

Abington, Massachusetts

May 23, 2017

Regular Meeting

I. **CALL OF MEETING  
TO ORDER AND FLAG  
SALUTE**

A regular meeting of the School Committee was held in the Cotter Room at the Abington Town Hall.

Present: Ms. Kathy Bailey, Chairperson; Mr. Mike Kurowski, Vice-Chair; Ms. Jannette Leary, Secretary; Ms. Wendy Happel, and Mr. Chris Coyle, Members. Also in attendance were Mr. Peter Schafer, Superintendent of Schools; Ms. Felicia Moschella, Assistant Superintendent for Business and Finance; Dr. Dympna Thomas, Assistant Superintendent for Pupil Personnel Services; Cassandra Marando, Student Representative and Ms. Theresa Minnehan, Executive Secretary.

II. **HEARING OF VISITORS**

Although there were no hearing of visitors this evening, Ms. Bailey asked to take the meeting out of order at this time. Ms. Monachino introduced Amy Fedrick, a Kindergarten teacher at Center School, as well as two of her students, Haley Kallenberg and Madison Morley. They introduced their project entitled, *Our Toy Donation Shop*. This all started with an idea in the writing and drawing center during Focus on K2 Centers. After sharing the vision with their peers and getting the word out to families, the students created the toy donation shop and have donated to pediatric units at the hospital as well as working with the local girl scouts to help children in need.

IA. **REORGANIZATION OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

Ms. Bailey congratulated Christopher Coyle on being elected to the Abington School Committee for a three year term. She also thanked Ellen Killian for her six years of service as a member of the School Committee in various capacities including as Chair of the Abington School Committee.

Ms. Bailey requested a motion to give temporary chairmanship to the Secretary (Jannette Leary) of the School Committee to act as temporary Chair for the purpose of opening nominations and completing the election for the position of School Committee Chairperson.

VOTED:           on motion of Mike Kurowski (Wendy Happel) the members of the Abington School Committee unanimously voted to give temporary chairmanship to Jannette Leary, Secretary.

Ms. Leary asked for nominations for Chair of the Abington School Committee. Mr. Kurowski nominated Ms. Bailey as Chair of the Abington School Committee and Ms. Leary asked if there were any other nominations for Chair of the Abington School Committee. Hearing none, nominations for Chairperson were closed.

VOTED: on motion of Mike Kurowski (Wendy Happel) the members of the Abington School Committee unanimously voted to close nominations for Chair of the Abington School Committee.

VOTED: on motion of Mike Kurowski (Wendy Happel) the members of the Abington School Committee unanimously voted to elect Ms. Kathy Bailey as Chair of the Abington School Committee.

Yes: Mr. Coyle  
Ms. Leary  
Mr. Kurowski  
Ms. Leary

Ms. Bailey thanked the members and then opened nominations for Vice-Chair of the Abington School Committee. Ms. Happel nominated Mr. Kurowski as Vice-Chair of the Abington School Committee and Ms. Bailey asked if there were any other nominations for Vice-Chair of the Abington School Committee. Hearing none, nominations were closed for Vice-Chair.

VOTED: on motion of Chris Coyle (Wendy Happel) the members of the Abington School Committee unanimously voted to close nominations for Vice-Chair of the Abington School Committee.

VOTED: on motion of Wendy Happel (Jannette Leary) the members of the Abington School Committee unanimously voted to elect Mr. Mike Kurowski as Vice-Chair of the Abington School Committee.

Yes: Mr. Coyle  
Ms. Leary  
Ms. Happel  
Ms. Bailey

Ms. Bailey then opened nominations for Secretary of the Abington School Committee. Mr. Kurowski nominated Ms. Leary as Secretary of the Abington School Committee and Ms. Bailey asked if there were any other nominations for Secretary. Hearing none, nominations were closed for Secretary.

VOTED: on motion of Chris Coyle (Wendy Happel) the members of the Abington School Committee unanimously voted to close nominations for Secretary of the Abington School Committee.

VOTED: on motion of Mike Kurowski (Wendy Happel) the members of the Abington School Committee unanimously voted to elect Ms. Jannette Leary as Secretary of the Abington School Committee.

Yes: Mr. Coyle  
Mr. Kurowski  
Ms. Happel  
Ms. Bailey

The members of the Abington School Committee were asked to contact Ms. Bailey with their preferences for subcommittee appointments.

### III. READING AND APPROVAL OF RECORDS

A. April 25, 2017.

VOTED: on motion of Mike Kurowski (Wendy Happel) the members of the School Committee voted to approve the minutes of April 25, 2017, as presented.

