

Abington, Massachusetts

April 26, 2022

Regular Meeting

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

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

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 Minnehan, Administrative Assistant.

II. **HEARING OF VISITORS**

None.

III. **READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. March 22, 2022.

VOTED: on motion of Julie Groom (Wendy Happel) the members of the School Committee unanimously voted to approve the minutes of March 22, 2022, as presented.

IV. **Presentation of the M.A.S.S. Certificate of Academic Excellence**

Mr. Bourn, Abington High School Principal, was pleased to announce that Enver Amboy, a senior at Abington High School, is the recipient of the Certificate of Academic Excellence presented by Mr. Peter Schafer, Superintendent of Schools. This Certificate is awarded annually on behalf of the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents to the student who has distinguished himself in the pursuit of excellence during his high school career. Mr. Bourn highlighted Enver's involvement at Abington High School including being a member of the National Honor Society, Cross Country and Track and Field Teams, Book Club, Gaming Club and Math Team. Enver is also learning Japanese in an Independent Study. He stated that he plans to attend UMass Amherst to study Engineering in the Fall. School Committee members congratulated Enver on this prestigious award.

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

A. Art Department Update.

Michelle Poirier, Director of Art, was present this evening to give a presentation on the Art Department for Grades K-12. She reported on the strengths of the department which included two new educators, the new kindergarten curriculum, and the return of the district-wide art shows. She also reported on areas in need of improvement such as bringing staffing levels back up, the reduction in instructional time in grades K-4 from 45 minutes to 30 minutes, strategies and best practices working with ELL students and meaningful professional development activities specific to art. Ms. Poirier reviewed the art department curriculum for grades 9-12 and the current enrollment of students in art courses at the high school. Ms. Poirier was pleased to announce that there will be a visual art show on May 18th from 3 to 7 p.m., *Celebrate the Arts*, and the high school's spring concert will follow at 7 p.m.

School Committee members thanked Ms. Poirier for these updates and attending this evening's meeting.

B. Chet Millett Outstanding Teacher and Support Personnel Awards Update.

Dr. Fedorowicz reported that the nominations for the Outstanding Teacher and Education Support Staff closed on April 3, 2022. The Committee has met and reviewed the 67 nominations submitted and the winners will be announced on Tuesday, May 3rd, Teacher Appreciation Day. Dr. Fedorowicz thanked the members of the committee for their work as well as those for taking the time to submit nominations. She also thanked Danielle Grafton for recommending and helping to make this process an on-line submission.

C. Summer School Updates.

Dr. Fedorowicz gave an update on the secondary summer school program, Green Wave Academy. She reported that the program is for grades 7-12 and is to be held at 201 Gliniewicz Way. The purpose is to address learning loss and gaps due to the Pandemic and for students with failing grades in Math, ELA and Science. It is free of charge and transportation will be provided. The program will run from July 5-28 from 8:45 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (Monday through Thursday). Students in grades 9-12 will receive credit towards their high school credit and the middle school students attending summer school will supplant their grades. There is an ACE program to help students who are failing so that they may avoid attending summer school.

New at the Beaver Brook Elementary School is the summer BOOST program for rising second graders who are two or more reading levels below where they need to be and not attending the ESY or EL summer programs. Invites will be sent out on May 13th and there is space for 72 students based on teacher recommendations. The program will run from 8:30 a.m. to 10 a.m. and again from 10:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Transportation will not be provided. If the program is successful there could be a similar

program for rising third graders going to Woodsdale. Mr. Schafer stated that the BOOST program will target the students who need it the most and he is appreciative of the work put into the summer programs by the school principals. Dr. Moschella stated that the purpose of the ESSER grant funds is to address these needs. Dr. Robbins was also present to update the committee on the extended school year program for students with educational disabilities. He reported that Abington has approximately 360 students with educational disabilities and one hundred and twenty students will be eligible for this program. The federal and state departments of education give guidance on eligibility for the summer program. Two factors to consider in order to be eligible include if the student demonstrates regression of learned skills or is making slow progress on his/her IEP goals. Dr. Robbins reported that grade level teachers are assigned to the students in Prek-8 who will arrange math and ELA instruction as well as address IEP goals for individual cases. Grades 9-12 students will have services which will be contracted out through North River Collaborative who will create an integrated program focusing on academics, life skills, day to day and vocational skills. Other needs to be addressed will also be contracted out. He stated that we also hire for the summer speech language therapists, school psychologists, occupational and physical therapists to address student needs. Transportation is based on a case by case basis. The ESY program will also be held at 201 Gliniewicz Way.

