

NORTH ATTLEBOROUGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE
NORTH ATTLEBOROUGH, MA
FEBRUARY 3, 2020
7:00 P.M. REGULAR MEETING

The North Attleborough School Committee met on Monday, February 3, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. in the James M. Rice Conference Room at the Woodcock Administration Building.

Committee members present included: John Costello, Ethan Hamilton, Kathryn Hobbs, James McKenna, Kevin O'Donnell, Carol Wagner, Talia Yourell and Town Council designee John Simmons.

Superintendent Scott Holcomb, Assistant Superintendent Michelle McKeon, Business Administrator David Flynn and Director of Facilities and Grounds Kyle Kummer represented Central Administration.

Chairman McKenna called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance followed. A moment of silence was had for North Attleborough High School Senior Cassie Chee who passed away on January 21st. Chairman McKenna stated the meeting was being recorded by Jared Ware and could be seen on North TV.

Chairman McKenna called for public comments/questions. Mr. Martin Tragny of 11 Franklin Avenue approached. Mr. Tragny referred to a request he made at the November meeting regarding School Committee meeting minutes not being posted in a timely manner. He was told it would be looked into and nothing has changed. Mr. Tragny referred to a January 16, 2020 article printed in the North Star Reporter regarding the NAHS bleacher demolition. Mr. Tragny said according to the article, it referred to the evaluation done by Odeh Engineering and stated there was a high probability of failure of the bleachers and that sections of the first six rows could be used, but only after extensive repairs. Mr. Tragny argued that the report did not state either of these statements and questioned why the School Department/School Committee would allow for false reports to be published. Chairman McKenna requested Mr. Tragny's contact information so he could get back to him with the information requested.

Superintendent Holcomb introduced the owner of NESRA Engineering, Arsen Hambardzumian, P.E. Mr. Holcomb explained that Mr. Hambardzumian lives in North Attleborough, has children who attend our schools and has donated his time and expertise for the design and engineering of the soon to be replaced NAHS track. Mr. Hambardzumian illustrated the progress of his design and said his work would be complete by the end of March. It would then go out to bid and construction would commence as soon as the facility was free sometime in mid-June. He stated construction would take approximately 3 months to complete. Mr. Holcomb explained that Mr. Hambardzumian's donation of services saved the school department between \$32K and \$50K. Discussion ensued.

Superintendent Holcomb thanked Mr. and Mrs. Michael O'Brian who made a contribution over the holidays through United Way to the Richard A. Smith Education Foundation in recognition of their daughter's Gr. 8 Team, Soar, at NAMS.

Chairman McKenna introduced the NAHS Student Representatives and asked for a report on the current events that are taking place at NAHS. Maria Fitian began by thanking Chairman McKenna for the moment of silence for Cassie. Maria reported on an optional assembly held last week for the purpose of students coming together to share stories about Cassie and the positive impact she had on the school and her friends. It gave the students an opportunity to come together in unity showing strength and compassion in remembering her and her family. Shruti Srinivasan stated mid-term exams were completed last week and the new term had begun and they have started new classes. Shruti reported Stress Management week would begin next week. Maria stated the next Student Voice Summit would take place this week. Shruti stated they would be taking part in a new program, Chapter of Active Minds, and would be working with School Resource Officer Crosman. Sam Agbontaen reported on a new initiative to get more students active in clubs called Hey North, What's Your Club? The Math Club was the first to create a video which will be shared with the student body so they can learn about any of the clubs available to them. Maria spoke about attending the Southeast Regional Student Advisory Council with the focus being on a new social cultural project with a focus on ELL students. Shruti reported the Seal of Biliteracy Tests would be given out this month stating it was a great opportunity for students who are fluent in a foreign language. Discussion ensued.

