

School Committee
North Adams Public Schools
North Adams, Massachusetts

Regular Meeting of 01 December 2015

A regular meeting of the School Committee of the North Adams Public Schools was held on Tuesday, 01 December 2015, in the Offices of the Superintendent, 37 Main Street, Suite 200, North Adams.

Members Present: Mayor Richard Alcombright, Chairperson
David Lamarre
Heather Boulger
Mary Lou Accetta
Mark P. Moulton
Larry Taft
John Hockridge

Also Present: James E. Montepare, Superintendent
Noreen Donnelly, Administrator of Special Education
John Franzoni, Principal
Sandra Cote, Principal
Diane Ryczek, Coordinator of Mentoring and Assistive Technology
Nancy Ziter, Business Manager
Sarah Kline, Homeless Case Manager
Tammy Daniels, iBerkshires
Citizens

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Alcombright called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

HEARING OF VISITORS

There were no visitors to be heard.

READING AND APPROVAL OF RECORDS

A. Minutes of 04 November 2015 Regular Meeting

Minutes of the 04 November 2015 regular meeting were read and at the conclusion of which it was

MOVED by Boulger, SECONDED by Accetta
to approve the minutes of 04 November 2015.

VOTE ON THE MOTION	Ayes	7	<u>Minutes</u>
	Nays	0	Action No.
			5907

MOTION CARRIED

B. Balance Sheet

The Superintendent reviewed the balance sheet with the Committee. No action was required.

COMMUNICATIONS

A. East Coast Marketing Events, Fundraising Concert for North Adams Police Union

Superintendent Montepare reviewed a request on behalf of East Coast Marketing Events to rent the Drury auditorium for a North Adams Police Union fundraising concert on March 19, 2016. It was

MOVED by Moulton, SECONDED by Hockridge
to approve the rental of the Drury auditorium on March
19, 2016 by East Coast Marketing Events for a North
Adams Police Union fundraising concert

VOTE ON THE MOTION	Ayes	7	<u>Drury Auditorium Rental</u>
	Nays	0	Action No.
			5908

MOTION CARRIED

B. North Adams Teachers Association (NATA), Request to Open Negotiations

The Committee reviewed a request from the NATA and Chairperson Alcombright informed the Committee that the request had been referred to counsel and negotiation dates were in the process of being arranged. No action was required.

C. North Adams Paraprofessional Association, Request to Open Negotiations

The Committee reviewed a request from the North Adams Paraprofessional Association and Chairperson Alcombright informed the Committee that the request had been referred to counsel and negotiation dates were in the process of being arranged. No action was required.

D. AFSCME, Local 204, AFL-CIO (custodians), Request to Open Negotiations

The Committee reviewed a request from the Custodians and Chairperson Alcombright informed the Committee that the request had been referred to counsel and negotiation dates were in the process of being arranged. No action was required.

No Action was required.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

A. Personnel

Appointments:

Jessica Dunn, TEACHER ASSISTANT, Brayton Elementary School, effective 02 November 2015.

Jennifer McKay, SUBSTITUTE TEACHER ASSISTANT, Sullivan Elementary School, effective 02 November 2015.

Erika Brazeau, SUBSTITUTE TEACHER ASSISTANT, effective 10 November 2015.

Debra Duell, ASSISTANT, 21st Century After School Program, Sullivan Elementary School, effective 13 October 2015.

Resignations:

Eileen Donovan, TEACHER ASSISTANT, Brayton Elementary School, effective 06 November 2015.

Pamela Macksey, TEACHER ASSISTANT, Sullivan Elementary School, effective 02 November 2015.

Kara Delisle, TEACHER ASSISTANT, Greylock Elementary School, effective 10 November 2015.

Heidi Braman, TEACHER ASSISTANT, at Greylock Elementary School, effective 13 November 2015.

Retirements

Joanne Postema, SCIENCE TEACHER, Brayton Elementary School, effective 31 December 2015.