VI. PRINCIPALS' REPORTS

A. *Jonathan Bourn – Abington High School*

1. SY 2022-2023 School Improvement Plan

Mr. Bourn was present this evening to update the committee on the 2022-2023 School Improvement Plan for Abington High School. The high school's School Council passed the Plan at its recent meeting. He began with a background on the School Improvement Plan for this past year which was complicated; however, as part of the NEASC process it was required to have a current Plan. He gave a summary of the 2020-2021 Plan in the midst of the Pandemic and what was able to be accomplished during the last school year. Many of the recommendations from the NEASC visit became the basis of the School Improvement Plan. The four goals from this year will continue and although there will only be two goals in the 2022-2023 School Improvement Plan they will highlight programmatic changes. Goal #1 is to *Advance the Vision of the Graduate as the Centerpiece of Abington High School's Academic Progress*. There are four activities or indicators of accomplishment and the first three are direct recommendations from the NEASC report for continued accreditation. School Committee members asked questions around the Model Schools Workshop and professional development. Mr. Bourn then highlighted Goal #2 which is to *Develop and Expand the Skillset and Repertoire of the Professional Staff on Cultural Proficiency in the Building and Classroom*. He highlighted the three indicators of accomplishments for this goal such as ongoing district wide training on becoming a cultural proficient educator, attract, recruit and retain staff from diverse backgrounds and explore the creation of a voluntary student group focused on cultural proficiency, equity and diversity.

B. Christopher Basta – Beaver Brook Elementary School

1. SY 2022-2023 School Improvement Plan.

Dr. Basta was present this evening to update the committee on the 2022-2023 School Improvement Plan for the Beaver Brook Elementary School. He thanked the members of the Beaver Brook's School Council for their commitment and work both last year and this year to develop the last two year's School Improvement Plans. He gave a summary of the 2021-2022 goals highlighting the work of staff in teams and departments to re-establish connections to curriculum, routines and relationships for students, families and staff, coming out of a Pandemic. Providing rigorous and relevant curriculum and instruction in an optimal learning environment was successful due the WIN (What I Need) Model and based on the individual needs of students at each grade level. The continuation of developing a positive climate for students, families and staff was another goal this year which included many enrichment activities for the Beaver Brook School community. Dr. Basta then highlighted the three goals for the 2022-2023 School Improvement Plan which the School Council recently approved: Goal #1, *Improve reading proficiency of all students*; Goal #2, *Improve supports and outcomes for students with disabilities as well as English Learners*, and Goal #3, *Increase family engagement in student learning experiences*. He highlighted the activities and indicators of accomplishment for each goal, including a phonics program, an Orton Gillingham reading program training/implementation by special educators, increase implementation of DESE mandated SEI strategies in general education classrooms, hosting school wide curriculum nights, STEM and Literacy.

VII. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

A. Establishment of the Final Day for the 2021-2022 School Year.

Mr. Schafer stated that due to four inclement weather days, the last day of school for the 2021-2022 school year will be Thursday, June 23, 2022. He recommended that the School Committee set this date as the final day.

VOTED: on motion of Chris Coyle (Danielle Grafton) the members of the School Committee unanimously voted to set Thursday, June 23, 2022, as the final day of school for the 2021-2022 school year.

B. Consideration of 2022-2023 School Calendar.

Mr. Schafer stated that at last month's meeting we shared a draft calendar with Good Friday as a no school day and this evening in the School Committee's packet is a draft calendar with Good Friday as a school day. Members of the School Committee discussed this last month and took the time to hear

from families Dr. Moschella stated that for the 12-month employees Good Friday would be a floating holiday. The School Committee members recommended that the calendar be voted on this evening with Good Friday, April 7, 2023, as a school day.

VOTED: on motion of Danielle Grafton (Chris Coyle) the members of the School Committee unanimously voted to approve the 2022-2023 school calendar as presented with Good Friday as a school day.

