

Minutes
ATHOL-ROYALSTON REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE
November 20, 2019 - 6:30 P.M.
Athol High School, 2363 Main St., Athol, MA 01331
Athol High School Auditorium

I. CALL TO ORDER

The session was called to order by Chair Lee Chauvette at 6:30 P.M. L. Chauvette announced the loss of an ARRSB ally with the sudden passing of Karen McNiff who served on both the ARRSB School Committee and ACES Building Committee and Committee members spoke about her contributions to the district. L. Chauvette announced that the meeting is being recorded for AOTV and playback on the district website.

II. ROLL CALL –

A. SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Deborah Kuzmeskas	Present	Joao Baptista	Absent
Lee Chauvette	Present	Tammy Duquette	Present
Mitchell Grosky	Present	Charles Pretti	Present
Nancy Melbourne	Present	Kenneth Vaidulas	Present
Carla Rabinowitz	Present	William Chiasson	Present

B. RECORDING SECRETARY Sheryl Femino

Also present: D. Fernandes, Superintendent, Atty. Dupere

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

October 16, 2019 – Regular Session – N. Melbourne moved approval, K.Vaidulas, motion passes.

Vote: 8-0-0

Deborah Kuzmeskas	Yes	Joao Baptista	Absent
Lee Chauvette	No Vote	Tammy Duquette	Yes
Mitchell Grosky	Yes	Charles Pretti	Yes
Nancy Melbourne	Yes	Kenneth Vaidulas	Yes
Carla Rabinowitz	Yes	William Chiasson	Yes

IV. PUBLIC INPUT – NONE

V. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE – NONE

VI. RECOGNITION

- School Committee – D. Kuzmeskas recognized and congratulated Julie Capone Bouchard and the cast and crew of Annie Jr. She stated it was an outstanding performance truly enjoyed by all. M. Grosky presented certificates for Brian Hicks for outstanding Music Direction, Laura Robinson for outstanding Set Design and Julie Capone Bouchard for outstanding Direction, Musical Direction and Choreography for Annie, Jr.
- Student of the Month
 - RCS – Autumn Knechtel and Keegan Ward
 - ACES – Cheyenne Stockwood
 - ARMS – Stephen Scott
 - AHS – Connor Mahony, Brooke Blanchette
- Subway Scholar Athlete of the Month Award
 - ARMS - Lily Rathburn
 - AHS - Krystal McCulley
- Staff Member of the Month – ACES Volunteer Kathy Napier
- ACES Gardening Grant – S. Cleveland stated that ACES was nominated and received a \$10,000 grant from Hannaford to work with Green City Growers to put in a self-sustaining garden at ACES. She also stated that

Hannaford will be donating funds to put on a harvest party in the fall as well. N. Melbourne motioned to accept the grant from Hannaford and D. Kuzmeskas seconded, motion unanimous.

Vote: 8-0-0	Deborah Kuzmeskas	Yes	Joao Baptista	Absent
	Lee Chauvette	No Vote	Tammy Duquette	Yes
	Mitchell Grosky	Yes	Charles Pretti	Yes
	Nancy Melbourne	Yes	Kenneth Vaidulas	Yes
	Carla Rabinowitz	Yes	William Chiasson	Yes

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. Superintendent's Evaluation Process – N. Melbourne motioned to accept the Superintendent's Evaluation Process as submitted and place on the December School Committee Meeting Agenda for further discussion, C. Pretti seconded, motion unanimous.

Vote: 8-0-0	Deborah Kuzmeskas	Yes	Joao Baptista	Absent
	Lee Chauvette	No Vote	Tammy Duquette	Yes
	Mitchell Grosky	Yes	Charles Pretti	Yes
	Nancy Melbourne	Yes	Kenneth Vaidulas	Yes
	Carla Rabinowitz	Yes	William Chiasson	Yes

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

1. Use of Facilities Travel Basketball Practice – D. Bevis submitted requests for use of school facilities for Athol Basketball Club to School Committee members for fee assessment. Upon D. Fernandes recommendation, N. Melbourne motioned to assess Athol Basketball Club a fee of \$100.00 for the FY20 season in addition to paying custodial fees only when facilities are used outside of regular school hours, D. Kuzmeskas seconded, motion unanimous. L. Chauvette stated that school-related organizations should be allowed to use facilities while waiting for School Committee to determine fees.

