Minutes

ATHOL-ROYALSTON REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

October 18, 2017 6:53 P.M.

Royalston Community School

1. ROLL CALL –
   1. SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Deborah Kuzmeskas Present Joao Baptista Absent

Lee Chauvette Absent Dale Lougee Absent

Joseph Maga Present (6:44) Mitchell Grosky Present (6:44)

Nancy Melbourne Present Charles Pretti Present (6:41) Kenneth Vaidulas Present Carla Rabinowitz Present

B. RECORDING SECRETARY Julie Marynok

Also present: Superintendent D. Fernandes, Atty. Dupere and L. Bassett

II. RECOGNITION

Student of the Month – Athol Community elementary School – Finnegan Leander

Athol-Royalston Middle School – Justin Comeau

Royalston Community School – Trent Charron, Bryce Archambault, Ryder Barilone, Kylie Charron, Madilyn Hermes, Makaylee Barilone, Savannah Basso and Haily Webber

Athol High School – Lilly Linnell

Staff Member of the Month – Stephanie Vinvi – Music Teacher

Subway of Athol Scholar Athlete of the Month – Athol-Royalston Middle School – Samantha Mailloux, Athol High School – Angel Rivera. Each student will have a photo hung on the wall at the Athol Subway and each will receive a gift certificate for a meal with their families.

# CALL TO ORDER

The session was called to order by Chair Deborah Kuzmeskas at 6:532 P.M.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

September 20, 2017 – Regular Session – C. Rabinowitz moved approval, N. Melbourne seconded, motion passes.

Vote: 6-0-1 Deborah Kuzmeskas Yes Joao Baptista Absent

Lee Chauvette Absent Dale Lougee Absent

Joseph Maga Yes Mitchell Grosky Yes

Nancy Melbourne Yes Charles Pretti Abstained

Kenneth Vaidulas Yes Carla Rabinowitz Yes

V. PUBLIC INPUT – NONE

VI. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE – DJ St. Jean

* Field hockey is 2-10-2
* Boys soccer qualified for the postseason and is 9-5-1
* Girls Volleyball is 7-7-1
* Football is 1-5
* The 2nd Annual Lock in is happening this Friday into Saturday
* Spirit week is coming up in Nov. The days are red and white day, senior citizen day, Dynamic duo day, and decade’s day. There will also be a bleacher decorating contest this year.
* Homecoming Dance was well attended and went well.

1. RECOGNITION – Cont.

M. Grosky recognized Bonnie Benjamin for organizing the Athol Historical Society event, The Royalston Community School PTG for their walk-a-thon and Stephanie Vinci for an excellent presentation at ACES and RCS.

C. Rabinowitz recognized Nancy Monette for over 40 years of dedication to the district.

C. Pretti thanked Superintendent Fernandes for her transparence and honesty.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

* Electricity Savings – Solar – Expected to go online in December but now could be in the spring. Initial savings are expected to be $50,000.00.
* Superintendent’s Goals Discussion & Approval – N. Melbourne move to accept the Superintendent’s Goals as presented, J. Maga seconded, motion unanimous.

Vote: 7-0-0 Deborah Kuzmeskas Yes Joao Baptista Absent

Lee Chauvette Absent Dale Lougee Absent

Joseph Maga Yes Mitchell Grosky Yes

Nancy Melbourne Yes Charles Pretti Yes

Kenneth Vaidulas Yes Carla Rabinowitz Yes

**VIII. STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE**

Royalston Community School – School Improvement Plan – Principal Janeth Williams presented the Royalston Community Schools School Improvement Plan.

**IX. NEW BUSINESS**

* CPR Update – Kathryn Clark – K. Clark is working to correct the problem areas in the CPR
* Class Reunion Tour – Mitch Aho – The tour went well with approximately 50 class members present.
* Carolyn Brown – Update on Summer Feeding and Breakfast Program – Over the summer 11,000 meals were served at no cost to the district. In fact, the district made $10,000.00 for the program. Breakfasts are being served in all schools. All schools are meeting the required 80% participation except Royalston Community School.
* Water Update – Royalston Community School – Tests have been run. Water is coming back clean. Waiting for the DEP to ok the release of the water.

**X.** **SUPERINTENDENTS REPORT**

* NSIP Coach – Kevin Courtney, Superintendent Fernandes’s coach spoke to the committee about the New Superintendent Induction Program.
* MCAS – Computer Based Testing – All schools in Athol will take the MCAS tests online.
* Last Mile Grant – Royalston received a grant for $1,000,000.00 to install internet in the town.
* MCAS Accountability Data – Superintendent Fernandes did a power point presentation about the districts MCAS results. The district will remain a level 4 district for the 2017/18 school year.
* Superintendent’s Entry Plan – Superintendent Fernandes met with Associate Commissioner Russell. The district will remain a level 4 district for the FY17/18 school year. The district can go in one of two directions. Level 5, and the state comes in and takes over or level 3 by improving the MCAS scores. Many plans are being put in place to turn the district around.

