

Minutes
ATHOL-ROYALSTON REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE
May 15, 2019 - 6:30 P.M.
Royalston Community School, 96 Winchendon Rd., Royalston, MA 01368
Royalston Community School Cafeteria

I. CALL TO ORDER

The session was called to order by Chair Lee Chauvette at 6:31 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL –

A. SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Deborah Kuzmeskas	Present	Joao Baptista	Present
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 and L. Bassett

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

April 10, 2019 – Regular Session – N. Melbourne moved approval, M. Grosky, motion passes.

Vote: 8-0-1	Deborah Kuzmeskas	Yes	Joao Baptista	Yes
	Lee Chauvette	No Vote	Dale Lougee	Yes
	Mitchell Grosky	Yes	Charles Pretti	Yes
	Nancy Melbourne	Yes	Kenneth Vaidulas	Yes
	Carla Rabinowitz	Abstain	William Chiasson	Yes

IV. PUBLIC INPUT – NONE

V. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE – NONE

VI. RECOGNITION

- **School Committee** – C. Pretti thanked B. Craven for keeping School Committee informed and also congratulated S. Cleveland and the ACES staff for the overall great job they are doing. M. Grosky recognized the Central Office staff for doing a great job getting around to all the buildings for teacher appreciation day and for the things they did in appreciation of them. W. Chiasson recognized parents and Senior students who put on a wonderful After Prom Party at AHS.
- **School Committee Member Mr. Dale Lougee** – L. Chauvette and D. Fernandes presented Mr. Dale Lougee with a plaque to recognize his service as an ARRSD School Committee member.
- **Student of the Month**
 - RCS – Chance Parsons
 - ACES – Nathan Bernard
 - ARMS – Emilie Parsons and Hevan Valois
 - AHS – Jadon LeBlanc
- **Subway Scholar Athlete of the Month Award**
 - AHS – Lindsey LeBlanc
 - ARMS – Riley Reed
- **Staff Member of the Month** – Eileen Allen

B. Craven showed a video presentation representing students and staff at Royalston Community School.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. School Data Presentation – In packet. Principals presented benchmark testing data for their buildings. D. Fernandes added that the consultant for ARMS identified that their curriculum may not have been rigorous enough and as a result it has been changed.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Castine Movers Piano Move Donation AHS – D. Fernandes recognized Castine Movers for donating their services to move a piano for AHS. The donation value was approximately \$700. D. Fernandes and members of the School Committee thanked Castine Movers for their generous donation to ARRSD.
- B. Vote – Atty. Fred Dupere Legal Retainer – In packet. Atty. Fred Dupere presented a retainer agreement for his continued services to provide General Counsel, Labor Relations and Special Education Counsel representation for ARRSD. The term of the retainer is from July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020. D. Kuzmeskas motioned to retain Atty. Fred Dupere for legal services for the term of July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020, M. Grosky seconded, motion unanimous.

Vote: 9-0-0	Deborah Kuzmeskas	Yes	Joao Baptista	Yes
	Lee Chauvette	No Vote	Dale Lougee	Yes
	Mitchell Grosky	Yes	Charles Pretti	Yes
	Nancy Melbourne	Yes	Kenneth Vaidulas	Yes
	Carla Rabinowitz	Yes	William Chiasson	Yes

Atty. Dupere's Retainer Agreement with ARRSD was signed by both parties at this meeting and fully executed agreements were given to both Atty. Dupere and ARRSD.

M. Grosky thanked Atty. Dupere for his excellent service to the district.

- C. Curriculum Review Guide – In packet. M. Superchi gave an overview of the newly developed Curriculum Review Guide whose purpose is to provide general instruction as staff begin to develop or revise curriculum. C. Pretti and M. Grosky commented that the guide was comprehensive and well done.
- D. RCS SIP Plan Presentation – In packet. B. Craven gave a presentation on the RCS School Improvement Plan. C. Rabinowitz commented that she is "blown away" by the success RCS has had addressing chronic absenteeism. D. Fernandes thanked the building principals for their successful effort in really digging into the data, understanding it, improving on it and keeping their teachers on-board. M. Grosky commented on how pleased he is with the improvement ARRSD has made using data.
- E. ACES AIR Report – In packet. S. Cleveland gave a presentation on the findings ACES received from the AIR site visit. Overall findings were very good. The bulk of their focus now needs to be on Student-Specific Supports and Instruction to All Students. C. Pretti commented that the indicators show that ACES has strong foundations in place from which to improve. C. Rabinowitz commented that in comparing this current report to the previous one, there has been progress made and there were many areas showing improvement. M. Grosky commented that for the most part, the report is glowing and he congratulated S. Cleveland, J. Stanley, A. Langdon, M. Superchi and D. Fernandes on their success. He questioned if the areas of concern were being addressed, to which S. Cleveland advised that they are taking measures to make corrections. M. Grosky commented that he believes the report to be a descriptive and accurate account of what he has observed at ACES and congratulated them.

