

North Attleborough School Committee
Meeting Minutes
March 4, 2013

The North Attleborough School Committee met on Monday, March 4, 2013 at 7:00pm in the James M. Rice Conference Room at the Woodcock Administration Building.

Committee members present included: Carol Wagner, Joan Meilan, Neal Gouck, Christopher Frost, Chip Poirier, James McKenna, and Kevin O'Donnell

Superintendent Suzan Cullen, Assistant Superintendent Joel Antolini, Business Administrator David Flynn, and Facilities and Grounds Administrator Kyle Kummer represented Central Administration.

Chairman Frost called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence for the fallen veterans followed.

Chairman Frost stated that the meeting is recorded and televised by North TV and controls are manned by Trevor Bowman, he then thanked Mr. Chip Poirier for filling in and running the February meeting in his absence.

Presentations

Ms. Kate Kummer and Mr. Ryan Kingsley provided the committee with the High School update. Ryan stated that March 14, 2013 is the National Honor Society induction. Mr. NAHS is March 28th.

Wednesday is the internet safety presentation with Mrs. Katie Greer. It is the parent component of the school day presentations. Progress reports will be issued on Friday. March 21st is the Music Department's spring concert. MCAS is March 19, 21, 22. Juniors have an informational assembly for boys and girls state. It is a mock government that the students take part in. Ms. Kate Kummer updated the School Committee regarding the following: User fees are being collected tonight for spring activities including spring sports, which begins on March 18, 2013. Wrestling won the DII and Hocks and although they had to forfeit the Hock duals, came back and rallied to win the DII States. Swim team and Girls' basketball team both won Hocks. Hockey team had the best finish they have ever had with a highlight of the season being scoring against Canton for the first time since the sport was reinstated. Some individual athletes also had a great year including Carly Ebsory who is going to nationals for gymnastics, Eric Beckwith is state champion and is going to Nationals for track; Sara Hargreaves improved her time in swimming by 10 seconds and won the state championship. March 13 is a dodge ball tournament to raise money for senior class. And in closing Ms. Kummer informed the Committee about a High School teacher Mr. Louro. He lost his house in a fire this winter and the school community came together and raised over \$5000 to donate to his family.

Mr. Frost thanked both Ryan and Kate for their presentations and then introduced Mr. George Gagnon, Principal of The Falls Elementary School, who presented the School Improvement Plan for Falls. Mr. Gagnon started by thanking everyone for their support. He is happy with the school's progress and stated that the main focus areas are:

- *Faculty self-evaluation*
- *Common Core Standards*
- *Grade level and achievement goals*

The goals are grade specific and based on data collected. Mr. Gagnon stated that he, along with the staff, identify needs and set goals. One program that is followed at Falls is *WIN* time (what I need). He also stated the open response questions on MCAS have been a focus. Since 2009 Mr. Gagnon has been analyzing MCAS data on open response questions and, as a result, set a long term goal. Scores have vastly improved. Open response is also a part of the Math MCAS and the staff has worked on that as well. Mr. Gagnon stated that The Falls School scored in the ninety third percentile and that The Falls School works very well. The window and door project is complete. Several walls have been painted and new floors have been installed in many areas. Many rooms on the upper floors have a projector and Eno board. Through a Chapter 1 grant the school is able to provide help on Wednesday mornings to students and he stated that program is really doing well. It has been a good year for the kids and good year for the Falls School.

Mr. Poirier called for a motion to accept the Falls Elementary School Improvement Plan. Chairman Frost accepted the motion and called for a second so seconded by Mr. O'Donnell so voted and passed unanimously.

Action Items ~ Requiring Votes

Mr. Poirier made a motion to accept the bills dated February 7, 14, 21 and 28, 2013. Chairman Frost accepted the motion and called for a second so seconded by Mr. O'Donnell so voted and passed unanimously, no abstentions.

Mr. Poirier made a motion to accept the School Committee meeting minutes Dated February 4, 2013. Chairman Frost accepted the motion and called for a second so seconded by Mr. O'Donnell. Mrs. Meilan requested amendments correcting the *Town Council* to School Committee Counsel and *twenty five dollars per student* to an increase of twenty five dollars per student. Chairman Frost then called for a vote to the "friendly amended" Meeting Minutes dated February 4, 2013. So voted and passed unanimously, no abstentions.

Issues Requiring Votes

Chairman Frost called for a vote to approve the revised EBCD-R, Storm Policy/School Delay as recommended by the policy subcommittee as a *second reading*. So moved by Mr. Poirier and seconded by Mr. O'Donnell so voted and passed unanimously no abstentions.