Paula M. Welch, CLERICAL PARAPROFESSIONAL, Drury High School, effective 31 December 2015.

Substitute List:

Joanne Dellacato was added to the substitute list.

Mary Lou Accetta suggested that we contact retired teachers to see if they are interested in being put on the substitute teacher list. Superintendent Montepare stated that we do have some retired teachers on the list and we may consider contacting other retired teachers.

MOVED by Boulger, SECONDED by Lamarre
to place the personnel information on file.

VOTE ON THE MOTION	Ayes	7	<u>Personnel</u>
	Nays	0	Action No.
			5909

MOTION CARRIED

B. McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Act Presentation

Noreen Donnelly, Administrator of Special Education and Sarah Kline, McKenny-Vento Case Manager, gave an overview of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Act and how it pertains to the district. Ms. Donnelly stated that over the past three years they had been doing overviews for a variety of faculty and staff including, but not limited to, teachers, van drivers and cafeteria staff. School secretaries will receive the training next. While all faculty and staff receive mandated trainings, Ms. Donnelly thinks it makes sense to do more than the minimum mandated amount.

The presentation included a definition of who is considered homeless and noted that we go by the federal Department of Education's definition and not the Housing and Urban Development definition. Data from current and previous years was reviewed as was the district's responsibilities in servicing students covered under the McKinney-Vento Act.

There was discussion about transportation of students and it was noted that the district receives a small reimbursement for transportation. The case manager position is grant funded.

Mary Lou Accetta added that at the trainings and meetings she has attended as part of her role of Homeless Education Coordinator at McCann she has heard North Adams commended for our practices. Ms. Accetta also inquired about any difficulties we have had with obtaining medical records for homeless students and Noreen Donnelly stated that we have been successful with having our school nurses track them down.

C. Colegrove Park Elementary School Update

Chairperson Alcombright reported that we have a temporary Certificate of Occupancy and that on Thursday the keys will be turned over to us. There is final cleaning to be done and the furniture is almost all in with the chairs coming tomorrow. Technology is just starting to come in. There will be open houses for students and their families with kindergarten through grade three on Wednesday, December 9, 2015 from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. and grades four through seven on Thursday, December 10th from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. A community open house will happen after the school is officially opened and we will do a ribbon cutting ceremony later in January. The project is still on budget.

Mark Moulton stated that he was very excited about the new school and asked about the cleaning. Chairperson Alcombright stated that they (the contractors) are flushing systems so they will come in and

clean it after they are finished. They have twenty people working on it and they will do it until they get it right.

Sullivan has received boxes and they will start packing. We will take a load over on December 18th and another load on December 23rd.

Mark Moulton asked about an opening in the corner of the gym floor where the boiler room below was visible. Chairperson Alcombright and Superintendent Montepare said they were not aware of any such hole and would follow up with the contractor.

Mark Moulton inquired about the waterproofing that was happening and whether or not we need to apply for the 80% reimbursement for this additional work. Superintendent Montepare stated that this area of approximately ten feet was not in the architectural drawings and the project manager has acknowledged this oversight. He added we had a contingency budget specifically for things like this.

Mark Moulton inquired about having an independent inspector come in to ensure the overall safety of the school. Superintendent Montepare gave a list of all the various inspectors currently involved and stated that he was confident that the school was safe. Mark Moulton spoke to continuing rumors and suggested we may not always be getting accurate information from the contractor. Mr. Moulton quoted a worker in the building as saying "I wouldn't send my child to this school." Superintendent Montepare rebutted the statement and referred back to the rumor about the fire safety which was unfounded. He further stated that there are many inspectors and commissioning agents that are not local and have no ties to the project. A conversation ensued about rumors and how much time and effort should be focused on addressing rumors. Mark Moulton and Chairperson Alcombright differed on their opinion of the matter.

