

NORTH ATTLEBOROUGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE
NORTH ATTLEBOROUGH, MA
OCTOBER 5, 2020
6:00 P.M. VIRTUAL MEETING

The North Attleborough School Committee held a virtual meeting on Monday, October 5, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

Chairman McKenna called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Attendance Roll Call:

School Committee:

John Costello - Present	Secretary Ethan Hamilton - Present
Kathryn Hobbs - Present	Kevin O'Donnell - Present
Carol Wagner - Present	Sarah Stone - Present
Chairman James McKenna - Present	Town Council President Keith Lapointe - Present

Central Administration:

Superintendent Scott Holcomb - Present	Assistant Superintendent Michelle McKeon - Present
Business Administrator David Flynn - Present	Administrative Assistant Mary Chagnon - Present

Student Representatives:

Shruti Srinivasan - Present	Brody Rosenberg - Absent
Dylan Desrosiers - Present	Joseph Perriello - Present
Grace Noreck - Present	

Mr. McKenna announced the meeting was being held remotely due to the Executive Order of Governor Baker on March 12, 2020.

The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

Recognitions

Chairman McKenna began the meeting by introducing Superintendent Holcomb. Mr. Holcomb acknowledged former Building and Grounds Director Kyle Kummer on his retirement. Mr. Holcomb stated he wanted to publicly congratulate and thank Mr. Kummer for his years of service to North Attleborough and for all he and his crew members have done over the many years he served North Attleborough Public Schools including the turf field project, the High School gymnasium, as well as recent window and roof projects at our elementary schools. Mr. Holcomb thanked him for his countless hours of hard work and dedication. Discussion ensued.

Superintendent Holcomb introduced State Representative Elizabeth Poirier. He explained that between Representative Poirier and her husband Kevin, they have served our district for a combined 43 years. Superintendent Holcomb described the number of things Mrs. Poirier was involved in highlighting Betty's Angels, the Senior Spectacular, Veterans Day Celebrations, Eagle Scouts recognitions, Santa Parades, Kids' Day Parades, endless retirement parties and ribbon cutting ceremonies. Mr. Holcomb shared a story of when state funding to the School Department was being jammed up at the state level and we were told the funds were not going to get released. With a phone call from Representative Poirier, the funds came through. He thanked her for her service and the sacrifices she made for the town of North Attleborough. Mrs. Poirier explained how grateful she was for Mr. Holcomb's kind words. She stated she was overwhelmed and very appreciative that she was able to provide counsel and help the people of her community and district. Discussion ensued.

Superintendent Holcomb gave a shout out to his staff for the tremendous amount of work that has gone into retooling and remodeling education during this pandemic. Mr. Holcomb highlighted classroom teachers for working tirelessly to create meaningful lessons for our students who are both virtual and in-person. Mr. Holcomb stated they deserved a big round of applause for mastering this model of education. Superintendent Holcomb explained at this point there were no reports of infection to staff and no covid in the school system. Discussion ensued

Presentations

Chairman McKenna called on the NAHS Student Representatives to provide us with the happenings at the high school. Shruti Shrinivasan gave a thank you to all her teachers and administrators. She stated these are unprecedented times but getting back to school has gone great. She spoke about the Seal of Biliteracy and how Mrs. McGrail wanted to continue the program. Students will be able to be certified in 2 languages by taking an exam or providing a portfolio as well as passing the ELA MCAS. She described how disappointing it was to have activities be cancelled when the virus began but is optimistic for what is yet to come. Dylan Desrosiers thanked staff members for the hours of summer planning and was very happy with the opening of school. He stated remote learning has been going well and it feels like you are right there in the classrooms. He reported there were Attleboro Area School to Career Partnership workshops coming in October and November for students. Joseph Perriello thanked teachers for the opportunities being given to them. He described the big difference between last spring and September coming back to school. Student athletes are able to participate in sports, which creates balance for the students. He is grateful for the opportunity. Grace Noreck thanked teachers for allowing students to come in for in person teaching. The new drop-off system is going really well and there is not as much backup getting into the senior lot. Discussion ensued.

Chairman McKenna introduced Superintendent Michelle McKeon who explained the reason for revisions to the School Calendar. Mrs. McKeon stated the adjustments to the calendar were mainly rearranging the quarters and trimesters throughout the school year for report cards and conference purposes. Mrs. McKeon also explained a schedule of virtual open house dates at all the schools have been updated and after approval, the dates will be released to parents. Mrs. McKeon went on to report on the opening of school. She explained that reopening our schools after 6 months of being shut down took a tremendous effort by many people. Mrs. McKeon described the walk thrus she and Superintendent Holcomb did the first week of school. She stated there was so much energy and excitement from both staff and students. The children were engaging with teachers and friends they hadn't seen in 6 months. Mrs. McKeon stated it went very well. Teachers are still on a learning curve on how to teach and how to assess. They are using new technology tools and collaborating with colleagues. Mrs. McKeon reported on the new version of Google being used that allows for smaller breakout groups which has been met with great success. She thanked all the teachers and staff members for all of their efforts.