Discussion Items

Superintendent Evaluation

Chairman Frost began with Superintendent Cullen's evaluation. Chairman Frost began by stating this is the first time this has been done by the School Committee. He stressed its importance and thanked everyone on the committee for their support and efforts put into this evaluation. He stated the process began with the School Committee members filling out the evaluation from the Department of Education. Chairman Frost took a summative view of the comments and the composite is to be reviewed. It is a large file that will be available with the minutes.

Goals included:

- **Professional practice goal** increase communication with staff, families and community = Met
- **Student learning goal** implement educator evaluation system = Met Standard

A discussion followed regarding the district improvement goal. It was not set as a goal and therefore it should not be rated, however, The School Committee members agreed that Superintendent Cullen would have been rated an *exceeded goal* if it was identified as a goal. Chairman Frost continued by introducing Step 2 of the evaluation process. Step two is to assess performance standards. The ratings represent overall mean scores.

- *Standard 1~ instructional leadership = proficient*
- *standard 2~ management and operations = proficient*
- *standard 3~ family and community engagement = proficient*
- *standard 4~professional culture = proficient*

Chairman Frost continued with both Step 3 and 4 of Superintendent Cullen's evaluation. Step 3 is the rating of overall summative performance based on step 1 and step 2 rating of proficient. Step 4 is the rating of the impact on student learning. Superintendent Cullen received an overall performance level of high.

A discussion then ensued regarding the time table for the evaluation going forward. It was discussed by the board that two meetings will most likely be needed in April. One would be used for Superintendent Cullen to propose her personal and professional goals. The second would be for school committee members to propose district goals for the superintendent which would be voted on at the May meeting. This would also allow the reorganization of the board if a new member is elected during town elections. Superintendent Cullen thanked the board for the time, consideration and effort that went into this process.

High School representatives Ryan Kingsley and Kate Kummer left the meeting at 8:20 due to prior commitments.

FY14 budget update

Superintendent Cullen offered the FY14 budget update by stating we are in a holding pattern. Congress failed to reach an agreement and there will be cuts across the board. Some grants will be cut and we could possibly lose \$65,000.00 or a 5% reduction in the grants. She cautioned that it is a very preliminary situation and at this point there is nothing to be done.

MSBA project update

Superintendent Cullen stated that the two MSBA funded projects the Roosevelt windows and High School science lab project are both going out to rebid. Business Administrator, David Flynn stated both projects exceeded the scoped amount. Mr. Flynn stated that April 3rd we reopen bids for both. Mr. McKenna commented that he was concerned if the timeline changed that would affect the students in the classrooms. Director of Facilities and Grounds, Mr. Kyle Kummer stated that if the bids get out, the timeline should be in line with what was planned. Mr. Flynn stated that the Roosevelt timeline wasn't reasonable and that we needed to rebid with a new timeline. High School bids were much higher than expected. Professional estimators will take a look at estimates and see if change is needed. If we need to change scope we will in time for the new bid. Mrs. Meilan expressed concern with this issue and Mr. Gouck stated that the MSBA will have to step up and take some responsibility. Mr. Kummer stated in speaking to the principal, architects and MSBA I feel confident that this will come together.

Afghan Painting

Chairman Frost began the discussion regarding the Afghan Painting by stating that the board has been approached by several parties including Mrs. Betty Poirier and the family of the person who donated the painting, with a proposal to bring the painting back to town to display while a decision is being made on the final disposition of the painting. Chief of police indicated he is ok with the painting being put in the Police Station to be displayed in the interim. This is not an action to be voted on at this time.

Mr. McKenna left the meeting at 9:06 pm.

Chairman Frost finalized the dates for the upcoming School Committee Meetings as follows: April 3 reorganization and regular meeting with the reorganization meeting commencing at 6:30 and the regular meeting following at 7:00. The June meeting date will change due to Town meeting on June 3rd. June 10, 2013 will be the June School Committee Meeting.

Chairman Frost concluded the meeting by stating there will be no Executive Session and also thanked Mrs. Meilan and Mr. Poirier for their three years of service to the School Committee and wished them well in the upcoming town elections on April 2nd.

Mr. Poirier then motioned to adjourn the meeting. Chairman Frost accepted the motion and indicated that no roll call vote was necessary as there was no executive session. So seconded by Mr. O'Donnell so voted and passed unanimously no abstentions.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:09 p.m.

submitted by: Linda Henriksen