Minutes

**ATHOL-ROYALSTON REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

**June 17, 2015 6:30 P.M.**

**Athol-Royalston Middle School**

# CALL TO ORDER

The session was called to order by Chairperson Nancy Melbourne at 6:30 P.M.

1. **ROLL CALL –** 
   1. **SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

Nancy Melbourne Present Joao Baptista Present (7:20)

Deborah Kuzmeskas Present Dale Lougee Absent

Joseph Maga Present Mitchell Grosky Present

Lee Chauvette Present Charles Pretti Present

Amber Parker Present (6:37) Carla Rabinowitz Present

**B.** **RECORDING SECRETARY** Julie Marynok

Also present: Superintendent Polito, E. Ervin, A. Dupere and M. Handy

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

May 20, 2015 – Regular Session – J. Maga moved approval, L. Chauvette seconded, motion unanimous.

**Vote: 7-0-1** Nancy Melbourne Yes Joao Baptista Absent

Deborah Kuzmeskas Yes Dale Lougee Absent

Joseph Maga Yes Mitchell Grosky Yes

Lee Chauvette Yes Charles Pretti Abstain

Amber Parker Absent Carla Rabinowitz Yes

**IV. PUBLIC INPUT**

## V. RECOGNITION

Retirees: The following retirees were recognized – Sally Stone, Patricia LaBombarde, Frank Hains, Bonnie Benjamin, Karen Otto, Suzanne Martin, totaling 188 years of service.

N. Melbourne recognized all who attended class day and graduation.

ARRSD Preschool Class--Julie Johnson and Jen Ames and their preschool staff for fantastic Preschool graduation and for Muffins with Mom and Doughnuts with Dad

Class of 2015 and Principal Meyer for excellent graduation and class day

The music students of AHS and AHS Maestro Sean Wallace for playing at Graduation, Class Day, Memorial Day, and so many other occasions

Library Director Deb Blanchard and Children's Librarian (soon to be director) Jean Shaughnessy, and he library staff for all the work they have done to support reading, our children, and our teachers at the Athol Public Library

Sgt. Chris Casella, long-time DARE officer in our District for all he has done for our kids both in and out of school

Gr. 6 boys and girls at RCS and RCS Gr. 6 teacher Brian Snell and Paraprofessional Becky Divoll, and Principal Molly Superchi for a terrific step-up or graduation ceremony for the RCS 6th graders

District Music Teacher Erin Girouard who organized and led three music concerts built on the theme of music from the 1980's

Pleasant Street 2nd grade students from from Mrs. Jones and Mrs. Arpide's class for Great dinosaur projects

Sanders St. Kindergarten Classes and Mrs. Maillet and Mr. Anderson--and Math Coach Frank Hains for extraordinary Math Tea with families

Riverbend Students and Mrs. Tandy and teachers at RB and the PTA for their successful Walkathon

All schools for Memorial Day programs

ARMS students, Eileen Allen and Alecia Piscatello for Peter Pan Play

Best of luck to ARMS in tomorrow night's Annual Multicultural Festival--6:30-8:00 p.m.

**VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Presentation of Candidate for Assistant Superintendent – High School Principal Steven Meyer was presented to the committee for appointment to the position of Assistant Superintendent of Schools.

After a brief discussion L. Chauvette moved to appoint Steven Meyer to Assistant Superintendent of Schools, D. Kuzmeskas seconded, motion unanimous.

**Vote: 8-0-0** Nancy Melbourne Yes Joao Baptista Absent

Deborah Kuzmeskas Yes Dale Lougee Absent

Joseph Maga Yes Mitchell Grosky Yes

Lee Chauvette Yes Charles Pretti Yes

Amber Parker Yes Carla Rabinowitz Yes

Update – MSBA Building Project – Everything is on schedule.

Update – Strategic Plan – School Committee Vote – A. Parker moved to accept the Strategic Plan as presented, J. Maga seconded, motion unanimous,

**Vote: 8-0-0** Nancy Melbourne Yes Joao Baptista Absent

Deborah Kuzmeskas Yes Dale Lougee Absent

Joseph Maga Yes Mitchell Grosky Yes

Lee Chauvette Yes Charles Pretti Yes

Amber Parker Yes Carla Rabinowitz Yes

School Committee Meeting Calendar – NEW – PINK – J. Maga moved to approve the corrected calendar, M. Grosky seconded, motion unanimous.

