

**NORTH ATTLEBOROUGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
NORTH ATTLEBOROUGH, MA  
APRIL 8, 2020  
6:00 P.M. VIRTUAL MEETING**

The North Attleborough School Committee held a virtual meeting on Monday, April 8, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

Chairman McKenna called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

**Roll Call:**

**School Committee:**

John Costello - Present	Ethan Hamilton - Present
Kathryn Hobbs - Present	Secretary Kevin O'Donnell - Present
Carol Wagner - Present	Talia Yourell - Present
Town Council designee John Simmons - Present	Chairman James McKenna - Present

**Roll Call:**

**Central Administration:**

Superintendent Scott Holcomb - Present	Assistant Superintendent Michelle McKeon - Present
Business Administrator David Flynn - Present	Director of Facilities and Grounds Kyle Kummer - Present
Administrative Assistant Mary Chagnon - Present	

Chairman 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 record.

Chairman McKenna called for a motion to conduct the meeting virtually and every meeting thereafter until the Governor's Declaration of Emergency has expired; so moved by Kevin O'Donnell, seconded by Carol Wagner.

**Roll call vote:**

John Costello - Yes	Ethan Hamilton - Yes
Kathryn Hobbs - Yes	Secretary Kevin O'Donnell - Yes
Carol Wagner - Yes	Talia Yourell - Yes
Chairman James McKenna - Yes	

Motion passed 7-0-0.

***In Remembrance:***

Chairman McKenna called on each School Committee member to give their thoughts on the passing of former School Committee Member, Anthony Calcia. Members agreed that Mr. Calcia's passing was a huge loss to the Town of North Attleborough. They spoke of the many contributions Mr. Calcia had made to the youth of the town from his role as the Director of Park and Recreation, to a member of the Red Rocketeer Sports Booster Club as well as an Executive at the Hockomock YMCA. They offered sincere condolences to his family.

Superintendent Holcomb spoke about Mr. Christopher Kibbe, husband of Ms. Lisa Forsgard, English Teacher at NAHS. Mr. Holcomb described Mr. Kibbe's dedication to the students of the Theatre Company at the HS. Mr. Kibbe served as the Technical Advisor for the Theatre Company for 17 years. School committee members offered their sincere condolences to his family.

***Recognitions:***

Superintendent Holcomb recognized the North Attleboro/Plainville Rotary Club Outstanding Citizens award recipients. Mr. Holcomb stated the Outstanding Teacher Award went to Karyn Picard - Grade 3, Falls School. The Outstanding Citizen Award went to Sarah Stone - Director of Community Comets Food Pantry and the Outstanding Youth Award was awarded to NAHS Senior Lillian Blank. Mr. Holcomb congratulated the recipients for the hard work and efforts that led to their nominations and awards.

Superintendent Holcomb recognized Jessica Davis, Team Chairperson of Community School, for nominating him and Director of Student Services Julie Hoell for Patriot Awards. The Patriot Award can be sought from the spouse of a member of the military in recognition of the support a boss gave to this person in their time of service. Mr. Holcomb stated it was an honor to receive the award and thanked Jessica for the nomination.

Superintendent Holcomb went on to thank the following people who have gone above and beyond to help out during the COVID19 pandemic:

The franchise owner of Honey Dew Donuts, Dick Bowen, who donated free coffee and donuts/muffins to the North Nurses who each day answer phones at the Police EOC room. The coffee and the donuts/muffins are delivered 2x's per day to cover the two shifts at the EOC room.

Missy Badger and School Nurses have really stepped up and answered the call during the COVID19 pandemic. Coordinating efforts between the town and school, Missy has organized the North Nurses' Care hotline, made our COVID19 website, worked closely with our Food Service Director providing masks and gloves for our folks preparing food, and has been a resource the town leans on each day.

Kevin O'Donnell - Alternative Market During the closure of our schools we had to find a place for the food pantry housed at Community School. Kevin and his daughter stepped up and offered store space at the Alternative Market in downtown North Attleboro. All food was relocated from Community School into his Alternative Market allowing for continued delivery of food to those in need. Kevin's generosity has helped countless people in need and we are forever grateful to him.

Heather Baril and Food Service Workers for organizing and overseeing the operation of preparing over 350 lunches and breakfasts. Preparing 350+ grab and go meals at the Middle School and then transporting them over to Community Elementary School for distribution has proven to be a godsend to so many people in need. Each of our food service workers, along with Heather Baril, deserve a tremendous debt of gratitude for stepping up in stressful times. Our grab and go lunch program continues to grow each week demonstrating our communities need for this service.

