

Minutes
ATHOL-ROYALSTON REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE
September 20, 2017 6:32 P.M.
Athol-Royalston Middle School

I. CALL TO ORDER

The session was called to order by Chair Deborah Kuzmeskas at 6:32 P.M.

II. ROLL CALL –

A. SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Deborah Kuzmeskas	Present	Joao Baptista	Absent
Lee Chauvette	Present	Dale Lougee	Present
Joseph Maga	Present	Mitchell Grosky	Present
Nancy Melbourne	Present	Charles Pretti	Absent
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

August 16, 2017 – Regular Session – L. Chauvette moved approval, C. Rabinowitz, motion passes.

Vote: 7-0-1	Deborah Kuzmeskas	Yes	Joao Baptista	Absent
	Lee Chauvette	Yes	Dale Lougee	Yes
	Joseph Maga	Yes	Mitchell Grosky	Yes
	Nancy Melbourne	Abstained	Charles Pretti	Absent
	Kenneth Vaidulas	Yes	Carla Rabinowitz	Yes

IV. PUBLIC INPUT – Alan Charron, Royalston resident spoke about class sized at the Royalston Community School. He was advised that he should make an appointment to meet with Superintendent Fernandes.

V. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE – Athol High School Principal M. Aho introduced Colby Mason as one of 4 student representatives this year. Mr. Mason as well as D.J. St. Jean, Lauren Mack and Celeste Torracco will share the responsibility of reporting school happenings to the school committee.

Sport Records – Football 0-2, Girls Soccer 2-2, Girls Volleyball 1-3, Field Hockey 0-3 and Boys Soccer 2-2

Homecoming Events – Friday, September 29, 2017, 7:00p.m Football - Saturday, September 30, 2017

Throughout the day: JV and Varsity Field hockey, Boys JV and Varsity Soccer, Girls JV and Varsity Soccer

Active Clubs – Drama, 84/SADD, Art, A-Z, Student Council, NHS, Honors Academy, Gaming Club and Math Team

VI. RECOGNITION

- K. Vaidulas recognized ACES for such a smooth opening of school. Receiving over 600 kids from cars and off busses went smooth.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Electricity Savings – Solar – Meeting with the solar company will be held October 10th. Superintendent Fernandes will report back to the committee at the October school committee meeting.
- Enrollment from ARMS to AHS trend – Sheet given to the committee

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

Vote to approve the sale of calendar fundraiser – Athol-Royalston Middle School – N. Melbourne moved approval, J. Maga seconded, motion unanimous.

Vote: 8-0-0	Deborah Kuzmeskas	Yes	Joao Baptista	Absent
	Lee Chauvette	Yes	Dale Lougee	Yes
	Joseph Maga	Yes	Mitchell Grosky	Yes
	Nancy Melbourne	Yes	Charles Pretti	Absent
	Kenneth Vaidulas	Yes	Carla Rabinowitz	Yes

Vote to approve the Washington D.C. Trip – Athol-Royalston Middle School – N. Melbourne moved approval, J. Maga seconded, motion unanimous.

Vote: 8-0-0	Deborah Kuzmeskas	Yes	Joao Baptista	Absent
	Lee Chauvette	Yes	Dale Lougee	Yes
	Joseph Maga	Yes	Mitchell Grosky	Yes
	Nancy Melbourne	Yes	Charles Pretti	Absent
	Kenneth Vaidulas	Yes	Carla Rabinowitz	Yes

L. Chauvette expressed the importance of making sure the field trip is 100% paid for prior to the date of the trip.

Vote to approve the Natures classroom Trip – Athol-Royalston Middle School – J. Maga moved approval, M. Grosky seconded, motion unanimous.

Vote: 8-0-0	Deborah Kuzmeskas	Yes	Joao Baptista	Absent
	Lee Chauvette	Yes	Dale Lougee	Yes
	Joseph Maga	Yes	Mitchell Grosky	Yes
	Nancy Melbourne	Yes	Charles Pretti	Absent
	Kenneth Vaidulas	Yes	Carla Rabinowitz	Yes

Vote to approve the Natures Classroom Trip – Royalston Community School – K. Vaidulas moved approval, L. Chauvette seconded, motion unanimous.

Vote: 8-0-0	Deborah Kuzmeskas	Yes	Joao Baptista	Absent
	Lee Chauvette	Yes	Dale Lougee	Yes
	Joseph Maga	Yes	Mitchell Grosky	Yes
	Nancy Melbourne	Yes	Charles Pretti	Absent
	Kenneth Vaidulas	Yes	Carla Rabinowitz	Yes

School Committee Meeting Locations – N. Melbourne moved approval, M. Grosky seconded, motion unanimous.

Vote: 8-0-0	Deborah Kuzmeskas	Yes	Joao Baptista	Absent
	Lee Chauvette	Yes	Dale Lougee	Yes
	Joseph Maga	Yes	Mitchell Grosky	Yes
	Nancy Melbourne	Yes	Charles Pretti	Absent
	Kenneth Vaidulas	Yes	Carla Rabinowitz	Yes

MSBA Update – The ARP paperwork was submitted September 7th.

Superintendent's Entry Plan – Superintendent Fernandes reviewed her entry plan with the committee.

