

North Attleborough School Committee
Meeting Minutes
February 7, 2011

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

Committee members present included:, Tony Calcia, Neal Gouck, William Kummer, James McKenna, Joan Meilan and High School student representative Kaylee Henriques. Christopher Frost was not in attendance. Chip Poirier would be arriving late.

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

Secretary Gouck called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.

Secretary Gouck thanked the audiovisual crew for all their hard work.

RECOGNITION

DARE Graduation: Amvet, Roosevelt & Community Schools

Superintendent Rice congratulated the fifth grade students from the Amvet Boulevard School, the Roosevelt Avenue School and the Community School on their recent graduation from the DARE Program.

Superintendent Rice also thanked Officer Pamela Brown for her dedication and hard work on this very important program.

Secretary Gouck recognized the **Pennies for Patients Program** at the Roosevelt Avenue School, especially the two fourth grade students who organized the program, Rachel Burns and Riley Gagne.

Mr. Chip Poirier arrived to the meeting at 7:11 p.m.

PRESENTATIONS

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 North Attleboro High School girls swim team who won their meet on Saturday making them the Hockomock league champions; on Thursday February 10th the National Honor society induction ceremony will take place at 6:30 PM in the Cobb Theatre and last night the Chinese New Year celebration was held at Bryant University and was a extremely successful show and is being performed again tonight at the High School.

School Improvement Plan – Community Elementary School

Mr. Labonte, Principal of the Community Elementary School, presented the Community Elementary Schools 2009 – 2012 School Improvement Plan updates. Principal Labonte thanked the School Committee for the opportunity to share Community Schools progress towards meeting the goals of their school improvement plan and the steps that are being taken to address concerns and needs that resulted from the 2010 MCAS tests. Mr. Labonte stated that in May when he was last here, he expressed his concerns about the special education and low-income subgroups that are reported on MCAS and that while the overall results for Community School indicate that they are a high performing school; these sub-groups are not keeping pace with the general population of test takers. Mr. Labonte continued by stating that since assuming responsibility for the Title I Grant, he has been able to direct and monitor the limited additional resources that can be used to complement, but not supplement the regular school budget. Mr. Labonte then highlighted the following steps that have already been put into place or will be put into place: the hiring of two additional highly qualified Title I paraprofessionals to increase the small group and one to one opportunities at Amvet Boulevard and Community; enrolling staff in high quality professional development activities that address the ‘most struggling

readers' and coordinating RTI programs with Title I; creating a *Literacy Partnership* between our grade two teachers and the Title I reading teacher who will attend a summer workshop on Daily CAFÉ, a highly regarded program that helps teachers organize an effective literacy block (in-district program led by an Allen Avenue teacher); sponsor an after school math preparation program for students in grades three, four, and five at Community School with funds from the Title I Grant, which will support the staff and all of the materials needed for the program and will run for the eight weeks prior to the spring 2011 MCAS Mathematics Tests; provide funds to enhance the classroom libraries and book rooms with many more informational texts at different reading levels; purchase a school site subscription to *IXL, I Excel in Math*, a web-based mathematics support program which would allow students with access to the internet to practice anywhere from that computer. Mr. Labonte stated that he is still working on finding ways to provide opportunities for children who do not have internet access in their homes to use the school computer lab either before or after school, Mr. Labonte also stated that he will be inviting parents to workshops that will address their needs as determined by a soon to be sent survey. Mr. Labonte continued by stating that Community School is a welcoming school who accommodates four substantially separate classrooms for the District as well as three inclusion classrooms and that students from all North Attleborough elementary schools are enrolled in either of these programs. Mr. Labonte highlighted the following updates to Community Schools Improvement Plan by stating that the MCAS results are from a "snapshot" on a particular day and are only one small part of the assessment of student achievement and that non-special education and non-low income students do very well; Community School continues to use Empowering Writers to support student writing in ELA; teachers are sharing writing samples anonymously with team members to ensure objective application of rubrics for student writing; concerns in math, Title 1 program have been addressed by subscribing to IXL, a web based interactive math program that students can access from any computer; Title 1 after school math program for students in grades 3, 4 & 5; providing focused and sustained professional development for leaders district-wide through collaborative practices emphasizing instructional quality by having Administrators attend regional workshops with the author of *The Skillful Leader* to help improve skills as we observe and evaluate staff members; the Leadership Team is creating its own Professional Learning Community with frequent workshops that encourage honest discussions of important educational topics, practices and philosophies; community relationships are being strengthened with more families using the electronic backpack which include the Famous Persons Breakfast, the introduction of ICARE and a new coordinator of library volunteers who reads to several classes weekly as well as the "adopt a child" through Grace Church; student leadership opportunities are also being strengthened with the students in grades 3, 4 & 5 leading the morning exercises through the intercom system and students from grades 1 through 5 taking attendance at dismissal time; Community School also continues to support participation in activities related to community support with *Have you Filled a Bucket Today*, Lenore's pantry, collection of scarves, mittens and hats for outside groups and coordinating with local girl scout troops for "Operation Undercover". Mr. Labonte continued by thanking Mr. Kummer for connecting the intercom system in his building and for all the work that goes on daily. Mr. Labonte concluded by stating that "the school with the greatest challenges must have the greatest staff and that we are very fortunate to have such a caring, dedicated, and thoughtful staff at Community, from the custodians that do their best to maintain a nearly century old building, to the paraprofessionals that work closely with the students and teachers, to the related arts teachers who extend the curriculum, and to the teachers on the front line, all do their part to create a safe, welcoming, and affirming school".

