

North Attleborough School Committee
Meeting Minutes
April 4, 2011

The North Attleborough School Committee met on Monday, April 4, 2011 at 7:00 P.M. in the School Committee Conference Room at the Woodcock Administration Building.

Committee members present included:, Tony Calcia, Christopher Frost, Neal Gouck, William Kummer, James McKenna, Joan Meilan, Chip Poirier and High School student representative Kaylee Henriques.

Assistant Superintendent Suzan Cullen, Business Administrator David Flynn and Facilities and Grounds Administrator Kyle Kummer represented Central Administration.

Chairman Frost called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM.

Chairman Frost thanked the audiovisual crew for all their hard work.

RECOGNITION

Assistant Superintendent Cullen updated the School Committee and the Community of Superintendent Rice's progress as he recovers from extensive back surgery. Assistant Superintendent Cullen stated that Dr. Rice is working hard to regain his strength but knows that it is going to be a long haul. Assistant Superintendent Cullen stated that Dr. Rice feels all of our thoughts and prayers and is very appreciative of everyone's continued collegiality, leadership and support for each other in his absence.

Assistant Superintendent Cullen recognized April as being Autism Awareness Month stating the statistics of 1 in 110 children are diagnosed with Autism. Assistant Superintendent Cullen thanked the staff of North Attleboro, particularly the Special Education Department for providing service to children with special needs.

Assistant Superintendent Cullen recognized Mrs. Melissa (Missy) Hope, Food Service Director on her recent credential of School Nutrition Specialist (SNS), the highest national credential in the Food Service profession. Assistant Superintendent Cullen stated as a School Nutrition Specialist, rigorous academic and experience are required and that Missy is one of 1,050 professionals nationally who have earned this designation, and is one of only 49 professionals in Massachusetts. Assistant Superintendent Cullen commended Missy on her leadership, vision and outstanding communication skills.

Assistant Superintendent Cullen read a retirement letter from Mr. Thomas Labonte, Principal at Community School who will be retiring on July 29th. Assistant Superintendent Cullen stated that Mr. Labonte is a truly remarkable individual noting that he received the National Distinguished Principal award in 1999. Assistant Superintendent Cullen stated that Mr. Labonte has been with North Attleboro for 11 years, after retiring from Rhode Island back in 2000. Assistant Superintendent Cullen stated that Mr. Labonte's kindness and welcoming spirit has emulated at Community School and that he will be truly missed. Assistant Superintendent Cullen wished Mr. Labonte health and happiness in his retirement.

PRESENTATIONS

High School Student Representative

High School Student Representative Kaylee Henriques updated the School Committee members with the activities that have happened or will be happening at the high school starting with the theater company's amazing performance of "Cinderella" this past weekend, which was sold out both Friday and Saturday nights; the Junior prom will be held April 30th at the Rhode Island Convention Center; the minute to win it challenge which is modeled after the popular TV show, originally scheduled for tonight will be postponed to a later date in the month of April and that the Captain Kyle R. Van De Giesen memorial award committee is looking for nominations for their first annual award in Kyle's memory.

Lynn Wiegel, Director of Technology

Lynn Wiegel, Director of Technology, presented a Technology Report updating the School Committee on the progress that the Technology Department has achieved this past year, thru collaboration with parent groups, teachers, department heads, principals, Administrators and the Technology Committee. Mrs. Wiegel continued by stating that the funding sources for Technology have helped updated the technology in our District, but there is still a long way to go. Mrs. Wiegel continued by stating that the network infrastructure has improved due to the purchasing of an email archive unit, a bandwidth management device, spam control devices, an upgrade of switches for all buildings to increase bandwidth to 1GB, the installation of wireless connection at the high school in the Science Department and the Media Center as well as the Woodcock Administrative Building. Mrs. Wiegel continued by stating that there will be a new server environment which will allow for improvement of security, improved climate control, as well as improved storage and access for students and staff. Mrs. Wiegel then stated that desktop computers have been updated through new and donated which has helped move the District toward the Category A status which is more up to date than the B & C categories. Mrs. Wiegel also stated that the Work Order System has been improved which will help increase communication with users district-wide and help the Tech Department better manage the many work orders received daily. Mrs. Wiegel stated that the Tech Department meets weekly which helps promote a collaborative environment and that 22 additional Eno Boards have been purchased, a number of document cameras have been added to classrooms; laptops have purchased through teacher grants and that iPad have been purchased for the Special Education Department. Mrs. Wiegel finalized her presentation by stating the vision for the next school year by stating that the main focus is to prepare our students for their world in the 21st century by providing them with the appropriate skills which include creativity and innovation, communication and collaboration, research and information fluency; critical thinking, problem solving and decision making, digital citizenship and technology operations and concepts. Mrs. Wiegel stated that the Capital Improvement Plan has requested \$535,651 to be voted at the June Town Meeting to purchase 60 interactive classrooms, 350 desktop computers/software licensing as well as improving the network infrastructure. Mrs. Wiegel ended her presentation by playing a video she created in various classrooms throughout our District showing our students using Technology.

Assistant Superintendent Cullen thanked Mrs. Wiegel for her presentation and stated that North Attleboro has made tremendous progress in the area of technology with Mrs. Wiegel's outstanding leadership and vision.

