

School Committee
North Adams Public Schools
North Adams, Massachusetts

Regular Meeting of 01 March 2016

A regular meeting of the School Committee of the North Adams Public Schools was held on Tuesday, 01 March 2016, in the Offices of the Superintendent, 37 Main Street, Suite 200, North Adams.

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

Also Present: James E. Montepare, Superintendent
John Franzoni, Principal
Shelley Fachini, Principal
Sandra Cote, Principal
Cory Nicholas, Food Services Director
Diane Ryczek, Coordinator of Mentoring and Assistive Technology
Nancy Ziter, Business Manager
Amanda Michaels, Student Council Representative
Adam Shanks, The Berkshire Eagle
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.

READING AND APPROVAL OF RECORDS

A. Minutes of 14 January 2016 Working Meeting

Minutes of the 14 January 2016 working meeting were read and at the conclusion of which it was

MOVED by Hockridge, SECONDED by Moulton
to approve the minutes of 14 January 2016.

VOTE ON THE MOTION	Ayes	7	<u>Minutes</u>
	Nays	0	Action No.
			5921

MOTION CARRIED

B. Balance Sheet

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

COMMUNICATIONS

A. Michele Rondeau & Audrey Carrano, Fifth Grade Field Trip to Mystic Aquarium

The Committee reviewed a request from Michele Rondeau and Audrey Carrano to take the fifth grade to Mystic Aquarium in June 2016. There would be no cost to the students.

MOVED by Moulton, SECONDED by Boulger
to approve the fifth grade field trip to Mystic
Aquarium in June.

VOTE ON THE MOTION	Ayes	7	<u>Fifth Grade Field Trip to Mystic Aquarium</u>
	Nays	0	Action No.
			5922

MOTION CARRIED

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

A. Personnel

Appointments:

Seth Shepard, TEACHER ASSISTANT, Castles III at Drury High School, effective 04 January 2016.

Marie McCarron, Susan Oliveri, Lynn Hayden, Robyn Lawson, Lois Hobbie-Welch, Linda Johnson, and Tracy Piekos, ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT LEADERS, 21st Century After School Program Second Session, at Brayton Elementary School, effective 22 February 2016.

Ashley Riordan and Jenny Moulton, ENRICHMENT LEADERS, 21st Century After School Program Second Session at Brayton Elementary School, effective 22 February 2016.

Nicole Esposito and Maureen Zungy, MONITORS, 21st Century After School Program Second Session at Brayton Elementary School, effective 22 February 2016.

Karen Cooper and Ella Mae Jake-Blackowl, ACTIVITY LEADERS/ASSISTANTS, 21st Century After School Program Second Session at Brayton Elementary School, effective 22 February 2016.

Tammy Dix, Cheryl Witherell, Tina Radlowski, Pamela Martisching, Thomas Carlow, Marcia Farinon, and JoAnn Hathaway, ASSISTANTS, 21st Century After School Program Second Session at Brayton Elementary School, effective 22 February 2016.

Carla Thomas, CLERICAL PARAPROFESSIONAL, Dean of Students Office at Drury High School, effective 28 December 2015.

Peggy Winslow, TITLE I MATH TUTOR, Brayton Elementary School, effective 11 January 2016.

Patrick Boulger, VARSITY BASEBALL COACH, Drury High School, effective 18 March 2016.

Seth Shepard, JUNIOR VARSITY BASEBALL COACH, Drury High School, effective 18 March 2016.

James Buffoni, HEAD TRACK COACH, Drury High School, effective 18 March 2016.

John Moore, ATHLETICS' SITE & INFORMATION MANAGER, Drury High School, effective 18 March 2016.

Carrie Silva, CLERICAL PARAPROFESSIONAL, North Adams Prekindergarten, effective 25 January 2016.

Paul Schueler, INSTRUCTIONAL PARAPROFESSIONAL, Drury High School, effective February 1, 2015.

Audra O'Brien and James Holland, ASSISTANT TRACK COACHES, Drury High School, effective 18 March 2016.

Jordan Rennell, JUNIOR VARSITY SOFTBALL COACH, Drury High School, effective 18 March 2016.

Chad DeGrenier, VARSITY SOFTBALL COACH, Drury High School, effective 18 March 2016.

Kelsey Ouimet, JUNIOR VARSITY GIRLS' BASKETBALL COACH, Drury High School, effective 12 January 2016.

Megan Benoit, SUBSTITUTE TEACHER ASSISTANT, effective 06 January 2016.

Jennifer Zahensky, SUBSTITUTE TEACHER ASSISTANT, effective 09 February 2016.

Jenna Gancarz, SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER, Greylock Elementary School, effective 25 January 2016.

Melanie Rancourt, Jamie Choquette, Keith Davis, Wendy Nelson, Lisa Tanner, James Holmes, Robert Hall, Megan Gorton and Emily Pious, ACADEMIC LEADERS, the Spring 21st Century After School Program at Colegrove Park Elementary School, effective 22 February 2016.

Elizabeth McHale, Augusta Rose Cullity and Robin Hart, ENRICHMENT LEADERS, the Spring 21st Century After School Program at Colegrove Park Elementary School, effective 22 February 2016.

