

NORTH ATTLEBOROUGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE
NORTH ATTLEBOROUGH, MA
JUNE 1, 2020
6:00 P.M. VIRTUAL MEETING

The North Attleborough School Committee held a virtual meeting on Monday, June 1, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

Chairman McKenna called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m. and proceeded with a roll call for attendance.

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	

Roll Call:

High School Representatives:

Dylan Desrosiers	Brody Rosenberg
Shruti Srinivasan	Maria Fitian
Samuel Osa-Agbontaen	

Roll Call

Community Members:

Town Council President Keith Lapointe was present to take over for designee John Simmons who needs to leave before 7:00 p.m. to attend another meeting.

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.

The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

Presentations

Chairman McKenna went out of the agenda order to High School Representatives presentations due to one student needing to leave the meeting early. Dylan Desrosiers reported on a video that was produced for teacher appreciation week. He reported on a bike ride he recently took to the high school describing how great the DiNardo Baseball field looked. Dylan also described a thank you card project that was done for first responders and doctors and nurses. Brody Rosenberg reported on student experiences with remote learning. He stated teachers are doing a great job at keeping the students engaged. Brody reported that even with the nice weather upon us, kids are still doing their school work. Marie Fitian reported on Senior Drop-off/Pick-up day. Students went in to drop off their chromebooks and to pick up their caps and gowns. Maria stated that end of year events were being held virtually and reported the Fisher Kelley Banquet was streamed on NorthTV. Maria thanked the School Committee for letting her be a part of it. She stated she was excited for the end of the year but it was also bittersweet. Maria explained she will be attending Siena College in the fall and will be studying biochemistry. Sam Osa-Agbontaen reported he compiled a timeline of all upcoming senior events that has been posted on the District and School websites. Sam stated that he couldn't believe his senior year was coming to an end. It went by very fast and he was thankful to be a part of the School Committee. Sam stated he would be attending Harvard in Cambridge, MA in the fall and studying computer science. Shruti Srinivasan reported the yearbook could be ordered online or through the mail. Ads can still be purchased. She explained AP exams took place online last week. There were some internet issues and the Calculus exam will need to be retaken as a result. Discussion ensued.

Discussion

Chairman McKenna moved forward in the agenda to discussion items and the topic of Transportation Fees due to Committee Member Ethan Hamilton having to leave the meeting early.

Superintendent Holcomb stated Committee Member John Costello asked the Committee to reconsider the vote not to credit families bus fees. Mr. Holcomb read into record an email he sent to the School Committee:

Relative to our upcoming discussion Monday night regarding transportation fees I wanted to add additional information for you to consider which has been taken from SC member(s) recent questions:

Q1: If a child moves out of district in the second half of the year do we issue a refund for unused bussing?

A1: We do not issue refunds once the school year has started unless the parent paid in error.

Q2: What is the exact cost this year to transport a student and how much does town subsidize?

A2: The total cost of the bus contract is \$1,178,280 and we transport 2,051 students for a cost of \$574.49 per student transported.

Q3: Entitled refund amount (Disagreement with the logic of 1/4 of the \$200.00)

A3: There are two ways you could look at the cost breakdown between parents and the District:

- *1-For a parent that pays \$200 they are paying 34.8% of the per-student total (\$574.49) and the District is paying 65.2%*
- *2-In total, we sold 1,166 bus passes \times \$200 = \$233,200 / \$1,178,280 = Parents in total contribute only 19.8% and the District pays 80.2%*
- *If we gave the parents \$50 back, they would be getting ~97% of the credit \$ and we'd only realize 3%...yet we pay for 80% of the contract.*

Other Points to Consider:

Point 1 : Holmes is crediting us 20% of the daily cost for the last 48 days of school (26.6% of the year) = 5.32% of the total contract.