ACTION ITEMS

BILLS DATED

Chairman Frost called for a vote to approve bills dated February 24, March 3, 10, 17 & 24, 2011 so moved by Mr. Calcia seconded by Mr. Kummer so voted and passed unanimously.

MINUTES

Chairman Frost called for a vote to approve the minutes from the March 7, 2011 School Committee meeting so moved by Mr. Calcia seconded by Mr. Kummer so voted and passed unanimously.

Chairman Frost called for a vote to approve the minutes from the March 23, 2011 Special School Committee meeting, so moved by Mr. Poirier seconded by Mr. Kummer so voted and passed unanimously.

REQUIRING VOTES

Vote to not participate in the School Choice Program for the 2011 – 2012 school year, as recommended by the Assistant Superintendent.

Chairman Frost called for a vote to not participate in the School Choice Program for the 2011 – 2012 school year, so moved by Mr. Calcia seconded by Mr. Kummer so voted and passed unanimously.

Vote to approve the changes for the Early Learning Center effective at the beginning of the 2011-2012 school year, as recommended by Assistant Superintendent

Mrs. Burgess, Principal at ELC was in attendance to discuss a possible increase for FY12 Revenue Opportunities. Mrs. Burgess stated that the Early Learning Center has not requested a tuition increase in three years and in order to increase revenue and to continue to provide the same high quality programming for families and students with the same highly trained and experienced staff, she is proposing to increase revenue in two ways: 1. Increase the number of weekly attendance days for typical students from 3 days per week to 4 days per week. Mrs. Burgess stated that staff has requested this change and that this will automatically cause tuition to increase from \$1400 to \$1900 annually, based on the current rate. Mrs. Burgess stated that she had inquired about tuition rates at one local preschool, who charges \$2470 annually for a three-day program and a local public preschool program who charges \$1500 annually for a three-day program, so the proposal is in line with what other community programs are charging and would have a projected revenue increase of \$37,500. Mrs. Burgess stated that this proposal has been discussed with the PTO, and has received almost 100% positive feedback about a four-day program. Mrs. Burgess continued with proposal #2 which would increase the ratio of typical students to SPED students in accordance with state laws from 15 (8 typical, 7 SPED) to 20 (15 typical, 5 SPED) in 3 sections of Pre-K. Mrs. Burgess stated that the Early Learning Center maintains a long wait list, and this option would open up additional slots for typical preschoolers waiting for a slot and would have a potential revenue increase of \$77,400.

Chairman Frost called for a vote to approve the changes for the Early Learning Center, proposal #1, effective at the beginning of the 2011-2012 school year, so moved by Mr. Calcia seconded by Mr. Kummer so voted and passed unanimously.

Mr. Calcia made a motion to approve the changes for the Early Learning Center, proposal #2, effective at the beginning of the 2011- 2012 school year, seconded by Mr. Kummer so voted and passed 5-2 with Chairman Frost and Mrs. Meilan opposing.

Vote to approve the Curriculum Policy Subcommittee's recommendation regarding new policy File: JFABC, Admission of Transfer Students – *First Reading* as recommended by the Curriculum Policy Subcommittee

Assistant Superintendent Cullen stated that policy File JFABC, Admission of Transfer Students, has been mandated for school districts to adopt for children who are enrolling into public schools from charter schools.

Chairman Frost called for a vote to approve the Curriculum Policy Subcommittee's recommendation regarding new policy File: JFABC, Admission of Transfer Students – *First Reading* so moved by Mr. Calcia seconded by Mr. Kummer so voted and passed unanimously.

Vote to approve the Curriculum Policy Subcommittee's recommendation regarding new policy File: IMG, Animals in School – *First Reading* as recommended by the Curriculum Policy Subcommittee

Assistant Superintendent Cullen stated that File IMG, Animals in School has been mandated for schools to adopt for children who require service animals in schools to assist with various health challenges and disabilities.

Chairman Frost called for a vote to approve the Curriculum Policy Subcommittee's recommendation regarding new policy File: IMG, Animals in School - *First Reading* so moved by Mr. Kummer seconded by Mr. McKenna so voted and passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT/QUESTIONS

None

DISCUSSION ITEMS

FY12 Budget Update

Assistant Superintendent Cullen presented an overview of a three tiered approach to dealing with the pending budget issue for the 2011 – 2012 school year. Assistant Superintendent Cullen stated that she is investigating potential cost avoidances and revenue sources prior to establishing potential employee cuts, examples of cost avoidance would be the potential changes regarding bus transportation and examples of potential revenue sources are the changes to the ELC as well as the discussion of instituting activities fees.

Discussion ensued.

CHAIRMAN’S REPORT

Chairman Frost thanked all the committee members for their opinions and sharing of discussions and stated that it has been a pleasure serving with them on the School Committee.

Mr. Calcia asked that the Afghans Painting be on next month’s agenda.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. McKenna made a motion to adjourn into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing contract negotiations with regard to union and non union personnel seconded by Mr. Kummer.

A roll call vote followed:

Mr. Calcia	No
Mr. Frost	Yes
Mr. Gouck	Yes
Mr. Kummer	Yes
Mr. McKenna	Yes
Mrs. Meilan	Yes
Mr. Poirier	Yes

Adjourned: 9:19 p.m.

Submitted by: Emily Sugrue