

**NORTH ATTLEBOROUGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE**  
**NORTH ATTLEBOROUGH, MA**  
**DECEMBER 7, 2020**  
**6:00 P.M. VIRTUAL MEETING**

The North Attleborough School Committee held a virtual meeting on Monday, December 7, 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

Kathryn Hobbs - Present

Carol Wagner - Present

Chairman James McKenna - Present

Secretary Ethan Hamilton - Present

Kevin O'Donnell - Present

Sarah Stone - Present

Town Council President Keith Lapointe - Present

**Central Administration:**

Superintendent Scott Holcomb - Present

Business Administrator David Flynn - Present

Administrative Assistant Mary Chagnon - Present

NAHS Principal - Peter Haviland - Present

Assistant Superintendent Michelle McKeon - Present

Interim Dir. of Facilities and Grounds - Christopher George - Present

Director of Student Services - Meg Camire - Present

Town Manager - Michael Borg was present

**Student Representatives:**

Shruti Srinivasan - Present

Dylan Desrosiers - Absent

Grace Noreck - Present

Brody Rosenberg - Present

Joseph Perriello - Present

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

The Pledge of Allegiance led by Shruti Srinivasan followed. A moment of silence was requested in memory of NAHS student Gabe Rivera and also in memory of the events that happened in Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941 and to keep all families affected in our thoughts.

***Recognitions***

Chairman McKenna introduced Superintendent Holcomb who spoke about Community Reading week that was sponsored by Patriot Subaru and Malcomb Mitchell. Mr. Holcomb thanked our Patriot Subaru partners for working with Malcolm Mitchell and our school department in providing our students with reading materials. Mr. Holcomb explained Malcolm Mitchell wrote the book, *The Magician's Hat*, which he gave out to our elementary school students the week of November 16th. Discussion ensued.

***Presentations***

Chairman McKenna called on the NAHS Student Representatives to provide us with the happenings at the high school.

Shruti Srinivasan stated the group wanted to dedicate the presentation at this meeting to the memory of Gabe Rivera and the other students from NAHS that we have lost due to suicide in the last 3 years, Cassie Chee and Kyle Johnson. Shruti stated the focus of their presentation would be on mental health. Shruti read a statement written by Marissa Daley, a family friend of Gabe. Shruti explained that after Gabe's death, the high school chapter of Active Minds provided livestreams and other resources related to grief counseling in order for peers to support peers. Shruti stated this program has encouraged student conversations about grief as well as other mental health issues. Shruti shared a statement by Dylan Desrosiers who stated that everyone he speaks with seems to be stressed at some level due to the pandemic. Shruti stated that mental health is very important to them as student leaders as well as a community because it affects so many and they as a group want to make sure all students feel loved, appreciated, cared for and valued. Joseph Perriello reported that 140 students have recently joined the group Active Minds which will greatly spread awareness. He explained the goal of the group is to change the conversation about mental health. The program and activities will be geared towards destigmatizing mental health. Joseph stated this will increase the chance that students can and will ask for help and the support they need. Mental health support and peer support will become a lot more accessible. The group will consist of officers and 2 representatives from each class. Members will be accessible to anyone who needs help at any time. Brody Rosenberg reported on

the Green Bandana project. He stated it was similar to Active Minds in that its purpose is to destigmatize mental health and encourage students to reach out for help from teachers, peers, parents, school psychologists or anyone they feel comfortable speaking to for help. Brody explained that each student will be given a green bandana that can be worn or tied to their clothing or backpack and they would be given a card with resources on where to go for help. Grace Noreck spoke about the development of Stress Relief Week at the high school. She explained it was in the development stage as they were trying to come up with stress management strategies. Grace explained the High School Helpers program that provides extra help for students in need, peer tutors and teachers' assistants. Grace explained the focus on the younger students who feel disconnected and the effort to help make those connections through this program. Discussion ensued.

Chairman McKenna introduced Interim Facilities and Grounds Director Chris George. Mr. George began by reporting on the roof replacement project at Community School. Mr. George provided a proposed timeline given to us by Gale Associates. Mr. George explained the project will be turned over to the Municipal Building Committee (MBC) which falls under the jurisdiction of the Town Manager. Mr. George stated it would be turned over at the pre-bid stage. Mr. George went on to provide updates on the projects that have been completed at our schools since the last school committee meeting. He reported on all ongoing maintenance projects including boiler maintenance, HVAC systems at the HS, VAV controls at the MS, lighting at all buildings, locks being installed in PPE rooms across the district as well as custodial responsibilities. Mr. George stated that they will continue to work on work orders as they are received. Mr. George reported on the recent CIP Subcommittee meeting who met last month. The subcommittee made a recommendation of the Top Ten items on the CIP list to be moved to the full committee for a vote of approval. Mr. George explained in detail each line item on the CIP list. Discussion ensued.

Chairman McKenna called on Office of Student Services Director Meg Camire for an update from her office. Mrs. Camire reported on mySAEBRS Universal Screener. She explained how students from Grades 6-12 completed the assessment electronically. She stated the results will assist staff in identifying and supporting students with potential mental health needs. Mrs. Camire reported that plans are being determined to have Grade 3-5 students participate in the screening as well. Mrs. Camire spoke about the recent evening presentation provided by Riverside Trauma Center that focused on grief response in light of the recent tragedy at the HS and "post"ventions that can be put in place. Mrs. Camire updated the Committee on the steps we have taken with Phase 1 Abbott BinaxNOW K-12 Rapid Testing Program. Mrs. Camire stated they are still working on the details with issues of consent as we get closer to initiating the program. She reported on the status of the state's requirement of all students K-12 to have the flu vaccine by December 31, 2020. Discussion ensued.

