

School Committee
North Adams Public Schools
North Adams, Massachusetts

Regular Meeting of 04 November 2015

A regular meeting of the School Committee of the North Adams Public Schools was held on Wednesday, 04 November 2015, in the Offices of the Superintendent, 37 Main Street, Suite 200, North Adams.

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

Missing: John Hockridge
David Lamarre

Also Present: James E. Montepare, Superintendent
John Franzoni, Principal
Sandra Cote, Principal
Amy Meehan, Principal
Diane Ryczek, Coordinator of Mentoring and Assistive Technology
Nancy Ziter, Business Manager
Amanda Michael, Student Representative
Tammy Daniels, iBerkshires
Citizens

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.

Chairperson Alcombright welcomed the new student representative, Amanda Michaels. Amanda is the president of the Student Council and active in the Drury Band and theatre program. She has completed five AP courses and is currently enrolled in three during her senior year.

Chairperson Alcombright announced that presentation of the Certificate of Academic Excellence would occur prior to the Reading and Approval of Records and introduced Olivia Carlson, daughter of Darryl and Patricia Carlson, to the Committee. Olivia is the 2015 recipient of the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents' Certificate of Academic Excellence. This singular honor is conferred annually

on the highest ranking high school senior; a student who has distinguished himself or herself in the pursuit of excellence.

READING AND APPROVAL OF RECORDS

A. Minutes of 06 October 2015 Regular Meeting

Minutes of the 06 October 2015 regular meeting were read and at the conclusion of which it was

MOVED by Boulger, SECONDED by Moulton
to approve the minutes of 06 October 2015.

VOTE ON THE MOTION	Ayes	5	<u>Minutes</u>
	Nays	0	Action No.
			5900

MOTION CARRIED

B. Balance Sheet

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

COMMUNICATIONS

A. Mayor Alcombright, Resignation from McCann School Committee Appointment

Chairperson Alcombright informed the Committee that upon Lanesboro's and Cheshire's addition to the Northern Berkshire Vocational Regional School District, North Adams was afforded a third elected member to the McCann School Committee therefore an appointment from the North Adams Public Schools was no longer necessary.

No Action was required.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

B. Personnel

Appointments

Sara Luczynski, STUDENT COUNCIL CO-ADVISOR, Drury High School, effective 24 September 2015.

Krista Pinsonneault, STUDENT COUNCIL CO-ADVISOR, Drury High School, effective 24 September 2015.

John Moore, JUNIOR CLASS ADVISOR, Drury High School, effective 24 September 2015

Brian Flagg, VARSITY GIRLS' BASKETBALL COACH, Drury High School, effective 23 November 2015.

Jack Racette, VARSITY BOYS' BASKETBALL COACH, Drury High School, effective 23 November 2015.

Christopher Piscioneri, JUNIOR VARSITY BOYS BASKETBALL COACH, Drury High School, effective 23 November 2015.

Patricia Prenguber, MATH TUTOR, Drury High School, effective 28 September 2015.

Brian Marquis, SUBSTITUTE TEACHER ASSISTANT, effective 29 September 2015.

Leon King Jr., CUSTODIAN, 2nd Shift, Drury High School, effective 05 October 2015.

Thomas Carlow, VAN DRIVER, the 21st Century After School Program at Brayton Elementary School, effective 13 October 2015.

Nicole Esposito, MONITOR, 21st Century After School Program at Brayton Elementary School, effective 13 October 2015.

Meghan Janz , TEACHER ASSISTANT, Castles II, Sullivan Elementary School, effective 28 September 2015.

Nicole Maloney, TEACHER ASSISTANT, Greylock Elementary School, effective 29 September 2015.

Lisa Ryan, SUBSTITUTE TEACHER ASSISTANT, effective 21 September 2015.

Laura Soave, SUBSTIUITE TEACHER ASSISTANT, effective 21 September 2015.

Michael Perry, SUBSTITUTE TEACHER ASSISTANT, effective 18 September 2015.

Deberah Lemaire, SUBSTITUTE TEACHING ASSISTANT, effective 14 October 2015.

Stephanie Shoffstall, LONG TERM SUBSTITUTE SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER, Sullivan Elementary School, effective 26 October 2015.

Kristen Ciampa, Wendy Nelson, Lisa Tanner, James Holmes, Melanie Rancourt, Jamie Choquette and Keith Davis, ACADEMIC LEADERS, 21st Century After School Program, Sullivan Elementary School, effective 13 October 2015.

Christy Satori, ASSISTANT, 21st Century After School Program, Sullivan Elementary School, effective 13 October 2015.