John Hockridge asked about what protection or guarantee we have after the completion of the punch list. Chairperson Alcombright stated that we have a year after final completion. Mr. Hockridge asked if something should come up would it be at the 80% rate. Nancy Ziter stated that we would not be closing out with the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) until next year and that would be part of the final audit.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business to be heard

REMARKS FOR THE GOOD OF THE COMMITTEE

Heather Boulger shared the following information

- The play "Guys and Dolls" is being presented at Drury December 4, 5 and 6, 2015.
- Congratulations to Connor Meehan for placing second in Western Mass in Cross Country and to Brook DiGennaro who placed 30 out 130 for females.
- Hour of Code will happen during December 7-13

Superintendent Montepare asked Principal Franzoni to address the Committee regarding a presentation from SFC Mike McCarron. It was reported that SFC Michael McCarron presented a flag and plaque to Brayton Elementary School at the school-wide Celebration on November 23, 2015 to recognize the efforts of the students in the grade one classrooms of Mrs. Patenaude and Mrs. Thomas to communicate with his unit during the last year while they were stationed in Afghanistan. This flag was flown at his base on September 11, 2015. The Brayton students and staff also took time to recognize SFC McCarron at the Celebration to thank him for his service to our country during his four tours of duty overseas.

NEW BUSINESS

A. MASC Update

John Hockridge reviewed the FAQ that the task force authored and stated that they are improving their communication with stakeholders. He reported that they are now utilizing social media including Facebook and working on the berkshireeducation.org website (not yet up). They have distributed an op-ed to print media and iBerkshires and will be presenting to the Berkshire Roundtable next week. The task force is working on raising funds for the next phase of modeling options and currently has about \$25,000. The task force met with James Peyser in Senator Downing's office to seek state support and it looks like it will be coming. They are working on identifying consultants.

Superintendent Montepare stated that we are "ahead of the curve" thanks to John Hockridge.

Chairperson Alcombright requested a recess at 7:25 p.m. and stated that executive session would occur after the recess.

Chairperson Alcombright and Superintendent Montepare acknowledged school committee members Mary Lou Accetta, Larry Taft and David Lamarre, who did not seek re-election, noting this was their final meeting. The members were presented with a piece of black granite taken from an old stair during the renovations of Colegrove Park Elementary School. Each piece had their name and years of service to the Committee inscribed. Superintendent Montepare noted that their combined years of service totaled more than 25 years.

Chairperson Alcombright and Superintendent Montepare offered remarks and then Mr. Taft, Ms. Accetta and Mr. Lamarre each shared their reflections of their time on the Committee. Refreshments were served. At 7:55 the meeting resumed

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. Collective Bargaining

Chairperson Alcombright stated that the Committee would enter into Executive Session to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with the United Steel, Paper and Forestry, Rubber, Manufacturing, Energy, Allied Industrial and Service Workers International Union (Teacher Assistants) and would reconvene in Open Session.

MOVED by Boulger, SECONDED by Lamarre

to enter into executive session to discuss
collective bargaining.

VOTE ON THE MOTION	Ayes	7	<u>Executive Session</u>
	Nays	0	Action No.
			5910

David Lamarre	Yes
Mary Lou Accetta	Yes
Heather Boulger	Yes
Larry Taft	Yes
Mark Moulton	Yes
John Hockridge	Yes
Chairperson Alcombright	Yes

MOTION CARRIED

Executive Session started – 7:55 p.m.

Executive Session ended – 8:38 p.m.

The Committee reconvened and open session.

A. Declassification of Executive Session Minutes

Chairperson Alcombright announced that the Committee had voted not to declassify executive session minutes for the quarter ending December 31, 2015.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairperson Alcombright indicated that there was no further business to come before the School Committee and called for a motion to adjourn. It was

MOVED by Lamarre, SECONDED by Taft
that the meeting be adjourned.

VOTE ON THE MOTION	Ayes	7	<u>Adjournment</u>
	Nays	0	

MOTION CARRIED

The meeting was adjourned at 8:39 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Lou Accetta, Secretary
/es