Secretary Gouck called for a vote to approve the 2009 – 2012 Community Elementary School Improvement Plan update so moved by Mr. Kummer seconded by Mr. Poirier so voted and passed unanimously.

School Improvement Plan – Joseph W. Martin Elementary School

Mr. Luce, Principal and Mrs. McKeon Assistant Principal of the Joseph W. Martin Elementary School were in attendance to present an update to the Martin Schools 2009 – 2012 School improvement Plan. Mr. Luce stated that the update is a mirror of what has been done in the original plan and highlighted the following instructional goals: continue to implement the Foundations program to the fullest extent possible (Grades K-2) and develop strategies to monitor its effectiveness; begin the implementation of the newer edition of Everyday Mathematics;

continue to use and expand upon differentiated instructional strategies in the classroom; continue to use and expand upon the use of technology in the classroom and continue to use and expand upon the use of “data” to drive instructional decision making for individuals and groups of students. Mr. Luce continued by stating that 80% of students passed the Foundations assessments, fewer students are being brought to RTI for reading issues related to phonemic awareness and students improved MCAS scores on ELA Long Composition in grade 4 and open response questions, grades 3-5. Mrs. McKeon continued by stating that staff has been encouraged to share ideas and teaching methods within their grade level teams, several teachers have attended conferences and workshops and are asked to present their experiences to staff and several new interactive white boards and projectors have been installed in various classrooms and 3 portable units have been made available for teachers to use; Mrs. McKeon also stated that two technology grants were awarded through the Richard A. Smith North Attleboro Education Fund and were used to purchase a Mimio Vote handheld system as well as an additional projector for a third grade class. Mr. Luce commented on the community relationships within the school by stating that Martin School piloted a new format to the Open House that calls for students to take a more active role in showing their classroom and the work that they are doing and that a survey was filled out by teachers and parents to share their opinions of the new format and that the results will be used to guide future open houses. Mr. Luce continued by stating that a more formalized peer tutoring model, which involves older students working with younger students, has proven successful and is providing students the opportunity to be a leader. Mr. Luce continued by stating that a number of Community Service initiatives continue at the Martin School including the bottle drives, collection of food and clothing, working at the soup kitchen and supporting childhood illness research through financial donations. Mr. Luce stated that the Good Citizens Program has been redirected to focus on “filling people’s buckets” as a way to create a respectful school culture and combat bullying. Mr. Luce thanked Mr. Kummer with regards to the completion of the Martin School roof project which was completed in the Fall of 2010 as well as the additional video monitoring device which was installed in a side door at the school to aid in security measures.

Secretary Gouck called for a vote to accept the 2009 – 2012 Martin Elementary School Improvement Plan update so moved by Mr. Kummer, seconded by Mr. Calcia, so voted and passed unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS

BILLS DATED

Secretary Gouck called for a vote to approve bills dated December 30, 2010 and January 6, 13 & 20, 2011 so moved by Mr. Kummer seconded by Mr. Calcia so voted and passed unanimously.

MINUTES

Secretary Gouck called for a vote to approve the minutes from the January 11, 2011 School Committee meeting so moved by Mr. Kummer seconded by Mr. Calcia so voted and passed 5-0-1 with Mr. Gouck abstaining.

REQUIRING VOTES

Vote to approve the Massachusetts School Building Authority Statement of Interest (S.O.I.) as recommended by the Superintendent

Superintendent Rice stated that in the past, the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) would allow North Attleboro to electronically refresh the Statement of Interest, however, new this year; the MSBA is requiring both the Board of Selectman and the School Committee, to take a vote at their meetings and submit minutes from these meetings to the MSBA. Superintendent Rice stated that there are no changes to the Statement of Interest, just the procedure has changed.

