

Abington, Massachusetts

May 25, 2010

Regular Meeting

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

A Regular Meeting of the School Committee was held this evening in the Cotter Room at the Abington Town Hall.

Present: Ms. Brenda Pignone, Chairman; Mr. James West, Vice-Chairman; Mr. Russell FitzGerald, Secretary; Mr. Thomas McNulty and Ms. Janet O'Connor, Members. Also in attendance were Mr. Peter G. Schafer, Superintendent of Schools; Dr. Dympna Thomas, Assistant Superintendent for Pupil Personnel Services; Ms. Felicia Moschella, Assistant Superintendent for Business and Finance; Ms. Erin Hollander, Student Representative and Ms. Theresa Minnehan, Executive Secretary.

II. **HEARING OF VISITORS**

None.

III. **READING AND APPROVAL OF RECORDS**

None.

IV. **COMMUNICATIONS**

None.

V. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

1. 2010-2011 Abington School Committee Organization and Subcommittee Structure.

Members of the school committee were given the subcommittee structure and asked that they contact Ms. Pignone or Mrs. Minnehan if they have questions or concerns.

2. Consideration of Recommended Revisions to the 2010-2011 High School Student Handbook.

Mr. Schafer reported that the recommended revisions to the 2010-2011 High School Student Handbook were brought forward to tonight's meeting in order for the community to give input to school committee members as well as school council members and school administration. Ms. Pignone opened the meeting up to members of the school council, the

audience and also to the school committee members. A discussion took place with regard to the chemical health policy standard of presence vs. possession.

VOTED: on motion of Mr. Russell FitzGerald (Mr. James West) the members of the School Committee voted to approve the revisions on the Chemical Health Policy for the 2010-2011 High School Student Handbook as presented.

Yes: Mr. McNulty  
Ms. O'Connor  
No: Mr. FitzGerald  
Mr. West  
Ms. Pignone

The members of the school committee also discussed the vote surrounding student leadership positions that *from the earliest fall practice date, to the conclusion of the academic year or final athletic event (whichever is latest), students in leadership positions and/or team captains will lose their leadership positions, or eligibility, for 90 days of participation if they are in violation of the school's chemical health policy or conduct from Groups C and D of the Student Handbook.*"

VOTED: on motion of Mr. Russell FitzGerald (Mr. James West) the members of the School Committee unanimously voted to approve the revisions on student leadership positions for the 2010-2011 High School Student Handbook as presented.

3. Consideration of Abington High School's Library Material Selection.

VOTED: on motion of Mr. Russell FitzGerald (Ms. Janet O'Connor) the members of the School Committee unanimously voted to approve Abington High School's Library Material Selection Process as presented.

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

A. Personnel Administration - Informational

1. The Superintendent has accepted the resignation of Mrs. Monique Kotsiopoulos as a paraprofessional within the Abington Public Schools effective at the end of the 2009-2010 school year.

2. The Superintendent has accepted the resignation of Mrs. Kim Nastasia as a 15-hour per week paraprofessional within the Abington Public Schools effective May 7, 2010.
3. On the recommendation of Mrs. Marilyn Weber, Assistant Principal at the Early Childhood Center, the Superintendent has approved the appointment of Ms. Melissa O'Dell as a 15-hour per week paraprofessional within the Abington Public Schools effective May 10, 2010.
4. The Superintendent has approved the appointment of Mr. Stephen Moore as the Athletic Director within the Abington Public Schools effective July 1, 2010.
5. On the recommendation of Dr. Dympna Thomas, Assistant Superintendent for Pupil Personnel Services, the Superintendent has approved the appointment of Ms. Marianne Thea Showstack as a 4/5 (.8) school psychologist within the Abington Public Schools effective in the 2010-2011 school year.
6. The Superintendent has approved the appointment of Ms. Jessica Sullivan as the Assistant Principal of Abington High School effective July 1, 2010.
7. The Superintendent has granted Mrs. Amy Cicci, a pre-school teacher within the Abington Public Schools, a parental leave of absence in accordance with Option B as stipulated in Article XXIV of the Unit A Agreement. The leave will commence on or about October 7, 2010 and continue to January 2011.
8. The Superintendent has granted Mrs. Danielle Riley, an elementary teacher within the Abington Public Schools, a parental leave of absence in accordance with Option B as stipulated in Article XXIV of the Unit A Agreement. The leave will commence on or about July 2, 2010 and continue to January 2011.

