

**NORTH ATTLEBOROUGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE**  
**NORTH ATTLEBOROUGH, MA**  
**MARCH 2, 2020**  
**7:00 P.M. REGULAR MEETING**

The North Attleborough School Committee met on Monday, March 2, 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 held for Mr. William Wing, former longtime custodian of North Attleborough Middle School who passed away on February 18th.

Chairman McKenna called for public comments/questions. Mr. Martin Tragny of 11 Franklin Avenue approached. Mr. Tragny referred to the Community School Roof Project. He stated he attended a recent Town Council meeting and heard the project would not be proceeding this year because of failure to get core samples and it would be too late to be put out to bid. Mr. Tragny asked for confirmation. Referring to Mr. Holcomb's evaluation, Mr. Tragny asked if this would have an impact on that. Mr. Tragny asked who was ultimately in charge of getting the roof project done, Mr. Holcomb or Mr. McKenna. Mr. Tragny referred to emails he sent to Mr. Holcomb and Mr. Kummer which he copied the School Committee on. The emails referred to the High School bleacher project and the \$5000 worth of recyclable materials salvaged from the project. Mr. Tragny stated that according to the 240 page contract, detailed records should have been available regarding a waste management plan listing the quantity of waste and recyclables both in estimate and actual tons as well as recycling and processing facility records. Mr. Tragny stated per the contract there was supposed to be a waste management coordinator present full time at the project site to coordinate the record keeping. He stated there should have been \$5000 in revenue received for the recycled material and he questioned why we have not received it and why we haven't looked into it. Mr. Tragny criticized the committee for being complacent and not answering his questions.

Chairman McKenna moved on to recognitions and introduced Assistant Superintendent Michelle McKeon. Mrs. McKeon stated she was pleased with the amount of teachers who applied for and received the Richard A. Smith Grants this year. Mrs. McKeon went on to congratulate Heather Baril - School Garden Program, Andrea Bolton, Coding For All - Robots for Special Needs Students, Brenda Doucette - Lights, Camera, Action, Christopher Flanagan - Cricut Cutting System "Creating Crafts for the High School Art Room", Deborah Krieser-Francis - iPads Across North Attleborough, Increased Technology Access for Community and Falls Schools, Kristen Sacco - Master Artists Reproduction Paintings. Grants totaled \$5,760.05

Mrs. McKeon went on to recognize 2 North Attleborough teachers who received MassCUE Grants - NAMS Teacher Kyle Kirshenbaum and Martin School Media Specialist Brenda Doucette received \$3000 grants to bring new innovative ideas into their classrooms.

Chairman McKenna asked for a report from the NAHS Student Representatives. Sam Agbontaen discussed the initiative "High School Helpers" with focus on making tutors available to students in need. He stated the committee met with faculty and had an informational meeting with students last week. The Seal of Biliteracy exams took place last week and results should be available by the April meeting. Sam also spoke about the new program "What's Your Club" and the increased interests of clubs wanting to make videos to advertise. Maria Fitian spoke about the annual "Stress Management Week" and was happy to report there was a huge increase in participation. Maria explained they had therapy dogs, yoga, coloring, discounted snacks and frozen treats. Shruti Srinivasan reported the Stress Management Week was very successful this year. She stated winter sports will be ending and spring sports will be starting soon. Brody Rosenberg reported on NAHS officially being an Active Minds Chapter. He stated projects will take place to increase awareness of mental health. Discussion ensued.

Chairman McKenna thanked Jared Ware and stated the meeting was being recorded and could be seen on North TV.

Superintendent Holcomb introduced Susan Taylor, Holly Herbster and Ann Chapdelaine of the North Attleborough Historical Commission who are performing an Archeological Survey. Ms. Taylor stated North Attleborough has received a \$25,000 federal matching grant being administered through the Massachusetts Historical Commission. Ms. Chapdelaine explained the specifics of the grant and the impact on educating our students and on our local history. Discussion ensued.

Superintendent Holcomb explained his invitation to NAHS Principal Peter Haviland to discuss future trips abroad to our foreign language students. Mr. Haviland along with Spanish Teacher Susan Udall and EF Tours Representative Alexis Scott presented specifics on the trip planned for April vacation next year to Peru. Discussion ensued. Chairman McKenna called for a motion to approve NAHS trips abroad over school vacation weeks as recommended by Principal Peter Haviland, so moved by Talia Yourell, seconded by Kevin O'Donnell, so voted and passed unanimously 7-0-0

Superintendent Scott Holcomb gave an update on the Student Opportunity Act. Mr. Holcomb asked Business Administrator David Flynn to explain what the per pupil increase will be with Chapter 70 funds in FY21. Mr. Flynn explained that we have been and continue to be a minimum aid district so we get whatever the minimum aid is that is determined for the upcoming year. Mr. Flynn stated the minimum has been set at \$30 per student which is in line with what we have been getting. Mr. Flynn stated the passing of the SOA had no real effect on the town of North Attleborough. The district has to report back to the state on how we will utilize the aid received per student. Mr. Holcomb stated the targets will be on drop-out prevention and recovery programs, summer learning to support skill development, and inclusion and co-teaching models with English Language Learners. Discussion ensued.