Chairman McKenna called for motion to accept the revised school calendar as recommended by Assistant Superintendent Michelle McKeon, so moved by Kevin O'Donnell, seconded by Carol Wagner. Discussion ensued. So voted by roll call vote:

Roll call vote:

John Costello - Yes

Kathryn Hobbs - Yes

Carol Wagner - Yes

Chairman James McKenna - Yes

Motion passed 7-0-0

Secretary Ethan Hamilton - Yes

Kevin O'Donnell - Yes

Sarah Stone - Yes

Superintendent Scott Holcomb introduced Interim Director of Building and Grounds Christopher George who reported on what has been happening across the district to create safe environments for all our schools. Mr. George reported on the carpentry projects that included plexiglass partitions in school offices and in some high needs classrooms. He described the work being done on replacing the old HVAC mechanical ventilation units across the district. He reported on the water bottle fillers that were installed across all the schools in the district. Mr. George explained the installation of touchless flushometers on the toilets across the district. He described the deep cleaning crew that comes in on Wednesday afternoons and evenings to each school. Mr. George stated that all PPE is held in storage at the Middle School and once it is inventoried it is sent out to all the schools. He explained the signage and offered an example that was a DESE requirement before schools could open. He also explained the 500+ hand sanitizer units that have been installed across the district. Mr. George stated air purifiers are starting to come in and as soon as they are inventoried they are being distributed to all school classrooms in need. Discussion ensued.

School Committee Members Community Announcements

Ethan Hamilton explained the month of October is Dyslexia Awareness Month and everyone should be aware. Kathryn Hobbs reported on the poinsettia sale through the NAHS Music Department. She explained December 5th will be the delivery date. Sarah Stone acknowledged World Teacher Appreciation Day and thanked all our teachers and teachers across the world. Keith LaPointe reported on the guidelines of Halloween and explained they can be found on the Town Website.

Action Items:

Chairman McKenna called for a motion to approve the bills dated September 4, 11, 18, 25, and October 2, 2020; so moved by Kevin O'Donnell, seconded by Carol Wagner, so voted by roll call vote:

Roll call vote:

John Costello - Yes	Secretary Ethan Hamilton - Abstain
Kathryn Hobbs - Yes	Kevin O'Donnell - Yes
Carol Wagner - Yes	Sarah Stone - Yes
Chairman James McKenna - Yes	
Motion passed 6-0-1	

Chairman McKenna called for a motion to approve the minutes dated September 9, 2020; so moved by Kevin O'Donnell, seconded by Carol Wagner, so voted by roll call vote:

Roll call vote:

John Costello - Yes	Secretary Ethan Hamilton - Yes
Kathryn Hobbs - Yes	Kevin O'Donnell - Yes
Carol Wagner - Yes	Sarah Stone - Yes
Chairman James McKenna - Yes	
Motion passed 7-0-0	

Issues Requiring Votes:

Chairman McKenna called for motion to approve the NAFTA Memorandum of Understanding regarding Fall Reopening as recommended by the NAFTA Teachers' Negotiations Subcommittee, so moved by Kathryn Hobbs, seconded by John Costello, so voted by roll call vote:

Roll call vote:

John Costello - Yes	Secretary Ethan Hamilton - Yes
Kathryn Hobbs - Yes	Kevin O'Donnell - Yes
Carol Wagner - Yes	Sarah Stone - Yes
Chairman James McKenna - Yes	
Motion passed 7-0-0	

Discussion Items

Community Roofing Project - Superintendent Holcomb called on Business Administrator David Flynn to report on the project's progress. Mr. Flynn explained over the past few weeks they reviewed 9 bids for the architectural plans for the roof. The group narrowed it down to 4 candidates and interviews took place last week. Mr. Flynn stated they agreed unanimously on Gale Associates and will begin negotiations for proposal and approval. Mr. Flynn anticipates bidding for the job will take place sometime in December, materials will be procured and the work will begin as soon as the students exit on the last day of school and the job would be completed by September. Discussion ensued.

Security Camera Project - Superintendent Holcomb called on David Flynn for an update on the project. Mr. Flynn explained that over the course of the last 5-6 weeks the hired company had been working 6 days a week to complete the wiring. He stated the server would be in place within the next 1-2 weeks and once the programming was completed they would be operational. Chairman McKenna suspended further discussion until an Executive Session could be scheduled on this topic in November.

FY22 Budget - Business Administrator David Flynn stated we would be moving forward with a level service budget request for FY22 which would include getting back to the proper base we should be at this year. At this point there has been no indication from the state about funding so we will move forward with a baseline level service request to be issued based on the town's budget timeline. Discussion ensued regarding the Educational Fund established by the Town.

Chairman's Report

Chairman McKenna asked the Committee to keep October 21st open for a special school committee meeting if necessary.

Executive Session

Chairman McKenna called for a motion to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing negotiations with Non-Union Personnel which may have a detrimental effect if held in open session he so declares, so moved by Kevin O'Donnell, seconded by Carol Wagner, so voted by roll call vote:

Roll call vote:

John Costello - Yes

Kathryn Hobbs - Yes

Carol Wagner - Yes

Chairman James McKenna - Yes

Motion passed 7-0-0

Secretary Ethan Hamilton - Yes

Kevin O'Donnell - Yes

Sarah Stone - Yes

Chairman McKenna stated they would not be returning to regular session.

Meeting adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Administrative Assistant Mary Chagnon.