

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

A meeting of the School Committee was held remotely.

Present: Ms. Wendy Happel, Chair; Mr. Chris Coyle, Vice-Chair; Ms. Danielle Grafton, Secretary; Ms. Julie Groom and Ms. Heidi Hernandez, Members. Also in attendance were Mr. Peter Schafer, Superintendent of Schools; Dr. Felicia Moschella, Assistant Superintendent; Ms. Elizabeth Lindo, Student Representative; and Ms. Theresa Minnehàn, Administrative Assistant.

II. **HEARING OF VISITORS**

None.

III. **READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. January 4, 2022.

VOTED: on motion of Julie Groom (Heidi Hernandez the members of the School Committee unanimously voted to approve the minutes of January 4, 2022, as presented.

IV. **REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION AND ASSESSMENT**

A. Science Department Update (T. Kitterick)

Mr. Kitterick was present this evening to give a presentation on the Science, Engineering and Technology Department to School Committee members. He reported on the strengths and areas in need of improvement as well as the enrollment in AP and Honor Level courses, exam scores and recruiting students for AP and Honor courses. Mr. Kitterick addressed the process for science electives and staffing and ideas for science electives and professional development for the science department staff.

B. Abington Public Schools' District Review

Dr. Fedorowicz was present this evening to inform members and the community on the upcoming district review for the Abington Public Schools. The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education has selected Abington as a district to be reviewed. This is done every few years

and our last review was during the 2013-2014 school year. The review exams our system, policies and practices that drive our day to day work to improve student performance. The focus is on ways to improve equity for all students. It was asked to delay the review due to the Pandemic, but the request was denied. It enables us to reflect on the findings to improve what we do for our students. Staff interviews and classroom observations will occur. There are six standards and 21 indicators which include leadership and governance, human resources and professional development, financial and asset management, curriculum and instruction, assessment and student support. We are waiting to hear when the visits will take place but anticipate this will happen in April. It will then take three to four months to receive the information from the visits. This is different from NEASC which is for accreditation at the high school level and the district review is for PreK-12, district wide. We are waiting to hear back on who will be interviewed and observed and what buildings and grade level they prefer. There is a possibility that the community including School Committee could be asked to be interviewed by the visiting committee. The visit will take place over a few days but could be up to a few weeks depending how the committee sets up the visits and observations. A School Committee member could be part of the process as well as other community members. More information will be coming in February and March. The outcome of the visit will give recommendations and commendations to the District.

## V. REPORT OF ABINGTON HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

### A. Abington High School Bridge Block Update.

Mr. Bourn informed members that the high school will be modifying bridge block protocols beginning on February 1<sup>st</sup>. A more targeted time intervention for our departments for student intervention with a minimum of five students on a rotating basis. Students had a concern and are now on board with the change which will provide students the academic intervention needed to pass their courses. Student concerns were heard, well presented and administration listened and there was open discussion. The five departments included at this time are Math, English, Social Studies, Science and World Language. Students will be able to have access to teachers during bridge block on an even rotation.

### B. Proposed Revisions to the 2022-2023 High School Program of Studies.

Mr. Bourn reviewed the recommended changes to the high school program of studies for the 2022-2023 school year. The recommendations were submitted by department heads and directors and approved at the January 13, 2022, high school's school council meeting. Mr. Bourn reviewed the changes submitted by the business (small business retail and graphic design) science (level 2 anatomy and physiology, AP environmental science), special education (academic support) and world languages (added language about proficiency, the five Cs of world language learning, STAMP test requirement in Spanish IV and V, AP Spanish Language and Culture) departments. Any course you want to offer must be in the program of studies and because it is listed does not mean it will be offered in any academic year. Student interest, staff and spaces are all factors on whether a course is offered or not.

VOTED: on motion of Heidi Hernandez (Chris Coyle) the members of the School Committee unanimously voted to approve the revisions to Abington High School's Program of Studies for the 2022-2023 school year as presented.

VI. REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF STUDENT SERVICES

A. Additional Home School Requests for the 2021-2022 School Year.

Dr. Robbins requested the approval of an additional family to home educate their school aged children. The family is in compliance with the procedures set forth by Massachusetts State Law, Chapter 71, Section 1, 2, and 3, Chapter 76, Section 1, and the Abington Public Schools. He recommended this evening that the School Committee approve this request to home educate their child(ren).

