

North Attleborough School Committee
Meeting Minutes
February 4, 2013

The North Attleborough School Committee met on Monday, February 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, Chip Poirier, James McKenna, and Kevin O'Donnell

Chris Frost was not in attendance and Secretary Poirier facilitated the meeting in his absence.

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

Mr. Poirier called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

Mr. Poirier stated that the meeting is televised by North TV and controls are manned by Trevor Bowman.

Recognition

Mr. Poirier introduced Superintendent Cullen who began by recognizing two outstanding high school students: Ms. Heather Davis and Ms. Sherry Yan. Superintendent Cullen awarded them the annual Massachusetts Association of School Superintendent's award, recognized them for their achievements and congratulated the students for their many scholastic as well as volunteering efforts. She then introduced Principal Scott Holcomb who also congratulated the girls and stated that they have set the bar high for the students in North Attleboro High School. Both Heather Davis and Sherry Yan see college in their future and careers in the sciences.

Mr. Poirier congratulated the students and called a brief recess at 7:12 to allow for some photos of the girls with their parents.

Mr. Poirier called the meeting back to order at 7:16pm.

Superintendent Cullen also recognized several Middle School students Elizabeth Blake, Nicole Flynn, Casey Magers, Kiera Morris, Kaitlyn Crew and Devon Mortimore, for their awards and participation in The Boston Globe Scholastic Art Program and thanked Mrs. McGahan for heading up the program.

Superintendent Cullen also recognized the emergency management team that is reviewing the security protocol and procedures for the District. She stated that both the fire and police chief are involved as well as Michelle McKeon, Craig Juelis, Kurt Kummer, and Kyle Kummer. Issues have already been addressed as well as replaced, secured and fixed. We also have an elementary school student's dad, Mr. Brian Deck, who is employed by the Secret Service helping in the process. Superintendent Cullen stated that there is nothing more important than the security of the children in our schools.

Presentations

Ms. Kate Kummer and Mr. Ryan Kingsley provided the committee with the High School update. Mr. Ryan Kingsley stated that the "One Acts" were a huge success; Wednesday is parent teacher conferences; midterms just finished up and winter break is right around the corner. Ryan continued by sharing that the girls track team, wrestling and swim teams all won Hockomock titles. Ms. Kummer stated that eighth grade parent orientation was January 17th and the parents watched a new video produced by Mrs. Forsgard and North TV; tours are next Wednesday; the Science Fair was last Wednesday and approximately fifteen students participated; the art show was last week at same time as the coffee house. Katie continued by stating that on February 12th Katie Grier will present Internet Safety which is about living your *life on line* in a safe way. This program will be presented to students during the day and parents at night. Ms. Kummer concluded by announcing Mrs. Lee Ann Todd began her new role as the Vice Principal at the High School on Monday February 11, 2013.

Mr. Poirier stated that the Afghan Painting discussion would be postponed due to the absence of Chairman Frost and School Committee council.

Ms. Victoria Ekk presented the School Improvement Plan for the North Attleboro Middle School. The highlights include:

- *Student Achievement Targets*
- *Professional Development Initiatives*
- *Building a respectful learning community*

North Attleboro Middle School is considered to be performing at accountability level 2. One focus area is reducing the high achievers to low performers gap or “narrowing the proficiency gap”. Ms. Ekk stated that the language arts numbers are high but needs to improve and math show excellent progress above what is expected and the Science numbers are about the same as the ELA. Ms. Ekk continued by stating that other focus areas include replacing the outdated textbooks, integrating and utilizing technology to the utmost and continuing to encourage students to become leaders. Ms. Ekk also stated that the professional growth PLC collaborative learning community is one of the best in the District and that the Middle School teachers are deeply committed to promoting a respectful learning community and the Student council is branching out to include peer tutoring and teachers continue to support Rachel’s Challenge.

Mr. Poirier called for a motion to approve the North Attleboro Middle School’s School Improvement Plan so moved by Mr. O’Donnell and seconded by Mr. Gouck so voted and passed unanimously.

