

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

Ms. Happel asked that everyone remain standing after the flag salute so that a moment of silence may be observed in memory of Katelyn McCarthy, a Senior at Abington High School, who recently passed away from a tragic accident. Ms. Groom thanked all the administration for all they did for the students giving them the space to grieve and express themselves.

Ms. Happel stated that at this time the School Committee will reorganize.

Ms. Happel requested a motion to give temporary chairmanship to Secretary, Danielle Grafton, for the purpose of opening nominations and completing the election for the position of School Committee Chairperson.

VOTED: on motion of Danielle Grafton (Wendy Happel) the members of the Abington School Committee unanimously voted to give temporary chairmanship to Danielle Grafton.

Ms. Grafton asked for nominations for Chairperson of the Abington School Committee. Ms. Happel nominated Danielle Grafton for the position of Chair of the Abington School Committee. Ms. Grafton nominated Chris Coyle for the position of Chair of the Abington School Committee; there were no other nominations; therefore, the nominations for Chair were closed and by roll call vote each member voted for their choice.

VOTED: by roll call vote (4-1), Chris Coyle was voted Chair of the Abington School Committee.

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

Ms. Grafton congratulated Mr. Coyle who then opened nominations for Vice-Chair of the Abington School Committee. Ms. Groom nominated Ms. Grafton (Ms. Happel seconded). There were no other nominations for Vice-Chair; therefore, the nominations were closed.

VOTED: by roll call vote (5-0), Danielle Grafton was unanimously voted as Vice-Chair of the Abington School Committee.

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

Mr. Coyle congratulated Ms. Grafton and then opened nominations for Secretary of the Abington School Committee. Mr. Coyle nominated Ms. Hernandez (Ms. Happel seconded); Mr. Coyle nominated Ms. Groom. There were no other nominations for Secretary; therefore, the nominations were closed.

VOTED: by roll call vote (4-1), Heidi Hernandez was voted as Secretary of the Abington School Committee.

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

Mr. Coyle asked School Committee members to review the various subcommittee assignments and to reach out to him or Mrs. Minnehan before the June meeting. He stated that we will finish out this year with the subcommittees in place and the new subcommittee, if applicable, will begin in July.

II. HEARING OF VISITORS

None.

III. READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. April 26, 2022.

VOTED: on motion of Heidi Hernandez (Danielle Grafton) the members of the School Committee unanimously voted to approve the minutes of April 26, 2022, as presented.

At this time Mr. Coyle asked that Mr. Schafer introduce Ms. Barresi, the new Principal for the Woodsdale Elementary School, effective July 1, 2022. Mr. Schafer asked Dr. Moschella, as the Chair of this search committee, to introduce the new Principal. She began by thanking the members of the search committee; parents, Lynne Mullen, Pam Neely, School Committee member, Heidi Hernandez, Woodsdale teachers, Mrs. Clark and Ms. Pattison, and Dr. Basta, Principal of the Beaver Brook Elementary School. She gave an introduction of Ms. Barresi first reviewing her education and professional background, most recently as the assistant principal at MacArthur Elementary School in Waltham. Over the coming weeks she will work with Mr. Hawes to transition into her new position at Woodsdale. Ms. Barresi thanked all for this opportunity and she looks forward to getting acclimated over the next few weeks and is excited to get started. Mr. Schafer thanked Dr. Moschella for chairing the search committee.

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

A. Wellness Department Update.

Kate Casey, Director of Wellness, was present this evening to give a presentation on the Wellness Department for Grades K-12. She reported on the strengths of the department which included updating curriculum materials on an ongoing basis as new information is available; making adjustments to practice to meet the needs of the students; updated program for high school students. She also reported on areas in need of improvement such as meaningful professional development activities specific to health and physical education; new games and activities for students to expand offerings; increase the instructional time in grades K-4 in health and physical education and vertical alignment within several units of the health curriculum. Ms. Casey reviewed the curriculum by school/grade for health and physical education as well as enrollment over the past few years which has been increasing at the high school. She also stated that substance abuse education is weaved into the various presentations that have been offered such as Minding Your Mind.

School Committee members were pleased with the offerings, Life 101 and CPR, and thanked Ms. Casey for these updates and attending this evening's meeting. It was stated that the wellness curriculum will be posted on line for parents to view what is being taught at each school/grade level.