Yes: Mr. Kurowski  
Ms. Happel  
Ms. Bailey  
Ms. Leary

Abstain: Mr. Coyle

### IV. PRINCIPAL REPORTS

A. *Lora Monachino – Center School*

1. SY 2017-2018 School Improvement Plan (Early Education Program)

Ms. Monachino highlighted the feedback from the 2016-2017 parent survey and reported that they are pleased with the K2 curriculum program, the continuing use of technology in the

classroom, successful fundraisers and PTO sponsored events. She thanked this year's members of the Center School Council and highlighted the five goals: *implement practices and procedures to improve instruction and student outcomes; maximize the use of existing technology and continue to explore emerging technology to transform teaching, learning and assessment; provide ongoing opportunities to reinforce the principles of good citizenship, social skills, resilience and core value; maximize use of available facility resources while maintaining a safe and healthy learning environment; and increase communication and involvement between Center School and the local community.*

**B. Matthew MacCurtain – Abington Middle School**

1. Proposed Revisions to the 2017-2018 Middle School Student Handbook.

Mr. MacCurtain was present this evening to review the changes to the middle School Student Handbook which takes into account and is reflective of the inclusion of grades 5 and 6 into the Middle School Handbook. He thanked David Summergrad, the Woodsdale Elementary School Principal, for his help and input into the revisions to the documents being presented this evening. He also thanked Erica Nali, Assistant Principal, and Andrea Doyle, Special Education Team Chair, for their input into the documents. Mr. MacCurtain then reviewed the additions and changes to the handbook which included, adding the English Language Learner Education Program; amending the following sections: cheating/academic integrity; grades/ honor roll; absence notes/excused and waived absences and tardies; student council; general behavior procedures which includes cafeteria rules taking into consideration all students in grades 5 through 8. Language was added in the dress code taking into consideration all students in grades 5 through 8; and the addition of language more specific about the use of cell phones in the building.

VOTED: on motion of Chris Coyle (Mike Kurowski)  
the members of the School Committee  
unanimously voted to approve the revisions  
to the Abington Middle School's 2017-2018  
Student Handbook as presented.

2. Proposed Revisions to the 2017-2018 Middle School Program of Studies.

Mr. MacCurtain outlined the changes to the middle school program of studies for the 2017-2018 school year which included adding courses for grades 5 and 6; changing grades 7 and 8 Math Applications and Critical Thinking to STEAM; amending student groupings in grades 5 and 6 to remain unchanged from the 2015-2016 school year; grade 8 is not heterogeneously grouped for all courses except English Language Arts and Mathematics; during the 2015-2016 school year Science was not heterogeneously grouped; Computers becomes Digital Literacy/ Computer Science and new course descriptions for Science formatted to match the document and lastly, amend the trimester schedule with 6 day cycle chart to reflect the additions of grades 5 and 6.

VOTED: on motion of Jannette Leary (Mike Kurowski) the members of the School Committee unanimously voted to approve the revisions to the Abington Middle School's 2017-2018 Program of Studies as presented.

3. SY 2017-2018 School Improvement Plan

Mr. MacCurtain reported that the School Improvement Plan represents the work of school councils from both the Woodsdale Elementary School and the Frolio Middle School. The new Plan takes into account and builds upon the 2016-2017 Woodsdale and Frolio School Improvement Plans, while laying the foundation for what both school councils envision for the future of the Abington Middle School, grades 5-8. He thanked all the school council members from both schools and highlighted the four goals: *increase student achievement through enhancements to Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment; create a positive school climate inclusive of grades 5-8, that builds on existing strengths and encourages academic, social and emotional growth; integrate the use of technology to build 21<sup>st</sup> century skills into teaching and learning; provide home/school communication opportunities that provide relative news, information and curricular support.*

**B. Teresa Sullivan – Abington High School**

1. Proposed Revisions to the 2017-2018 Abington High School Student Handbook.

Ms. Sullivan was present this evening to review the changes to the High School Student Handbook for the 2017-2018 school year. Changes include eliminating midyear and final exam language and the reason for the change to eliminate half days for midyear and final exams will add minutes to common planning time and Wave Week Wednesdays; change in the language for destruction of records to reflect that *temporary records will be provided to students upon graduation beginning with the Class of 2018. No copies of temporary records will be held at Abington High School; under Student Records, delete, the temporary record is destroyed within three years after the student leaves the system, and add, temporary records will be provided to students upon graduation beginning with the Class of 2018. No copies of temporary records will be held by Abington High school and lastly, change under Student Representative to the Abington School Committee to a junior student will be elected to be the Student Representative to the Abington School Committee.*

VOTED: on motion of Mike Kurowski (Chris Coyle) the members of the School Committee unanimously voted to approve the revisions to Abington High School's 2017-2018 Student Handbook as presented.