NAFT and AFSCME: Administration and the Unions have worked to resolve all changes in working conditions and have signed Memorandum of Agreements allowing each of the units to move forward under the changes in working conditions.

Gideon Gaudette and Technology Department: Remote learning requires a heavy dependence on technology. Gideon and his team have been there to assist the staff and families during this transition. This week we deployed chromebooks to grades 3-5 along with coordinating pickups of technology for additional staff members.

Buildings and Grounds Crews continue to work and deep clean each of our buildings so that when students return each location is as clean as can possibly be.

Superintendent Holcomb stated a special thank you goes out to Assistant Superintendent Michelle McKeon. As the person who oversees Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment, Michelle has spent countless hours coordinating with other school departments and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Michelle has developed a remote learning plan with each of our building principals. As we sit here tonight, this plan is living and breathing throughout the homes of those in North Attleborough. Discussion ensued.

### ***Presentations:***

NAHS Student Representatives gave an update on the happenings at NAHS. Sam Ogbontaen spoke about the Emergency Food Program and how he worked with class officers to get the information out to the student body. Brody Rosenberg recognized the sacrifices teachers and administrators have made and how tirelessly they have worked to get the students going on remote learning. Shruti Srinivasan spoke about how their teachers have contacted them remotely and they receive about 2.5 hours of work in each subject each week. She described it as going well but stated it is tough without lectures and classroom teaching but they are doing the best they can and appreciated everything their teachers are doing for them. Maria Fitian thanked Superintendent Holcomb on behalf of the NAHS community for his handling of the remote learning. Dylan Desrosiers echoed Maria's words with a special thanks to Food Service Director Heather Baril and Head Nurse Melissa Badger. He explained his project of using two 3D printers to make face shields for first responders and Massachusetts hospitals. Dylan stated he was making about 100 shields per day and in 2 days raised \$1700 for his cause. He thanked Mr. Holcomb and Principal Haviland and the custodians at the high school for their help in getting the project started. Discussion ensued.

### **FY20 and FY21 Budget**

Superintendent Holcomb stated the FY20 budget looks good and called on Business Administrator David Flynn for an update. Mr. Flynn stated the reason things look so good is due to not being in school every day. Mr. Flynn stated we are seeing a savings on substitute teacher payments, utilities and supplies which has increased their budget. Mr. Holcomb also attributed the state of the FY20 budget to having put some projects on hold. He stated because we can't predict the future and we don't want to tap into the cash reserves, the auditorium project has been put on hold until the FY20 budget season is completed to see where we are at. The project includes lighting, the curtain in the auditorium and the sound system. All of these combined added up to \$300K. Mr. Holcomb stated the sound system is still a go and they have a

signed contract for the completion of that work. The weight room with new exercise equipment is also on hold and we are waiting on the high school lobby as well to see if we are still in good standing at the end of FY20. Mr. Holcomb and Mr. Flynn state there are concerns of what the state of Massachusetts and the town will be facing after COVID19. The number of people out of work will contribute to the loss of payroll taxes and state income taxes and the closure of restaurants has brought the meal tax down as well. This loss of revenue to the state could impact what they give in aid to our town. Until we know what that shortfall is we could see a level funded budget or as much as 5-10% in cuts. Mr. Holcomb stated we are unsure of what the state will do with the shortfall they experience. He explained they would be presenting the FY21 budget to the Finance Committee tomorrow and will ask them to tap into the stabilization fund before they cut our budget request. Discussion ensued.

#### Curriculum Update

Assistant Superintendent Michelle McKeon explained that when the closure first began we took the state's recommendation and offered students activities that would enrich what they had already learned to keep them engaged and their skills sharp. Mrs. McKeon stated that with the extension of school closure out to May 4th, the state's recommendation changed from enrichment activities to remote learning offering learning opportunities in content areas over 3 hours per day. Administrators and teachers jumped into action and developed curriculum that would support their students' learning at home via google classroom, chromebooks being issued out to Grades 3-5. Teachers would be checking in with students and tracking their participation and creating paper packets for those students who do not have internet access. Mrs. McKeon thanked everyone in the school district for all the hard work they have done to make this happen - it's truly a team effort. Discussion ensued.

Superintendent Scott Holcomb offered an update on CIP projects. Mr. Holcomb stated he and Mr. Flynn met with the town and due to not being able to pick up a bond at this time, CIP projects have been put on hold indefinitely. These projects include the track and the Community School roof project. The reason for this is not only not being able to float a bond, but also not knowing how the FY21 budget will roll out and instead of using monies to pay down bonds, the money could be used to fill gaps in the FY21 budget if necessary. Mr. Holcomb stated the projects would still happen, they just need to be pushed out. Superintendent Holcomb stated he would be presenting the SOI submission to the MSBA for Town Council approval at their April 13th meeting and explained the state had pushed off submissions to May due to the coronavirus.

