

NORTH ATTLEBOROUGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE

NORTH ATTLEBOROUGH, MA

April 4, 2018

6:05 P.M. Regular Meeting

The North Attleborough School Committee met on Wednesday April 4, 2018 immediately following the reorganizational meeting in the James M. Rice Conference Room at the Woodcock Administration Building.

Chairman McKenna stated that Committee Member Ethan Hamilton was absent and would be participating in the meeting remotely. A sound check was made to confirm connectivity. Chairman McKenna reminded everyone that the meeting was being recorded by Jared Ware and will be broadcast on North TV. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

Superintendent Holcomb began by congratulating Kevin O'Donnell and Carol Wagner on their re-elections to the Committee. Mr. Holcomb then introduced Rebecca Jennings, Veterans' Agent for the Town of North Attleborough. Ms. Jennings explained a new program, "North Serves", being instituted this year at graduation where they will recognize any students who have chosen to join the military after graduation. Examples of the coin and certificate that will be presented to these students were available for review. Discussion ensued.

School Committee Member Ethan Hamilton arrived to the meeting at 6:22 p.m.

Superintendent Holcomb recognized the NAMS and NAHS Music Ensembles for their accomplishments on the weekend of March 24th/25th. The North Attleboro MS and HS music ensembles performed at the Massachusetts Instrumental and Choral Conductor's Association (MICCA) Concert and Choral Festival. The results of North Attleboro are as follows:

- The Middle School Concert Band under the direction of Courtney Schick received a Bronze Medal.
- The Middle School Concert Chorus under the direction of Christine Walker received a Gold Medal.
- The High School Concert Band under the direction of Thomas Rizzo received a Silver Medal.
- The High School Concert Chorus under the direction of Robert Couture received a Silver Medal.
- The High School Women's Choir under the direction of Robert Couture received a Gold Medal.

Mr. Holcomb explained this is Mrs. Walker's and the NAMS Music Department's first gold medal and Mr. Couture's second gold medal. Both the Middle School Concert Chorus and the High School Women's Choir, with their Gold Medals, have earned the privilege of performing at Boston's magnificent Symphony Hall at the MICCA Gold Medal Showcase on Saturday, April 21st at 8:00am and 8:20 am respectively. Mr. Holcomb congratulated all the students for their hard work and countless hours of practice.

North Attleborough High School Representative Aidan Harding reported that report cards were coming out on Friday. Spring sports were beginning this week but some games were cancelled because of rain. The Theater Company was performing "The Little Mermaid" on Friday and Saturday. Mackenzie Rosenberg gave a report on the graduation gowns. The final decision had been made and students would be wearing red gowns with white sashes and for the first time, graduates would be able to decorate their caps. Junior prom was scheduled for April 29th and the Senior prom was scheduled for May 12th. Planning had begun for a Special Olympics rally. Discussion ensued.

Superintendent Holcomb introduced Mr. Gideon Gaudette, Technology Director who explained the "Digital Connections Partnership Schools Grant that NAPS just received. Mr. Gaudette explained this grant will rewire each of our schools with CAT6 Cabling along with placing wireless access points in each of our rooms. These modifications, coupled with changes of the switches, guarantees that all of our schools will have increased uninterrupted accessibility with 10X greater upload and download speeds. These upgrades will ensure we can support our move to a one-to-one digital device environment. Business Administrator David Flynn explained that part of the grant is that NAPS is expected to spend 50% of the amount of the grant in infrastructure upgrades. That money spent could come back as Federal E-Rate rebates making this grant a great opportunity to get one-to-one devices into the students hands. Discussion ensued.

At this time Chairman McKenna moved to public comments. Mr. Mark Williamson asked the School Committee to please take a second look at their recent vote to reduce fees. Mr. McKenna thanked him for his thoughts and urged anyone wanting an item on the agenda to let him know prior to the meeting so it could be placed on the agenda which would allow discussion on those items.