Opening of Schools – The opening went smoothly. Superintendent Fernandes and Committee Chair D. Kuzmeskas were at the openings the first two days of school. The public relations committee was thanked for developing the welcome packets that were sent home with students. She also thanked the custodial staff for having the buildings ready inside and out.

CPR Update – Superintendent Fernandes and Pupil Services Director K. Clark are reviewing the document and making corrections.

Grant/Data/Administrative Assistant Position Update – Sheila Femino has been hired for the position. Her start date is October 2nd. She will do 4 hours per day at ACES and 4 hours per day at the central office.

Superintendent's Goals – Discussed in the entry plan discussion

Review of Strategic Plan Goals – Professional development is being planned on teaching and learning. Common planning time had been developed district wide. Assistant Principals are meeting every other week with the Superintendent. Special education is a concern that is being addressed.

Warrant – Legal Opinion – Fred – N. Melbourne moved to establish a subcommittee of 4 members for the purpose of signing payroll warrants only to allow for the release of checks; provided, however, that such subcommittee shall make available to the committee at the next meeting, a record of such actions of such subcommittee, L. Chauvette seconded, motion unanimous.

Vote: 8-0-0	Deborah Kuzmeskas	Yes	Joao Baptista	Absent
	Lee Chauvette	Yes	Dale Lougee	Yes
	Joseph Maga	Yes	Mitchell Grosky	Yes
	Nancy Melbourne	Yes	Charles Pretti	Absent
	Kenneth Vaidulas	Yes	Carla Rabinowitz	Yes

M. Grosky moved to appoint K. Vaidulas, N. Melbourne, D. Kuzmeskas and D. Lougee to the payroll signing subcommittee, J. Maga seconded, motion unanimous.

Vote: 8-0-0	Deborah Kuzmeskas	Yes	Joao Baptista	Absent
	Lee Chauvette	Yes	Dale Lougee	Yes
	Joseph Maga	Yes	Mitchell Grosky	Yes
	Nancy Melbourne	Yes	Charles Pretti	Absent
	Kenneth Vaidulas	Yes	Carla Rabinowitz	Yes

IX. COMMUNICATIONS

District Enrollment – Informational

X. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS

a. Business Managers Report and Financial Statement – Reviewed

XI. STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

Addressed in the superintendents entry plan discussion.

XII. REPORTS OF THE COMMITTEE

1. Reports of the Chair – NONE
2. Budget/Finance Sub Committee – Covered in the finance report
3. Facilities/Buildings/Grounds Sub Committee – Met earlier in the evening. Discussed Closing out of ACES, Royalston Community School Playground, Update on the AHS Rapid Repair Project, Track Project, SPED Office Update with Schematic and the Water at RCS
4. Negotiations Sub Committee – Met earlier in the day. Preparing for upcoming negotiations.
5. Academic Excellence Sub Committee – Wrapping up process for state standards
 - Making sure all curriculum is aligned to state standards.
 - Have established common planning time in all schools
 - Contracted 4 hours of meetings – Time being used for the following:
 - Aligned curriculum
 - Analyzing data
 - Essential standards for classroom
 - Literacy instruction across the district

Core Text

- Wonders being piloted at ACES. Seeing great clear instruction. Teachers have had PD. Wonders understands state standards.

Professional Development moving forward

- Vendors are working across the district to align with curriculum.

DSAC

- Need to align support with strategic plan. See "Work Focus with DSAC 2017-2018".

Materials Review Alignment

- Books etc. to teach units.
- Outdated materials – Need to purchase books.

6. Policy Sub Committee – Met September 13th – Child Find Policy – Superintendent Fernandes to find policies from other districts.

Attendance Policy – What do we currently have in place? Need a policy not just a procedure.

Homework Policy – The District Leadership Team is doing researching around the purpose and effectiveness of homework.

Use of Facilities – Fees – Looking at other districts fee schedules

Online Policy Book – The goal will be to have the district's policy manual online and accessible by the end of the school year.

Meeting dates and times – Proposed – Second Wednesday at 1:00 p.m. J. Maga stated his disapproval of the time as it doesn't allow for working people to attend.

7. Public Relations Sub Committee – Met to discuss Newsletter Highlights, Update on Welcome Packets, AOTV, Future meeting dates and times and Articles for the Athol daily News

XIII. COMMITTEE MEMBER REFERRALS

M. Grosky thanked the student representative for attending the meeting.

XIV. EXECUTIVE SESSION, Chapter 30A, Section 21 (Summary) - NONE

N. Melbourne moved to adjourn, L. Chauvette seconded, motion unanimous.

Vote: 8-0-0	Deborah Kuzmeskas	Aye	Joao Baptista	Absent
	Lee Chauvette	Aye	Dale Lougee	Aye
	Joseph Maga	Aye	Mitchell Grosky	Aye
	Nancy Melbourne	Aye	Charles Pretti	Absent
	Kenenth Vaidulas	Aye	Carla Rabinowitz	Aye

XV. ADJOURNMENT – 7:49

Enclosed:

August minutes

ARMS to AHS enrollment trend

ARMS Natures Classroom and Washington DC field trip requests

RCS Natures Classroom field trip request

Updated School Committee meetings with locations

District enrollment

Financials

Policy Subcommittee meeting minutes

Budget Subcommittee meeting minutes

Academic Excellence Subcommittee meeting minutes

Superintendent Fernandes's Goals

Dupere Law Office response letter