B. Proposed Revisions to the Abington Public Schools' Wellness Policy.

Kate Casey, Director of Wellness, reviewed the revisions to the Wellness Policy. Ms. Casey thanked all the members of the Wellness Committee. There are no substantive changes to the policy and she went through each change highlighted and bolded beginning with *carb count menus will be made available to everyone on the district's website and posted in cafeterias; removal of websites referenced due to unavailable link, striking out the piece around school sponsored events food offerings because it is mentioned in other parts of the document and this policy is centered around the school day; striking out safe routes to school which is no longer a program and was its own grant*; however, Mr. Schafer stated that we continue to communicate to students the safety protocols from the grant but the grant is no longer available.

School Committee members asked questions, in particular, about discussing eating disorders and Ms. Casey stated that this topic is taught in grades 7 and/or 8 and again in ninth grade health classes. Members thanked Ms. Casey for her presentation.

VOTED: on motion of Danielle Grafton (Heidi Hernandez) the members of the School Committee unanimously voted to approve the revisions to the Abington Public Schools' Wellness Policy as presented.

C. Announcement of the Chester J. Millett, Jr., Outstanding Teacher and Educational Support Personnel Award Winners.

Dr. Fedorowicz announced the winners of the Chester J. Millett, Jr., Outstanding Teacher and Education Support Personnel Award winners; Ms. Becky Lennon, a grade 3 teacher at the Woodsdale Elementary School, and Ms. Laura Brink, a tutor at the Beaver Brook Elementary School.. She thanked all that took the time to nominate as well as the committee members for their help in the selection process which is a difficult decision. The winners will be recognized by their peers on the opening day, August 29th. Members asked about the number of nominations and Dr. Fedorowicz reported that we received 67 nominations and within that there were a couple of duplicates (40 teachers and 11 support staff). It has gone up since going on line versus the paper submission. It was also noted if anyone misses the deadline to submit it is still nice to reach out to that staff member letting them know you appreciate their work.

V. **REPORT OF THE ATHLETIC DIRECTOR**

A. Consideration of Grade 8 Participation in High School Sports

Peter Serino, Athletic Director, was present this evening as a follow up to the meeting he attended back in March 2022. The purpose of this evening's presentation is to review the spring enrollment of grade 8 students in high school sports. He gave a recap of the waiver process to apply for grade 8 participation and that the spring season allowed for junior varsity lacrosse schedules for both boys and girls; a full softball roster and to also create a true track experience. He hopes to continue this program going forward. There was no negative response from the different youth sports groups. He stated that he would have to apply for a waiver for every sport individually with the MIAA and is not sure if he needs to come back annually for School Committee approval. It was recommended to remove for the 2022-2023 school year on the vote and to have this be ongoing. Mr. Schafer stated that School Committee could discontinue the program if they felt the need. Members asked that Mr. Serino come to future meetings with updates.

VOTED: on motion of Chris Coyle (Heidi Hernandez) the members of the School Committee unanimously voted to approve the participation of grade 8 students in high school sports.

Mr. Serino stated that there was talk about considering a high school girls' hockey program. He has started to explore this and had a meeting and 23 girls expressed interest, 18 showed up to the meeting and he followed up with a survey and 14 girls responded to the survey, one has played hockey, 2 know how to skate and six are no longer interested and two are interested in a varsity hockey situation. There seems to be interest but it was pared back. He stated that we could perhaps do a coop program and he will explore this option and come back to a meeting in the future. He also wanted to invite everyone to the 50th anniversary celebration of Title IX. There will be a video created by senior, Faith Ryan, panel discussion, and an ice cream social in the high school courtyard. The celebration begins at 6:30 p.m. in the high school auditorium on Thursday, June 9th.

Mr. Serino addressed the question around the MIAA requirement of coaches, players, administrators signing a diversity pledge and to take a course and he reached out to MIAA last week and he has not heard back. Mr. Schafer stated that this was going to be a requirement from MIAA to play but ultimately announced it was a pilot. Abington Athletics had this as part of the online registration for sports similar to the concussion policy and opioid policy and since it was a pilot program, it was removed. Mr. Serino will keep Mr. Schafer informed of any new information he receives from the MIAA around this program.

