

**NORTH ATTLEBOROUGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE**  
**NORTH ATTLEBOROUGH, MA**  
**February 5, 2018**  
**6:00 P.M. Regular Meeting**

The North Attleborough School Committee met on Monday, February 5, 2018 at 6:00 pm in the James M. Rice Conference Room at the Woodcock Administration Building.

Committee members present included James McKenna, Neal Gouck, Ethan Hamilton, Gary Lake, Kevin O'Donnell, Adam Scanlon, and Carol Wagner who left the meeting at 6:26 pm before any voting took place.

Chairman McKenna called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm. The Pledge of Allegiance followed. Chairman McKenna stated that the meeting was being recorded by Jared Ware and will be broadcast on North TV.

**Recognition:** Superintendent Holcomb introduced the Principal of Martin School, Dr. Danielle Klingaman, who reported that Martin School received a \$1000 grant towards STEM materials from the Exxon Mobil Educational Alliance. Dr. Klingaman explained it was arranged through a Martin parent, Mr. John Barber, who is a Territory Sales Manager for Global and, Mr. Bob King, who owns the Economy Car Wash Mobil station on Route 1 at 348 East Washington Street.

Assistant Superintendent Lori McEwen announced the 2018 recipients of the Richard A Smith Grant. Dr. McEwen announced the names, the school they teach at, a description of the project, and the amount of the award. Recipients who were in attendance at the meeting expressed their gratitude for being chosen. Discussion ensued.

**Presentations:** North Attleborough High School Student Representative Mackenzie Rosenberg reported on the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester starting. Class assemblies took place at the end of 1<sup>st</sup> semester to talk about the new things ahead. She went on to report on winter sports: track teams won their most recent meet, swim team was doing very well, hockey team had just made the playoffs with their win over the weekend and the girls basketball team got their 1<sup>st</sup> win of the season the previous week. Mackenzie reported that everything at the high school was going smoothly.

Assistant Principals Russ Booth and Sonja Metcalf and Guidance Counselor Judd Gavan reported on the proposed changes being made to the High School Program of Studies. Mr. Gavan explained all of the language addition and deletion edits that had been reviewed and agreed upon by the policy subcommittee.

Neal Gouck made a motion to approve the High School Program of Studies for the 2018-2019 school year as recommended by the Policy Sub-Committee, seconded by Kevin O'Donnell. Discussion ensued. So voted and passed unanimously 6-0-0

Chairman McKenna asked for a motion for NAPS to accept a donation of 44 computers, so moved by Kevin O'Donnell, seconded by Gary Lake; so voted and passed unanimously 6-0-0.

Superintendent Holcomb explained the process of the submission for a Statement of Interest (SOI) to the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) for North Attleborough High School. Chairman McKenna requested a motion to approve the language for a Statement of Interest (SOI) to the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) for North Attleborough High School which he read aloud and follows;

**MSBA  
REQUIRED FORM OF VOTE TO SUBMIT A STATEMENT OF INTEREST  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

Resolved: Having convened in an open meeting on February 5, 2018, prior to the SOI submission closing date, the School Committee of the Town of North Attleborough, in accordance with its charter, by-laws, and ordinances, has voted to authorize the Superintendent to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority the Statement of Interest Form dated February 5, 2018 for the North Attleborough High School located at One Wilson Whitty Way, North Attleborough, MA 02760 which describes and explains the following deficiencies and the priority category(s) for which an application may be submitted to the Massachusetts School Building Authority in the future: Priority # 2 Elimination of existing severe overcrowding due to classes exceeding the maximum capacity; Priority # 3 Prevention of the loss of accreditation as outlined in the 2016 New England Association of Schools and Colleges accreditation report; Priority #5 Replacement, renovation or modernization of school facility systems, such as roofs, windows, boilers, heating and ventilation systems, to increase energy conservation and decrease energy related costs in a school facility as outlined in the 2016 New England Association of Schools and Colleges accreditation report; and Priority #7 Replacement of or addition to obsolete buildings in order to provide for a full range of programs consistent with state and approved local requirements as outlined in the New England Association of Schools and Colleges accreditation report and hereby further specifically acknowledges that by submitting this Statement of Interest Form, the Massachusetts School Building Authority in no way guarantees the acceptance or the approval of an application, the awarding of a grant or any other funding commitment from the Massachusetts School Building Authority, or commits the City/Town/Regional School District to filing an application for funding with the Massachusetts School Building Authority.

