

School Committee
North Adams Public Schools
North Adams, Massachusetts

Regular Meeting of 03 May 2016

A regular meeting of the School Committee of the North Adams Public Schools was held on Tuesday, 03 May 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
Karen Bond
John Hockridge

Missing: Mark P. Moulton

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
Jean Bacon, Administrator of Teaching and Learning
Jane Farnham, Teacher
Amanda Michaels, Student Council Representative
Annie Pecor, Teacher
Adam Shanks, the Berkshire Eagle
Citizens

CALL TO ORDER

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

Chairperson Alcombright acknowledged Amanda Michaels for her work in "Amadeus".

HEARING OF VISITORS

There were no visitors to be heard.

READING AND APPROVAL OF RECORDS

A. Minutes of 05 April 2016 Regular Meeting

Minutes of the 05 April 2016 regular meeting were read and at the conclusion of which it was

MOVED by Boulger, SECONDED by Hockridge
to approve the minutes of 05 April 2016.

VOTE ON THE MOTION	Ayes	6	<u>Minutes</u>
	Nays	0	Action No.
			5941

MOTION CARRIED

B. Minutes of 05 April 2016 Working Meeting

Minutes of the 05 April 2016 working meeting were read and at the conclusion of which it was

MOVED by Boulger, SECONDED by Hockridge
to approve the minutes of 05 April 2016.

VOTE ON THE MOTION	Ayes	6	<u>Minutes</u>
	Nays	0	Action No.
			5942

MOTION CARRIED

C. Minutes of 11 April 2016 Working Meeting

Minutes of the 11 April 2016 working meeting were read and at the conclusion of which it was

MOVED by Boulger, SECONDED by Hockridge
to approve the minutes of 11 April 2016.

VOTE ON THE MOTION	Ayes	6	<u>Minutes</u>
	Nays	0	Action No.
			5943

MOTION CARRIED

D. Minutes of 13 April 2016 Working Meeting

Minutes of the 13 April 2016 working meeting were read and at the conclusion of which it was

MOVED by Hockridge, SECONDED by Boulger

to approve the minutes of 13 April 2016.

VOTE ON THE MOTION	Ayes	6	<u>Minutes</u>
	Nays	0	Action No.
			5944

MOTION CARRIED

E. Minutes of 25 April 2016 Working Meeting

Minutes of the 25 April 2016 working meeting were read and at the conclusion of which it was

MOVED by Hockridge, SECONDED by Jacobs
to approve the minutes of 25 April 2016.

VOTE ON THE MOTION	Ayes	6	<u>Minutes</u>
	Nays	0	Action No.
			5945

MOTION CARRIED

E. Balance Sheet

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

COMMUNICATIONS

There were no communications to be heard.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

A. Personnel

Appointments:

Aldonna Girouard, Anne French, Melanie Rancourt, Sara Luczynski, Molly Meczywor, Allison Bergeron, Mary Leon-Sweeney, Krista Pinsonneault, Karen Bedard, TURNAROUND LEADERS at Drury High School, effective 28 March 2016.

Robert Dunham, SUBSTITUTE TEACHER ASSISTANT for the District, effective 06 April 2016.

Tracy Therrien, SUBSTITUTE TEACHER in the North Adams Pre-Kindergarten Program, effective 25 April 2016.

Tracie Gregoire, TEACHER ASSISTANT, Castles II at Colegrove Elementary School, effective 11 April 2016.

Theresa Denault, CAFETERIA WORKER, Drury High School, effective 25 April 2016.

Sara Luczynski, LEAD SUMMER TRANSITION PROGRAM TEACHER, effective 13 April 2016.

Resignations:

Seth Shepard, TEACHER ASSISTANT at Drury High School, effective 11 April 2016.

Jean Bacon, ADMINISTRATOR OF TEACHING AND LEARNING, effective 30 June 2016.

Retirements:

Linda Hurlbut, SPECIAL EDUCATION COORDINATOR, effective 30 June 2016.

Noreen Donnelly, SPECIAL EDUCATION ADMINISTRATOR, effective 30 June 2016.

Robert LeClair, TEACHER, Greylock Elementary School

Substitutes:

Ross Betti was added to the substitute list.

Recommended Action: Motion to file.

MOVED by Boulger, SECONDED by Fahey
to send letters of appreciation to the retirees
and to place the personnel information on file.