VI. **REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF STUDENT SERVICES**

A. SEPAC Award.

Dr. Robbins, Director of Student Services, was not present this evening; therefore, Mr. Schafer reported that the members of the Special Education Parent Advisory Council would like to honor a special educator in the district with the *excellence in special education award*. Communication went out asking for nominations for educators to include, special education teachers, paraprofessionals, tutors and related service providers such as school psychologists, speech/language pathologists, and occupational and physical therapists. A link was sent out to the school community and the nomination period will run from May 23rd until May 31st.

VII. **PRINCIPALS' REPORTS**

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

1. SY 2022-2023 School Improvement Plan

Mr. MacCurtain was present this evening to present to the School Committee the 2022-2023 School Improvement Plan for Abington Middle School. He thanked the members of the Middle School's School Council. He highlighted a few of the activities that had a positive impact at the Middle School such as the addition of a STEAM teacher, and an adjustment counselor, the creation of a partial inclusion program to meet the needs of special education students in grades 7 & 8, the creation of a new bell schedule allowing for a homeroom extension one day per week, the creation of the after-school BOOST program and various extra-curricular activities such as the grade 8 student participation in high school sports and the implementation of the Best Buddies program to name a few.

Mr. MacCurtain then reviewed goal one; *increase student achievement through enhancements to Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment*. The activities and/or professional development around this goal include analyzing local, common and statewide assessment and curricular progress, utilizing a coaching and professional development model to continue to work focused on grade 5 ELA and grades 5-8 mathematics; building upon and strengthening existing extracurricular intervention programming and developing and implementing an advisory and intervention model. Goal two; *continue to cultivate a safe, welcoming and inclusive school community that builds on existing strengths and increases students' social emotional executive functioning skill level*. The activities and/or professional development around this goal include continuing to develop WAVE PBIS, developing and implementing an advisory and intervention model, continuing to provide professional development and resources to faculty and staff to build capacity in SEL and cultivate executive functioning skills in the classroom and continuing to collaborate with Woodsdale Elementary School to enhance the student transition from elementary to middle school.

B. ***Jonathan Hawes – Woodsdale Elementary School***

1. SY 2022-2023 School Improvement Plan.

Prior to his presentation Mr. Hawes thanked the School Committee and Community for the opportunity to be the Principal at the Woodsdale Elementary School these past five years. He then presented the 2022-2023 School Improvement Plan for the Woodsdale Elementary School. He thanked the members of the Woodsdale School Council for their work on this document. He reviewed the goals from the 2021-2022 Improvement Plan highlighting the achievements and programs for each goal, specifically, the technology department and their role in integrating throughout grades 3 and 4 utilizing for assignments, reading, annotation, assessments and submissions. He also highlighted the OWL program which highlights students' good work and character trait focus. He then reviewed the 2022-2023 Plan and its three goals; *implement practices to challenge students, support academic and social-emotional needs, and further technology utilization; create opportunities for increased community*

connections; and provide a healthy and safe learning environment through effective leadership and operations. He stated that we continue to address the support and evaluation and implementation of a balanced-literacy approach to English Language Arts. He also is pleased to continue to maximize partial inclusion and TLC integration to the extent possible based on the success and capacity of the individual student as well as increase the number of EL staff at Woodsdale. He also stated that in goal three a new activity is to establish a response to SEL needs, identified via student survey and teacher input.

Mr. Hawes stated that he will help the new Principal, Jennifer Barresi, making for a smooth transition. The School Committee wished Mr. Hawes well in his new position in Hingham as the Principal of the East Elementary School.

VII. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

A. Introduction of the New Principal for the Woodsdale Elementary School.

Mr. Coyle asked that Mr. Schafer present this piece of his agenda earlier in the meeting as noted.

B. Field Trip Request for the Music and Art Departments to New York City from April 28, 2023 through April 30, 2022.

Mr. Schafer reviewed the request from the Music and Art Departments' for a field trip to New York City in April 2023. This request requires approval from the School Committee due to it being an overnight, out of state field trip. This is a trip that had taken place pre-COVID and Mr. Schafer recommended that the members of the School Committee approve this request.

VOTED: on motion of Danielle Grafton (Heidi Hernandez) the members of the School Committee unanimously voted to approve the Music and Art Departments' Field Trip Request to New York City from April 28, 2023 through April 30, 2023 as presented.