**XI. COMMUNICATIONS**

District Enrollment

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

a. Business Managers Report and Financial Statement – Budget on target.

b. Verizon FY16 Disputed Invoice – C. Pretti moved to pay $121.89 for a FY16 bill with FY18 funds,

J. Maga seconded, motion unanimous.

Vote: 7-0-0 Deborah Kuzmeskas Yes Joao Baptista Absent

Lee Chauvette Absent Dale Lougee Absent

Joseph Maga Yes Mitchell Grosky Yes

Nancy Melbourne Yes Charles Pretti Yes

Kenneth Vaidulas Yes Carla Rabinowitz Yes

c. Recommend FY18 Budget Line Transfers – N. Melbourne moved to approve the line transfers, C. Pretti

seconded, motion unanimous.

Vote: 7-0-0 Deborah Kuzmeskas Yes Joao Baptista Absent

Lee Chauvette Absent Dale Lougee Absent

Joseph Maga Yes Mitchell Grosky Yes

Nancy Melbourne Yes Charles Pretti Yes

Kenneth Vaidulas Yes Carla Rabinowitz Yes

**XIII. REPORTS OF THE COMMITTEE**

1. Reports of the Chair – NONE

2. Budget/Finance Sub Committee – NONE

3. Facilities/Buildings/Grounds Sub Committee – NONE

4. Negotiations Sub Committee – Met to start work for the next contract negotiations. Will be meeting monthly.

5. Academic Excellence Sub Committee – None

6. Policy Sub Committee – Met to discuss a Child Find Policy and an Attendance Policy.

7. Public Relations Sub Committee – Discussed issues with use of Facebook as a communication tool.

Celebrating Schools page and other school-related pages need to be aware that people responding to a post sometimes post names of staff members about whom they have a complaint.

**Collaboration with AOTV:** The subcommittee strongly supports the Superintendent’s outreach to the community through this avenue. Suggestions for increasing effective collaboration included:

* Televising two or three full School Committee meetings per year, particularly the Student of the Month presentations.
* Offering a stipend to a staff member or community member for filming significant in-school activities.

C. Pretti moved, M. Grosky seconded, that we invite someone from AOTV to the next PR Subcommittee meeting to discuss enhanced collaboration. Passed unanimously.

**Media exposure for secondary schools:** Members expressed concern about the lack of media outreach in this area. Secondary schools often neglect to send copies of photos to Celebrating Schools Facebook page, even though those photos are sent to the Athol Daily News. M. Grosky reports that reposting items from the elementary school websites to Celebrating Schools typically increases viewer numbers by a factor of 100. Subcommittee members asked whether media outreach at all levels should be an administrative expectation. Superintendent will discuss these issues with principals.

**Highlights newsletter:** Now going to all staff. One problem is that the format is not phone-friendly for people who normally access their email by phone. A version specifically for parents will also be produced, but there is a question about the best way to get it to them. Superintendent requested suggestions for topics that might be of most interest to parents.

**District website:** Currently being redesigned. Superintendent invited a member of the PR Subcommittee to join the committee working on the redesign. District Facebook page is now hardly used, but will be re-examined.

**XIV. COMMITTEE MEMBER REFERRALS**

M. Grosky complimented Superintendent Fernandes for her weekly Highlights newsletter. Complimented L. Bassett for her transparent budget.

C. Rabinowitz echoed M. Grosky’s budget comment

C. Pretti would like a timeline with intervals to look at the Superintendent’s evaluation.

K. Vaidulas requested an update on the ARP at the High School. B. Rouleau stated that they have met with the OPM and signed a contract. The Athol High school track project funding will start with the Capital Planning Committee

**XV. EXECUTIVE SESSION, Chapter 30A, Section 21 (Summary) - #9**

**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;***

N. Melbourne moved to enter into executive session for the following reason: Chapter 30A, Section 21, § - 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, K. Vaidulas seconded, roll call vote required:**

Vote: 7-0-0 Deborah Kuzmeskas Aye Joao Baptista Absent

Lee Chauvette Absent Dale Lougee Absent

Joseph Maga Aye Mitchell Grosky Aye

Nancy Melbourne Aye Charles Pretti Aye

Kenneth Vaidulas Aye Carla Rabinowitz Aye

**Regular session adjourned at 8:46**

**N. Melbourne moved to adjourn, C. Pretti seconded, motion unanimous.**

Vote: 7-0-0 Deborah Kuzmeskas Yes Joao Baptista Absent

Lee Chauvette Absent Dale Lougee Absent

Joseph Maga Yes Mitchell Grosky Yes

Nancy Melbourne Yes Charles Pretti Yes

Kenneth Vaidulas Yes Carla Rabinowitz Yes

**XVI. ADJOURNMENT – 9:05**

**Included in packet:**

**September 20, 2017 minutes**

**AHS Student Representative Report**

**Superintendent Fernandes’s Goals**

**RCS School Improvement Plan power point**

**NSIP Information from Kevin Courtney**

**MCAS power point presentation**

**District enrollment**

**Financials**

**Fund transfer spreadsheet**

**PR subcommittee minutes – 9/20/2017 and 10/11/2017**