2. SY 2017-2018 School Improvement Plan

Ms. Sullivan thanked the members of the high school's school council for their work on the 2017-2018 High School Improvement Plan. She began her presentation highlighting some of the student/school achievements this school year such as Abington High School attaining Level 1 accountability status as well as MCAS student growth scores being above target in English Language Arts and Mathematics, 94 percent of the Class of 2018 scored in either Advanced or Proficient categories of the ELA MCAS exam, compared to 92 percent of the state and that 83 percent of the Class of 2018 scored in either Advanced or Proficient categories of the Mathematics MCAS exam, compared to 78 percent of the state. Ms. Sullivan then reviewed the four goals for the 2017-2018 High School Improvement Plan: *improve student performance and the acquisition of content knowledge and college and career ready skills through engaging instructional practices and a relevant and rigorous curriculum; research and implement best practices to support social-emotional wellness of students; analyze student performance data to inform, policy and staffing decisions; support programs and policies that maintain an environment that is safe, substance-free, tolerant, respectful and conducive to education; and begin the NEASC self-study process.*

3. Consideration of An International Field Trip to Costa Rica in February 2018.

Dianna Flaherty, Spanish teacher at the Frolio Middle School, was present this evening to support the request that she and Kate Casey, a Wellness teacher in the District, would like the members of the School Committee to consider for an international field trip to Costa Rica during the 2018 February vacation. The request included an itinerary of events for the week as well as the projected number of students and chaperones. Ms. Flaherty chose Costa Rica not only for the culture but also so that students can use the language. She stated that the informational meeting was well attended. Members of the School Committee asked about the selection process for students and staff. She stated that students write a personal statement and what they hope to get out of the travel opportunity.

VOTED:           on motion of Jannette Leary (Mike Kurowski) the members of the School Committee unanimously voted to approve the international field trip in February 2018 to Costa Rica for juniors and seniors who meet the criteria as presented.

4. Consideration of An International Field Trip to the Capitals of Scandinavia in April 2018.

Laura Louko, a High School English teacher and Matt Holzman, High School Math teacher, were present to support the request for the School Committee members to consider an international field trip to the Capitals of Scandinavia during the 2018 April vacation. The request included in itinerary of events for the week as well as the projected number of students and chaperones. Members asked about the selection process and if preference is given to

students who have not been on a trip. Staff stated that there is an application process and a personal statement indicating what they hope the get out of the trip. There is also a behavioral component, students' character, responsibility and behavior are all taken into consideration. After discussion and input, School Committee members asked if the staff organizing these trips would take a look at the selection process for students going on the trip and give priority to students who have not yet gone on a trip. The staff organizing these trips will come back in the Fall with feedback.

VOTED: Chris Coyle (Mike Kurowski) the members of the School Committee unanimously voted to approve the field trip in April 2018 to the Capitals of Scandinavia for juniors and seniors who meet the criteria as presented.

V. **REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES**

A. Business and Finance Subcommittee.

1. Proposed Revisions to the Use of School Facilities Policy and Fees.

School Committee members have copies of the policy and fee chart given at last month's meeting and is on the agenda this evening for consideration. Mr. Schafer recommended that the committee approve this policy and fee schedule.

VOTED: on motion of Mike Kurowski (Jannette Leary) the members of the School Committee unanimously voted to approve the revisions to the Use of School Facilities' Policy and Fees as presented and replace the previously approved policy KF-R-1.

2. FY-18 Budget and Town Meeting Update.

The FY-18 budget was approved at the May 22, 2017, meeting prior to attending the Annual Town Meeting. The School Department's approved FY-18 budget total is \$21,913,642. Mr. Schafer thanked the town hall financial group, the school committee subcommittee members, Ms. Happel and Mr. Kurowski, as well as the school department employees for their support and input on the budget.

VI. **REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**

- A. Announcement of Diane Benbenek as the Recipient of the Chester J. Millett, Jr., Outstanding Teacher Award.

Mr. Schafer congratulated Ms. Benbenek, a Reading Teacher and Title One Director in the District, for receiving the Chester J. Millett, Jr., Outstanding Teacher Award this past week. She is retiring at the end of this school year and will be acknowledged at the retirement party. He also congratulated the nominees, Christine Beckvold, Jeffery Boudreau, Patricia McGee, Timothy Pease, Kalen Samsel and Jason Scott. Mr. Schafer thanked Dr. Thomas for her work with the selection committee as well as Jessica Kinsman.

- B. Superintendent of Schools' Mid-Cycle Goals.

Ms. Bailey stated that Mr. Schafer gave his goals to the committee in January and in order to stay on target with the Superintendent's evaluation, the committee is to provide a mid-year review in June. She requested that the members send comments and feedback to her as soon as possible for the June meeting.

VII. **REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT FOR BUSINESS AND FINANCE**

- A. School Building Committee Update.