Prior to adjourning Mr. Schafer stated that the Woodsdale School Principal search is being led by Dr. Moschella. She stated that a search committee has been established and the position has been advertised. The search committee met earlier this evening for the first time and selected certified and qualified applicants to interview next week. The charge of the committee is to provide Mr. Schafer with finalists and should a candidate come out of that pool that candidate would be introduced at the May School Committee meeting or the position would be re-advertised if there is no viable candidate.

VIII. ESTABLISHMENT OF NEXT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING DATE

Tuesday, May 24, 2022 @ 7 p.m.

IX. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

- Abington High School 2021-2022 Winter Season Recap
- Personnel Administration – Informational
 1. The Superintendent has accepted the resignation for the purpose of retirement of Margaret Cipriano as a Physical Therapist within the Abington Public Schools effective at the end of the 2021-2022 school year.
 2. The Superintendent has accepted the resignation of Natalie Collins as a paraprofessional within the Abington Public Schools effective March 22, 2022.
 3. The Superintendent has accepted the resignation of Jaclyn Farias as a Science Teacher within the Abington Public Schools effective at the close of the 2021-2022 school year.
 4. The Superintendent has accepted the resignation of Kelly Foley as a BCBA within the Abington Public Schools effective on April 29, 2022.

5. The Superintendent has accepted the resignation of Jonathan Hawes as the Woodsdale Elementary School Principal effective on June 30, 2022.
6. The Superintendent has accepted the resignation for the purpose of retirement of Karen Kitterick as a Mathematics Teacher within the Abington Public Schools effective June 30, 2022.
7. The Superintendent has accepted the resignation for the purpose of retirement of Thomas Kitterick as a Science Teacher within the Abington Public Schools effective June 30, 2022.
8. The Superintendent has accepted the resignation of Joan Marrocco as a 15-hours per week lunch/recess paraprofessional within the Abington Public Schools effective on April 14, 2022.
9. The Superintendent has accepted the resignation of Kathleen McGuigan as an elementary teacher within the Abington Public Schools effective at the end of the 2021-2022 school year.
10. The Superintendent has accepted the resignation for the purpose of retirement of Nancy McSharry as a Reading Specialist within the Abington Public Schools effective June 24, 2022.
11. The Superintendent has accepted the resignation of Colleen Quinn as a paraprofessional within the Abington Public Schools effective on March 31, 2022.
12. The Superintendent has accepted the resignation of Karin Sanborn as a tutor within the Abington Public Schools effective on April 1, 2022.
13. The Superintendent has accepted the resignation of Casey Widmann as an elementary teacher within the Abington Public Schools effective at the end of the 2021-2022 school year.
14. On the recommendation of Matthew MacCurtain, Principal of the Abington Middle School, the Superintendent has approved the appointment of Rebecca Coburn as a substitute tutor within the Abington Public Schools effective on March 28, 2022, and continuing to on or about June 7, 2022.
15. On the recommendation of Chris Basta, Principal of the Beaver Brook Elementary School, the Superintendent has approved the appointment of Ashley Sarro as a TLC paraprofessional within the Abington Public Schools effective on Monday, April 25, 2022.

16. The Superintendent has appointed Megan Tomlin as the PreK-12 Site Coordinator and Academic Program Director for the 2022 Summer Programs.
17. On the recommendations of Jonathan Bourn, Principal of Abington High School, and Peter Serino, Athletic Director, the Superintendent has approved the appointment of the following additional coaches for the 2022 spring season:
 - Felicia Baptista Auxiliary Softball
 - Michael Barry JV Ultimate Frisbee
 - Jason Brown Freshman Baseball
 - Owen Kearney JV Boys' Lacrosse

- **Dates to Remember**

1. Sat., April 30 – Abington Town Elections 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. @ BBES
2. Sat., April 30 – Cleanup Day at Ames Nowell State Park
3. Wed., May 4 – Green Wave Boosters Meeting
4. Tues., May 24 – School Committee Meeting @ 7 p.m.
5. Wed., May 25 – Inservice/Early Release Day

X. **ADJOURNMENT**
@ 8:21 p.m.

VOTED: on motion of Danielle Grafton (Julie Groom)
 the members of the School Committee
 unanimously voted to adjourn the April 26,
 2022, School Committee meeting at 8:21 p.m.

Danielle Grafton, Secretary