Chairman McKenna called for a motion to approve the bills dated February 7, 14, 21, 28, 2020, so moved by Talia Yourell, seconded by Kevin O'Donnell, so voted and passed 6-0-1. Ethan Hamilton abstained.

Chairman McKenna called for a motion to approve the minutes dated February 3, 2020, so moved by Talia Yourell, seconded by Kevin O'Donnell, so voted and passed unanimously 7-0-0.

Superintendent Holcomb introduced Margaret Camire. Mr. Holcomb acknowledged and thanked Ms. Camire's parents for being present, namely Mrs. Patricia Lush, former English Teacher from North Attleborough High School. Mr. Holcomb thanked the screening committee for all of their hard work. Mr. Holcomb read a recommendation for the hire of Ms. Camire as the next Director of Student Services. Ms. Camire thanked everyone and stated she is very happy to get started to work in North Attleborough. She appreciated the whole process and was able to spend the day in District with Asst. Superintendent McKeon. Discussion ensued. Chairman McKenna called for a motion to approve the Director of Student Services as recommended by Superintendent Holcomb, so moved by Kevin O'Donnell, seconded by Carol Wagner, so voted and passed 6-0-1 Ethan Hamilton abstained. A 5 minute recess was taken for congratulations and pictures.

The meeting came back to order at 8:29 p.m.

Chairman McKenna called for motion to approve the second reading of the High School Program of Studies as recommended by the Curriculum Policy Subcommittee, so moved by Carol Wagner, seconded by Kevin O'Donnell, so voted and passed unanimously 7-0-0.

Chairman McKenna called for motion to approve the second reading of revised policy BBBE, BCA, BEC, BEDB-E, BID, BK as recommended by the Curriculum Policy Subcommittee, so moved by Carol Wagner, seconded by John Costello, so voted and passed unanimously 7-0-0.

Chairman McKenna called for motion to approve the second reading of 2020-2021 School Calendar as recommended by the Curriculum Policy Subcommittee, so moved by Carol Wagner, seconded by Kevin O'Donnell, so voted and passed unanimously 7-0-0.

Superintendent Holcomb gave an update on the Community School Roof project. Mr. Holcomb stated that any municipal building project that is valued over \$75,000 falls under the purview of the Municipal Building Committee and the Town Manager. After meeting with the MBC it was determined that the time frame of this project comes late in the season for bidding purposes causing the town to potentially pay a premium to secure a contractor. Per Committee Member, Ernie Sandland, the town could potentially save 10-15% in construction costs if we wait until a later date. It was

voted upon by council to wait. Mr. Holcomb explained that core samples would not take place until a contractor is settled upon. Discussion ensued.

Superintendent Holcomb gave an update on the NAHS Bleacher Demolition project. Mr. Holcomb said he was excited to say the project has been completed. He stated we received a great price for the project due to the fact the material could be recycled and repurposed by the contractor that completed the job. Mr. Holcomb stated this was stipulated in the written agreement with the contractor. Mr. Holcomb stated he was looking forward to discussions on the directions the bleacher project will go in the future. Based on Mr. Simmons prior discussion points, the Town Council will be looking for another project for the monies not being used right now for the Community School Roof and potentially could be used to progress the bleacher/track project. Mr. Holcomb stated work on the track and bleachers could not be performed simultaneously but bonding for both could be done at the same time. For clarification purposes Mr. David Flynn referred to the contract with JAM Corporation and read from the contract Paragraph 1.4, Paragraph A: Material Ownership - stating demolished materials become the property of JAM and would be removed from the High School property as part of the agreement. Mr. Flynn stated this was always the intent and was part of the bid process and agreed upon by both the School Committee and Town Council before the project began.

Chairman McKenna reported on Superintendent Holcomb's evaluation. Mr. McKenna stated he spent the previous month reviewing the process of the evaluation and after discussions with School Department Attorney Joe Bartulis, it was determined the practice of past years of sharing the composite version of the evaluation via email constituted negotiation and violated Open Meeting Law. As a result, the composite was held until this evening's meeting. Superintendent Holcomb distributed copies of the composite and the backup of individual evaluations from each School Committee member to all present at the meeting. Members took time to review the multiple page documents that were handed out. After review, Chairman McKenna then asked each committee member for their comments. Each member of the committee made a statement regarding Superintendent Holcomb's exemplary evaluation. Discussion ensued. Superintendent Holcomb thanked the Committee for their thoughtful comments. Mr. Holcomb credited his devoted team explaining that without them, his accomplishments could not have been met. Mr. Holcomb thanked the School Committee for the time they placed into the evaluation process.

Chairman McKenna reminded everyone to vote tomorrow. He then stated he reached out to the Tri-County representatives to invite them to our meeting and it was determined they would try to attend the May meeting. Mr. McKenna thanked everyone in the room and the community for pulling together over the last thirteen months for their contributions to our successes.

Chairman McKenna called for a motion to go into executive session for purpose of discussing negotiations with Non-Union Personnel; pursuant to paragraph 2 of the Executive Session provisions of MGL Section 30A, Section 21A2, the Chairman must declare that having a discussion in open session would have a detrimental effect on the public body's negotiating position if held in open session; so moved by Kevin O'Donnell, seconded by Carol Wagner. 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

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

Meeting was adjourned at 9:29 p.m.

*Submitted by Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent, Mary Chagnon*