

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; Ms. Elizabeth Lindo, Student Representative; and Ms. Theresa Minnehan, Administrative Assistant.

II. **HEARING OF VISITORS**

None.

Mr. Coyle stated that school security is on the agenda this evening and he will allow questions during that presentation, however, this evening's meeting is not a public forum and the Superintendent is available for questions on this topic.

III. **READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. May 24, 2022.

VOTED: on motion of Danielle Grafton (Julie Groom) the members of the School Committee unanimously voted to approve the minutes of May 24, 2022, as presented.

Mr. Coyle stated that we will skip around on the posted agenda this evening. The minutes will reflect the order of the posted agenda.

IV. **PRINCIPAL'S REPORT**

A. *Jonathan Bourn – Abington High School*

1. Revisions to the 2022-2023 High School Student Handbook.

Mr. Bourn was present this evening to present the proposed revisions to the 2022-2023 high school student handbook. He stated that these revisions were submitted and approved by the High School's School Council on June 9, 2022. The proposed revisions include under Detention – page 8 - students *give their cell phone to main office staff member*; Explanation of Behavior and Consequences – pages 49-51 - add in potential consequences may include *E-Hallpass restrictions*;

Dress Code – page 74 - *students may request to meet with an administrator regarding any dress code concern*; Abington High School Statement of Academic Integrity – page 7 - *a student caught cheating will initially receive a zero for the assignment in question. Upon reflection and meeting with the teacher, guidance counselor, and/or assistant principal, another assignment may be offered for a student to earn back some or all credit for the initial assignment.* Absences page 8 - *it is important that families either call the high school to “report a student absence” or when the student returns to school from an absence, the student brings a note signed by the caregiver with the specific days and dates the student was absent and the specific reason(s) that the student was absent.* Attendance and Loss of Credit Due to Unexcused Absences – page 8 – replacing the word will with *may* throughout the paragraph.

School Committee members asked questions around excused absences vs unexcused, and Mr. Bourn stated the importance of parents communicating with the main office and that five consecutive days absent may require a doctor’s note. He stated that going on a family trip does not count as an excused absence, however, a phone call keeps the office informed to avoid a day-to-day call. Mr. Coyle asked about the buy back option and Mr. Bourn stated that the student who comes in on time and is in attendance for five consecutive days is allowed to buy back one unexcused absence. Members also asked about the wearing of hoods and Mr. Bourn stated the key word is “reasonable” and students are allowed to wear hooded sweatshirts. Members also asked about students who frequent the E-Hall pass and are out and about in the halls and bathrooms and Mr. Bourn stated that conversations with students are ongoing and communicating the number of minutes of instruction a student misses due to leaving the classroom is better received.

VOTED: on motion of Heidi Hernandez (Julie Groom) the members of the School Committee unanimously voted to approve the revisions to the 2022-2023 High School Student Handbook as presented.

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

A. Announcement of Special Education Educator of the Year Award by SEPAC.

Dr. Robbins, Director of Student Services, and Brenda Miele, SEPAC member, were present this evening to present the Excellence in Special Education Award to Margaret Cipriano, the inaugural winner. Dr. Robbins stated that the spirit of this award is to honor Special Educators who demonstrate advocacy, support, and partnership for students with disabilities. Margaret is recognized as a constant advocate for student needs, an exemplary practitioner of Physical Therapy, and a committed partner to families in order to achieve the best outcomes for children. He thanked Margaret for her years of improving outcomes for Abington’s students with disabilities as she retires from the Abington School District. Ms. Cipriano was grateful for this acknowledgement.