Secretary Gouck read the following motion:

Resolved: Having convened in an open meeting on *February 7, 2011*, the *School Committee of the Town of North Attleborough*, in accordance with its charter, by-laws, and ordinances, has voted to authorize the Superintendent to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority the Statement of Interest dated

January 19, 2011 for the Allen Avenue Elementary School located at 290 Allen Avenue, North Attleborough, MA 02760 which describes and explains the following deficiencies and the priority category(s) for which North Attleborough may be invited to apply to the Massachusetts School Building Authority in the future: replacement of or addition to obsolete buildings in order to provide for a full range of programs consistent with state and approved local requirements; and hereby further specifically acknowledges that by submitting this Statement of Interest, the Massachusetts School Building Authority in no way guarantees the acceptance or the approval of an application, the awarding of a grant or any other funding commitment from the Massachusetts School Building Authority, or commits the Town of North Attleborough School District to filing an application for funding with the Massachusetts School Building Authority.

So moved by Mr. Calcia seconded by Mr. Kummer so voted and passed unanimously.

Secretary Gouck read the following motion:

Resolved: Having convened in an open meeting on February 7, 2011, the School Committee of the Town of North Attleborough, in accordance with its charter, by-laws, and ordinances, has voted to authorize the Superintendent to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority the Statement of Interest dated January 19, 2011 for the Early Learning Center, located at 25 School street North Attleborough, MA 02760 which describes and explains the following deficiencies and the priority category(s) for which North Attleborough may be invited to apply to the Massachusetts School Building Authority in the future: replacement of or addition to obsolete buildings in order to provide for a full range of programs consistent with state and approved local requirements; and hereby further specifically acknowledges that by submitting this Statement of Interest, the Massachusetts School Building Authority in no way guarantees the acceptance or the approval of an application, the awarding of a grant or any other funding commitment from the Massachusetts School Building Authority, or commits the Town of North Attleborough School District to filing an application for funding with the Massachusetts School Building Authority.

So moved by Mr. Calcia, seconded by Mr. Kummer so voted and passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT/QUESTIONS

None

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Mid-Year Goal update

Superintendent Rice stated that he submitted to each of the School Committee members his Mid-Year Goal update. Superintendent Rice stated that he set these goals at the beginning of the year and is able to fulfill his goals due to the support and efforts of the staff that surrounds him.

School Building Roofs

Mr. Kyle Kummer, Director of Facilities and Grounds, updated the School Committee members and the Community on a series of events regarding our school roofs to ensure the safety of our students and staff. Mr. Kummer stated that all school roofs have been personally inspected and photographed on multiple occasions by himself and the North Attleborough Building Commissioner Mr. Rod Palmer, all head custodians have been made aware of the seriousness of keeping the storm drains clean and will continue to monitor them before every storm; in the past week Mr. Kummer has consulted with a local Architect, a Project Manager for a roofing contractor, as well as and the town's Building Commissioner, school custodians have been shoveling in areas of need and have not encountered any problems or areas of concern, and in addition to official tours of the buildings, the custodians and maintenance department will continue to check our facilities for potential roof concerns (i.e., sagging door frames, deflection, roof leaks and cracked ceilings). Mr. Kummer stated that with the rise in temperatures and the more sun and rain we get, every day that passes makes our situation better, as the snow melts and is drained away and that at this point, North Attleboro has weathered the storm and the

worst is hopefully over. I have total confidence in the process that we've taken and we will continue to update you if anything arises.

FY12 Budget Update

Superintendent Rice informed the School Committee members that an updated FY12 Budget was in their package reflecting the increase of \$240,000.00.

Respective Culture Initiative/Anti Bullying Plan Update

Assistant Superintendent Cullen updated the Committee on the Respective Culture Initiative/Anti Bullying Plan Update stating that an online survey is available on the North Attleboro website and asked that parents in the community go onto the website and fill out the survey which is less than five minutes. Assistant Superintendent Cullen also stated that staff has been notified of the survey and that the survey needs to be filled out by February 18th.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Calcia 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. Poirier.

A roll call vote followed:

Mr. Calcia Yes
Mr. Gouck Yes
Mr. Kummer Yes
Mr. McKenna Yes
Mrs. Meilan Yes
Mr. Poirier Yes

Adjourned: 8:22 p.m.

Submitted by: Emily Sugrue