Amber Iacuesssa, Carrisa Sacherski, Debra Duell, Maureen Zungy and Megan Benoit, ASSISTANTS, the Spring 21st Century After School Program at Colegrove Park Elementary School, effective February 22, 2016.

Regina Pare', ONE TO ONE TEACHER ASSISTANT, Castles, Colegrove Park Elementary School, effective 09 February 2016.

Kasha Wissman, ONE TO ONE TEACHER ASSISTANT, Castles I at Colegrove Park Elementary School, effective 12 February 2016.

Resignations:

Arthur Lemaire, SUBSTITUTE TEACHER ASSISTANT and VAN MONITOR, effective 30 November 2015.

Elizabeth Tatro, GIRLS' JUNIOR VARSITY BASKETBALL COACH, Drury High School, effective 18 January 2016.

Carla Thomas, INSTRUCTIONAL PARAPROFESSIONAL, Drury High School, effective 28 December 2015.

Susan Bush, TEACHER ASSISTANT, North Adams Prekindergarten Program, effective January 22, 2016.

Brittany Gage, TEACHER ASSISTANT, Colegrove Park Elementary School, effective 28 January 2016.

Joann Tetreault, TEACHER ASSISTANT, Drury High School, effective 29 January 2016.

Sarah JP Kline, McKINNEY VENTO CASE MANAGER, effective 19 February 2016.

Substitutes:

Mary Cote, Janet Tremblay, Susan Gilman, Mary Mayo were added to the Substitute Teacher list, effective 15 January 2016.

Recommended Action: Motion to file.

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

VOTE ON THE MOTION	Ayes	6	<u>Personnel</u>
	Nays	0	Action No.
	Abstention	1*	5923

*Heather Boulger

MOTION CARRIED

B. Grant Awards

Superintendent Montepare informed the Committee that to date for FY 16 \$2,086,750.65 in grant awards have been received.

MOVED by Boulger, SECONDED by Moulton
to place the grant information on file.

VOTE ON THE MOTION	Ayes	7	<u>Grant Awards</u>
	Nays	0	Action No.
			5924

MOTION CARRIED

C. Breakfast in the Classroom Program, Cory Nicholas and John Franzoni

Cory Nicholas and John Franzoni gave an overview of the new breakfast in the classroom program at Brayton Elementary School. Mr. Nicholas explained that over the years, traditional breakfast service in the cafeteria has failed to reach greater than 40% student participation on a local, state, and federal level. Currently, Brayton has a 48% breakfast participation rate with our traditional cafeteria breakfast service. In addition, Brayton also has a 72% free or reduce meal benefit rate. This means 72% of Brayton students are living at or below federal poverty thresholds and most are not eating breakfast at Brayton.

In order to reduce food insecurity by increasing breakfast participation, we are piloting a breakfast in the classroom program at Brayton Elementary School. Studies show that children who eat breakfast at school every day have higher math grades, less absenteeism and tardiness, and fewer emotional and behavioral problems. So far, grades K, 3, 4, and 5 have been participating in breakfast in the classroom and experienced an increase in breakfast participation from 49% to over 90%. The transition has been smooth and we are receiving positive feedback from teachers and students. Once our school wide process is established and proven effective, we will prepare to expand the program to the other elementary schools.

D. District Improvement Plan

Superintendent Montepare reviewed the 2015-2016 District Improvement Plan with the Committee.

John Hockridge inquired about the PARCC and a discussion followed. Superintendent Montepare explained that this year districts have the option to take the PARCC or the MCAS and any district taking the PARCC will be held harmless. Next year everyone will be held harmless but will have to take the PARCC.

Superintendent Montepare discussed the difference between the District Improvement Plan and the District Action Plan.

MOVED by Moulton, SECONDED by Boulger
to approve the 2015-2016 District Action Plan.

VOTE ON THE MOTION	Ayes	7	<u>District Action Plan</u>
	Nays	0	Action No.
			5925

MOTION CARRIED

E. Building Use

Superintendent Montepare gave a brief overview of the current building use forms and processes. An ad hoc committee was formed consisting of Superintendent Montepare, Heather Boulger and Mark Moulton to bring forward a formal process.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business to be discussed.

NEW BUSINESS

A. John Hockridge, MASC Update

John Hockridge updated the Committee on the recent work for the Berkshire County Education Task Force. Gail Cariddi will be working with the Committee on shared services and a meeting is scheduled for March 17, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall.

REMARKS FOR THE GOOD OF THE COMMITTEE

Chairperson Alcombright thanked all involved for the work on Colegrove Park Elementary School.

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 contract negotiations for an Interim Superintendent contract and would adjourn.

MOVED by Moulton, SECONDED by Boulger
to enter into executive session to discuss
collective bargaining.

VOTE ON THE MOTION	Ayes 7	<u>Executive Session</u>
	Nays 0	Action No.
		5926
Tara Jacobs	Yes	
Nicholas Fahey	Yes	
Heather Boulger	Yes	
Karen Bond	Yes	
Mark Moulton	Yes	
John Hockridge	Yes	
Chairperson Alcombright	Yes	

MOTION CARRIED

Executive Session started – 7:05 p.m.
Executive Session ended – 7:33 p.m.

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 Boulger, SECONDED by Moulton
that the meeting be adjourned.

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

MOTION CARRIED

The meeting was adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Karen Bond, Secretary
/es