Minutes

**ATHOL-ROYALSTON REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

**April 11, 2018 - 6:30 P.M.**

**Athol-Royalston Middle School**

**Athol, Massachusetts 01331**

# CALL TO ORDER

The session was called to order by Chair Deborah Kuzmeskas at 6:30 P.M.

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

Deborah Kuzmeskas Present Joao Baptista Present

Lee Chauvette Present Dale Lougee Absent

Joseph Maga Absent Mitchell Grosky Present

Nancy Melbourne Present Charles Pretti Present Kenneth Vaidulas Present Carla Rabinowitz Present

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

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

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

March 21, 2018 – Regular Session – L. Chauvette moved approval, M. Grosky, motion passes.

**Vote: 7-0-1** Deborah Kuzmeskas Yes Joao Baptista Yes

Lee Chauvette Yes Dale Lougee Absent

Joseph Maga Absent Mitchell Grosky Yes

Nancy Melbourne Yes Charles Pretti Yes

Kenneth Vaidulas Abstain Carla Rabinowitz Yes

April 4, 2018 – Public Hearing – Budget – Re-organization meeting – L. Chauvette moved approval, N. Melbourne seconded motion passes.

**Vote: 6-0-2** Deborah Kuzmeskas Yes Joao Baptista Abstain

Lee Chauvette Yes Dale Lougee Absent

Joseph Maga Absent Mitchell Grosky Yes

Nancy Melbourne Yes Charles Pretti Yes

Kenneth Vaidulas Yes Carla Rabinowitz Abstain

**VI. PUBLIC INPUT –** NONE

**V. RECOGNITION**

C. Pretti recognized K. Clark for all the work she did overseeing the Royalston Community school principal search.

M. Grosky recognized L. Gesner, J. Potter and C. Hoegen for attending and giving a presentation at the 49th Annual Massachusetts Reading Association Convention at the Boston Marriott in Quincy

* **Staff Member of the Month** – Athol Community Elementary School, Kindergarten teacher, Vicki Maillet
* **Students of the Month** -ACES – Marissa Nadeau, grade 4, RCS – Lillian Rathburn, grade 6, ARMS – Joseph Gray, of Athol, and Alexandra Phelps, of Royalston and AHS – Justin Blake and Julia Carey

**VI. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE – NONE**

**VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

* Update – Royalston Community School Principal Search –Beth Craven from South Hadley, MA has signed her contract.
* Vote to certify the FY19 budget – M. Grosky moved to approve the FY19 budget as presented. It was mentioned that the certification vote must contain the total budget which is $24,222,477, M. Grosky accepted the friendly amendment, L. Chauvette seconded, motion unanimous.

**Vote: 8-0-0** Deborah Kuzmeskas Yes Joao Baptista Yes

Lee Chauvette Yes Dale Lougee Absent

Joseph Maga Absent Mitchell Grosky Yes

Nancy Melbourne Yes Charles Pretti Yes

Kenneth Vaidulas Yes Carla Rabinowitz Yes

**VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

* Report on Social Emotional Learning – Superintendent Fernandes gave a PowerPoint presentation on Social Emotional Learning and the programs the district are beginning to look into to help students with social and emotional issues. Strength Based Instruction.
* Update on Commissioner’s Forum – D. Kuzmeskas, D. Fernandes and M. Grosky went to the Western MA Forum with Commissioner Riley. He discussed his plan to continue social emotional learning, he plans on celebrating teachers and he plans on visiting all school districts in MA, just to name a few things.
* Community Service Learning at the Athol-Royalston Middle School – Nature’s Way – Sixth grade geography teacher, Elly Hunter, will be working with Nature’s Way, a local community service learning initiative. Also, local community members will come into the school to help learn about their geographical area.
* Exit Interviews – Superintendent Fernandes will create an exit interview template and bring it back to the committee for review.
* ARP Legal Counsel language – Attorney Dupere read the following: Motion to give to Darcy Fernandes, Superintendent of the Athol-Royalston Regional School District, the authorization to sign the Project Funding Agreement for the Athol High School Project (“Project”). L. Chauvette moved approval, N. Melbourne seconded motion unanimous.

**Vote: 8-0-0** Deborah Kuzmeskas Yes Joao Baptista Yes

Lee Chauvette Yes Dale Lougee Absent

Joseph Maga Absent Mitchell Grosky Yes

Nancy Melbourne Yes Charles Pretti Yes

Kenneth Vaidulas Yes Carla Rabinowitz Yes

* Attorney Dupere read the following: Motion to give to Darcy Fernandes, Superintendent of the Athol-Royalston Regional School District, the full legal authority under the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and all applicable local charters, ordinances and by-laws to make final, binding decisions with respect to the Athol High School Project (“Project”). L. Chauvette moved approval, N. Melbourne seconded motion unanimous.

