

NORTH ATTLEBOROUGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE

NORTH ATTLEBOROUGH, MA

MAY 4, 2020

6:00 P.M. VIRTUAL MEETING

The North Attleborough School Committee held a virtual meeting on Monday, May 4, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

Chairman McKenna called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. 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.

Roll Call:

School Committee:

John Costello - Present

Kathryn Hobbs - Present

Carol Wagner - Present

Town Council designee John Simmons - Present

Ethan Hamilton - Present

Secretary Kevin O'Donnell - Present

Talia Yourell - Arrived @ 6:12

Chairman James McKenna - Present

Roll Call:

Central Administration:

Superintendent Scott Holcomb - Present

Business Administrator David Flynn - Present

Administrative Assistant Mary Chagnon - Present

Assistant Superintendent Michelle McKeon - Present

Director of Facilities and Grounds Kyle Kummer - Present

Roll Call:

High School Representatives:

Dylan Desrosiers

Shruti Srinivasan

Samuel Osa-Agbontaen

Brody Rosenberg

Maria Fitian

Roll Call

Community Members:

Town Manager Mike Borg

Dept of Public Health Ann Marie Fleming

NAHS Principal Peter Haviland

NAFT President Nicole Reminder

Assistant Town Manager Mike Gallagher

Nurse Leader Melissa Badger

Town Treasurer Christopher Sweet

The Pledge of Allegiance followed roll call.

Recognition:

Superintendent Holcomb began by wishing School Committee member Carol Wagner a Happy Birthday. Mr. Holcomb spoke about Teacher Appreciation Week and thanked all teachers for all they do to make North Attleborough special. Superintendent Holcomb thanked NAHS teacher Molly Kelleher and Nurse Leader Melissa Badger and all who helped to coordinate a fundraiser to purchase meals for our first responders and groups of medical personnel at Sturdy Memorial Hospital. The project was a success and appreciated by all who received the meals.

Presentations

NAHS Student Representative Dylan Desrosiers stated the Fine Arts Dept. at NAHS was raising funds for a memorial tree for Mr. Kibbe who passed away.. The Music Dept. was holding a virtual 5k to raise funds for their department. The Art Dept. started a YouTube channel and have added tutorials for their students to aid in their art projects. Dylan thanked Tech Dept. for fixing his chromebook so quickly. Dylan reported Team Green was continuing to grow produce for the Lenore's Pantry and it was being done at home due to the closure of schools and are looking to expand it throughout the school district. Brody Rosenberg reported that hand written letters were delivered to residents of Branches by the Student Council with Mrs. Kelleher and Mrs. Violet. He explained the grading system at NAHS for Term 4 would be going to Pass/Fail format. Shruti Srinivasan thanked teachers for posting assignments regularly so they can complete their work on time. Shruti stated that Mr. Haviland reported 85% of the teachers have reported that 70% of the

students at NAHS have completed the required coursework to get the passing grade. Shruti explained that AP exams would be May 11-22. Shruti stated the yearbook committee could not sell ads to help with the cost of the yearbooks and they were calling on help from High School parents to purchase senior tribute ads. Maria Fitian stated there were ongoing discussions between teachers, parents and students about graduation and upcoming events at the end of the year. Maria explained the consensus of students was graduation is priority #1. Sam Osa-Agbontaen reported the student representatives have been meeting to discuss what they can do to commemorate the Class of 2020 and what legacy they will be leaving.

Principal Haviland began by stating how grateful they are at the high school that last year they were afforded Chromebooks for every student. They have been reflecting on where they would be today during this pandemic if this technology had not been presented to them. Mr. Haviland highlighted how 90+ teachers at NAHS have created a plan for ongoing education during the COVID-19 school closure for 784 full year or semester 2 courses, creating remote learning plans, modifying grading policies, and delivering instruction remotely. Mr. Haviland reported on the Fine and Performing Arts Department's activities which include a 5K Virtual Race to raise funds for the Music Dept. and Fine Arts Website for online viewing of student artwork and the Senior Video made it on to FOX news. Mr. Haviland reported on the results of the Seals of Biliteracy testing. 37 of 51 students who took the test received the seal. 3 of the 37 earned the seal in two different languages. Mr. Haviland thanked teacher Anne Marie McGrail for her work with the success of the program. Mr. Haviland stated he was looking for approval from the School Committee to waive the NorthServes graduation requirement for the NAHS Class of 2020 and to suspend the yearly expectations for the class of 21, 22, 23 and 24. Mr. Haviland was looking for approval to suspend the expectation that all students enrolled in AP courses are required to take the exam. He was also looking for approval for the NAHS remote learning plan and modified grading policy. Discussion ensued. Mr. Haviland went on to report the progress made in the end of year plans for seniors. He reviewed the thoughts they had come up with to ensure the students had the best possible experiences while ensuring a safe plan aligned with state and local expectations for health and safety with graduation as a starting point and priority. Chairman McKenna called for motion to waive the NorthServes community service requirement for the NAHS class of 2020, to suspend the NorthServes community service yearly expectations for the class of 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024, to allow students who have previously submitted approved and recorded NorthServes hours during 2019-2020 to transfer the hours of credit into the next school year, to suspend expectation that all students enrolled in AP courses are required to take the exam, to approve the NAHS remote learning plan and to approve the NAHS remote learning modified grading policy, so moved by Kathryn Hobbs, seconded by Talia Yourell, so voted by roll call vote:

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

Town Nurse Ann Marie Fleming thanked Team Green for the donations to Lenore's Pantry. Ms. Fleming reported on the development of the town info line/call center and training of school nurses to take the calls and then to also begin contact tracing. Ms. Fleming stated school LPNs were trained in assisting the town senior center with check in calls of approximately 100 seniors. Nurse Leader Missy Badger reported on the development of the Coronavirus Website and further reviewed the response of school nurses to the COVID 19 pandemic. Discussion ensued.

Town Manager Mike Borg began his presentation on the FY20-FY21 Budget by stating that the COVID 19 pandemic has had an effect on the returns and receipts in the town of North Attleborough. It has been a challenge to close out one budget and plan the next year's budget. As soon as it was determined the closures were going to last more than a couple of weeks, the town began to plan. The first thing was a hiring freeze was put into place. Purchasing over \$500 was put on hold other than orders already in process. Assumptions made in the planning process was that new growth would be cut in half, state aid would be reduced by at least 10% and there would be a 10% decrease in local receipts leading to a \$3M deficit from the previous year. This would be offset by Prop 2 ½ leaving a deficit of \$1.7M. We have asked every department to look at what they have left that could be turned back with the objective of turning it into free cash. Our objective going into FY21 would be take the free cash from turn backs, spending and hiring freezes, and go with an FY20 level spending approach. This would maintain services as we know it in town and provide us with a buffer with the free cash that would be available to us after Town Council vote in October and continue to work/plan on capital improvement projects. The key to this plan is the free cash. However, if state aid comes in at a higher percentage of reduction it will be

far worse. We would then have to revisit the FY21 budget, go back to Town Council, and make more cuts. However, with what we have planned and the use of free cash, we could withstand a 12-13% reduction in state aid. Mr. Borg went on to request the school department to do as all other departments have done and take a look at our current standings and anything that could be available, be turned back to the town. He mentioned the \$1M the school department received for the last two years in the Prop 2 ½ override for curriculum, technology and buildings.. His records show that \$880K of that \$1M has not yet been spent and if the school department could use that money for it's needs through FY20 and turn back operational funds in that amount, he would make every effort in his power to return the funds in free cash in October/November. Thus far, other departments that make up 47% of the budget have returned \$1.7M that will be used as free cash in FY21. Before any discussion was had, Chairman McKenna stated the next item on the agenda was to appoint a school committee member to become the Budget Liaison who would sit in on any town meetings concerning the school department budget. He described conversations with Superintendent Holcomb and School Committee Member Kevin O'Donnell who has agreed to take on the role of the Budget Liaison. Discussion ensued.

Assistant Superintendent Michelle McKeon reported on our remote learning plan and how it was affected by the Department of Education's recent release of new guidelines. Mrs. McKeon stated that overall, very few revisions had to be made because we had already embedded the standards in our remote learning plans. Mrs. McKeon went on to describe what the plan included based on DESE's guidelines. Discussion ensued.

Chairman McKenna moved forward in the agenda to issues requiring a vote and asked Superintendent Holcomb to introduce Special Education Attorney Katie Meinelt of Sankey Law Offices. Mr. Holcomb explained that newly hired Director of Student Services, Meg Camire had a strong working relationship in her previous district with Attorney Meinelt and wished to continue that relationship in North Attleborough. Ms. Camire explained her previous experience with Attorney Meinelt and asked the committee to consider a contract for service with her in the coming school year. Discussion ensued. Chairman McKenna called for a motion to approve the contract of Special Education Attorney Katie Meinelt of Sankey Law Offices, so moved by Kathryn Hobbs, seconded by Talia Yourell, so voted by roll call vote:

Roll call vote:

John Costello - Yes

Ethan Hamilton - Abstained

Kathryn Hobbs - Yes

Secretary Kevin O'Donnell - Yes

Carol Wagner - Yes

Talia Yourell - Yes

Chairman James McKenna - Yes

Motion passed 6-0-1

Superintendent Scott Holcomb provided an update on middle school and elementary promotion ceremonies and other memorable events for staff, students and families. Mr. Holcomb stated every principal was tasked with meeting with their PTOs to come up with end of year celebrations. These are all in development and will release the plans closer to the May 18th release from the state on plans of moving forward. Discussion ensued.

