

School Committee
North Adams Public Schools
North Adams, Massachusetts

Regular Meeting of 04 October 2016

A regular meeting of the School Committee of the North Adams Public Schools was held on Tuesday, 04 October 2016, in the Offices of the Superintendent, 37 Main Street, Suite 200, North Adams.

Members Present: Mayor Richard Alcombright, Chairperson
Tara Jacobs
Mark P. Moulton
John Hockridge
Nicholas Fahey

Members Missing: Heather Boulger
Karen Bond

Also Present: Dr. Barbara Malkas, Superintendent
Ellen Sutherland, Assistant to the Superintendent
Amy Meehan, Principal
John Franzoni, Principal
Sandra Cote, Principal
Timothy Callahan, Interim Principal
Molly Meczywor, Interim Assistant Principal
Thomas Simon, Director of Student Support Services
Dr. Kimberly Roberts-Morandi, Director of Curriculum Instruction & Assessment
Makenzie Wright, Student Representative
Adam Shanks, The Berkshire Eagle

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Alcombright called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

HEARING OF VISITORS

There were no visitors to be heard.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

A. Minutes of 06 September 2016 regular meeting

Minutes of the 06 September 2016 regular meeting were read and at the conclusion of which it was

MOVED by Hockridge, SECONDED by Moulton
to approve the minutes of 06 September 2016 regular meeting.

VOTE ON THE MOTION	Ayes 5	<u>Minutes</u>
	Nays 0	Action No.
		5977

MOTION CARRIED

B. Balance Sheet

Superintendent Malkas reported that the budget was on schedule for this time of year. No action was required.

COMMUNICATIONS

Chairperson Alcombright reviewed with the Committee the Lights On! Afterschool, a nationwide event that will be on the agenda for the October 11, 2016 city council meeting where he will do a proclamation. Chairperson Alcombright stated that it is time for the city to embrace the fact that these programs are going on and also highlight and brag about what the North Adams Public Schools does.

No Action was required.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

A. Personnel

Paul Holbrook and Robert Jutras, PERMANENT DAILY SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS, at Drury High School, effective 01 September 2016.

Kathleen Dery and Richard Wood, PERMANENT DAILY SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS, Greylock Elementary School, effective 01 September 2016.

Michael Dunn and Peggy Shartrand, PERMANENT DAILY SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS, Colegrove Park Elementary School, effective 01 September 2016.

Stephanie Shoffstall and Peggy Winslow, PERMANENT DAILY SUBSTITUE TEACHERS, Brayton Elementary School, effective 01 September 2016.

Stephanie Oronato, LONG TERM SUBSTITUTE KINDERGARTEN TEACHER, Colegrove Park Elementary School, effective 01 September 2016.

Patricia Bullet, SUBSTITUTE REGISTERED SCHOOL NURSE, for the District, effective 01 September 2016.

Christian Chenail, SUBSTITUTE TEACHER, Brayton Elementary School, effective 07 September 2016.

Lorraine Robinson and Alon Willing, SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS, effective 08 September 2016.

Meagan McCarthy and Angela Ellsworth, SUBSTITUTE TEACHER ASSISTANTS, Brayton Elementary School, effective 19 September 2016.

Alicia Davis, TEACHER ASSISTANT, Drury High School, effective 01 September 2016.

Eileen McKeon-Gregory, TEACHER ASSISTANT, Greylock Elementary School, effective 02 September 2016.

Corrina Cancro, TEACHER ASSISTANT, Colegrove Park Elementary School, effective 07 September 2016.

Ashleigh Thomas, TEACHER ASSISTANT, Brayton Elementary School, effective 19 September 2016.

Mary Beth Peck, TEACHER ASSISTANT, Prekindergarten, effective 29 September 2016.

Jessica Lipka, PART TIME CAFETERIA WORKER, Colegrove Park Elementary School, effective 01 September 2016.

Mary Shea and Anne Andrews, SENIOR CLASS CO-ADVISORS, Drury High School, effective 01 September 2016.

Sara Luczynski and Krista Pinsonneault, STUDENT COUNCIL CO-ADVISORS, at Drury High School, effective 01 September 2016.

Sara Luczynski, GRADE EIGHT ADVISOR, Drury High School, effective 01 September 2016.

Krista Pinsonneault, NEWSPAPER ADVISOR, Drury High School, effective 01 September 2016.

Allison Bergeron, ENGLISH TEAM LEADER, Drury High School, effective 01 September 2016.

Angela Quinto, SCIENCE TEAM LEADER, Drury High School, effective 01 September 2016.

Anne French, SAC TEAM LEADER, Drury High School, effective 02 September 2016.

Mary Leon-Sweeney, FOREIGN LANGUAGE TEAM LEADER, Drury High School, effective 02 September 2016.

Aldonna Girouard, DRURY ARTS LEADER, effective 02 September 2016.

Kathryn Morgan, HEAD OF GUIDANCE, Drury High School, effective 02 September 2016.