North Attleborough High School Principal Peter Haviland and Head of Guidance Judd Gavan presented the changes/modifications to the High School Program of Studies that were presented to the Curriculum Policy Subcommittee in January. Chairman McKenna called for a motion to approve the High School Program of Studies as presented and recommended by the Curriculum Policy Subcommittee, so moved by Carol Wagner, seconded by Kathryn Hobbs. Discussion ensued. So voted and passed unanimously 7-0-0.

Principal Peter Haviland presented the changes to the NAHS Music Department Field Trip. The trip originally approved for Washington DC changed to New York City. Discussion ensued. Chairman McKenna called for a motion to approve the NAHS Music Department Field Trip to New York City, so moved by Kathryn Hobbs, seconded by Kevin O'Donnell. Discussion ensued. So voted and passed unanimously, 7-0-0.

Superintendent Holcomb explained the requests to submit a Statement of Interest to the Massachusetts School Building Authority for a feasibility study of North Attleborough High School, Amvet Boulevard School and Community School. He explained we have submitted the request for the High School in previous years and haven't been fortunate enough to be picked, yet, by the MSBA. Mr Holcomb requested a vote from the School Committee to move forward with the submittals. Discussion ensued. Chairman McKenna called for a motion to approve the language for a Statement of Interest (SOI) to the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) for North Attleborough High School, so moved by Carol Wagner, seconded by Kevin O'Donnell, so voted and passed 6-1-0 Ethan Hamilton voted no. Chairman McKenna read aloud the following statement:

**MSBA
REQUIRED FORM OF VOTE TO SUBMIT A STATEMENT OF INTEREST
SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

Resolved: Having convened in an open meeting on February 3, 2020, prior to the SOI submission closing date, 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 Form dated February 3, 2020 for the North Attleborough High School located at One Wilson Whitty Way, North Attleborough, MA 02760 which describes and explains the following deficiencies and the priority category(s) for which an application may be submitted to the Massachusetts School Building Authority in the future: Priority #2 Elimination of existing severe overcrowding due to classes exceeding the maximum capacity, Priority #5 Replacement, renovation or modernization of school facility systems, such as roofs, windows, boilers, heating and ventilation systems, to increase energy conservation and decrease energy related costs in a school facility; and Priority #7 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 Form, 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 to filing an application for funding with the Massachusetts School Building Authority.

Chairman McKenna called for a motion to approve the language for a Statement of Interest (SOI) to the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) for Amvet Boulevard School, so moved by Carol Wagner, seconded by Kevin O'Donnell, so voted and passed unanimously 7-0-0. Chairman McKenna read aloud the following statement:

**MSBA
REQUIRED FORM OF VOTE TO SUBMIT A STATEMENT OF INTEREST
SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

Resolved: Having convened in an open meeting on February 3, 2020, prior to the SOI submission closing date, 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 Form dated February 3, 2020 for the Amvet Boulevard School located at 70 Amvet Boulevard, North Attleborough, MA 02760 which describes and explains the following deficiencies and the priority category(s) for which an application may be submitted to the Massachusetts School Building Authority in the future: Priority #2 Elimination of existing severe overcrowding due to classes exceeding the maximum capacity, Priority #5 Replacement, renovation or modernization of school facility systems, such as roofs, windows, boilers, heating and ventilation systems, to increase energy conservation and decrease energy related costs in a school facility; and Priority #7 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 Form, 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 to filing an application for funding with the Massachusetts School Building Authority.

Chairman McKenna called for a motion to approve the language for a Statement of Interest (SOI) to the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) for Community School, so moved by Carol Wagner, seconded by Kevin O'Donnell, so voted and passed unanimously 7-0-0 Chairman McKenna read aloud the following statement:

**MSBA
REQUIRED FORM OF VOTE TO SUBMIT A STATEMENT OF INTEREST
SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

Resolved: Having convened in an open meeting on February 3, 2020, prior to the SOI submission closing date, 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 Form dated February 3, 2020 for the Community School located at 45 South Washington Street, North Attleborough, MA 02760 which describes and explains the following deficiencies and the priority category(s) for which an application may be submitted to the Massachusetts School Building Authority in the future: Priority #2 Elimination of existing severe overcrowding due to classes exceeding the maximum capacity, Priority #5 Replacement, renovation or modernization of school facility systems, such as roofs, windows, boilers, heating and ventilation systems, to increase energy conservation and decrease energy related costs in a school facility; and Priority #7 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 Form, 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 to filing an application for funding with the Massachusetts School Building Authority.