Point 2: The District could calculate a theoretical proportionate share to the parents using the same proportion we are actually receiving which would be the Bus Fee of \$200 \times 20% credit \times 26.6% of the year = \$10.64 credit

Additional Clarification:

Funds returned to the Town from the School Department that are not spent this year do NOT go into Stabilization, nor would we get the funds back from Stabilization. Money returned from the School Department becomes certified Free Cash, and then could be reappropriated back to the School Department from Free Cash. Stabilization is a totally separate pool of funds that has separate rules/regulations as to how it is accessed...

At this time Chairman McKenna stated John Simmons had left the meeting and Keith Lapointe was recognized as the Town Council Representative. Mr. McKenna called on John Costello for comment. Mr. Costello stated the committee was not aware when they took the vote that the School Dept. would receive a 20% credit from the bus company and even though it is not a lot of money, we should consider changing our view on the credit to parents. Discussion ensued. Chairman McKenna called on Mr. Costello for a response after discussion. Mr. Costello made a motion to credit all families who paid in full the amount of \$10.64 for each child paid for. Chairman McKenna called for someone to second the motion. Motion failed.

Recognitions

Assistant Superintendent Michelle McKeon began by congratulating the recipients of this year's SEPAC Heroes Awards. Mrs. McKeon explained how the awards are given to faculty, student volunteers and community members for their interactions with our special education population of students. Nominations come from students, colleagues and families. Mrs. McKeon introduced Ms. Sammi Robertson, President of SEPAC. Ms. Robertson explained how different this year's award ceremony was because of having it virtually. She thanked the members who were present and explained how 8 people were awarded and all recipients were represented. Nominators were able to speak and the program had support from incoming Director of Student Services, Meg Camire. Mrs. McKeon went on to recognize the success of the WIDA Access Test that was administered to 145 ELL students in January and early February. District wide, nearly 100 % of students maintained or improved their scaled scores. 34 students are exiting the program. Mrs. McKeon congratulated the students that achieved the Seal of Biliteracy. Mrs. McKeon explained that students took digital tests over the course of two months. 35 seniors passed in 6 different languages including 2 students passed in 2 different languages. Mrs. McKeon reported all of these students would receive the seal on their diploma. Special thanks went NAHS teacher Ann Marie McGrail for all of her hard work to make the program successful. Mrs. McKeon congratulated NAHS Senior Olivia Boulet. Due to military obligations, NAHS held a virtual early graduation ceremony for Olivia so she could fulfill her commitment to the United States Army. Discussion ensued. Chairman McKenna announced Member Ethan Hamilton's exit from the meeting at 6:57 p.m.

Presentations

Assistant Superintendent Michelle McKeon provided an update on remote learning. Mrs. McKeon reported that administrators and teachers worked together to develop a program that reinvented the learning experience. Students were being productive at all levels. Mrs. McKeon explained the end of year celebrations that were in the works at the elementary level for those students who would be completing the program.

Superintendent Holcomb presented the Committee with his goals for the 2020-2021 school year.

- ***DISTRICT IMPROVEMENT GOAL:***

Increase communication with the community through the creation and dissemination of a quarterly central administration newsletter.

- ***PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE GOAL:***

Enhance climate and culture across the district by building positive relationships and increasing visibility at schools.

- ***STUDENT LEARNING GOAL:***

Framed by our District's Deeper Learning initiative, virtual learning opportunities for students and staff will be improved and expanded.

Discussion ensued. Chairman McKenna requested an additional goal be listed under the subheading of Budget Fiscal Year 2021 and state the Superintendent will advocate and implement the 2021 School Committee budget. Superintendent Holcomb assented to this additional goal. Chairman McKenna called for a motion to accept Superintendent Holcomb's goals for the 2020-2021 school year as presented; so moved by Kevin O'Donnell, seconded by Carol Wagner, so voted by roll call vote:

Roll call vote:

John Costello - Yes

Secretary Kevin O'Donnell - Yes

Talia Yourell - Yes

Motion passed 6-0-0

Kathryn Hobbs - Yes

Carol Wagner - Yes

Chairman James McKenna - Yes

Action Items

Chairman McKenna called for a motion to approve the bills dated May 8, 15, 22, 29, 2020, so moved by Kevin O'Donnell, seconded by Carol Wagner, so voted by roll call vote:

Roll call vote:

John Costello - Yes

Secretary Kevin O'Donnell - Yes

Talia Yourell - Yes

Motion passed 6-0-0

Kathryn Hobbs - Yes

Carol Wagner - Yes

Chairman James McKenna - Yes

Chairman McKenna called for a motion to approve the minutes dated May 4, 2020, so moved by Kevin O'Donnell, seconded by Carol Wagner, so voted by roll call vote:

Roll call vote:

John Costello - Yes

Secretary Kevin O'Donnell - Yes

Talia Yourell - Yes

Motion passed 6-0-0

Kathryn Hobbs - Yes

Carol Wagner - Yes

Chairman James McKenna - Yes

Issues Requiring Votes

Chairman McKenna called for a motion to waive the School Committee Agenda Policy for 30 days, so moved by Kathryn Hobbs, seconded by Talia Yourell, so voted by roll call

Roll call vote:

John Costello - Yes

Secretary Kevin O'Donnell - Yes

Talia Yourell - Yes

Motion passed 6-0-0

Kathryn Hobbs - Yes

Carol Wagner - Yes

Chairman James McKenna - Yes

Chairman McKenna called for a motion to send the entire curriculum to the Curriculum Policy Subcommittee for review, so moved by Kevin O'Donnell, seconded by Carol Wagner. Discussion ensued. So voted by roll call:

Roll call vote:

John Costello - Yes

Secretary Kevin O'Donnell - Yes

Talia Yourell - Yes

Motion passed 6-0-0

Kathryn Hobbs - Yes

Carol Wagner - Yes

Chairman James McKenna - Yes

Discussion

Chairman McKenna opened the discussion on Town Council's FY21 Budget vote. Superintendent Holcomb stated the Town Council had their public meeting and the budget stands as was discussed at the last meeting. It is a 3 tiered, 3 stage approach that contingent on state aid could see a reduction in 10-30%. Mr. Holcomb explained the School Department was seeing a \$850K shortage in what they asked for budget was. He explained the Town Manager's proposal to turn back to the town of monies not spent in FY20 budget to be turned into Free Cash to bridge the gap. After the monies are certified as Free Cash, the town would return it to each department in October/November. Mr. Holcomb thanked Assistant Superintendent McKeon and Business Administrator David Flynn for attending the meeting to represent the School Department. Town Council President Keith Lapointe echoed Mr. Holcomb's interpretation of the proposed Budget plan. He stated there was too much uncertainty going into the Budget Planning but was hopeful they could sustain the proposed budget even with 10% reduction in state aid. Mr. Lapointe stated if we see a 20% or more reduction, we would need to put the budget back up for discussion. Discussion ensued.

School Committee Members Community Announcements

Members of the school committee offered their congratulations to the Class of 2020 and congratulated the departing School Committee High School representatives and wished them success in their future endeavors. Kevin O'Donnell reported the Comet Pantry and the Susan O'Donnell Fund had raised \$26K so far for the children in need in North Attleboro and thanked everyone for their donations. Kathryn Hobbs thanked everyone for their participation in the Music Department 5K Virtual Run. Carol Wagner reported the HS Representative Sam Agbontaen was recognized at the Fisher Kelly Awards Banquet and thanked Mrs. Sammi Robertson for her efforts in organizing the SEPAC Heroes event.

Chairman McKenna stated the topic of security to be discussed in Executive Session had been resolved so there was no need for the session.

Mr. McKenna called for a motion to adjourn the meeting, so moved by Kevin O'Donnell, seconded by Carol Wagner, so voted by roll call vote:

Roll call vote:

John Costello - Yes

Secretary Kevin O'Donnell - Yes

Talia Yourell - Yes

Motion passed 6-0-0

Kathryn Hobbs - Yes

Carol Wagner - Yes

Chairman James McKenna - Yes

Meeting adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Administrative Assistant Mary Chagnon.