

Attleboro Public Schools
Attleboro, Massachusetts
School Committee Meeting
Monday, December 10, 2012
School Committee Conference Room - Attleboro High School
Minutes

Present: 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: Michael Tyler, (At Large) and 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: Ms. Furtado led the Committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Notice of Electronic Recording: Ms. Furtado noted the meeting was being electronically recorded.

Ms. Crow entered the meeting at 7:05 p.m.

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).

Mr. Murphy informed the community about the Greater Attleboro Area Holiday Drive that provides for local children. There is a shortage of donations. People were encouraged to contribute.

Open Forum: Ms. Furtado explained the guidelines of Open Forum.

Jennifer Crowder – 19 Falmouth Street – a parent of Ward 4. Ms. Crowder expressed concerns with regard to the IEP services for her son. She posed three questions (see documents attached hereto and therefore made a part hereof) and inquired when a speech therapist would be hired.

Consent Agenda:

A motion was made to accept a donation in the amount of \$250.00 from the College Board to Attleboro High School gifts/donation line: Discussion: None. Vote: 7-0

A motion was made to accept the donation of a \$50.00 gift card from Walmart to Studley for educational needs: Discussion: None: Vote: 7-0

A motion was made to accept a check in the amount of \$2,000.00 from the Feinstein Foundation to the Studley School: Discussion: None. Vote: 7-0

A motion was made to approve the Field Trip Proposal: from Attleboro High School for concept approval of a Field Trip Proposal for twenty (20) Grade 9-12 cheerleaders to attend National High School Cheerleading Competition in Orlando, Florida: 04-05-13 – 04-08-13 (funding sources parents/fundraiser): Discussion: None: Vote: 7-0

New Business: Elementary Schools - Whole School Improvement Plans (WSIPs): Susan Nascimento, Principal – Hill-Roberts; Tricia Martin, Principal – Hyman Fine; Linda McSweeney, Principal, Studley; Catherine Zinni, Principal, Thacher; Kate Campbell, Principal – Willett;

Dr. Durkin noted this was the last presentation to the committee on Whole School Improvement Plans. The Superintendent gave a brief overview of the presentation.

Ms. McSweeney explained the plan of action that involved a partnership/collaboration and the collective effort on the part of all stakeholders. Students are shown how to derive an answer and how to visualize this process. Students are encouraged to challenge themselves. The central focus: creating a higher level of thinking.

Ms. Nascimento described the multiple sources of data and how the data targets the individual needs of students. MCAS, district common assessments, and grade level data are examples of the information utilized. This information allows the administration to plan interventions and necessary mid-year adjustments. The Grade Level Data shows the areas of strength and determines the delivery of instruction.

Ms. Martin discussed the interventions. Data is used to plan interventions that are developed to meet the individual student needs. The different interventions were discussed for example: Early Reading Interventions at the kindergarten level. Students are monitored and adjustments are made throughout the year. The explicit systematic instruction provides the necessary interventions.

Ms. Campbell explained the importance of good citizenship. Students are taught the importance of treating people nicely. Parents and teachers are working together to create a community collaboration. There are book talks, math games, and vocabulary parades. Students are very positive and enjoy these interventions.

Ms. Zinni explained the professional culture which is part of the new educator evaluation tool. Staff members support one another. Some examples of professional culture: Thacher staff has been encouraged to belong to at least one committee, one family outreach, and/or one thing that is beyond their job responsibility. There has been childcare provided at the Early Learning Center, Harvest Night, Potluck Dinner, tutoring, mentoring, and a student support team is in place. At Studley there have been PTO presentations. At Hill-Roberts a Science Night was held. At Hyman Fine a multi-cultural night was held. At Willett staff assists with the training of other staff members throughout the district.

Mr. Murphy thanked the principals for their hard work.

The Superintendent explained this is an active document which is constantly updated and reviewed. Another step involves the SMART Goals which also involves a mid-cycle review.

Personnel Report: Mr. Sawyer reported three (3) retirements and two (2) resignations (see the attached School Committee Personnel Report dated 12-10-12).

Committee Reports

Finance, Facilities and Procurement Sub-Committee: Mr. Parent reported on the meeting held on 11-28-12. The following motions were brought forward:

A motion was made and seconded to bring to the full School Committee for approval to authorize the School Building Committee to utilize funds from the AHS Track & Field Complex Fund to design and construct the AHS Track and Field Complex; and further authorize the School Building Committee to solicit advertising for various locations at the AHS Track and Field Complex. Mr. Parent noted this cannot move forward without the Committee's authorization:

Discussion: Mr. Parent explained that the motion would authorize the School Building Committee to use those funds to help build the athletic complex and also allow the School Building Committee to solicit sponsorships for advertising.