Superintendent Holcomb presented the Committee with a draft version of the proposed Strategic Framework. Mr. Holcomb explained that the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education took a look at how districts do business and have recently moved forward with recommending a Strategic Framework as the overarching document that will combine our current Strategic Plan with our District Improvement Plan. The new document will be flexible and pliable as we move forward and will allow the schools to develop their own improvement plans as in the past. Mr. Holcomb explained he would be vetting the document through school councils and the administration team.

Mr. Holcomb stated the current District Improvement Plan expires in June, 2020 and a final draft version of the new Strategic Framework would be available at the May meeting for the Committee 1st read approval.

Chairman McKenna called for a vote to approve the bills dated January 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, 2020, so moved by Kevin O'Donnell seconded by Carol Wagner; so voted and passed unanimously 6-0-1. Ethan Hamilton abstained.

Chairman McKenna called for a vote to approve the minutes dated January 6, 2020, so moved by Kevin O'Donnell, seconded by Carol Wagner; so voted and passed 6-0-1. Talia Yourell abstained.

Superintendent Holcomb recommended participation in School Choice with the initial opening of 10 positions at the Grade 9 level. Mr. Holcomb explained the downward trend in enrollment over the last 10 years and the projected enrollment over the next 10 years would allow room in our Freshmen class in September to accommodate up to 10 students. Chairman McKenna called for a motion to approve participation in School Choice with 10 positions in Grade 9 as recommended by Superintendent Holcomb, so moved by Ethan Hamilton, seconded by Kevin, so voted and passed 6-0-1. James McKenna abstained.

Chairman McKenna called for a motion to approve the first reading of the 2020-2021 School Calendar as recommended by the Curriculum Policy Subcommittee; so moved by Carol Wagner, seconded by Kathryn Hobbs. Assistant Superintendent Michelle McKeon explained the process of the new schedule. Discussion ensued. So voted and passed unanimously 7-0-0.

Chairman McKenna called for a motion to approve the first reading of revised policies BBBE, BCA, BEC, BEDB-E, BID and BK as recommended by the Curriculum Policy Subcommittee, so moved by Carol Wagner seconded by Kathryn Hobbs. Discussion ensued. So voted and passed unanimously 7-0-0.

Superintendent Holcomb distributed information packets containing evidence of what the district has accomplished since March 2019 through the present. Mr. Holcomb explained the information also included a review of his goals and the progress towards completion of those goals. Mr. Holcomb stated this information would be used as they moved forward in his evaluation. Discussion ensued.

Buildings and Grounds Director Kyle Kummer provided an update on the progress of the bleacher demolition at the high school. Discussion ensued.

Superintendent Scott Holcomb and Assistant Superintendent Michelle McKeon provided an update on the search for the next Director of the Office of Student Services. Mrs. McKeon stated the search committee gathered on January 20th to review the applications and have set up 6 interviews for Wednesday and Thursday of this week with the hope of sending 2-3 strong candidates to be interviewed by Superintendent Holcomb the week of February 10th. The goal is to have a signed contract by March 2nd.

Chairman McKenna called for a motion to go into executive session to discuss the deployment of security personnel or devices, or strategies with respect thereto, so moved by Kevin O'Donnell, seconded by Carol Wagner. Carol Wagner congratulated North Attleborough graduate Kansas City Chief Anthony Sherman for winning the Superbowl. The motion moved to vote by roll call:

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

Meeting was adjourned at 9:04 p.m.

Submitted by Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent, Mary Chagnon