Vote: 8-0-0	Deborah Kuzmeskas	Yes	Joao Baptista	Absent
	Lee Chauvette	No Vote	Tammy Duquette	Yes
	Mitchell Grosky	Yes	Charles Pretti	Yes
	Nancy Melbourne	Yes	Kenneth Vaidulas	Yes
	Carla Rabinowitz	Yes	William Chiasson	Yes

IX. COMMUNICATIONS

Enrollment – In packet.

X. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS

- a. To-date Expenditure Report Overview – In packet. D. Fernandes stated that in seven years, ARRSD is currently at its highest student enrollment and numbers continue to rise requiring ARRSD to find more creative ways to support students.
- b. To-date Revenue Report Overview – In packet.
- c. Vote - Budget Line Transfers – None
- d. To-date Grant Report Overview – In packet. D. Fernandes informed Committee members that the State recently added a \$20,000 Targeted Assistance Grant to ARRSD.
- e. VOTE – FY19 Guardian Payment – In packet. M. Grosky motioned to approve payment of \$714.24 to Guardian Disability Insurance for prior years, C. Rabinowitz seconded, motion unanimous.

Vote: 8-0-0	Deborah Kuzmeskas	Yes	Joao Baptista	Absent
	Lee Chauvette	No Vote	Tammy Duquette	Yes
	Mitchell Grosky	Yes	Charles Pretti	Yes
	Nancy Melbourne	Yes	Kenneth Vaidulas	Yes
	Carla Rabinowitz	Yes	William Chiasson	Yes

- f. VOTE – Budget Timetable – In packet. N. Melbourne motioned to accept the FY2021 Budget Timetable as submitted, W. Chiasson seconded, motion unanimous.

Vote: 8-0-0	Deborah Kuzmeskas	Yes	Joao Baptista	Absent
	Lee Chauvette	No Vote	Tammy Duquette	Yes
	Mitchell Grosky	Yes	Charles Pretti	Yes
	Nancy Melbourne	Yes	Kenneth Vaidulas	Yes
	Carla Rabinowitz	Yes	William Chiasson	Yes

- g. VOTE – SAA Checking Account Maximum – In packet. C. Rabinowitz motioned to approve the AHS SAA checking account maximum of \$25,000, the AHS SAA accounts as submitted and the closing of the class of 2019 inactive account, W. Chiasson seconded, motion unanimous.

Vote: 8-0-0	Deborah Kuzmeskas	Yes	Joao Baptista	Absent
	Lee Chauvette	No Vote	Tammy Duquette	Yes
	Mitchell Grosky	Yes	Charles Pretti	Yes
	Nancy Melbourne	Yes	Kenneth Vaidulas	Yes
	Carla Rabinowitz	Yes	William Chiasson	Yes

- h. VOTE – FY20 SAA Accounts – In packet. Motion included in item g above.
i. VOTE – Closing of Inactive SAA Accounts - In packet. Motion included in item g above.
j. Other – M. Grosky commented that ARRSD has an organized and inclusive budget process and encouraged staff to talk to their Administrators about their needs.

XI. STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

Review of Strategic Plan – D. Fernandes stated that she will be reviewing the strategic plan during December and January. She also stated she will be touring schools in January to talk with staff and plans to invite the union to participate as well. She also hopes to, once again, place phone calls home to parents to get their feedback. She stated she will be visiting AHS in December to meet with approximately one quarter of the students from each grade level to get feedback about how things are going. She is looking into getting feedback from elementary students as well.