VOTED: on motion of Julie Groom (Heidi Hernandez) the members of the School Committee unanimously voted to approve the additional Home Education Programs for the 2021-2022 school year as recommended by Dr. Robbins.

VII. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

A. Revisions to the Abington Middle School Assistant Principal Job Description.

Mr. Schafer reviewed the revisions to the job description for the middle school assistant principal. The changes were made in the work year which is 30 days beyond the teachers' work year for a total of 213 days. He also stated that the teaching role has been removed.

VOTED: on motion of Heidi Hernandez (Chris Coyle) the members of the School Committee unanimously voted to approve the Abington Middle School Assistant Principal job description as presented.

VIII. REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

A. COVID-19 Update.

Dr. Moschella reported on the new program from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and the Department of Public Health regarding COVID testing. A Constant Contact describing the new program was sent out today to opt into the program. Every two weeks students will bring home a test kit with two tests and will be asked to test once a week; and if positive, to let the school know and follow the isolation protocols as well as notify their health care provider. Testing will be done on a Thursday and we anticipate that we will receive these tests the first week or two in February and another email will be sent out that the program has begun. We will discontinue contact tracing as well as the test and stay program at the schools. We will continue to do symptomatic testing in school for students and staff if families opt to do so. This is a voluntary program. You can opt in or out at any time, just email or contact us. The positive results will go to the school nurse only and will not go anywhere else and you do not have to report any negative results. This program will continue until April as of now. The tests are FDA approved and have emergency use authorization. The IHealth COVID-19 tests is what we will use given to us by the State. Inconclusive test results have resulted in students being re-tested.

Mr. Schafer reported that as the number of COVID cases decrease there is hope to move away from the mitigation factors as soon as possible. There is no clear date as yet. At this time, Mr. Schafer acknowledged and thanked Felicia Moschella for all her work and that she has been outstanding. Ms. Happel also acknowledged the hard work of nurses, teachers and school staff, including administrators.

IX. ESTABLISHMENT OF NEXT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING DATE

*Tuesday, February 15, 2022 @ 7:00 p.m. Regular Monthly Meeting*

X. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

◦ Dates to Remember

1. Thurs., January 27 – National Honor Society Induction Ceremony
2. Fri., January 28 – Inservice/Early Release Day for Students
3. Fri., February 4 – Inservice/Early Release Day for Students
4. Mon., February 21 – Presidents' Day – All School Offices and Buildings Closed
5. Mon., February 21 – Fri., February 25 – Winter Vacation Break


• Personnel Administration - Informational

1. The Superintendent has accepted the resignation for the purpose of retirement from Nancy Clancy, Preschool and Special Education Teacher, within the Abington Public Schools effective on June 30, 2022.
2. The Superintendent has accepted the resignation for the purpose of retirement from Sandra DeSieno, Science Teacher, within the Abington Public Schools effective on June 30, 2022.
3. The Superintendent has accepted the resignation for the purpose of retirement from Jane Righter, mathematics teacher, within the Abington Public Schools effective on June 30, 2022.
4. On the recommendation of Matthew MacCurtain, Principal of the Abington Middle School, the Superintendent has approved the appointment of Kimberly Rush as a long-term substitute special education teacher within the Abington Public Schools effective on Monday, January 24, 2022, and continuing to May 2, 2022.
5. On the recommendation of Matthew MacCurtain, Principal of the Abington Middle School, the Superintendent has approved the appointment of Griselis Sanchez as a paraprofessional within the Abington Public Schools effective on Wednesday, January 5, 2022.
6. On the recommendations of Jonathan Bourn, Principal of Abington High School, and Peter Serino, Athletic Director, The Superintendent has approved the appointments of Richard O'Neill as a volunteer hockey coach and Ed O'Neil as the auxiliary ice hockey coach for the 2021-2022 school year.
7. On the recommendation of Jonathan Bourn, Principal of Abington High School, and Steve Shannon, Director of Music, the Superintendent has approved the appointment of James Sullivan as the Director of the Spring Show for the 2021-2022 school year.

XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION  
@ 8:40 p.m.

VOTED: on motion of Chris Coyle (Julie Groom) the members of the School Committee unanimously by roll call vote voted to adjourn the January 25, 2022, School Committee meeting at 8:40 p.m. to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing collective bargaining strategies and not to return to public session.

Yes: Chris Coyle  
Danielle Grafton  
Julie Groom  
Heidi Hernandez  
Wendy Happel

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Danielle Grafton", written over a horizontal line.

Danielle Grafton, Secretary