IX. COMMUNICATIONS

Enrollment – D. Fernandes spoke about the fact that at this time at ACES, Kindergarten and grades one, two and three all have five classes. Next year, a grade four teacher may need to be added in order to accommodate smaller class sizes. Overall enrollment is up by approximately 60 students. She stated that ARRSD is one of the few districts in Worcester County whose enrollment is increasing. C. Rabinowitz asked if there is a possibility of adding another class to grade two. D. Fernandes stated that the only place to take from to accomplish that goal would be AHS and the consequence of that would be that ARRSD would not be able to offer as much choice for students at AHS. K. Vaidulas inquired as to how many students we had going to Monty Tech. D. King replied 26.

X. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS

- a. To-date Expenditure Report Overview – In packet. Tracking well.
- b. To-date Revenue Report Overview – On target. M. Grosky inquired as to where the crossing guards were being utilized in the district. D. Fernandes stated that there is one near the old Pleasant Street building and one closer to ACES. D. Fernandes commented that she may have to add a crossing guard when the town tears up the sidewalk. C. Pretti commented that when the sidewalk project is completed, he would like to see an agreement with the town of Athol to have a machine plow the sidewalks. L. Chauvette answered that the purchase of equipment to do that would be an unrealistic cost for the town of Athol to incur.
- c. Vote - Budget Line Transfers - NONE
- d. Vote – PFA Bid Amendment – PFA Bid Amendment Language
Motion to maintain the Total Project Budget of the PFA Amendment for the Athol High School Project and the bid savings of \$1,826,011 is reallocated to the Construction Contingency and therefore ineligible for reimbursement per Section 2.3 of the PFA.

Motion made by: K. Vaidulas

Seconded: M. Grosky

Vote: Ayes 10

Nayes 0

Abstain 0

Vote: Carries

Date of Vote: May 15, 2019

Vote: 10-0-0	Deborah Kuzmeskas	Yes	Joao Baptista	Yes
	Lee Chauvette	Yes	Dale Lougee	Yes
	Mitchell Grosky	Yes	Charles Pretti	Yes
	Nancy Melbourne	Yes	Kenneth Vaidulas	Yes
	Carla Rabinowitz	Yes	William Chiasson	Yes

- e. Other – Vote - FY18 AHS hospital tutoring bills for LearnWell totaling \$2,018.94. M. Grosky motioned to pay the FY18 AHS hospital tutoring bills for LearnWell in the amount of \$2,018.94, C. Rabinowitz seconded, motion unanimous.

Vote: 9-0-0	Deborah Kuzmeskas	Yes	Joao Baptista	Yes
	Lee Chauvette	No Vote	Dale Lougee	Yes
	Mitchell Grosky	Yes	Charles Pretti	Yes
	Nancy Melbourne	Yes	Kenneth Vaidulas	Yes
	Carla Rabinowitz	Yes	William Chiasson	Yes

XI. STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE - NONE

XII. REPORTS OF THE COMMITTEE

1. Reports of the Chair – School Committee members received an email containing information for upcoming graduation events at AHS, School Committee members received an invitation to attend the AHS Alternative Program Graduation on June 5, 2019 at 2:30 p.m. in the AHS Auditorium.
2. Budget/Finance Sub Committee - NONE
3. Facilities/Buildings/Grounds Sub Committee – Discussed process for water at RCS, voted \$250,000 to pay the project manager, the last bill for Royal Steam, the architect and some of the windows at AHS and talked about project cost for controls.
4. Negotiations Sub Committee – Working on getting a contract settled before the end of the year.
5. Academic Excellence Sub Committee – Title 1 and Special Education, Professional Development, AIR Report, turnaround plan AHS, summer school partnership with YMCA, DLC writing portfolio, math intervention committee.
6. Public Relations Sub Committee - NONE
7. Policy Sub Committee – Moved several policies forward to School Committee but will not appear until the June meeting.

XIII. COMMITTEE MEMBER REFERRALS

- M. Grosky has been asked to take photographs for graduation events and step-up ceremonies. He stated he would like to make known that he will no longer be taking pictures for events. He also stated that it would be great if School Committee members would write letters to legislature in support of increased funding for school children and families and in support of an amendment to DPH School-based Health Center line item 4590-0250 to be increased by \$100,000 for the ACES School-based Health Center in order to protect and continue the funding of the Athol SBHC.
- T. Duquette, as School Committee liaison to SEPAC, talked about the fact that SEPAC would like to build a website. They were advised by Atty. Fred Dupere that they can build a website but they are not allowed to use the ARRSD logo. They also have parent survey data that they intend to present to the School Committee and finally, they are asking Superintendent Fernandes if they can make use the district's OneCall system for informational purposes. T. Duquette also thanked ARMS for the excellent work they are doing.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

N. Melbourne moved to adjourn, J. Baptista seconded, motion unanimous.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Enclosed:

Agenda

April 10, 2019 Minutes

ARRSD Benchmark Data Fall to Spring

Retainer Agreement by and between the Athol-Royalston Regional School Committee and the Dupere Law Offices

Athol-Royalston Regional School District Curriculum Review Guide

ACES AIR Report

District Enrollment

ARRSD Expenditure Report

ARRSD Revenue Report

PFA Language

Letter to Senator Gobi

Letter to Senator Rodrigues

Facilities Subcommittee Meeting Minutes April 10, 2019