

North Attleborough School Committee
Meeting Minutes
October 1, 2012

The North Attleborough School Committee met on Monday, October 1, 2012 at 7:00 P.M. in the School Committee Conference Room at the Woodcock Administration Building.

Committee members present included: Christopher Frost, Joan Meilan, Carol Wagner, Kevin O'Donnell, Chip Poirier and High School student representatives Kate Kummer and Ryan Kingsley. Neal Gouck and James McKenna were absent due to attending the RTM Coordinating Committee meeting presentation regarding the High School Science Labs.

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

Chairman Frost called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

RECOGNITION

Chairman Frost thank Mr. Poirier for filling in for him at last month's School Committee meeting.

Superintendent Cullen congratulated the winners of the North Attleborough Electric Department drawing contest. Each winner will receive a \$50.00 Savings Bond. The winners are:

Grade 3

Brianna Brousseau, Roosevelt Avenue School
Shaelyn Burns, Allen Avenue School
Divam Gupta, Allen Avenue School
Angela Lavigne, Martin School
Aidan McKeon, Martin School
Guhan Nandakumai, Amvet Blvd. School
Mikayler Patch, Martin School
Joseph Scott, St. Mary's Sacred Heart School
Gabriella Valeri, Falls School

Grade 4

Brielyn Carpenter, Falls School
Matt Garrott, St. Mary's Sacred Heart School
Niteesh Saravanan, Amvet Blvd. School
Amber Smith, Community School

PRESENTATIONS

High School Student Representative Ryan Kingsley updated the School Committee members with the activities that have happened at the high school starting with the improvement of the Grounds. New lights were installed as well as weeding and clean-up of the grounds. New plants were also planted. Ryan stated that next week is Homecoming Week starting with a rally, Homecoming games, Homecoming dance and a Powder-puff football game between junior girls vs. senior girls. Ryan also congratulated the 7 Merit Scholars at the High School. Ryan explained that a merit scholar is someone who scores better than 95% of the nation's population on PSAT scores.

High School Student Representative Kate Kummer informed the School Committee that an open house was held at the High School last Thursday. The program started out in the gymnasium with standing room only. Kate stated that it was a big success. Kate also told of a new program being offered at the High School that she is personally very excited about. The program involves going into the classroom and basically shadowing the teacher and helping out in the classroom. This program is being offered at the Early Learning Center, Martin School and Roosevelt Avenue School. Chairman Frost stated that an Early Childhood class was held at one time at the High School and was very glad that this new program is being offered. Superintendent Cullen stated that our program is in its infancy and we

look forward to continuing with this. Ms. Meilan also mentioned the Career Fair for students at the High School and what a wonderful job the staff does.

Superintendent Cullen wanted to thank publicly Kyle Kummer, David Flynn and High School Principal Scott Holcomb for all their work on the Science Lab Initiative. Superintendent Cullen then turned the floor over to Mr. Kummer for a brief presentation. Mr. Kummer stated that an Article will be brought to the RTM on October 15th for a vote to approve this project. The amount is not to exceed \$6,000,000. Mr. Kummer recently submitted the Scope and Sequence of the project to the RTM Committee. Mr. Kummer stated that if the Article passed the RTM, the project could start in March. Mr. Kummer and Mr. Flynn showed a presentation of what the current science labs look like with an average of 35 – 45 feet per student and what the MSBA wants the new science lab to look like with the average of 58 feet per student. Mr. Kummer stated that this project covers everything including furnishings. Mr. Kummer said that Mr. Holcomb, Principal of the High School, is doing a presentation to RTM right now showing this same information and that Superintendent Cullen will be doing a presentation with North TV on October 3rd. Mr. Holcomb will do a walk thru on October 10th. Mr. Flynn stated that there will be wireless access in every classroom. Superintendent Cullen stated that she will send out an email to the entire RTM with this information. Superintendent Cullen stated that the partnership with the Town has been amazing. Chip Poirier asked to explain once again how this being funded; that this is Town money and not from the School Department budget. Superintendent Cullen explained that this is Capital Funding from the Town and nothing to do with the School Department operating budget. The MSBA will reimburse 52% of the project. Chairman Frost stated that approximately one-third of our High School is being renovated for \$3,000,000. Mr. Flynn stated that the \$3,000,000 will be paid back over twenty years. Ms. Meilan asked if this presentation was going to be shown to the RTM and Superintendent Cullen stated that RTM would receive an informational sheet, but not the presentation. Ms. Meilan stated that she thought it was important for the RTM to see the presentation so that RTM will see what the School Department is getting for \$3,000,000. Chairman Frost thanked everyone for all the work that was done on this project.

ACTION ITEMS

BILLS DATED

Chairman Frost called for a vote to approve bills dated September 6, 13, 20 and 27, 2012 so moved by Mr. Poirier, seconded by Mr. O'Donnell, so voted and passed unanimously.

MINUTES

Chairman Frost called for a vote to approve the minutes of August 27, 2012 School Committee meeting – so moved by Mr. Poirier, seconded by Mr. O'Donnell, so voted and passed unanimously.

Chairman Frost called for a vote to approve the minutes of August 6, 2012 School Committee meeting – so moved by Mr. Poirier, seconded by Mr. O'Donnell, so voted and passed unanimously.