B. Other Matters

1. 2010 Academic Summer School Proposal.

VOTED: on motion of Mr. James West (Ms. Janet S. O'Connor) the members of the School Committee unanimously voted to approve the proposed structure, fee schedule and staff stipends for the 2010 academic summer school as presented.

2. FY 2011 School Department Budget Update.

Mr. Schafer reported FY-2011 school department budget. He listed the restored recommendations should the override vote pass on June 26<sup>th</sup>. A total of 13 individuals or 8.4 FTEs would be restored with a proposed \$597,960 override for the school department. Mr. Schafer also discussed the anonymous donation of \$40,000 and that this donation helped to restore a 3/5 music teacher position to the elementary schools. Mr. Schafer also reviewed the school department's phased reduction plan as well as the gap of \$1,124,199 from the level service budget.

VOTED: on motion of Mr. Russell FitzGerald (Mr. James West) the members of the School Committee voted to approve the FY-2011 school department budget as presented.

Yes: Ms. O'Connor  
Mr. FitzGerald  
Mr. West  
Ms. Pignone

Abstain: Mr. McNulty

3. Consideration of Grade 8 Student Participation in High School Cross Country.

VOTED: on motion of Mr. Russell FitzGerald (Ms. Janet O'Connor) the members of the School Committee unanimously voted to approve the participation of Grade 8 students in Abington High School Cross Country for the 2010-2011 school year.

4. Re-consideration of Abington Public Schools' participation in the School Choice Program for the 2010-2011 school year in accordance with Chapter 71, The Education Reform Act of 1993.

Mr. Schafer reviewed the documents pertaining to school choice. This discussion has taken place since January 2010, a public hearing was held in March 2010 and the members of the school committee withdrew the Abington Public Schools from school choice for the 2010-2011 school year; however, this item has been brought to this evening's meeting once again due to the passage of the debt exclusion vote and the Frolio Middle School remaining open. Mr. Schafer recommended that the school committee members re-consider the participation in school choice for the 2010-2011 school year. His proposal is to allow up to five students in grade 9 only attend the high school and to commit the four years of their high

school education as students in Abington. Mr. Schafer reported that this would bring \$25,000 per year to the district and these funds would be used at the high school level.

VOTED: on motion of Mr. Russell FitzGerald (Mr. James West) the members of the School Committee unanimously voted to approve school choice for up to a total of five (5) non-resident grade 9 students for the 2010-2011 school year as presented.

5. Consideration of A Change in the School Hours for Pre-School and Kindergarten Students at the Early Childhood Center for the 2010-2011 School Year.

Mrs. Harper, Principal of the Early Childhood Center, was present this evening to discuss the change in school hours for pre-school and ½ day kindergarten. The change would mean an extra ten minutes to the afternoon sessions, beginning at 12:25 p.m. rather than 12:35 p.m.

VOTED: on motion of Mr. James West (Mr. Thomas McNulty) the members of the School Committee unanimously voted to approve the change in school hours for pre-school and kindergarten students at the Early Childhood Center for the 2010-2011 school year as presented.

6. Consideration of A Change in the School Hours for the Woodsdale Elementary School Students and Staff for the 2010-2011 School Year.

Mrs. Scolaro, Principal of the Woodsdale Elementary School, was present this evening to propose a change in the school hours at the Woodsdale Elementary School for 2010-2011. Currently, the school hours are 8:45 a.m. to 2:50 p.m. for students. The proposed change will be for 8:15 a.m. to 2:20 p.m. There will be playground supervision beginning at 7:50 a.m. This change is to accommodate the busing of grades 4-6 students at the Woodsdale in order to have the buses at the ECC in a timely manner.

VOTED: on motion of Mr. James West (Ms. Janet O'Connor) the members of the School Committee unanimously voted to approve the school hours at the Woodsdale Elementary School for students and staff for the 2010-2011 school year.

7. Status Report on Community Partnerships Goal Action Plan.

VOTED: on motion of Mr. Russell FitzGerald (Ms. Janet O'Connor) the members of the School Committee

unanimously voted to approve the revised Community Partnerships Goal Action Plan as presented.

8. Acceptance of Dictionaries for Grade 3 Students from the Abington Grange.

VOTED: on motion of Ms. Janet O'Connor (Mr. Russell FitzGerald) the members of the School Committee unanimously voted to accept the dictionaries for grade 3 students from the Abington Grange.

9. Correspondence from Joseph Baeta, Interim Superintendent of Schools, Requesting Consideration of Regionalization of Abington and Holbrook School District.