VIII. ESTABLISHMENT OF NEXT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING DATE

June 21, 2022 @ 7 p.m.

IX. **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

- **Personnel Administration – Informational**
 1. The Superintendent has accepted the resignation for the purpose of retirement from Bernie Darcy, Director of Food Services, effective June 30, 2022.
 2. The Superintendent has accepted the resignation of Kiran Jayakumar as a mathematics teacher within the Abington Public Schools effective at the end of the 2021-2022 school year.
 3. The Superintendent has accepted the resignation of Megan Kaspar as an ELE teacher within the Abington Public Schools effect at the end of the 2021-2022 school year.
 4. The Superintendent has accepted the resignation of Colleen Quinn as a paraprofessional within the Abington Public Schools effective on March 31, 2022.
 5. The Superintendent has accepted the resignation of Griselis Sanchez as a paraprofessional within the Abington Public Schools effective on April 29, 2022.
 6. On the recommendation of Jonathan Bourn, Principal of Abington High School, the Superintendent has approved the appointment of Mike DiRado as a long-term substitute art teacher effective on Tuesday, April 26, 2022.
 7. On the recommendation of James Robbins, Director of Student Services, the Superintendent has approved the appointment of Renee Gassler as a long-term substitute school psychologist effective on or about May 27, 2022, continuing to the end of the 2021-2022 school year.
 8. On the recommendation of Julie Thompson, Assistant Principal of Beaver Brook Elementary School, the Superintendent has approved the appointment of Nancy Mahoney as a 15-hours per week lunch/recess paraprofessional effective on April 27, 2022.
 9. On the recommendation of James Robbins, Director of Student Services, the Superintendent has approved the appointment of Holly McKeown as a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) within the Abington Public Schools effective on July 1, 2022.
 10. On the recommendation of Jonathan Bourn, Principal of Abington High School, the Superintendent has approved the appointment of Susan Mullen as a long-term substitute math teacher effective on or about May 14, 2022, and continuing for the remainder of the 2021-2022 school year.
 11. On the recommendation of Matthew MacCurtain, Principal of the Abington Middle School, the Superintendent has approved the appointment of Dejanae Sheppard as a paraprofessional within the Abington Public Schools effective on May 20, 2022.

- **Dates to Remember**

1. Wed., May 25 – Grades 7 & 8 Spring Concert @ AMS Auditorium @ 7 p.m.
2. Thurs., May 26 – Last Day of School for Seniors
3. Thurs., May 26 – Senior Class Barbecue, Reilly Field @ 6:30 p.m.
4. Tues., May 31 – Music Banquet @ AHS Courtyard @ 6:00 p.m.
5. Wed., June 1 – Senior Athletic Awards @ AMS Cafeteria @ 6:00 p.m.
6. Thurs., June 2 – Senior Awards Night – AHS Auditorium @ 7:00 p.m.
7. Fri., June 3 – Senior Stroll @ 8:45 a.m. & Graduation Rehearsal @ AHS Auditorium
8. Fri., June 3 – Senior Picnic @ Reilly Field @ 11:00 a.m.
9. Sat., June 4 – Graduation @ AHS Front Lawn @ 10:00 a.m.
10. Mon., June 6 – Underclass Awards @ AHS Auditorium @ 8:30 a.m.
11. Wed., June 8 – Grades 5 & 6 Spring Concert @ AMS Auditorium @ 7 p.m.
12. Thurs., June 9 – Title IX Celebration @ AHS Auditorium @ 6:30 p.m.
13. Tues., June 21 – Regularly Scheduled School Committee Meeting @ 7:00 p.m.
14. Thurs., June 23 – Last Day of School for Students in Grades PreK-11

XI. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**
@ 8:47 p.m.

VOTED: By roll call vote, members of the Abington School Committee adjourned the regular meeting to enter into Executive Session to discuss strategy for negotiations with AEA Units A and B and in accordance to conduct a strategy session in preparation for negotiations with the following nonunion personnel: Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, Director of Student Services, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment, Principals and Assistant Principals and not to return to regular session.

Yes:
Ms. Grafton
Ms. Groom
Ms. Happel
Ms. Hernandez
Mr. Coyle