and building based learning walks. Teachers work together collaboratively to reflect on strategies. There is a cross-collaboration between Grades 4 and 5. Communication is important. More public presentations will be done to keep parents informed.

Mr. Tyler inquired about the communication between elementary and middle schools. He noted there seems to be a connection with the middle and high school.

Ms. Coffin noted outreach is being done at both levels. The transition has been studied and staff is communicating at the different levels to improve the transition.

Mr. Murphy questioned the extra curricular activity being offered and the possible expansion.

Mr. Boles noted the late buses provide students opportunity to get the academic help needed and also offers things such as zumba and field hockey. Students have an input on what is offered.

Ms. Coffin thanked the committee for the late buses. This has allowed the middle school to double the number of students allowed to partake in the afterschool activities.

Mr. Murphy asked if there were any options for students during the summer months. What is offered.

Ms. Saltzman noted summer reading requirements. Ms. Saltzman explained students are encouraged to participate in community service events.

Dr. Durkin noted the collaboration between the middle school and high school teachers helps raise the bar and expectations.

Mr. Tyler inquired about the special visit to Wamsutta Middle School.

Ms. Coffin noted Dr. Ingram visited the school to commend them on their achievement. Dr. Ingram spoke with students and staff. Dr. Ingram shared his experiences in education. Ms. Coffin stated this was a very gracious and much appreciated visited.

Dr. Durkin explained the Dr. Ingram also visited the Coelho Middle School. He spoke with the principal and staff to see the progress being made at this school.

Mr. Boles noted the constructive feedback. Coelho is moving in the right direction.

Ms. Furtado thanked all three principals and commended Ms. Coffin on her job at Wamsutta.

Enrollment/SIMS Report: Mr. Rose explained the enrollment data (memorandum attached hereto and therefore made a part hereof). He explained what the FY14 funding would be based on and noted the district was in a good position for funding in FY14.

Mr. Larson questioned the enrollment data from last year.

Mr. Rose noted last year was 5940 (this year 5904) and explained the possible reason for fluctuation for example: out-of-district, private school attendance, and night school program.

Mr. Murphy asked why the night school courses were not state funded.

Mr. Rose was unsure, but would contact the DESE for input.

Mr. Parent questioned how the CTE program is broken down.

Mr. Sawyer explained the Chapter 74 funding and the basis on student enrollment in the CTE programs.

Mr. Tyler asked if the CTE programs were at maximum capacity.

Dr. Durkin noted at this time we are not at maximum class size.

Transportation Update: Mr. Rose brought the committee up-to-date on the transportation since the previous report on November 5th. Transportation appears to be stabilized at this point (memorandum attached hereto and therefore made a part hereof). From this point on there should be minimal changes. Mr. Rose explained there was a parent concern regarding a certain bus stop and this is being reviewed and worked on with the parent, staff, and Bloom. Mr. Rose explained the process for determining if a student was eligible for transportation without having to pay for the fee for service.

Mr. Rose updated the committee on the status of the McKinney Vento funding. The deficit money was approved by the Mayor. Mr. Rose gave the history that brought the funding to this point.

Mr. Parent thanked Mr. Rose for answering the City Council questions.

Ms. Furtado thanked Mr. Rose for this information and Mr. Rose to keep the committee informed when he appears before City Council.

Committee Reports

Finance, Facilities and Procurement Sub-Committee

Notification of bills and warrants

Warrant: 5CS018:	11-07-12	\$ 97,169.90
Warrant: 5CS019	11-14-12	\$217,954.74

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

Curriculum and Instruction Sub-Committee: Mr. O'Neil provided a summary of the MASC 2012 Conference attended on Cape Cod (attached hereto and therefore made a part hereof). Mr. O'Neil attended a seminar on Foundation Budget and Chapter 70. The Mass Budget and Policy Center is suggesting, but not expecting a review and revision of the Chapter 70 by legislature. Mr. O'Neil also attended a MASC Division 3 Assembly done by Meira Levinson. This discussed the positive effects on student achievement, teacher and community engagement in civic participation in and around the schools. Mr. O'Neil noted a good example of this is the Willett Gardens which provides a brand of teaching without feeling like school work.

Mr. O'Neil attended the MASC Delegate Assembly (information attached hereto). He noted the resolutions that were voted on. He encouraged members to view the MASC website for the most updated language.

The next meeting will be held on 12-04-12 @ 6:30 p.m.

Mr. Tyler noted Superintendent Durkin also attended this conference as a presenter.

Dr. Durkin spoke about the Human Resource Grant. Dr. Durkin presented with the two other communities involved in this grant process.

Policy Sub-Committee: Ms. Furtado noted the following tabled policies from 11-05-12 are finalized:

- Policy AC: Nondiscrimination:
- Policy ACA: Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex:
- Policy BEC: Executive Session:
- Policy EBC: Emergency Plans: Vote:
- 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:
- Policy: GCF: Professional Staff Hiring:
- Policy: M-JLC: Student Health Services and Requirements:

- Policy: M-JLCA: Physical Examinations of Students:

Ms. Furtado commented on the concussion policy/procedure for Attleboro Public Schools. Recently Ms. Furtado had to bring her son to the doctors. Her doctor was very impressed with the paperwork and process Attleboro has in place. The doctor commended Attleboro on the protocol and documentation. The next meeting will be held on 11-26-12 @ 7:00 p.m.

At 8:15 p.m. a motion was made to enter into Executive Session for the following reasons:

- To conduct strategy session in preparations for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel.
- To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body.

The Committee will not return to Open Session:

Roll Call:

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

Motion passes: 8-0

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Craw, Secretary

Attachments:

1. Agenda dated 11-19-12
2. School Sponsored Events: 11-19-12
3. Memorandum and Attachments: Whole School Improvement Plans – Brennan, Coelho, and Wamsutta: dated 11-16-12
4. Memorandum and Attachments: Sims Report dated 11-13-12 – Tom Rose, Business Manager
5. Memorandum and Attachments: Eligible & Fee for Services dated 11-5-12 – Tom Rose, Business Manager
6. Warrant: 5CS018
7. Warrant: 5CS019
8. Curriculum and Instruction – Summary –
9. Policy AC: Nondiscrimination:
10. Policy ACA: Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex:
11. Policy BEC: Executive Session:
12. Policy EBC: Emergency Plans:
13. Policy Exhibit: EBC-E1: Medical Emergency Response Plan:
14. Policy Exhibit: EBC-E2: Emergency Medical Plan and Ambulance Procedure:
15. Policy Exhibit: EBC-E3: Automated External Defibrillators (AED):
16. Policy: GBA: Equal Employment Opportunities:
17. Policy: GCF: Professional Staff Hiring:
18. Policy: M-JLC: Student Health Services and Requirements:
19. Policy: M-JLCA: Physical Examinations of Students:
20. Memorandum: FY13 First Quarterly Transportation Report dated 11-05-12: Tom Rose, Business Manager