VOTED: on motion of Mr. Russell FitzGerald (Mr. Thomas McNulty) the members of the School Committee unanimously voted to direct Mr. Schafer to establish a joint committee to discuss regionalization and the possibilities of regionalization studies.

C. Dates to Remember

1. Fri., May 28 – Senior Reception – Receiving Line @ AHS @ 5:30 p.m.
2. Mon., May 31 – Memorial Day – All School Buildings and Offices Closed
3. Tues., June 1 – Music Banquet – @ the Senior Center @ 6:00 p.m.
4. Wed., June 2 – Spring Sports' Banquet @ AHS @ 6:30 p.m.
5. Thurs., June 3 – Senior Awards' Night @ AHS @ 7:00 p.m.
6. Fri., June 4 – Graduation Rehearsal and Senior Picnic @ AHS @ 10:00 a.m.
7. Sat., June 5 – AHS Graduation @ 4:00 p.m.
8. Mon., June 7 – Underclass Awards' @ AHS @ 7:30 a.m.
9. Thur., June 10 – Teachers' Retirement Celebration
10. Wed., June 16 – Last Day of School – ½ day for students

VII. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES

A. None

VIII. **REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT FOR PUPIL PERSONNEL SERVICES**

- A. Recommended Revisions to Abington Public Schools' Sexual Harassment Policy for Employees and Students.

Dr. Thomas was present this evening to request the approval of the Abington Public Schools Sexual Harassment Policy for Employees and Students. As part of the revisions to the policy, she also presented the school staff ethics protocol.

VOTED: on motion of Mr. Thomas McNulty (Ms. Janet O'Connor) the members of the School Committee unanimously voted to approve the revisions to the Abington Public Schools' Sexual Harassment Policy for employees and students as amended.

- B. Status Report for 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 Home Education Program.

Dr. Thomas was present this evening to request the approval of one additional family to home school their child for the 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 school years.

VOTED: on motion of Mr. Russell FitzGerald (Mr. James West) the members of the School Committee unanimously voted to approve the recommended home education program for one additional family for the 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 school years.

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

1. Status Report on Technology Goal Action Plan.

Mr. Aaron Hyre, Technology Director, was present this evening to report on the annual update of Abington Public Schools' Technology Goal Action Plan.

VOTED: on motion of Ms. Janet O'Connor (Mr. James West) the members of the School Committee unanimously voted to approve the revised Technology Goal Action Plan as presented.

4. Regionalization of Food Services.

Ms. Moschella was present this evening to follow up on last month's discussion on the point of sale system. She discussed the savings as well as the tracking of free and reduced lunch applications which could produce more grant funding for Abington.

X. **PRINCIPALS' REPORT**

A. **Mrs. Amy Scolaro – Woodsdale Elementary School**

1. Grade Four Students' State Fair Presentations.

Mrs. Scolaro was present this evening to introduce Mrs. Corner and her grade 4 students who presented their state fair projects.

B. **Mr. Jeffrey Knight – Frolio Middle School**

1. Announcement of New England League of Middle Schools Scholar Leader Award to Kelsea Nagle and Ryan Mariano, Grade 8 Students at the Frolio Middle School.

VOTED: on motion of Mr. Russell FitzGerald (Mr. James West) the members of the School Committee unanimously voted to send a letter of congratulations to Kelsea Nagle and Ryan Mariano.

2. SY 2010-2011 School Improvement Plan.

VOTED: on motion of Mr. Russell FitzGerald (Mr. James West) the members of the School Committee unanimously voted to accept the 2010-2011 Frolio Middle School's School Improvement Plan as presented.

XI. **NEW BUSINESS AND ESTABLISHING OF NEXT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING DATES**

*Tuesday, June 22, 2010 @ 7:00 p.m.*

VOTED: on motion of Mr. James West (Mr. Russell FitzGerald) the members of the Abington

School Committee unanimously voted to establish Tuesday, June 22, 2010 as the next regular meeting of the Abington School Committee.

XII. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS

VOTED: on motion of Mr. James West (Ms. Janet O'Connor) the members of the School Committee unanimously voted to approve all accounts as presented.

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION - by roll call vote to discuss collective bargaining strategies and not to return to public session.

Yes: Mr. FitzGerald  
Mr. McNulty  
Mr. West  
Ms. O'Connor  
Ms. Pignone



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Russell FitzGerald, Secretary