Chairman Frost called for a vote to approve the minutes of September 10, 2012 School Committee meeting – so moved by Mr. Poirier, seconded by Mr. O'Donnell, so voted and passed 4 – 0 with Chairman Frost abstaining.

REQUIRING VOTES

Vote to approve the District Improvement Plan (DIP), as recommended by the Superintendent

Superintendent Cullen stated that District Improvement Plan would be posted on the School Department's website. Superintendent Cullen stated that the last District Improvement Plan was a little confusing and cumbersome. The hope is that this version is somewhat clearer for everyone. Superintendent Cullen stated that everything we do is centered on our Core Values. Under each Value there is a list of goals. Superintendent Cullen read the following Core Values and Goals:

Student Achievement

- Goal 1: Implement the DESE approved Educator Evaluation System across the District.
- Goal 2: Align the PreK – 12 curriculums with the Common core State Standards (CCSS).

Goal 3: Provide meaningful professional development that impacts student achievement.

Goal 4: Identify and utilize multiple data sources in order to increase student achievement.

Respectful Learning

Goal 1: Strengthen, build and expand North Attleborough's respectful school culture where all members may work and learn in a positive environment.

Goal 2: Streamline district-wide communications, procedures and programs emphasizing consistency, student growth, participation, and involvement.

Collaboration

Goal 1: Enhance Professional Learning Community (PLC) Structures for professional development opportunities and collaboration among staff.

Goal 2: Increase use of technology to enhance communication across the school district and with the community.

Resources

Goal 1: Ensure that all North Attleborough School facilities are safe, efficient, and current in meeting the 21st century learning requirements for students all.

Goal 2: Provide the necessary resources to maximize access to, and integration of, technology for learning, record keeping, and reporting.

Goal 3: Provide Access to up to date material resources to meet 21st century learning requirements.

Superintendent Cullen stated that the School Department has hired Corinne Brems as the Elementary Curriculum Coordinator which directly aligns with our Student Achievement: Goal #2. Mrs. Brems salary is funded 100% through a grant. Superintendent Cullen stated that it is important for the people at home to know our Core Values and Goals. Ms. Meilan stated that she is thrilled that we have an Elementary Curriculum Coordinator and welcomed Mrs. Brems.

Chairman Frost called for a vote to approve the District Improvement Plan as submitted by the Superintendent – so moved by Mr. Poirier, seconded by Mr. O'Donnell, so voted and passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT/QUESTIONS - NONE

DISCUSSION ITEMS

New State Accountability System

Assistant Superintendent Antolini stated that a year ago, he presented how North Attleborough had done on the MCAS scores. Asst. Superintendent Antolini told the Committee on February 9, 2012, Massachusetts was granted a waiver from certain NCLB requirements. Prior to seeking this flexibility, the Commonwealth's schools and districts were assessed based on both the state's five-level Framework for District Accountability and Assistance and the requirements of NCLB. Beginning in the 2012-13 school year, Massachusetts will implement a unified system for classifying districts and schools:

- The NCLB goal of 100 percent of students reaching proficiency by the 2013-14 school year has been replaced with the goal of narrowing proficiency gaps by half by the end of the 2016-17 school year. The 100-point Composite Performance Index (CPI), a measure of the extent to which all students in a district, school, or subgroup are progressing toward proficiency, will gauge progress toward this goal.
- Instead of the NCLB labels of *identified for improvement*, *corrective action*, and *restructuring*, all districts and schools, including charter schools, will be classified into one of five accountability and assistance levels. The higher the level number, the more support and accountability to the State Department of Education.

- School percentiles (1-99) will be reported for schools with at least four years of data. A school's percentile is an indication of the school's overall performance relative to other schools that serve the same or similar grades. Schools will be classified into Level 3 if they are among the lowest 20% of schools relative to other schools in the same grade span.
- Instead of Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) reporting, Massachusetts will report district and school progress toward narrowing proficiency gaps using a new 100-point Progress and Performance Index (PPI). For a school to be considered to be making progress toward narrowing proficiency gaps, the cumulative PPI for both the "all students" group and high needs students must be 75 or higher.
- Student Growth Percentiles (SGPs), science, and graduation and dropout rates (for high schools) will be incorporated into accountability determinations.
- Massachusetts has reduced the minimum group size for accountability determinations from 40 to 30 students. In addition, Massachusetts will base the progress of districts and schools on both the "all students" group and high needs students - an unduplicated count of belonging to at least one of the following individual subgroups: students with disabilities, English language learners (ELL) and Former ELL students, or low income students (eligible for free/reduced price school lunch).

Asst. Superintendent Antolini stated that all our schools received a Level 2 rating except for Amvet Blvd. School which received a Level 1 rating. Asst. Superintendent Antolini stated that we are still waiting for a rating on one of schools. Asst. Superintendent Antolini stated that overall we are not losing any ground and are working hard to close our Achievement Gap.

Chairman Frost stated that six or seven years ago, we knew we were going to see a steady climb and then hit a plateau and Chairman Frost believes we have reached that plateau now.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

None

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Frost made a motion to adjourn into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing contract negotiations with regard to union and non union personnel, so moved by Mr. Poirier and seconded by Mr. O'Donnell.

A roll call vote followed:

Mr. Frost	Yes
Mr. Poirier	Yes
Mr. O'Donnell	Yes
Mrs. Meilan	Yes
Ms. Wagner	Yes

Adjourned: 8:16 PM

Submitted by: Ann Dupre