B. EL Department Update.

Dr. Robbins was present this evening to review and update the ELE (English Language Education) instruction for English language learners. He began with the number of staff at each building, teacher and tutors, as well as a Director for the program. These teaching staff members help students articulate English as a second language, facilitate growth in vocabulary, articulate thoughts, and the role of the tutor is to support EL students in the general population. He stated that two EL teachers will be added next school year one will be shared at the Woodsdale and High School and one for the Beaver Brook Elementary School. He defined terms such as EL, FELs (Former English learners) who are monitored for four years after exiting ELE services by ELE teachers, SLIFE are EL students with limited or interrupted formal education, and Sheltered English Immersion, an approach to teaching academic content in English to EL students. He reviewed the strengths of the program, such as strong relationships between student/EL teacher, programs for students such as after school tutoring, summer programs and field trips, and family engagement. Lastly, he reviewed the future direction for the ELE department including written curriculum, decreasing the EL drop out rate at the high school level, better servicing the SLIFE population and providing more social emotions support in their native language.

School Committee members asked questions around student/teacher ratio and number of the EL population entering the district, the curriculum for this population of students and inclusion in the general education and student mentors.

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

A. Update on School Security.

Mr. Schafer thanked Chief David DelPapa for attending this evening's meeting and for his department's collaboration. He stated that this evening we were asked to discuss safety and security in our schools. A number of years ago ALICE training began as well as the addition of cameras, upgrading locks on doors and the collaboration with the school department to keep our students and staff safe. He stated that some information we are unable to share to keep our school community safe from any potential harm. He shared that this is ongoing, and one can never feel completely safe. Chief DelPapa stated that school security is in the forefront of the department's mind and since taking over equipment upgrades have been made and regional training will take place this summer and he, too, cannot go into specifics but wants the community to be confident that the subject of safety is being addressed. Dr. Moschella spoke to a number of items such as recent capital upgrades and putting FOBs in all our schools for key FOB entry and there is no need to keep doors open or ajar. Staff are aware and check on doors regularly, a number of years ago the ALICE training was adopted, Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Countdown, Evacuate and those flyers are in our school buildings and students are taught the acronyms of ALICE based on age to help make decisions. All current and new staff have gone through training and/or watched videos and are refreshed yearly. In conjunction with our insurance company, we do a risk assessment such as remove high bushes from the building etc. to mitigate risk. The maintenance crew walk the buildings with the building department, fire

department and insurance company to make sure that all doors appropriately lock, fire doors close, and that lighting is appropriate. Chief DelPapa also addressed that safety starts with facilities, such as equipment, cameras, training, and the continuation of this process year after year and its success is based on communication between departments. Parents were present to ask questions, Shawna Torpey, Pinetree Lane, asked about the school resource officers and whether they will be in all our schools and Chief DelPapa stated that currently there are two SROs and they split up throughout the day to various schools and due to staffing they also respond to calls as necessary. He anticipates new hires in the department and will hopes for more coverage at the schools. The individual school Administration will communicate any issues to the SROs and one important piece is the transition to and from school and being visible at that time. She also asked about security consultants and Dr. Moschella spoke about that work with the insurance company around risk assessment such as school security, easy access in and out of the building, hardware of doors and locking mechanisms would be part of this assessment. Ms. Torpey asked how decisions are made to upgrade or for funding and Mr. Coyle stated that the school department budget is reviewed yearly, and that the town meeting could review any recommendations from the school department via a special town meeting. Dr. Moschella stated that recent upgrades to buildings went through a town meeting article and funded via town meeting. All our administrators except two and five police officers are ALICE trainers. Many of the upgrade suggestions have come out of the ALICE training such as additional cameras. Superintendent Schafer and Chief DelPapa encouraged any resident to reach out to them with additional questions. School Committee members recognized our current SROs for their hard work and presence throughout the community.

B. Consideration of Revisions to the Agreement Between the Abington Public Schools and the Abington Community Access and Media, Inc (CAM)

Mr. Schafer reviewed the Agreement with CAM, a five-year successor Agreement. He stated that we have student interns who benefit from working in the studio. A reduced rate of \$1,250 per month, was agreed upon due to expenses such as heat, lights, maintenance, custodial, and technical support. It is fiscally responsible and appropriate to present this Agreement as we work closely with cable to benefit the whole community. He stated that this Agreement was vetted by Town Counsel and that CAM is also in agreement with this successor Agreement. Mr. Schafer thanked Jessica Johnson and Peter Walters for working on this Agreement with the School Department. Mr. Coyle also thanked Kevin Tocci and the interns for building this program.