Chairman McKenna introduced Superintendent Michelle McKeon for an update on Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment. Mrs. McKeon began by thanking the high school students for their thoughtful presentation in memory of Gabe and also for the good work they have done at the high school as a result of his loss. Mrs. McKeon explained the Leadership Team has also put a focus on mental health issues throughout our district. Mrs. McKeon reported on the AP results that were received this week. 224 students participated in AP exams last May and June that took 373 exams. 79 of those students were acknowledged by the College Board: 35 AP Scholars, 14 AP Scholars with Honor, 29 AP Scholars with Distinction who scored on average 3.5 on all of their exams and at least 3 on their exams. We had 1 National AP Scholar with an average score of at least 4 on all of their exams. Overall, North Attleborough ranked 18th in the state and #1 in the Hockomock League for our test scores. Mrs. McKeon congratulated all of the students involved. Mrs. McKeon reported on the students who tested for the Seal of Biliteracy. Mrs. McKeon reported 36 students participated in the Bi-Literacy testing and 23 of those students earned the seal in the first round of testing. The other 13 have passed at least one part of the exam and will have another opportunity in May to pass the additional sections. Mrs. McKeon reported the state is planning to continue with MCAS testing in Grades 3-12. A small test is scheduled for January for 11th and 12th Grade students who are looking to achieve proficient ratings in one or more test areas. The balance of tests will be scheduled on a staggered basis in school so all students will be able to participate in Cohort A and B. Mrs. McKeon reported on piloting a Pre SAT program and plans were in place to test all Sophomores and Juniors on January 26th. Discussion ensued.

Chairman McKenna called on Superintendent Holcomb for his update. Mr. Holcomb reported on the status of bringing students back to 4 times a week. Mr. Holcomb reported under the DESE guidelines, we were able to bring back an additional 250 students to a 4 day a week schedule. The students were able to return and remain under the MA DPH and CDC guidelines of being socially distanced apart. Mr. Holcomb explained a survey that was sent to parents of K-2 students and based on the results of that survey, at this time, we are unable to bring additional students back to the 4 days a week schedule. Mr. Holcomb reported the main reason for not being able to accommodate additional students at 4 times a week, was due to the number of responses that would choose full remote if we went to that schedule and not having any additional space available in our fully remote classrooms. Discussion ensued.

### ***School Committee Members Community Announcements***

Ethan Hamilton stated that Martin School was collecting items for their Giving Tree in memory of former teacher Judy Leco. Sarah Stone reported that many organizations in our town are working to help families in need during this holiday season. She mentioned the Open Umbrella, YMCA, Lenore's Pantry and Christmas is For Kids. Carol Wagner reminded everyone to remember those effected by Pearl Harbor in December 1941. Chairman McKenna mentioned a 3-year old little girl Abby on the east side of town as being his hero of the month.

### ***Action Items:***

Chairman McKenna called for a motion to approve the bills dated November 6, 13, 20, 27, December 4, 2020; so moved by Kevin O'Donnell, seconded by Carol Wagner. No discussion. 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 November 2, 2020; so moved by Kevin O'Donnell, seconded by Carol Wagner. No discussion. 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 a motion to waive the School Committee Agenda Policy for the next meeting, so moved by Kevin O'Donnell, seconded by Carol Wagner. Discussion ensued. 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          |                                |

Chairman McKenna moved on to the Top Ten CIP and asked for discussion. Ethan Hamilton made a motion to reverse the order of Priority 4 and 5 and have the track moved ahead of the bleachers, seconded by James McKenna. Discussion ensued. After discussion, Mr. Hamilton withdrew his motion and Mr. McKenna withdrew his second. Discussion continued on the CIP list.

Chairman McKenna called for a motion to accept the Top Ten CIP list for FY22 as recommended by the Capital Planning Subcommittee, so moved by Kathryn Hobbs, seconded by John Costello. Discussion ensued. So voted by roll call vote.

#### **Roll call vote:**

|                             |                               |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| John Costello - Yes         | Secretary Ethan Hamilton - No |
| Kathryn Hobbs - Yes         | Kevin O'Donnell - Yes         |
| Carol Wagner - Yes          | Sarah Stone - Yes             |
| Chairman James McKenna - No |                               |
| Motion passed 5-2-0         |                               |

### ***Discussion Items***

Chairman McKenna called on Business Administrator David Flynn for an FY21 Budget Update. Mr. Flynn stated the overall picture has not changed. He explained he was looking to minimize the impacts of the projected deficit. Mr. Flynn reported he was working on getting projected deficit amount down by the end of the year by utilizing grants, hirings, expenses etc. He stated the possible need to reach out to the town for supplemental help but was working on fine-tuning the \$1.8M projected need. Discussion ensued.

Superintendent Holcomb reported that a Budget Subcommittee meeting was scheduled for December 9, 2020. Mr. Flynn explained he would be preparing a Level Service Budget, keeping all staff members and services as is, to present to the subcommittee for their approval. He explained in reality it is similar to a Zero Based Budget in that 88% of the proposed budget would be going towards salaries of school department employees. Discussion ensued.

Chairman McKenna spoke about an additional School Committee Meeting and Public Hearing on Thursday, December 17th to vote on the FY22 Budget as recommended by the Budget Subcommittee. Discussion ensued.

***Chairman's Report***

Chairman McKenna wished everyone a happy and safe holiday season.

***Executive Session***

Chairman McKenna called for a motion to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing negotiations with Union and Non-Union Personnel which may have a detrimental effect if held in open session and he so declared, so moved by Kevin O'Donnell, seconded by Carol Wagner. No discussion. 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

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted by Administrative Assistant Mary Chagnon.*