Erica Manville, SERVICE LEARNING IMPLEMENTATION TEAM REPRESENTATIVE, Sullivan Elementary School, effective 15 October 2015.

Christina King, SERVICE LEARNING IMPLEMENTATION TEAM REPRESENTATIVE, Greylock Elementary School, effective 15 October 2015.

Abigail Reifsnnyder, SERVICE LEARNING IMPLEMENTATION TEAM REPRESENTATIVE, E3 Academy, effective 15 October 2015.

Joyce Fruscio, SERVICE LEARNING IMPLEMENTATION TEAM REPRESENTATIVE, Brayton Elementary School, effective 15 October 2015.

Molly Meczywor, SERVICE LEARNING IMPLEMENTATION TEAM REPRESENTATIVE, Drury High School, effective 15 October 2015.

Resignations:

Steven Barbeau, CUSTODIAN, Drury High School, effective 05 October 2015.

Tina LaPine, TEACHING ASSISTANT, effective 31 August 2015.

Substitute List:

Linda Monsees, Jessica Dunn, Margaret Chieffo, Paul Holbrook, Robin Hackett, Kaitlyn Moresi, Wendi Daugherty-Gore and Joanne Dellacato were added to the substitute list.

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

VOTE ON THE MOTION	Ayes	5	<u>Personnel</u>
	Nays	0	Action No.
			5901

MOTION CARRIED

C. Revisions to North Adams School Committee Policy JKAA

As the result of a DESE regulatory review, the regulations regarding Physical Restraint (603 CMR 46.00) have been rewritten and the new regulations will go into effect on January 1, 2016. We have updated policy JKAA to comply with the new regulations.

Mary Lou Accetta asked about how much training we do and who gets trained. Superintendent Montepare reviewed the various types of restraints and stated that faculty and staffs in the transition classrooms and autism classrooms are trained as are the deans and principals. We make sure we have someone on each floor of the building trained and handpick individuals according to the building needs.

After more discussion it was

MOVED by Moulton, SECONDED by Taft
to approve the proposed revisions to policy JKAA

VOTE ON THE MOTION	Ayes	5	<u>Revisions to Policy JKAA</u>
	Nays	0	Action No.
			5902

MOTION CARRIED

D. North Adams School Committee Policy ECAF

The Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC) has increasingly seen requests for a sample policy on the deployment of security cameras on school district property. To that end, a model policy has been created.

Superintendent Montepare informed the Committee about the various security cameras currently in place in the district. Chairperson Alcombright inquired how long we keep security footage. Superintendent Montepare stated that we can download any section of the footage to a flash drive and while there is not a specific guideline about how long to keep the footage, without an incident, we keep footage for approximately seven days. It was

MOVED by Accetta, SECONDED by Boulger
to adopt to policy ECAF

VOTE ON THE MOTION	Ayes	5	<u>School Committee Policy ECAF</u>
	Nays	0	Action No.
			5903

MOTION CARRIED

E. Revisions to North Adams School Committee Policy EBC

MASC has made changes to the policy on emergency response plans to ensure compliance with 2014 statutory changes to Chapter 69 Section 8A requiring the inclusion of local police and fire authorities in plan development and response evaluation. Emergency response plans are also now required to be shared with these local authorities whenever plans change and they must be reviewed with them at least annually. Emergency Response Plans are also required to be drilled with students annually in the fall. Superintendent Montepare gave an overview of the scope and breadth of our emergency response plans and reported that Anne French is our safety coordinator. Anne has worked extensively with Drury and will be working more with the elementary schools on their individual plans. We just finished lockdown drills at the schools and continue to have both formal and informal drills.

Mary Lou Accetta inquired if the district had any Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) and Superintendent Montepare that the district has two. We have had discussions about purchasing more and have unsuccessfully applied for grants in the past to purchase more. We will continue to look for more ways to finance additional purchases. It was

MOVED by Accetta, SECONDED by Boulger
to approve revisions to policy EBC.

VOTE ON THE MOTION	Ayes 5	<u>School Committee Policy EBC</u>
	Nays 0	Action No.
		5904

MOTION CARRIED

F. Revisions to North Adams School Committee Policies IJND, IJNDB and IJNDC

MASC had not done a major review of the technology policies since they were initially put in place. As time has passed, more and different technologies have been integrated into the education environment. As a result, MASC has rewritten these policies and removed exhibits and regulations, which are no longer relevant, from the MASC Policy Reference Manual. The newer policies also align with a more thoughtful approach to the use of technology in schools. MASC instructs Districts adopting these policies to also remove IJNDB-E, IJNDB-R, and IJNDC-R from their manuals (these can be maintained elsewhere in the district if they are still relevant but they are not policy).