**Vote: 8-0-0** Nancy Melbourne Yes Joao Baptista Absent

Deborah Kuzmeskas Yes Dale Lougee Absent

Joseph Maga Yes Mitchell Grosky Yes

Lee Chauvette Yes Charles Pretti Yes

Amber Parker Yes Carla Rabinowitz Yes

J. Baptista arrived – 7:20

**VII. NEW BUSINESS**

Preliminary Kindergarten Screening results – So far 112 children have been screened.

Custodial Bid Supplies – L. Chauvette moved to approve the bid list for custodial supplies presented, M. Grosky seconded, motion unanimous.

**Vote: 9-0-0** Nancy Melbourne Yes Joao Baptista Yes

Deborah Kuzmeskas Yes Dale Lougee Absent

Joseph Maga Yes Mitchell Grosky Yes

Lee Chauvette Yes Charles Pretti Yes

Amber Parker Yes Carla Rabinowitz Yes

School Choice Survey Partial Summary – C. Rabinowitz stated that there were two primary reasons for choicing out. 1., personal experience wither with teacher, Administrator, coach, etc. and 2., The effects of underfunding of the district and large class sizes.

Expansion of Pre-K – The district did not receive the School Redesign Grant. Special Education Director, Jeff Ferranti is currently writing another grant. If we receive the grant it will fund a ½ teacher and a ½ para.

Class Size Issues – Class sizes are to large

Athol Basketball Club – Use of Facilities – M. Grosky moved approval, L. Chauvette seconded, motion unanimous.

**Vote: 9-0-0** Nancy Melbourne Yes Joao Baptista Yes

Deborah Kuzmeskas Yes Dale Lougee Absent

Joseph Maga Yes Mitchell Grosky Yes

Lee Chauvette Yes Charles Pretti Yes

Amber Parker Yes Carla Rabinowitz Yes

School Lunch Program – Federally Mandated Increase – A. Parker moved option 1, an increase in lunch price for students of $0.05, J. Baptista seconded, motion unanimous.

**Vote: 9-0-0** Nancy Melbourne Yes Joao Baptista Yes

Deborah Kuzmeskas Yes Dale Lougee Absent

Joseph Maga Yes Mitchell Grosky Yes

Lee Chauvette Yes Charles Pretti Yes

Amber Parker Yes Carla Rabinowitz Yes

M. Grosly moved option 1, an increase in lunch price for staff of $0.05, J. Maga seconded, motion unanimous.

**Vote: 9-0-0** Nancy Melbourne Yes Joao Baptista Yes

Deborah Kuzmeskas Yes Dale Lougee Absent

Joseph Maga Yes Mitchell Grosky Yes

Lee Chauvette Yes Charles Pretti Yes

Amber Parker Yes Carla Rabinowitz Yes

Transfer/Moving of Teachers Template – FYI

Athol Town Meeting Results – School district budget was passes

Preliminary Plan for the Opening of Schools in August – Professional Development all planned for the year. Administrators working with the DESE

Summer Feeding Program – All individuals 18 and younger can receive food at no charge at different locations throughout the summer.

**VIII. COMMUNICATIONS**

School Choice Survey Partial Summary

DESE Letter - Ivory

Blank Involuntary Transfer

**IX. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS**

a. Treasurer’s Report and Financial Statement – Winding down the school year. All bills should be in by the next school committee meeting.

**X. DIRECTOR OF EDUCATIONAL SERVICES REPORT - Yellow**

**Summer Book Swap**

Wednesdays July 1- August 12

8:45-9:45  
Free Breakfast Program at the Salvation Army Church  
10:15-11:15  
Summer Playground Free Lunch at Athol High School  
11:45-12:45  
Athol Public Library

**Professional Development**

* Survey Elementary Teachers regarding PD for ELA & Math
  + Positive outcomes
  + Suggestions for improvement – impacted the PD schedule for Y16
* DSAC Grant funded Fundations Training – June 2015

**XI. REPORTS OF THE COMMITTEE**

1. Reports of the Chair - MASC/MASS Conference – Discounted registration by July 5th.
2. Budget/Finance Sub Committee – No meeting
3. Facilities/Buildings/Grounds Sub Committee – No meeting
4. Negotiations Sub Committee – No meeting
5. Academic Excellence Sub Committee – No meeting
6. Public Relations Sub Committee – C. Rabinowitz will be writing a regular article in the Athol Daily News titled Inside Our Schools. M. Grosky moved as part of the Public Relations Sub-Committee to institute a monthly article titled Inside Our Schools, C. Pretti seconded, motion unanimous. N. Melbourne requested that the article be sent to the entire committee prior to publication.