VOTE ON THE MOTION	Ayes	6	<u>Personnel</u>
	Nays	0	Action No.
			5946

MOTION CARRIED

B. Improving Science Education: The Teach to Learn (T2L) Project

Jean Bacon, Administrator of Teaching and Learning, Jane Farnham, first grade teacher, Colegrove Park Elementary School, Molly Polk, North Adams Coordinator, Williams Elementary Outreach, Williams College, Nick Stroud, Assistant Professor of Science Education, Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts and Paula Consolini, Director of the Center for Learning in Action, Williams College gave an overview of the North Adams Public Schools' science education improvement plan and the role of the Teach to Learn (T2L) project in supporting North Adams' improvement goals. Teach to Learn is a collaborative project of the North Adams Public Schools, the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, and Williams College that pairs college undergraduates and North Adams classroom teachers to develop science units of instruction and co-teach those units in K-7 classrooms. We are in year two of this four year project.

Jane Farnham reported that she first became involved in the program because materials were provided and stated that the program is beneficial because it is teaching across the curriculum and she is able to integrate literacy with social studies and science. The lessons made the students go outside of their comfort zone and explore more than they would by simply reading a book.

Nick Stroud stated that we are at the front in the state with this work. Superintendent Montepare described the project as a true collaborative partnership with higher education and expressed his appreciation to all involved. Tara Jacobs commented that as both a mother of a child in the program and a school committee member she appreciated the program.

Heather Boulger inquired about the cost going forward and Jean Bacon stated that the summer stipends will go away and we are looking at ways to leverage work studies. Williams has a long history of paying students to help us. This will be relatively easy to absorb in the school budget by the end of the four years.

Chairperson Alcombright extended his thanks to all involved.

C. School Choice Approval

The Superintendent called for a vote for the North Adams Public Schools to continue to participate in School Choice.

MOVED by Hockridge, SECONDED by Bond
to continue to participate in school choice
for the 2016-2017 school year.

VOTE ON THE MOTION	Ayes	6	<u>School Choice</u>
	Nays	0	Action No.
			5947

MOTION CARRIED

D. School Choice Appropriation

Superintendent Montepare requested an appropriation from the school choice account in the amount of \$97,000 for the purchase and/or lease of technology. Nancy Ziter, Business Manager, updated the committee on the current inventory of technology in the district and stated that these funds would bring Greylock and Brayton Elementary Schools up to speed with Colegrove Park Elementary School. Diane Ryczek, Coordinator of Mentoring and Assistive Technology gave an overview of what is happening with teachers using technology in the district.

MOVED by Hockridge, SECONDED by Fahey
to approve an appropriation from the school
choice account in the amount of \$97,000.

VOTE ON THE MOTION	Ayes	6	<u>School Choice Appropriation</u>
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Nays 0 Action No.
5948

MOTION CARRIED

E. Drury Summer Online Credit Recovery Program

Superintendent Montepare asked Principal Meehan to review the Drury Summer Online Credit Recovery Program. This will be the second year that Drury has used this model.

MOVED by Boulger, SECONDED by Fahey
to approve the Drury Summer Online Credit
Recovery Program.

VOTE ON THE MOTION Ayes 6 Drury Summer Online Credit Recovery
Nays 0 Action No.
5949

MOTION CARRIED

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business to be discussed.

REMARKS FOR THE GOOD OF THE COMMITTEE

NEW BUSINESS

A. Resolution: Request Not to Raise the Existing Cap on Charter Schools in Massachusetts

This resolution request had been tabled at the previous meeting to allow Heather Boulger time to do her due diligence. Mrs. Boulger reported that she had researched the resolution and was comfortable signing it. It was

MOVED by Boulger, SECONDED by Bond
to approve the resolution.

VOTE ON THE MOTION Ayes 6 Resolution: Request Not to Raise the
Nays 0 Existing Cap on Charter Schools in
Massachusetts
Action No.
5950

MOTION CARRIED

A. MASC Update

John Hockridge updated the Committee on the work of the Berkshire County Education Task Force. The Task Force will be receiving \$100,000 in state funds and is requesting more funding.

REMARKS FOR THE GOOD OF THE COMMITTEE

Heather Boulger:

- Congratulations to Michele Rondeau who received the Berkshire County Educator Recognition Award.
- The Senior Citizens Prom is May 24th from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- Today is Teacher Appreciation Day—thank you for inspiring students on a daily basis
- Wonderland of Learning will take place at Colegrove Park Elementary on May 5th from 6:00 p.m. -7:30 p.m.
- Colegrove Park Elementary will participate in the safe routes to school walking school bus on June 10th.

Chairperson Alcombright

- Chairperson Alcombright and Adam Dupere have met with Dr. Malkas and would like to schedule a special meeting on May 11, 2016 to vote on her contract.
- There will be a draft budget going to city council on May 10, 2016. We will schedule the finance committee

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 Bond
that the meeting be adjourned.

VOTE ON THE MOTION	Ayes	6	<u>Adjournment</u>
	Nays	0	

MOTION CARRIED

The meeting was adjourned at 7:08 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Karen Bond, Secretary