

School Committee  
North Adams Public Schools  
North Adams, Massachusetts

Regular Meeting of 05 January 2016

A regular meeting of the School Committee of the North Adams Public Schools was held on Tuesday, 05 January 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  
Ellen Sutherland, Assistant to the Superintendent  
John Franzoni, Principal  
Shelley Fachini, Principal  
Sandra Cote, Principal  
Amy Meehan, Principal  
Diane Ryczek, Coordinator of Mentoring and Assistive Technology  
Nancy Ziter, Business Manager  
Ronald Boucher, City Council Liaison  
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 6:01 p.m.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Chairperson Alcombright called for nominations for vice-chairperson. It was

MOVED by Hockridge, SECONDED by Moulton  
to nominate Heather Boulger vice chairperson.

VOTE ON THE MOTION    Ayes    7    Vice Chairperson

Nays 0      Action No.  
5911

MOTION CARRIED

Chairperson Alcombright called for nominations for secretary. It was

MOVED by Boulger, SECONDED by Moulton  
to nominate Karen Bond secretary.

VOTE ON THE MOTION	Ayes	7	<u>Secretary</u>
	Nays	0	Action No.
			5912

MOTION CARRIED

## APPOINTMENTS

Chairperson Alcombright appointed Mark P. Moulton, Karen Bond and Richard Alcombright to serve on the Negotiations Subcommittee for professional staff, with Mark Moulton as Chairperson.

Chairperson Alcombright appointed John Hockridge, Heather Boulger, and Tara Jacobs to serve on the Negotiations Subcommittee for non-professional staff, with John Hockridge as Chairperson.

Chairperson Alcombright appointed Mark Moulton, Nicholas Fahey and Tara Jacobs to serve on the Finance and Facilities Subcommittee, with Mark Moulton as Chairperson.

Chairperson Alcombright appointed Karen Bond to serve on the Endowment Subcommittee.

## HEARING OF VISITORS

There were no visitors to be heard.

## READING AND APPROVAL OF RECORDS

A. Minutes of 01 December 2015 Regular Meeting

Minutes of the 01 December 2015 regular meeting were read and at the conclusion of which it was

MOVED by Boulger, SECONDED by Hockridge  
to approve the minutes of 01 December 2015.

VOTE ON THE MOTION	Ayes	7	<u>Minutes</u>
	Nays	0	Action No.
			5913

MOTION CARRIED

B. Balance Sheet

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

COMMUNICATIONS

A. Superintendent Montepare, Notification of Retirement

The Committee reviewed Superintendent Montepare's letter announcing his retirement effective 01 April 2016. Chairperson Alcombright acknowledged the work the Superintendent had done in the district beginning as a special education teacher in 1975, Coordinator of Pupil Services in 1979, Administrator of Special Education in 1998 and Superintendent of Schools in 2003. Chairperson Alcombright thanked Superintendent Montepare for his service and referred to his intent to retire as bittersweet.

MOVED by Boulger, SECONDED by Moulton  
to accept Superintendent Montepare's notification  
of retirement effective 01 April 2016 and to place  
on file.

VOTE ON THE MOTION	Ayes 7	<u>Superintendent Montepare's Retirement</u>
	Nays 0	Action No.
		5914

MOTION CARRIED

Chairperson Alcombright stated that since Pat Correira had traveled from the Springfield area to assist us with the search process, we would hear the Superintendent Search Process as the next agenda item.

C. Superintendent Search Process, Pat Correira, Massachusetts Association of School Committees

Pat Correira, Field Director for the Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC) informed the Committee that she had met with Chairperson Alcombright, Superintendent Montepare and Ellen Sutherland to discuss the search services that MASC has to offer. We can contract with MASC for them to do the search for approximately \$12,000. Ms. Correira stated that she did not think that was necessary and that MASC could provide a wide range of free technical assistance to the district to conduct its own search. These services include the following:

- Assess your capacity to conduct your own search, identify processes, set timelines, review the marketplace for candidates, and help with many other elements.
- Posting on the MASC web site.
- Distribution of your vacancy to other state school boards associations' web sites under the umbrella of the National School Boards Association federation.

- Distribution of your search materials to extensive MASC recruitment data base. (District pays only print and postage costs.)
- Graphic Design Assistance to prepare your printer ready brochure and collateral materials such as the application form.
- Posting of on-line superintendent search survey for on-line focus group.
- Recommendations for appropriate paid advertising.
- Design and placement of your media advertisements. (Districts must pay cost of advertising as charged by media outlet.)
- Orientation of your Search Committee.
- Assistance in developing questions for candidates at various stages, including question analysis.
- Guidance on adhering to the MA Open Meeting Law.
- Assist you in preparing for a site visits.
- Telephone access for questions.
- Other services by request, subject to availability of staff.

Heather Boulger inquired about the six weeks timeline and Pat Correia confirmed that it was adequate. Tara Jacobs inquired as to whether or not this was a good time of year to do a search and Pat Correia stated that there is no particularly good time and emphasized that the district should not look for someone with a PhD but rather someone who fits in the district.