**Vote: 9-0-0** Nancy Melbourne Yes Joao Baptista Yes

Deborah Kuzmeskas Yes Dale Lougee Absent

Joseph Maga Yes Mitchell Grosky Yes

Lee Chauvette Yes Charles Pretti Yes

Amber Parker Yes Carla Rabinowitz Yes

1700 photos have been put on the Celebrating our Schools facebook site that have been viewed 35,307 times. The site has 581 likes.

7. Policy Sub Committee – Third Reading – JCA – L. Chauvette moved approval, J. Baptista seconded, motion unanimous.

**Vote: 9-0-0** Nancy Melbourne Yes Joao Baptista Yes

Deborah Kuzmeskas Yes Dale Lougee Absent

Joseph Maga Yes Mitchell Grosky Yes

Lee Chauvette Yes Charles Pretti Yes

Amber Parker Yes Carla Rabinowitz Yes

**XII. COMMITTEE MEMBER REFERRALS**

L. Chauvette will be unable to attend 8th grade step up as he will be attending the OPIOD Task Force Forum being held at the Athol Town Hall. He wished the 8th grade class a great event.

A. Parker commended the Athol High School softball team for advancing in the tournament as the 8th seed. She also announced that Julia Salmond for receiving the honor of being first place in Western Massachusetts for Home Runs. She also thanked Liz Ervin for all her work in the SRG just to be denied.

C. Pretti feels we need a long term planning with the towns and communities on hiring more teachers and other staff to lower class sizes.

M. Grosky offered to do the recognition certificates and commented on how proud of his wife he is.

**XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

***Chapter 30A, Section 21 (Summary)***

1. ***To discuss the reputation, character, physical condition or mental health, rather than professional competence, of an individual, or to discuss the discipline or dismissal of, or complaints or charges brought against, a public officer, employee, staff member or individual.  The individual to be discussed in such executive session shall be notified in writing by the public body at least 48 hours prior to the proposed executive session; provided, however, that notification may be waived upon written agreement of the parties;***
2. ***To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel;***
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;***
4. ***To discuss the deployment of security personnel or devices, or strategies with respect thereto;***
5. ***To investigate charges of criminal misconduct or to consider the filing of criminal complaints;***
6. ***To consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property if the chair declares that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the public body;***
7. ***To comply with, or act under the authority of, any general or special law or federal grant-in-aid requirements;***
8. ***To consider or interview applicants for employment or appointment by a preliminary screening committee if the chair declares that an open meeting will have a detrimental effect in obtaining qualified applicants;***
9. ***To meet or confer with a mediator, as defined in section 23C of chapter 233, with respect to any litigation or decision on any public business within its jurisdiction involving another party, group or entity,***
10. ***To discuss trade secrets or confidential, competitively-sensitive or other proprietary information;***

L. Chauvette moved to go into executive session under: Chapter 30A, Section 21, §2, **To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel, J. Baptista seconded, roll call vote required:**

**Vote: 9-0-0** Nancy Melbourne Aye Joao Baptista Aye

Deborah Kuzmeskas Aye Dale Lougee Absent

Joseph Maga Aye Mitchell Grosky Aye

Lee Chauvette Aye Charles Pretti Aye

Amber Parker Aye Carla Rabinowitz Aye

Regular session ended at 8:17.

Returned to regular session at 8:50.

Chairperson N. Melbourne offered Steven Meyer the Assistant Superintendent position with a three year contract, first year $126,900, second year 2% and third year TBD. Mr. Meyer accepted.

**XIV. ADJOURNMENT**

L. Chauvette moved to adjourn, J. Maga seconded, notion unanimous.

**Vote: 9-0-0** Nancy Melbourne Yes Joao Baptista Yes

Deborah Kuzmeskas Yes Dale Lougee Absent

Joseph Maga Yes Mitchell Grosky Yes

Lee Chauvette Yes Charles Pretti Yes

Amber Parker Yes Carla Rabinowitz Yes

Meeting adjourned at 8:55