Keith Davis, TECHNOLOGY TEAM LEADER, Drury High School, effective 01 September 2016.

Stephanie Kopala, HISTORY TEAM LEADER, Drury High School, effective 02 September 2016.

Noella Carlow, 21st CENTURY DISTRICT AFTER SCHOOL COORDINATOR, effective 15 September 2016.

Lynn Hayden, 21st CENTURY PROGRAM SITE ASSISTANT, Brayton Elementary School, effective 15 September 2016.

Wendy Nelson, 21st CENTURY AFTER SCHOOL COORDINATOR, Colegrove Park Elementary School, effective 15 September 2016.

Colleen Mulcahy, SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER, Colegrove Park Elementary School, effective 19 September 2016.

Mallory Ryan, SPEECH AND LANGUAGE ASSISTANT, effective 20 September 2016.

Resignations

Molly Meczywor, COLLEGE AND CAREER FACILITATOR, Drury High School, effective 31 August 2016.

Wendy King, TEACHER ASSISTANT, effective 25 August 2016.

Shannon Zuito, TEACHER ASSISTANT, Brayton Elementary School, effective 26 August 2016.

Paul LaBonte, VAN DRIVER, effective 29 August 2016.

Margaret Chieffo, LONG TERM SUBSTITUTE SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER, Colegrove Elementary School, effective 31 August 2016.

Maura Sumner, TEACHER ASSISTANT, effective 08 September 2016.

Carrisa Sacherski, TEACHER ASSISTANT, at Brayton Elementary School, effective 15 September 2016.

Heidi Braman, SUBSTITUTE TEACHER ASSISTANT, effective 21 September 2016.

Retirements

Adelaide Peckham, TEACHER ASSISTANT, Colegrove Elementary School, effective 01 September 2016.

MOVED by Moulton, SECONDED by Fahey
to place the personnel information on file.

VOTE ON THE MOTION	Ayes 5	<u>Personnel</u>
	Nays 0	Action No.
		5978

MOTION CARRIED

B. Principal’s Updates

Each principal gave a brief update on their schools.

- Principal Franzoni informed the Committee that Brayton would be participating in the Walk to School day tomorrow and that breakfast would be provided. Brayton had a celebration yesterday and a presentation with the North Adams Police Department and Amanda Chilson regarding safety.
- Principal Meehan stated that Colegrove Park was also participating in the Walk to School and that they are planning a movie night in the park, planning for harvest fest and kicking off the after school program in grades five – seven. On Friday, September 30, 2016, the Drury class of 1966 had their 50th reunion which included a tour of Colegrove Park. Tours were hosted by Superintendent Malkas, Mayor Alcombright, Principal Meehan, Ellen Sutherland, Matthew Neville and Lisa Marceau.
- Principal Cote stated that along with Brayton and Colegrove Park, Greylock was also participating in the Walk to School day and that they had the most successful open house ever with 270 dinners served to families. In collaboration with Williams College, Greylock had a presentation from the Chen Dance Company which was very well received. Greylock did a practice lock down today which went well.
- Interim Principal Callahan stated that Drury is preparing for the evacuation drill, they had a freshman reception last week and homecoming is scheduled for next week, a pep rally is scheduled at Noel Field, Destination Drury & meet the teacher night is October 5th with the first ever “chill on the hill” ice cream social.

C. Amanda Chilson – Safe Routes to School

Amanda Chilson, Project Coordinator for Mass in Motion, gave a background of the Massachusetts Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program which is a federally funded initiative in its third year in the North Adams Public Schools. Ms. Chilson reviewed the current and future happenings which include police teaching bike safety, pedestrian safety, safe routes to school and resources such as Complete Streets information. Chairperson Alcombright acknowledged Ms. Chilson and thanked her for all the ways she supports our community.

D. 2016 Assessments and Accountability Status

Superintendent Malkas informed the Committee on the district’s accountability status which is based on the spring statewide assessment. The state ranks schools on a scale of one to five with one being the best. The scores are a result of complex calculations based largely on results of the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) and the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) and the schools’ ability to narrow the gap between its highest and lowest achieving students.

John Franzoni reported that Brayton Elementary School has moved from a level 3 school to a level 2 school and missing level 1 but just two points. Principal Franzoni stated that the achievement was the result of several years of hard work by the Instructional Leadership Team.

Principal Meehan reported that Colegrove Park Elementary and the former Sullivan Elementary School held steady at level 2. Ms. Meehan stated that they were examining where the students were and were not making gains and looking at school wide trends.

Principal Cote reported that Greylock Elementary School remains a level 2 school. Ms. Cote stated that given that there were 100 new students added to Greylock and a new test, she is initially pleased with the scores and will continue on working to close the gap in math.

Interim Principal Callahan reported that Drury High School remains a level 3 school and that he is cognizant that there is much work to be done, particularly in the eighth grade. He stated that the good news is that we are making gains on the graduation rate where we have 75% at risk when the state average is 23%.