Mr. Murphy noted the educational importance of this project.

Mr. O'Neil inquired about the name of the field.

Mr. Parent noted no one has mentioned a change in the current name.

Vote: 7-0. Motion passes.

A motion was made and seconded to amend his (Mr. Larson) motion and send back the proposal for legal services back to the full School Committee for re-evaluation. Discussion: Mr. Parent asked Mr. Larson to elaborate on his motion.

Mr. Larson noted concerns for change of legal services at this time. Mr. Larson noted this was not an attempt to change the vote, but conduct the process at a later date. Mr. Larson thought the finance motion brought back, to the full committee, the item for discussion on postponement.

Mr. Murphy noted this warrants further discussion.

Mr. Parent stated no change was going to be done tonight. It was his understanding that this motion was to re-evaluate the item.

Ms. Furtado asked what the timing issue was.

Mr. Parent explained the current committee has been in office for 12 months. The committee has an obligation to review what the options are. A motion was passed at the May 7th Meeting and as Chairman of Finance it was his duty to act upon the motion.

Ms. Furtado asked if the May 7th motion had been acted upon.

Mr. Parent stated it had been discussed, but the sub-committee has not acted on this at this time.

Mr. Murphy voiced concerns with the May 7th vote/motion as it was not on the May 7th Agenda when the vote was taken. He stressed the importance of counsel being well-experienced during the upcoming searches and events.

Mr. Parent stated this subject needed to be reviewed. The committee needs to look at all the options available.

Mr. Murphy noted there was no need to discuss this tonight.

Ms. Furtado stated if any of the members had a problem with the May 7th motion/vote, this should have come forward in a timely fashion. The district will always have something going on for example: grievance, contract negotiations, etc. The committee needs to act on the motion.

Mr. Parent stated it was his job as finance chairman to act on any motion whether or not he agreed with the motion.

Mr. Murphy explained the November 28th finance motion brought this item back to the full committee for re-evaluation.

Mr. Parent stated it was his understanding the motion brought this forward for further discussion and in no way changes the May 7th motion.

Mr. Murphy noted the May 7th motion was still in force until the vote on November 28th which brought this back to the full committee.

Mr. Parent stated this does warrant further discussion at the finance sub-committee level. Mr. Parent will continue to research options and present them through a finance sub-committee meeting.

A motion was made and seconded to recommend to the full School Committee the approval of a transfer of funds from line number A2210570-551010 to line number A2430090-551010 for \$3,000.00. Discussion: Mr. Rose explained that the transfer was needed to purchase ELL supplies. The monies would be transferred from the Copy Center supply line. A vote is required for this request. Vote: 7-0. Motion passes.

A motion was made and seconded to recommend to the full School Committee the approval of the lease with Akuity for web filtering for a term of five years in the amount of \$15,251.84 per year. Discussion:

Mr. Rose explained this was to purchase web filtering equipment for the information system. This filtering equipment would prohibit students from going onto the internet to sites they should not. The OIT Director reviewed the state bid list to find a good product, company, and price for this equipment. The reason for the five year lease request was to allow the district to lower the annual expense. This lease, if approved, would be brought to City Council for approval. Mr. Rose noted all leases will follow protocol and be sent to City Council for approval.

Ms. Craw voiced frustration that there was no back-up in the packet for members to review on this item.

The Superintendent noted the back up information was provided to members in the packets for the Finance Sub-Committee

Meeting.

Mr. Parent asked that when a motion involves an action, the administration is to provide all back up information to all members for review. This should occur even if this information was previously provided for a full committee meeting or sub-committee meeting.

Vote: 7-0. Motion passes.

A motion was made and seconded to recommend to the full School Committee the approval for a second time the lease of a Ricoh Copier with IKON: Discussion:

Mr. Rose explained why this was coming back to the committee for vote and reiterated that any lease will go through City Council for approval before finalized. Vote: 7-0: Motion passes.

A motion was made and seconded to recommend to the full School Committee for approval the School committee hereby authorizes and approves the expenditure of funds from gifts and grants that have been received by the School Department for educational purposes. The expenditures so authorized must be for purposes consistent with the terms of the gift or grant. For so-called "entitlement grants", this authorization will extend until revoked by the School Committee. For so-called "competitive grants", this authorization will need to be renewed annually. Discussion:

Mr. Parent explained that according to policy the committee must annually authorize this process. The committee will be apprised of all the necessary grant information. Vote: 7-0. Motion passes.