Assistant Superintendent Lori McEwen reported on DIP updates. Dr. McEwen explained that one of the items of focus was to enhance administrative instructional leadership. Dr. McEwen reported on instructional rounds that have taken place, and explained the instructional core and the process. Discussion ensued
Superintendent Holcomb requested a 5 minute recess at 7:09 p.m. Chairman McKenna brought the meeting back to order at 7:14.

Superintendent Holcomb announced Sarah McCracken would become the Principal of Community School for the 2018-2019 school year. Mr. Holcomb explained when Ms. McCracken was hired, she was hired as an interim principal. As Mr. Holcomb has observed Ms. McCracken's interactions with students, teachers, and parents, he is confident that we are better for having her here in North Attleborough. Discussion ensued and a recess was taken for pictures at 7:19 p.m.

Chairman McKenna reconvened the meeting at 7:22 p.m.

Superintendent Holcomb reported the NESDEC plan was in the Committee's backup for their review but they would not be discussing it. He explained the report was spawned from negativity due to budgetary issues and was no longer needed as a result of the override vote. Mr. Holcomb reported on the submission of a Statement of Interest with the Massachusetts School Building Authority earlier today. Superintendent Holcomb explained the Board of Selectmen would be meeting on April 6th to discuss how to spend \$1.5M in one-time non-recurring expenses. He stated \$1M of the \$1.5M would be given to the school department for one-time non-recurring expenses. Mr. Holcomb and Business Administrator David Flynn presented clarification of available revenue for the School Department due to override passing and how the money will be spent. Based on the technology grant previously discussed, laptops for teachers, wireless connections to projectors, one-to-one devices for students would be priorities. Recurring costs would include personnel and curriculum supplies. The list on the transparency center would be used to prioritize how the money will be spent. Discussion ensued.

Chairman McKenna called for a motion to approve the bills dated: March 8, 15, 22, and 29, 2018 so moved by Kevin O'Donnell, seconded by Gary Lake, so voted and passed unanimously 7-0-0.

Chairman McKenna called for a motion to approve the minutes dated March 5, and March 12, 2018, so moved by Kevin O'Donnell, seconded by Gary Lake, so voted and passed 6-0-1 Kathryn Hobbs abstained.

Chairman McKenna stated the next item was to vote to approve School Choice at the High School for FY19. Superintendent Holcomb asked to strike that from the agenda based on information that was not available to him at the time the item was placed on the agenda. Due to the NESDEC report received and confirmation of overcrowding across the district, Superintendent recommended a motion to not participate in School Choice for North Attleborough Public Schools in FY19. Discussion ensued. So moved by Kevin O'Donnell, seconded by Carol Wagner, so voted and pass unanimously 7-0-0

Chairman McKenna called for a motion to approve the FY2018-2019 contract extension with WT Holmes Transportation, so moved by Kevin O'Donnell, seconded by Gary Lake. Business Administrator David Flynn clarified the meaning of the extension. So voted and passed unanimously 7-0-0

Chairman McKenna called for a motion to transfer \$10,355.00 from the North Attleborough High School Scholarship Fund to the North Attleborough Scholarship Foundation. Business Administrator David Flynn clarified. So moved by Kevin O'Donnell, seconded by Adam Scanlon, so voted and passed unanimously 7-0-0

Chairman McKenna congratulated Kathryn Hobbs on becoming a member. Mrs. Hobbs thanked everyone for voting. Ms. Wagner is thrilled to be on the committee and thanked everyone for voting and working so hard on the Unite for North campaign so that the override passed. Mr. O'Donnell was feeling blessed and humbled by the support of the people who voted for him. He was very appreciative. Mr. McKenna then thanked the committee for electing him Chairman for another year. He stated the next meeting would start at 7:00 pm and the committee would be revisiting the start times of meetings.

Chairman McKenna called for a motion to adjourn, so moved by Kevin O'Donnell, seconded by Carol Wagner, so voted and passed unanimously 7-0-0

The meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

Submitted by Mary Chagnon, Administrative Assistant to Superintendent