XII. REPORTS OF THE COMMITTEE

1. Reports of the Chair – L. Chauvette stated that he received word from Boston that the Education Opportunities Act passed in the House by a unanimous vote and as a result, in the next couple of years, ARRSD should see an increase in Chapter 70 funding.
2. Budget/Finance Sub Committee - None
3. Facilities/Buildings/Grounds Sub Committee – K. Vaidulas stated that they approved \$33,000 for the ongoing AHS windows and doors project and it should come to completion in December. Water at RCS in ongoing. Reviewed security project at AHS. No update for the track project. L. Chauvette stated they will have open dialog about the track at the All Boards meeting in January.
4. Negotiations Sub Committee – N. Melbourne stated they are in mediation.
5. Academic Excellence Sub Committee – D. Kuzmeskas stated that they met with M. Superchi about information on data collection and will meet again next month.
6. Public Relations Sub Committee - None
7. Policy Sub Committee - First reading: GBGB Staff Personal Security and Safety, GCBA Professional Staff Salary Schedules, GCJ Professional Teacher Status, GDQD Suspension and Dismissal of Support Staff Members, IB Academic Freedom, IC/ICA School Year/School Calendar, ID School Day, IHAJ Occupational Education, IHAM Health Education, IHB Special Instructional Programs and Accommodations. Atty. Dupere informed Committee members that policies GCJ Professional Teacher Status and GDQD Suspension and Dismissal of Support Staff Members are incorrect and that he will re-write and submit them to the Policy Subcommittee for review. N. Melbourne motioned to accept GBGB Staff Personal Security and Safety, GCBA Professional Staff Salary Schedules, IB Academic Freedom, IC/ICA School Year/School Calendar, ID School Day, IHAJ Occupational Education, IHAM Health Education, IHB Special Instructional Programs and Accommodations as a first reading, C. Pretti seconded. All in favor. Second reading: DBF Grant Compliance Policy. N. Melbourne motioned to accept DBF Grant Compliance as a second reading, W. Chiasson seconded. All in favor.

XIII. COMMITTEE MEMBER REFERRALS

M. Grosky informed Committee members that he, other members of the Committee and the Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent attended the M.A.S.S./M.A.S.C. Conference. He stated it was a very worthwhile conference with many informative workshops and encouraged other Committee members to attend in the future. C. Pretti commented on the fact that there will be a large number of kids moving to AHS next year and asked if administration has thought about how that will be handled. D. Fernandes stated that she is in the process of meeting with each of the schools to discuss these issues and is hopeful that the Educational Opportunities Act will provide additional funding.

XIV. Executive Session

3. 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 and the chair so declares.

- Approve Executive Session Meeting Minutes

N. Melbourne motioned to convene in executive session pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 30A, section 21(a) for the following purpose: To approve Executive Session Meeting Minutes October 16, 2019, K. Vaidulas seconded. Motion unanimous.

Roll Call Vote: 9-0-0	Deborah Kuzmeskas	Yes	Joao Baptista	Absent
	Lee Chauvette	Yes	Tammy Duquette	Yes
	Mitchell Grosky	Yes	Charles Pretti	Yes
	Nancy Melbourne	Yes	Kenneth Vaidulas	Yes
	Carla Rabinowitz	Yes	William Chiasson	Yes

L. Chauvette stated the Committee would be meeting in executive session to approve the Executive Session Meeting Minutes for October 16, 2019 and will not be reconvening in open session.

XV. ADJOURNMENT

The open session meeting was adjourned and the Committee entered executive session at 7:22 p.m.

Enclosed:

- Agenda
- October 16, 2019 Minutes
- Letter from Dan Bevis with Applications for Use of School Facilities
- District Enrollment
- ARRSD Expenditure Report
- ARRSD Revenue Report
- ARRSD Grant Report
- VOTE Previous Years Outstanding Bill
- PELIMINARY Athol-Royalston Regional School District FY2021 Budget Timetable
- AHS Annual School Committee Vote for Student Activity Accounts
- GBGB – Staff Personal Security and Safety, First Reading
- GCBA – Professional Staff Salary Schedules, First Reading
- GCJ – Professional Teacher Status, First Reading
- GDQD – Suspension and Dismissal of Support Staff Members, First Reading
- IB – Academic Freedom, First Reading
- IC/ICA – School Year/School Calendar, First Reading
- ID – School Day, First Reading
- IHAI – Occupational Education, First Reading

IHAM – Health Education, First Reading
IHB – Special Instructional Programs and Accommodations
DBF – Grant Compliance Policy, Second Reading
Policy Subcommittee Meeting Minutes October 16, 2019