Tara Jacobs suggested including demographic information in the survey but Nicholas Fahey stated he thought that would be prohibitive and the committee ultimately decided not to include it. The district will notify the public about the survey via school messenger, the district website, the Code Red system and through local media.

There was discussion about the gap between Superintendent Montepare's April 1<sup>st</sup> retirement date and the new superintendent being appointed. Chairperson Alcombright confirmed that Superintendent Montepare is willing to remain on an interim position until a new superintendent is hired.

MOVED by Moulton, SECONDED by Boulger  
to adopt the proposed Superintendent Search  
Process

VOTE ON THE MOTION	Ayes	7	<u>Superintendent Search Process</u>
	Nays	0	Action No.
			5915

MOTION CARRIED

## REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

### A. Personnel Appointments:

James Blair, 2<sup>nd</sup> SHIFT CUSTODIAN, Colegrove Park Elementary School, effective 21 December 2015.

Sally Reese, CAFETERIA WORKER, Greylock Elementary School, effective 15 December 2015.

Margaret Chieffo, LONG TERM SUBSTITUTE SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER, Sullivan Elementary School, effective 09 November 2015.

Elizabeth Tatro, SUBSTITUTE TEACHER ASSISTANT, effective 23 November 2015.

Tracie Gregoire, SUBSTITUTE TEACHER ASSISTANT, effective 08 December 2015.

Regina Pare', SUBSTITUTE TEACHER ASSISTANT, effective 14 December 2015.

Kasha Wissman, SUBSTITUTE TEACHER ASSISTANT, effective 16 December 2015.

Elizabeth Tatro, JUNIOR VARSITY GIRLS' BASKETBALL COACH, has been appointed Junior Varsity Girls' Basketball Coach, effective 30 November 2015.

Megan Boyer, VOLUNTEER GIRLS' VARSITY BASKETBALL COACH, effective 30 November 2015.

Kelsey Ouimet, VOLUNTEER GIRLS' VARSITY BASKETBALL COACH, effective 30 November 2015.

Al Giorgi, VOLUNTEER BOYS' VARSITY BASKETBALL COACH, effective 30 November 2015.

Michele Casey, KINDERGARTEN TEACHER, Sullivan/Colegrove Park Elementary School, effective 07 December 2015.

Nicole Maloney. TEACHER ASSISTANT, at Sullivan/Colegrove Park Elementary School, effective 04 January 2016.

Jennifer McKay, TEACHER ASSISTANT, CASTLES at Sullivan Elementary School, effective 11 December 2015.

Laura Soave, TEACHER ASSISTANT, Greylock Elementary School, effective 14 December 2015.

Denise Morin, PARAPROFESSIONAL, Brayton Elementary School, effective 04 January 2016.

Mayan Zungy, CURRICULUM SUPPLIES MANAGER, Central Office, effective 17 December 2015.

Susan Beauchamp, CURRICULUM SUPPLIES MANAGER, Central Office, effective 17 December 2015.

Jacob Elder, LONG TERM SUBSTITUTE SCIENCE TEACHER GRADES 6/7, Brayton Elementary School, effective 04 January 2016.

Elizabeth Bator, GRADE 4 TEACHER, Colegrove Park Elementary School, effective 04 January 2016.  
Michael Perry, TEACHER ASSISTANT, Greylock Elementary School, effective 04 January 2016.

Russell Beauchamp, VOLUNTEER BOYS' VARSITY BASKETBALL COACH, effective 30 November 2015.

Resignations:

Megan Janz, TEACHER ASSISTANT, CASTLES II, Sullivan Elementary School, effective 03 December 2015.

Denise Morin, GRADE 4 TEACHER, Sullivan Elementary School, effective 24 December 2015.

Keiyara Dodge, TEACHER ASSISTANT, CASTLES, Sullivan Elementary School, effective 01 December 2015.

Retirements:

Judy Spooner, CLERICAL PARAPROFESSIONAL, Brayton Elementary School, effective 15 January 2016.

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

VOTE ON THE MOTION	Ayes	7	<u>Personnel</u>
	Nays	0	Action No.
			5916

MOTION CARRIED

B. Colegrove Park Elementary School Update

Chairperson Alcombright reported that the school was open and thanked all involved. He stated that there is still a little more on the punch list and that we have scheduled a ribbon cutting on January 25, 2016 at 1:30 p.m. and a community open house that evening from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Superintendent Montepare reported that we have more than 100 students, or one third of the enrollment at Colegrove Park, walking to school and he would love to see that neighborhood feel come back.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business to be discussed.

## REMARKS FOR THE GOOD OF THE COMMITTEE

Heather Boulger stated that the Drury Performing Arts Class (DPAC) put on a Winter Solstice Concert in December and have another concert scheduled on January 12, 2016.

Chairperson Alcombright remarked that Guys and Dolls was fantastic and offered his congratulations to all involved.

## NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to be discussed.

## 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 Hockridge, 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 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen Bond, Secretary  
/es