Superintendent Holcomb proposed changes to the 2019-2020 school calendar. He explained that teachers are contracted to work 184 days per year. Mr. Holcomb stated he would be looking to eliminate April Vacation by taking 4 of the 5 days of vacation and having them become work days. This would enable the school department to get out of school on June 22nd instead of June 26th and have more continuity of remote learning. Mr. Holcomb explained districts are split across the state. He explained that he polled the administrators and it was agreed that the continuity of learning and heat in the schools in June were factors in looking to make the change. Mr. Holcomb stated the union approved of this proposal. He asked for a motion to vote to approve the revised 2019-2020 school calendar as proposed; so moved by Kevin O'Donnell, seconded by Carol Wagner and so voted:

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

John Costello - Yes

Kathryn Hobbs - Yes

Carol Wagner - Yes

Chairman James McKenna - Yes

Motion passed 7-0-0

Ethan Hamilton - Yes

Secretary Kevin O'Donnell - Yes

Talia Yourell - Yes

#### **Action Items:**

Chairman McKenna called for a motion to accept the bills dated March 6, 13, 20, 27, April 3, 2020; so moved by Kevin O'Donnell, seconded by Carol Wagner and so voted:

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

John Costello - Yes

Kathryn Hobbs - Yes

Carol Wagner - Yes

Chairman James McKenna - Yes

Motion passed 6-0-1

Ethan Hamilton - Abstained

Secretary Kevin O'Donnell - Yes

Talia Yourell - Yes

Chairman McKenna called for a motion to accept the minutes dated March 2, 2020; so moved by Kevin O'Donnell, seconded by Carol Wagner, and so voted:

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

John Costello - Yes  
Kathryn Hobbs - Yes  
Carol Wagner - Yes  
Chairman James McKenna - Yes  
Motion passed 7-0-0

Ethan Hamilton - Yes  
Secretary Kevin O'Donnell - Yes  
Talia Yourell - Yes

***Discussion:***

Chairman McKenna discussed the election calendar and questioned how the State of Emergency may impact the goals of the Superintendent and the timeframe of submission. Discussion ensued and agreed to put on a future agenda.

Chairman McKenna stated with everything going on with remote learning, group chat apps, etc. should the committee form a technology sub committee to take a look at modifications to our technology policies. Superintendent Holcomb stated the Policy Subcommittee could be called upon to take a look at how we move forward but will defer to the School Committee and their thoughts. Discussion ensued and it was agreed to hold off for now and address again in the future.

Chairman McKenna opened a discussion regarding a School Committee Budget Liaison for the FY20 and FY21 years. Mr. McKenna stated as the school year evolves and we hear updates from Mr. Flynn about monies being spent and not being spent, it occurred to him that an individual from the school committee could serve as a liaison in the budget process to hear first hand at Finance Committee meetings and Town Council meetings when the revenues increase or decrease. Discussion ensued.

Chairman McKenna stated due to the current circumstances, we may need to have an emergency meeting and could only have one item on the agenda. He explained by suspending the School Committee Agenda Policy it would enable the Superintendent of Schools to call a meeting when deemed appropriate. Mr. McKenna called for a motion to suspend the School Committee Policy for 30 days; so moved by Kevin O'Donnell, seconded by Carol Wagner. Discussion ensued. So voted:

**Roll call vote:**

John Costello - Yes  
Kathryn Hobbs - Yes  
Carol Wagner - Yes  
Chairman James McKenna - Yes  
Motion passed 7-0-0

Ethan Hamilton - Yes  
Secretary Kevin O'Donnell - Yes  
Talia Yourell - Yes

***Public Comments/Questions***

Kevin O'Donnell stated donations were still being taken at the Comet Pantry of food and gift certificates.

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 to discuss the deployment of security personnel or devices, or strategies with respect thereto; and to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body which he so declares; so moved by Kevin O'Donnell, seconded by Carol Wagner and so voted:

**Roll call vote:**

John Costello - Yes  
Kathryn Hobbs - Yes  
Carol Wagner - Yes  
Chairman James McKenna - Yes  
Motion passed 7-0-0.

Ethan Hamilton - Yes  
Secretary Kevin O'Donnell - Yes  
Talia Yourell - Yes

Chairman McKenna stated they would not return to open session.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted by Administrative Assistant Mary Chagnon.*