A motion was made and seconded to recommend to the full School Committee for the approval for the disposition of playground equipment at Finberg and Hyman Fine deemed unused, unsafe, or unwanted: Discussion:

Mr. Rose explained there is some unsafe equipment at Finberg and Hyman Fine. This vote is necessary for disposal which will be at minimal cost to the district. Vote: 7-0. Motion passes.

Notification of bills and warrants

Warrant: 5CS020	11-21-12	\$ 99,207.23
Warrant: 5CS021	11-28-12	\$169,561.86
Warrant: 5CS022	12-05-12	\$712,817.61

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

Curriculum and Instruction Sub-Committee: Mr. O'Neil briefed the committee on the meeting held on 12-04-12 (see the Draft Minutes attached hereto and therefore made a part hereof). There were two areas of discussion. The HR Pilot Project was discussed. The ten (10) levers of control were explained. This ensures the quality of our teachers. Quality teachers are better educators. Mr. O'Neil stressed the importance of this work. Professional development and supports are needed to move forward with the common core standards. Technology needs are also important to continue in the right direction. Accelerated Reader Program, in the past was funded by the PTO's. It is the administration recommendation that this program be planned for during the upcoming budget process as this program has been successful and promotes additional student reading. More information will be gathered for preparation of the FY14 Budget. The next meeting will be held on 01-08-13 @ 6:30 p.m.

Policy Sub-Committee: Ms. Furtado reported on the meeting held on 11-26-12. The following motion was brought forward: A motion was made to accept the Attleboro Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan with the noted changes as provided:

Discussion: It was noted upon the School Committee's approval, the updated Plan will be submitted to the Department Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) for approval. Upon DESE approval, the plan will be posted on the district website and shared with staff. Vote: 7-0. Motion passes.

The next Policy Sub-Committee Meeting will be held on 01-14-13 @ 7:00 p.m.

The Superintendent exited the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

Superintendent Search: Mr. Murphy noted the Chairman has called for a meeting on Thursday, December 13th at 8:00 p.m. The Committee will be updated on the survey and focus group process and will also discuss the preliminary findings, posting, and advertising process for the superintendent position. Following the open meeting the school committee will enter into Executive Session to discuss the parameters for the salary range for the superintendent position.

Ms. Craw questioned the posting of meetings without the vote of the full school committee. Ms. Craw was referring to Focus Groups.

Ms. Furtado noted all the Focus Group Meetings had concluded.

Mr. Murphy noted the Superintendent Search Process was approved with a Vote of 6-0. The committee should note Slide 11 of the presentation which included the many different entities involved with the focus group meetings. Mr. Murphy received a call from the Early Childhood Center requesting attendance at a meeting. Mr. Murphy informed the Chairman of this request. Mr. Murphy planned to speak briefly. This meeting ran longer than expected. Mr. Murphy thanked all those who participated in the process.

Ms. Craw stated the full committee was not aware of this meeting and was informed after-the-fact. Members should have been given the option of attending.

Mr. Parent was in attendance at ECC Meeting and noted the group was very receptive. Mr. Parent asked that in the future going forward the full committee should be notified of any meetings.

Mrs. Zito attended this meeting as a school committee member as this is one of the schools in her Ward. Mrs. Zito attends all these meetings and offered to provide the dates to Ms. Craw and any member who would like this information.

Mr. Murphy noted it should be noted that no meeting took place without the permission of the Chairman.

Ms. Furtado stated the full committee was not notified and going forward more communication is needed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Craw, Secretary

Attachments:

1. Agenda dated 12-10-12
2. School Sponsored Events dated 12-10-12
3. ASD Field Trip Proposal dated 11-27-12
4. Whole School Improvement Plan 2012-13 Hill-Roberts
5. Whole School Improvement Plan 2012-13 Hyman Fine
6. Whole School Improvement Plan 2012-13 Studley
7. Whole School Improvement Plan 2012-13 Thacher
8. Whole School Improvement Plan 2012-13 Willett
9. School Committee Personnel Report dated 12-10-12
10. Draft Finance Sub-Committee Minutes – 11-28-12
11. Schematic Drawings – AHS Track & Field Facility
12. Warrant: 5CS020: 11-21-2
13. Warrant: 5CS021: 11-28-12
14. Warrant: 5CS022: 12-05-12
15. Draft Curriculum & Instruction Minutes: 12-04-12
16. Draft Policy Sub-Committee Minutes: 11-26-12
17. Memorandum Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan: 12-05-12
18. Open Forum Documents: Jennifer Crowder