Mr. Scott Holcomb presented the North Attleboro High School’s School Improvement Plan to the School Committee stating that a great deal of the focus this year has been on the Science lab initiative. Mr. Holcomb stated that the timeline is broken down into three Phases with minimal interruption to instruction.

- *Phase I*
April 1st – Move 3 Health Rooms, 2 Special Education Rooms, 1 Video Room, 1 Physics Room
All rooms should be relocated into our existing facility.
April 1 – 12 – Clear out rooms
April Vacation – Begin Demolition/Construction
- *Phase II*
Second Floor Math Wing + 1 Special Education Room
June 1 Move classrooms
June 1- 7 Clear out rooms
June 10 – Demolition/Construction Begins
- *Phase III*
June 21 – July 3 : Clear Out Classrooms
July 4 – Demolition/Construction

Mr. Holcomb also stated that the majority of students are proficient in ELA and Math and Science are advanced. AP classes and tests have improved greatly.

Mr. Poirier called for a motion to accept the North Attleboro High School’s School Improvement Plan so moved by Mr. O’Donnell and seconded by Mr. Gouck so voted and passed unanimously.

Action Items ~ Requiring Votes

Mr. Poirier called for a vote to approve the High School Program of Studies as recommended by the policy subcommittee so moved by Mr. McKenna seconded by Mr. Gouck so voted and passed unanimously.

A brief discussion ensued with Mr. Senecal, Guidance Department Head, stating schedules will get out before the summer this year which will help alleviate the first week of school craziness and that the program of studies is on line to help the High School in their go green efforts. Mr. Senecal stated that the process for scheduling will start in March and hopefully by April the classes will be chosen and beginning of May the schedules will be ready. Mr. Senecal concluded by stating that it is not anticipated that any state mandates will be affected by this change.

Mr. Poirier called for a motion to approve revised policy EBCD-R, Storm Policy/School Delay as recommended by the policy subcommittee as a first reading, so moved by Mr. O’Donnell and seconded by Mr. Gouck so voted and passed 5-0-1 with Mr. McKenna abstaining.

Mr. Poirier called for a motion to approve the 2013-2014 school year calendar so moved by Mr. McKenna, seconded by Mr. O' Donnell so voted and passed unanimously.

Discussion ensued regarding starting school before Labor Day and the need for a total of 180 days. Mrs. Meilan also noted that there is usually a conflict of open house night with Bristol Aggie and Tri County Regional Vocational Technical High School and hoped we could avoid that this coming year. Mr. O'Donnell would also like to recognize that November 2013 is the 50th anniversary of the death of John F. Kennedy.

Action Items

Mr. Poirier motioned for a vote to approve bills dated January 3,10,17,24 & 31, 2013 seconded by Mr. O'Donnell so voted and passed unanimously.

Mr. Poirier called for a vote to approve the Minutes dated: Public Hearing Meeting-January 14, 2013. So moved by Mr. O'Donnell seconded by Mr. Gouck so voted and passed 6-0.

Mr. Poirier called for a vote to approve the Minutes dated: School Committee Meeting-January 14, 2013. So moved by Mr. O'Donnell seconded by Mr. Gouck so voted and passed 6-0.

Discussion Items:

FY14 budget update

Superintendent Cullen stated that North Attleboro will be getting an increase of \$25 dollars per pupil or \$114,425 as the state is continuing the implementation of the Aggregate Wealth Model which is based on resident's income and property wealth and that the Chapter 70 funds are being reduced from 48% which was provided FY13 to 41% for FY14. Mr. Flynn stated that the Town will have to provide the remainder to close the gap.

Mr. Poirier called for any additional discussion and hearing none stated that there will be no Chairman's report and wished Chairman Frost and School Committee council well. He also stated that the School Committee will not adjourn to executive session. Mr. Poirier called for a motion to adjourn the meeting so motioned by Mr. O'Donnell and seconded by Mr. McKenna so voted by roll call.

Mrs. Meilan – yes

Mrs. Wagner - yes

Mr. Gouck – yes

Mr. Poirier – yes

Mr. O'Donnell - yes

Mr. McKenna – yes

Meeting adjourned at 9:00pm

submitted by: Linda Henriksen