Superintendent Montepare reviewed the current and proposed policies and there was discussion about what signed permission forms needed to be maintained by the district. There was consensus that some of the language in the proposed policies regarding an empowered digital use form was conflicting and it would be prudent to consult with MASC for clarification. It was

MOVED by Boulger, SECONDED by Taft
to table agenda item F. Revisions to North
Adams School Committee Policies IJND,
IJNDB and IJNDC.

VOTE ON THE MOTION	Ayes 5	<u>Rev. to Policies IJND, IJNDB & IJNDC</u>
	Nays 0	Action No.
		5905

MOTION CARRIED

G. Colegrove Park Elementary School Update

Chairperson Alcombright reported that the walkthrough for Sullivan staff last Friday was well attended and people were impressed. We are two weeks away from a lot of the finishes. The gym floor is going down now and furniture is being delivered. We are on schedule for the November 16th deadline and

technology will go in at that time. Once we have a certificate of occupancy we will make plans to bring in the Sullivan students and parents and then the general public. We are on schedule to open on January 4, 2016.

Mark Moulton asked about the deadline and when penalties would kick in. Chairperson Alcombright stated that he believed the original date was October 26th but was pushed back to November 16th but he would confirm and get the answer out via e-mail.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business to be heard

REMARKS FOR THE GOOD OF THE COMMITTEE

Heather Boulger shared the following information

- Drury's College & Career Readiness program received a 2015 Youth Program for the State by the Executive Office of Labor & Workforce Development.
- The North Adams Public Schools and the Family Center of Northern Berkshire are hosting a free Polly Bath parent workshop, "Dealing with Behavior Issues at Home" on November 4, 2015 at Brayton Elementary School from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.
- Organized by Jim Holmes, Sullivan sixth and seventh grade students have partnered with the North Adams Police Department for a "running with the law" program. The first run was held on Oct 20, 2015 and there are three more runs scheduled.
- On November 3, 2015, Senator Ben Downing visited Brayton Elementary School to talk to students about leadership.
- Congratulations to Nick Bator from Drury who tied for fifth place in D2 Western MA Golf
- The Drury Stage Company will be perform "Guys and Dolls" on December 3-5, 2015. Chris Caproni is working with the Superintendent to bring students in grades 5-7 to Drury on December 2, 2015 for a special performance.
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Amy Meehan informed the committee that of the 3.5 million sophomore and junior students taking the PSAT's, Amanda Michaels was one of the two-thirds or 34,000 students of the approximately 50,000 high scorers on the PSATs to receive Letters of Commendation in recognition of their outstanding academic promise.

Chairperson Alcombright acknowledged Alfred "Budd" Dougherty, who passed away on November 3, 2015. Budd Dougherty was a long time teacher in the North Adams Public Schools and served on various committees and boards in the city including the Airport Commission. On behalf of the North Adams School Committee, Chairperson Alcombright extended his condolences to the family.

NEW BUSINESS

A. MASC Update

Chairperson Alcombright reviewed the request from John Hockridge, on behalf of the Berkshire County Educators Task Force (BCETF), for the North Adams Public Schools to pledge \$500.00 to support the work of the Task Force. Mary Lou Accetta commented that John Hockridge wanted the Committee to be very clear that the focus of the BCETF is on fact gathering and not on decision making. It was

MOVED by Accetta, SECONDED by Moulton
to accept and approve a pledge of \$500.00 to the
BCETF as a show of support for its ongoing,
county wide initiatives.

VOTE ON THE MOTION	Ayes 5	<u>Pledge to BCETF</u>
	Nays 0	Action No.
		5906

MOTION CARRIED

Heather Boulger stated that youth program participation has been cut in half because students are not aware of the various programs and asked how we can promote healthy activities for students. There was discussion on strategies to inform parents about youth sports programs to encourage healthy behaviors and how to develop a better feeder program for high school sports.

Heather asked about the distribution of flyers in schools and Superintendent Montepare gave an overview of the history of flyer distribution stating that at one point we were distributing tens of thousands of flyers per year and many were ending up on our schools floors, playgrounds and bus floors. He went on to outline a number of solutions (community flyers on district website, digital boards at each school, encouraging PTAs to post information in monthly newsletter, coaches having an outreach plan, etc. and stated that it would make sense to get all the organizers of youth sports together for a meeting to work together.

Mary Lou Accetta stated that she believed many youth sports programs were cost prohibitive.

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 Moulton, SECONDED by Accetta
that the meeting be adjourned.

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

MOTION CARRIED

The meeting was adjourned at 7:01 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Lou Accetta, Secretary

/hb