John Hockridge inquired about Drury and the eighth and tenth grade tests. Mr. Callahan stated that six factors determine accountability and if you look at the tenth grade results we are close to the state average however this is not the case in eighth grade where we are 20% off the state average.

Chairperson Alcombright asked what the impressions of the PARCC were and Marie McCarron, a Brayton Elementary School teacher, stated that she liked the test because students had to use critical thinking. Principal Cote added that she believed the test got the students to focus and prepared them for the AP test.

Chairperson Alcombright congratulated Principal Franzoni and Brayton Elementary School stating “we have a turnaround school right here in our district”.

E. Substance Abuse Prevention and Education & Curriculum Adoption

Recent legislation, Chapter 71 section 96, *An Act Relative to Substance Use, Treatment, Education and Prevention*, requires that district’s post their policies related to this topic on their websites and that they notify parents and students of the existence of these policies. Superintendent Malkas reviewed the proposed updated policies GBEC, IHAMB, and JICH. Chairperson Alcombright expressed concern that ‘alcohol’ was removed from policy “GBEC”. A motion was made to approve and then withdrawn. After discussion it was

MOVED by Jacobs, SECONDED by Hockridge
to approve the revision of policy GBEC as amended.

VOTE ON THE MOTION	Ayes 5	<u>Policy GBEC</u>
	Nays 0	Action No.
		5979

MOTION CARRIED

It was

MOVED by Hockridge, SECONDED by Moulton
to approve the revision of policy IHAMB as amended.

VOTE ON THE MOTION	Ayes 5	<u>Policy IHAMB</u>
	Nays 0	Action No.
		5980

MOTION CARRIED

It was

MOVED by Fahey, SECONDED by Moulton
to approve the revision of policy JICH as amended.

VOTE ON THE MOTION	Ayes 5	<u>Policy JICH</u>
	Nays 0	Action No.
		5980

MOTION CARRIED

Dr. Morandi gave an overview of the Life Skills curriculum and informed the Committee that she was working with Principal Kratz from McCann to bring teachers in North county together. This is a three year program and we are coming in at year two. It was

MOVED by Moulton, SECONDED by Fahey
to adopt the Life Skills curriculum.

VOTE ON THE MOTION	Ayes 5	<u>Life Skills Curriculum Adoption</u>
	Nays 0	Action No.
		5981

MOTION CARRIED

F. Coordinated Program Review Update

Tom Simon, Director of Student Support Services, gave an overview of the Coordinated Program Review (CPR). He informed the Committee that the district did a self-assessment in the spring and we are in the middle of the onsite visit. Several months after the site visit the district will receive a draft report and we will have an opportunity to develop a corrective action plan where necessary. We will have a full calendar year to implement corrective action.

G. Food Services Update

Cory Nicholas, Food Services Director, gave a departmental update of the USDA Summer Food Service Program informing the Committee that meals were served at six sites and that educational programming has a big impact on summer feeding. Brayton houses the summer science camp and has the highest participation in summer feeding and the state review indicated an overall rating of excellent. The

National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs and the increased participation in there programs. Mr. Nicholas also provided his goals for the 2016/2017 school year which included becoming a Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) and serving supper at Brayton Elementary School beginning October 17, 2016, rolling out the Breakfast in the Classroom Program at Colegrove Park Elementary School in November or December 2016 and at Greylock Elementary School in January or February 2017.

Chairperson Alcombright asked Mr. Nicholas to speak about student participation in the Breakfast in the Classroom program and Mr. Nicholas referred the question to Principal Franzoni. Mr. Franzoni explained how student leaders are assigned roles to go into classrooms to deliver carts and distribute breakfasts and the older students mentor the younger students. There is less food waste and it has helped build community in the classroom.

H. Green Communities Program

Chairperson Alcombright gave an overview of the Green Communities Program. There are five components and the city has adopted three and is working on the last two and we need the school on board to partake in all the benefits. This program will assure us a certain pot of money every year for energy related projects. It was

MOVED by Fahey, SECONDED by Moulton
to adopt the Green Communities Program

VOTE ON THE MOTION	Ayes 5	<u>Green Communities Program</u>
	Nays 0	Action No.
		5982

MOTION CARRIED

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Building Use Fee Schedule – Review of Revised Regulations Update

Superintendent Malkas reviewed the changes to the procedure which included: adding a hold harmless agreement, an increase in the custodian fee and the addition of “North Adams Community” along with non-profit.

REMARKS FOR THE GOOD OF THE COMMITTEE

Mark Moulton announced that the boys’ and girls’ youth basketball programs were now under one umbrella and located at the armory. Sign-ups will be held this week.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to be heard

ADJOURNMENT

Chairperson Alcombright indicated that there was no more business to come before the committee and it was

MOVED by Moulton, SECONDED by Fahey
that the meeting be adjourned

VOTE ON THE MOTION	Ayes	5	<u>Adjournment</u>
	Nays	0	

MOTION CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Karen Bond, Secretary

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