

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

A regular meeting of the School Committee was held in the Auditorium at the Middle/High School.

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

**II. HEARING OF VISITORS**

Ms. Pinola asked to be heard to address her concerns over the COVID-19 restrictions, mask mandates and student instruction during quarantine and use of laptops. Mr. Schafer thanked her for sharing her concerns and agreed that the district is moving forward with some of the restrictions being lifted such as the mask mandate on February 28, 2022. Mr. Coyle stated that we are still required to wear masks in school buildings and asked those who are unmasked in the audience this evening to please wear a mask.

**III. READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. January 25, 2022.

VOTED: on motion of Julie Groom (Wend Happel) the members of the School Committee unanimously voted to approve the minutes of January 25, 2022, as presented.

**IV. Introduction of Ms. Jessica M. Sullivan as Abington Middle School Assistant Principal**

Ms. Sullivan was present this evening to be formally recognized as the Abington Middle School Assistant Principal effective on July 1, 2022. She currently is the interim assistant principal since the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year. Ms. Sullivan thanked everyone on the screening committee and the middle school staff for their support of her candidacy and is pleased to continue in the role as the assistant principal.

**V. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES**

A. Business and Finance Subcommittee.

Mr. Schafer thanked the members of the subcommittee, Ms. Grafton and Ms. Groom for their work on the FY23 budget. He reviewed the major increase sheet stating that the budget number,

\$27,949,776, is an effort to secure the necessary resources to provide the children of Abington with a high-quality educational program. This change from the January 4<sup>th</sup> presentation is in the retirement offsets (\$85,048). He also reviewed the staffing and instructional materials requested in this budget and reminded the community that the annual town meeting will be held on Monday, April 4, 2022.

B. Social Emotional Learning Subcommittee.

Mr. Schafer thanked members of the subcommittee, Ms. Groom and Ms. Hernandez for their participation as members of the social emotional learning subcommittee. Ms. Groom thanked Dr. Robbins for their recent meeting to discuss and explain the program and the different tiers and tools to help students work through the last couple years and issues and struggles with their mental health.

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

A. 2022-2023 Draft School Calendar.

Mr. Schafer prior to Dr. Fedorowicz's presentation mentioned that this was a first view of next year's school calendar and that he is not asking for a vote this evening. Dr. Fedorowicz presented and reviewed the 2022-2023 school year calendar with the traditional starting days prior to Labor Day as well as the professional development days throughout the 2022-2023 school year. Ms. Grafton wanted to put it out there to look at the April date, Good Friday, to consider holding classes and put the students out earlier in June. She asked if we could look at what other towns do on Good Friday. Mr. Coyle asked for feedback from staff and parents on this as well.

VII. **REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT**

A. COVID-19 Update.

Dr. Moschella confirmed the announcement from DESE that the mask mandate will end on February 28<sup>th</sup> and will be optional in the Abington Public Schools; however, required on school buses. She also stated that 500 families signed up for the home test program and kit distribution is going well and will continue. She stated that an additional 100 students have signed up since the initial roll out. Once you are enrolled in the program, you are in; however, you can opt out.

Dr. Moschella addressed the heat issues at the Woodsdale School recently around the boiler shutting off. They are trying to determine what is causing the boilers to trip simultaneously. The company is very responsive. She stated that the maintenance staff as well as the vendor were there early in the morning after the issue was discovered by the custodian at 5:45 a.m. Building checks are done on the weekend by the custodial staff to stay informed of any issues to the building including the heat. When it was discovered, the building was chilly until about 10 a.m., immediately the vendor was on site and adjustments were made.

Ms. Groom asked Mr. Schafer to describe how the decision is made around calling snow days. He stated that the decision does not revolve around sidewalks being plowed and he has sent a letter out around sidewalks and safety. He then talked watching the weather for that snow/rain line and talking to the town departments, highway, maintenance and the custodial crew as well as other school districts.

VIII. **ESTABLISHMENT OF NEXT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING DATE**

*Tuesday, March 22, 2022 @ 7:00 p.m. Regular Monthly Meeting*

IX. **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

• **Dates to Remember**

1. Mon., February 21 – Presidents’ Day – All School Offices and Buildings Closed
2. Mon., February 21 – Fri., February 25 – Winter Vacation Break
3. Tues., March 8 – Inservice/Early Release Day for Students
4. Wed., March 9 – Green Wave Boosters Meeting

• **Personnel Administration - Informational**

1. The Superintendent has accepted the resignation of Ashley Ayers as a paraprofessional within the Abington Public Schools effective on February 9, 2022.
2. The Superintendent has accepted the resignation of Leanne Crocker as a lunch/recess paraprofessional within the Abington Public Schools effective January 27, 2022.
3. The Superintendent has accepted the resignation of Deborah Girello as a paraprofessional within the Abington Public Schools effective on March 4, 2022.
4. The Superintendent has accepted the resignation of Rachel Lemoyne as a paraprofessional within the Abington Public Schools effective on February 18, 2022.
5. On the recommendations of Chris Basta, Principal of the Beaver Brook Elementary School, and James Robbins, Director of Student Services, the Superintendent has approved the appointment of Catherine Darcy as a long-term substitute special education teacher within the Abington Public Schools effective on Wednesday, February 9, 2022, and continuing to on or about April 25, 2022.
6. On the recommendation of Chris Basta, Principal of the Beaver Brook Elementary School, the Superintendent has approved the appointment of Cassandra Edouard as a paraprofessional within the Abington Public Schools effective on Monday, February 28, 2022.

7. On the recommendations of Jonathan Bourn, Principal of Abington High School, and Peter Serino, Athletic Director, the Superintendent has approved the appointments of the following spring coaches for the 2021-2022 school year:

- |                                    |                    |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|
| • Ultimate Frisbee                 | Matthew Cutter     |
| • Head Tennis                      | Bridget Wakelin    |
| • Boys' Head Track and Field       | Michael Caseley    |
| • Boys' Assistant Track and Field  | William Caseley    |
| • Girls' Head Track and Field      | Matthew Campbell   |
| • Girls' Assistant Track and Field | Connor Bennett     |
| • Girls' Head Lacrosse             | Kathryn Cawley     |
| • Girls' JV Lacrosse               | Gabrielle Majenski |
| • Head Boys' Lacrosse              | Michael Grafton    |
| • Head Baseball                    | Stephen Perakslis  |
| • JV Baseball                      | Thomas Carey       |
| • Head Softball                    | Jenna Olem         |

8. The Superintendent has granted Ms. Annalise Sherman, an elementary teacher within the Abington Public Schools, a parental leave of absence in accordance with Options B and A as stipulated in Article XXIV of the Unit A Agreement. This leave of absence will begin on or about March 15, 2022 and continue to on or about June 7, 2022.

X. **ADJOURNMENT**  
@ 7:37 p.m.

VOTED: on motion of Danielle Grafton (Wendy Happel) the members of the School Committee unanimously voted to adjourn the February 15, 2022, School Committee meeting at 7:37 p.m.

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Danielle Grafton, Secretary