Motion to accept so moved by Kevin O'Donnell, seconded by Adam Scanlon, so voted by roll call vote:

Adam Scanlon - Yes  
Gary Lake - Yes  
Neal Gouck - Yes  
Jim McKenna - Yes  
Kevin O'Donnell - Yes  
Ethan Hamilton - Yes  
Passed unanimously 6-0-0.

**Action Items:** Chairman McKenna called for a motion to approve the bills dated: January 11, 18, 25, and February 2, 2018, so moved by Kevin O'Donnell, seconded by Gary Lake, so voted and passed unanimously 6-0-0.

Chairman McKenna called for a motion to approve the minutes dated January 8, 2018, so moved by Adam Scanlon, seconded by Neal Gouck, so voted and passed unanimously 6-0-0.

**Discussion:** Mr. O'Donnell mentioned the town's need for new RTM members. He explained that papers can be taken out until Friday, February 9<sup>th</sup>, candidates will need 10 signatures from townspeople, and the papers need to be returned by February 13<sup>th</sup>. Mr. O'Donnell reported that the Town Hall will be open until 5:00 on both evenings. He urged the public to consider putting their names in. He asked that announcements be made at the high school for all students of age to register to vote.

**Chairman's Report:** Chairman McKenna wanted to acknowledge the Elks as they celebrate their 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary in February and thank them once again for the dictionary donation to our 3<sup>rd</sup> graders. Mr. McKenna also congratulated the NAMS students who participated in the Science Fair. He was very impressed with the experiments that were displayed and acknowledged all of their hard work.

Chairman McKenna reported on Superintendent Holcomb's evaluation. He explained that all of the committee member's individual evaluations were compiled into one summarized version which he read aloud. Mr. McKenna then asked each committee member for their own comments. Adam Scanlon reported Mr. Holcomb exceeded expectations and received exemplary marks throughout his evaluation of the Superintendent. Mr. Scanlon said his

grades were justified by going through the evidence supplied by Superintendent Holcomb. He was most impressed with district improvement plan and the strategic plan put together by Mr. Holcomb which has given the town a direction to move forward. Gary Lake was most impressed with the increased communication between the Central Office and the community and committee. He commended Mr. Holcomb on his recommendations of new hires such as Assistant Superintendent Lori McEwen, Principal Peter Haviland, and Assistant Principal Russ Booth. He appreciates Mr. Holcomb's hard work on the strategic plan and district improvement plan and his leadership skills. Ethan Hamilton stated Superintendent Holcomb had a good year, but the bar is continuing to move and he expects more from him next year. Neal Gouck stated that Mr. Holcomb had quite a successful year. From his assumption of control, putting together his leadership team, and your focus always remaining on the students, Mr. Gouck applauded Mr. Holcomb for his efforts and looks forward to his goals for the upcoming year. Mr. McKenna found the document to be very difficult to work with but found Superintendent Holcomb's performance for the year to be exemplary on all counts. Kevin O'Donnell stated that Mr. Holcomb came into his position at a difficult time but put "boots to the pavement" as soon as he took over. It was challenging to evaluate Superintendent Holcomb because he held the position for less than a year at the time the evaluation was made. Mr. O'Donnell was impressed with the DIP, the new principals hired over the course of the year, leadership changes made within the district, the NEASC report and the fact that Mr. Holcomb is surrounding himself with the strongest leadership team ever. Mr. O'Donnell's power points were Superintendent Holcomb's enthusiasm, he is a motivator, he listens, he's approachable, he has a vision, he can be trusted, he's honest, he shows great leadership skills and he has a passion for what he does. Mr. O'Donnell stated to his fellow committee members that we need to help him succeed.

Superintendent Holcomb thanked the committee members for their time, thoughtfulness and thoroughness in their evaluation process. He thanked his administration team, teachers, students and parents for all the help. Mr. Holcomb stated that the evaluation is a reflection of all groups working together. Looking forward to working with the school department and community for continued improvement.

**Adjournment to Executive Session:** Chairman McKenna requested a motion to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing negotiations with Union and Non-Union Personnel which may have a detrimental effect if held in open session and also for the purpose of discussing strategy with respect to litigation in an open meeting which may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the public body, so moved by Kevin O'Donnell, seconded by Gary Lake, and so voted by roll call:

Adam Scanlon - Yes  
Gary Lake - Yes  
Neal Gouck - Yes  
Jim McKenna - Yes  
Kevin O'Donnell - Yes  
Ethan Hamilton - Yes  
Passed unanimously 6-0-0

Mr. McKenna stated they would not be returning after Executive Session.

Meeting adjourned at 6:56 p.m.

*Submitted by: Administrative Assistant to Superintendent/Mary Chagnon*