Chairman McKenna moved on with School Committee Members Community announcements.

- Chairman McKenna thanked Governor Baker for completely immersing himself in COVID 19 with his daily updates. He also mentioned Chief John Reilly made a comment on his NORTH TV interview to slow down when you are driving. Accidents are on the rise even though the number of cars on the road has been reduced.
- Kevin O'Donnell announced a \$10K donation to the Comet Pantry from the Roosevelt PTO
- Carol Wagner mentioned International Firefighters Day and thanked them for their service. She also thanked grocery workers and truck drivers.
- Ethan Hamilton thanked all teachers and described a Google Meet with 3rd Graders that he witnessed.
- John Costello thanked frontline workers, first responders and teachers.
- Talia Yourell stated during this crazy stressful time there are so many silver linings, community coming together, appreciate the little things that are going well right now.
- Kathryn Hobbs thanked Rob Couture's development of Coffeehouse performances on YouTube
- John Simmons offered thanks from town council to school department and school committee.

Chairman McKenna called for a motion to approve the bills dated April 10, 17, 24 and May 1, 2020, so moved by Kathryn Hobbs, seconded by Talia Yourell, so voted by roll call vote:

Roll call vote:

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

Motion passed 6-0-1

Chairman McKenna called for a motion to approve the minutes dated April 8, 2020, so moved by Kathryn Hobbs, seconded by Talia Yourell, so voted by roll call vote:

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

Chairman McKenna called for a motion to approve Superintendent Holcomb to serve on the Board of Directors of the Bi-County Collaborative – annual vote, so moved by Kathryn Hobbs, seconded by Talia Yourell, so voted by roll call vote:

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

Chairman McKenna called for a motion to approve the Teacher Evaluation MOA for the 2019-2020 Academic Year as presented by Superintendent Holcomb, so moved by Kathryn Hobbs, seconded by Talia Yourell, discussion ensued. Superintendent Holcomb explained how the teacher evaluation tool that was approved in the collective bargaining unit contract was preempted this year by school closure. The MOA states that information from last year's evaluation would be used for this year and teachers' goals would be moved forward to next year.. So voted by roll call vote.

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

Chairman McKenna called for a motion to approve credits and reimbursements to parents/guardians as presented by Business Administrator David Flynn, so moved by Kathryn Hobbs, seconded by Talia Yourell.

Mr. Flynn described the plan for ELC tuition, no fees for April, May, June. If parents paid ahead and the child is either staying at the ELC next year or moving on to Full Day Kindergarten, the money will be credited to next year's bill. All other monies will be reimbursed. Kindergarten tuition will be reimbursed for the 4th quarter which amounts to \$782.00 to all parents that paid in full by January. Athletic Fees for the spring season will be credited to next year or refunded. Mr. Flynn stated his recommendation would be to not refund transportation/parking fees. He stated his justification for this would be that fees collected only cover 25% of the department's expense for bussing. A fee to ride the bus covers only about ½ of the cost to us for the service and with the children already having ridden the bus for ¾ of the year, the fees collected were still under what we will have to pay. Discussion ensued.

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

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

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 went on to discussion items.

- Superintendent Holcomb stated his goals would be presented and voted on in June.
- Superintendent Holcomb discussed the look of school in September 2020. He stated discussions are being had and some ideas they have discussed has been how to accommodate social distancing in classrooms, having attendance in waves. They need to be flexible at this time of uncertainty. Discussion ensued.
- Superintendent Holcomb stated that he and David Flynn went to a meeting with Town Council and learned we will be going forward with the CIP project of replacing the Community School roof.
- Chairman McKenna discussed the schedule of school committee meetings. He stated we may be able to combine 2 meetings in June and have it after the budget vote on June 15th. We would also need one in early July after the town elections for reorganization.
- Chairman McKenna questioned the appointment of the Town Council School Committee Representative and was it a 1 or a 2 year post. The Charter does not prevent the Council from appointing a new person every month. Discussion ensued.
- Chairman McKenna questioned making recommendations to the Charter Review Committee specifically with the Town Council School Committee Representative in mind. Discussion ensued.

Chairman McKenna called for a motion to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the deployment of security personnel or devices, or strategies with respect thereto; so moved by Kathryn Hobbs, seconded by Talia Yourell, so voted by roll call.

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 9:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Administrative Assistant Mary Chagnon.