Ms. Moschella reported that the building project is continuing to go well and she thanked the school building committee members as well as the school committee members and town finance committee. The town department's collaboration resulted in helping to move this project ahead and now the project is 1.5 weeks away from substantial completion and furniture and equipment are being delivered this week. A soft opening will take place the week of July 10<sup>th</sup> for summer school and for student orientation in the summer. There will be a yard sale on July 8<sup>th</sup> in the morning for the sale of items from the high school, cash and carry.

VIII. **ESTABLISHING OF NEXT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING DATES**

*Tuesday, June 20, 2017, @ 7:00 p.m. Regular Monthly Meeting*

Ms. Bailey thanked Cassandra Marando for representing the students at Abington High School this year and wish her well at Harvard University in the Fall.



IX. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

- Meeting Dates for the 2017-2018 School Year
- Dates to Remember
  1. Fri., May 26 – Senior Reception, Receiving Line @ AHS @ 4:30 p.m.
  2. Tues., May 30 – Music Banquet, @ Senior Center @ 6:30 p.m.
  3. Thurs., June 1 – Senior Awards’ Evening @ AHS @ 7 p.m.
  4. Sat., June 3 – Graduation @ AHS @ 10:00 a.m.
  5. Mon., June 5 – Underclass Awards @ AHS @ 7:30 a.m.
  6. Wed., June 7 – School Building Committee Meeting @ Abington Police Station Community Room @ 6:00 p.m.
- Personnel Administration – Informational

*Abington Public Schools Employee Grid of FTE*

<i>2016-2017 March 23, 2017</i>				<i>Additional</i>
	<i>Paras</i>	<i>Tutors</i>	<i>Teachers, Nurses, Psychologists and Guidance</i>	
Center	14	1	13	
BBES	13	3	44	
Woodsdale	8	3	21.9	
Frolio	6	2.5	26	
High School	4	4	47	
	45	13.5	151.9	

1. The Superintendent has accepted the resignation of James Robbins as a Special Education Team Chairperson at Abington High School effective at the close of the 2016-2017 school year.
2. On the recommendation of Teresa Sullivan, Principal of Abington High School, and Matthew MacCurtain, Principal of the Frolio Middle School, Superintendent has approved the appointment of Brian Lanner as the Director of the Secondary Academic Summer School Program.

3. On the recommendation of Teresa Sullivan, Principal of Abington High School, the Superintendent has approved the appointment of Adrienne Edwards as a special education teacher within the Abington Public Schools effective in the 2017-2018 school year.
4. On the recommendation of Matthew MacCurtain, Principal of the Abington Middle School, the Superintendent has approved the appointment of James Gorman as a Wellness Teacher within the Abington Public Schools effective in the 2017-2018 school year.
5. On the recommendation of Catherine Zinni, Principal of the Beaver Brook Elementary School, the Superintendent has approved the appointment of Anna Solomon Hosein as a substitute special education teacher effective on May 19, 2017, and continuing to the end of the 2016-2017 school year.
6. The Superintendent has appointed Lori Ann Gover as the Assistant Principal at the Beaver Brook Elementary School effective July 1, 2017.
7. On the recommendation of Jonathan Hawes, Principal of the Woodsdale Elementary School (effective July 1, 2017), the Superintendent has approved the appointment of Sheila Kelleher as an elementary teacher within the Abington Public Schools effective in the 2017-2018 school year.
8. On the recommendation of Jonathan Hawes, Principal of the Woodsdale Elementary School (effective July 1, 2017), the Superintendent has approved the appointment of Casey Widmann as an elementary teacher within the Abington Public Schools effective in the 2017-2018 school year.
9. The Superintendent has granted Lauren Bates, a mathematics teacher within the Abington Public Schools a parental leave of absence in accordance with Article XXV, Options B and A of the Unit A Agreement Between the Abington School Committee and the Abington Education Association effective on or about June 19, 2017, and continuing to on or about October 2, 2017.
10. The Superintendent has granted Jana Onyiriuka, a tutor at Abington High School, a parental leave of absence in accordance with Article VI, Option B of the Unit A ESP Agreement Between the Abington School Committee and the Abington Education Association effective on or about August 29, 2017 and continuing to on or about November 6, 2017.
11. The Superintendent has granted Kerri Ronzio, a kindergarten teacher within the Abington Public Schools a leave of absence in accordance with Article XXV of the Unit A Agreement Between the Abington School Committee and the Abington Education Association effective for the 2017-2018 school year.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

@ 9:11 p.m.

VOTED: on motion of Jannette Leary (Chris Coyle)  
the members of the School Committee  
unanimously voted to adjourn the School  
Committee meeting at 9:11 p.m.

---

*Jannette Leary*  
Jannette Leary, Secretary