**Vote: 8-0-0** Deborah Kuzmeskas Yes Joao Baptista Yes

Lee Chauvette Yes Dale Lougee Absent

Joseph Maga Absent Mitchell Grosky Yes

Nancy Melbourne Yes Charles Pretti Yes

Kenneth Vaidulas Yes Carla Rabinowitz Yes

* Surplus Truck – C. Rabinowitz moved approval to declare a 1999 Ford Econoline 8 passenger van Ser. #1FMRE11W7XB94311 and a 2000 Ford F250 Plow Truck Ser. #1FTNF21LOYEA48010 surplus, L. Chauvette seconded, motion unanimous.

**Vote: 8-0-0** Deborah Kuzmeskas Yes Joao Baptista Yes

Lee Chauvette Yes Dale Lougee Absent

Joseph Maga Absent Mitchell Grosky Yes

Nancy Melbourne Yes Charles Pretti Yes

Kenneth Vaidulas Yes Carla Rabinowitz Yes

**IX. COMMUNUNICATIONS**

District enrollment – In packet

Audit Reports – In packet

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

a. Business Managers Report and Financial Statement – On track

b. Donation: Charles Russell former teacher, Assistant Principal and Principal passed March 1,

2018. He requested in lieu of flowers for donations to be made to the Athol Drama Club, c/o

Laura Robinson at the Athol High School. Currently the donations are around $6,000.00 with

more coming. K. Vaidulas moved to accept the donation, L. Chauvette seconded, motion

unanimous.

**Vote: 8-0-0** Deborah Kuzmeskas Yes Joao Baptista Yes

Lee Chauvette Yes Dale Lougee Absent

Joseph Maga Absent Mitchell Grosky Yes

Nancy Melbourne Yes Charles Pretti Yes

Kenneth Vaidulas Yes Carla Rabinowitz Yes

A moment of silence was held for former Athol teacher, Assistant Principal and Principal, Charles Russell

**XI. STRATEGIC PLAN**

The DILT has been working on three topics. Inclusion with K. Clark, Literacy with M. Superchi and Best Practices with Mary Jane Rickson. They are using the “5 Why’s” model to address each topic.

**XII. REPORTS OF THE COMMITTEE**

1. Reports of the Chair – D. Kuzmeskas and Superintendent Fernandes attended the MARS

Legislative Breakfast where fiscal budgets, transportation and broadband was discussed among

other topics. Also, reminder that the River Rat Parade is Saturday, April 14th. The school

committee is in Division 1 and will line up at Our Lady Immaculate church from 8:15 – 9:30.

2. Budget/Finance Sub Committee – The Fy19 operating budget was approved earlier in the

meeting.

3. Facilities/Buildings/Grounds Sub Committee – A quorum needs to happen with the upcoming

ARP at the high school. Bills will be coming in and need to be approved. An electronic sign is

being looked at for the high school. There is an open air pavilion that was drawn into the track

project at the high school. Between the Athol Athletic Association and private donations, it is

possible that it could be built. Questioned and answered, the new windows at AHS will be

escape windows in the event of an emergency.

4. Negotiations Sub Committee – On going.

5. Academic Excellence Sub Committee – Last month’s minutes in packet.

6. Policy Sub Committee – First reading – JIC – C. Rabinowitz moved approval, N. Melbourne

seconded, motion passes.

**Vote: 7-1-0** Deborah Kuzmeskas Yes Joao Baptista Opposed

Lee Chauvette Yes Dale Lougee Absent

Joseph Maga Absent Mitchell Grosky Yes

Nancy Melbourne Yes Charles Pretti Yes

Kenneth Vaidulas Yes Carla Rabinowitz Yes

7. Public Relations Sub Committee – Last month’s minutes in packet. Met today. Superintendent

Fernandes to meet with the editor of the Athol Daily News.

**XIII. COMMITTEE MEMBER REFERRALS**

M. Grosky is impressed with the Staff Member of the Month award especially when the staff

member is chosen by Superintendent Fernandes.

**XV. ADJOURNMENT**

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

**Vote: 8-0-0** Deborah Kuzmeskas Yes Joao Baptista Yes

Lee Chauvette Yes Dale Lougee Absent

Joseph Maga Absent Mitchell Grosky Yes

Nancy Melbourne Yes Charles Pretti Yes

Kenneth Vaidulas Yes Carla Rabinowitz Yes

Meeting adjourned at 8:14

Enclosed:

Agenda

March 21, 2018 minutes

April 4, 2018 minutes

Description of surplus vehicles

District enrollment

Financials

Audit materials

Budget 2019 Version B

Entry Plan next steps

Strength Based Instruction

Creating Strength-Based Classrooms and Schools

Annual Financial Statements for the Year Ending June 30, 2017

Academic Excellence Minutes

Policy Sub-committee Minutes

Policy JIC