VOTED: on motion of Chris Coyle (Danielle Grafton) the members of the School Committee unanimously voted to approve the Agreement Between the Abington Public Schools and the Abington Community Access and Media, Inc. (CAM) as presented.

C. Revisions to the Abington Public Schools' Laptop Care and Use Policy Guide: A Resource for Students and Parents/Guardians.

Mr. Schafer reviewed the Laptop Care and Use Policy for grades 5-12. He stated that the document reviews care, precautions, expectations and common sense type of information on laptop care and use. He highlighted the costs for a new laptop and replacement parts stating that we have not had a lot of damage to our devices but there are a small number of individuals who run into problems and need to be accountable and this is for those individuals who struggle with responsible behavior with the laptop. School committee members asked about collection of laptops at the end of the school year and Mr. Schafer stated that there isn't a need to collect them and that upgrades are done once turned on and engaged in our WiFi. With the number of computers versus the number of staff this is the most effective way to manage them. School committee members agreed that students should take care of expensive equipment and it is a privilege to have this opportunity.

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' Laptop Care and Use Policy Guide: A Resource for Students and Parents/Guardians as presented.

Mr. Schafer at this time announced that Ms. Jessee Clements, Abington High School Assistant Principal, will leave to take a curriculum position in the Bourne Public Schools. He wanted to communicate that there will be an interim Assistant Principal search going on as we recently posted for this position. A thorough thoughtful search will happen next school year, early January. He hopes to have a person in place in the next week or two. The posting for an Interim Assistant Principal expired on June 17th.

VII. **REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**

A. Consideration of the Abington Cafeteria Association's Collective Bargaining Agreement.

Dr. Moschella reviewed the Cafeteria Association's Collective Bargaining Agreement stating that Bernie Darcy, the Food Service Director, is retiring at the end of this month and that Jean Connon, the Manager of Nutrition and Operations is replacing him in this role. Both have reviewed the job descriptions and acknowledge that responsibilities have changed since moving to 201 Gliniewicz Way. Therefore, there are job descriptions and salary scales to be reviewed and she is presenting this evening a fair compensation package and she noted that the Food Service program is self-funded. Ms. Happel asked about the next item, the increase of school lunches/breakfasts. Dr. Moschella stated that the state sets the price based on numbers of free and reduced lunches and reimbursement rates.

VOTED: on motion of Heidi Hernandez (Julie Groom) the members of the School Committee unanimously voted to approve the job description and the contract proposal for the Abington Cafeteria Association for fiscal years 23 through 25 as presented.

B. Consideration of School Lunch Price Increase for the 2022-2023 School Year.

Dr. Moschella reviewed the request for an increase in school lunches for the 2022-2023 school year. She stated that the last two years meals have been free for all students and at this point they will not be and we are looking for an increase for school lunch and breakfast. There are current bills at both the state and federal level for universal free lunch but as of today this is not happening and if it does happen it will automatically go into effect. Dr. Moschella encouraged parents/guardians to apply for free and/or reduced lunch and that the process is confidential and if you receive other subsidies from the state you are automatically qualified to receive free lunch. Dr. Moschella reviewed the application process for the free/reduced lunch program. Dr. Moschella stated the universal breakfast/lunch programs that some school districts qualify for are based on community reimbursement.

VOTED: on motion of Julie Groom (Chris Coyle) the members of the School Committee voted to approve the increase in school lunch and breakfast for the 2022-2023 school year as presented.

Yes:

Ms. Grafton
Ms. Groom
Ms. Hernandez
Mr. Coyle

No: Ms. Happel

C. FY-22 End of Year Budget Transfer.

Dr. Moschella reported that annually at this School Committee meeting she asks for a transfer of funds from the expense account to the salary account after all bills and staff have been paid. This year she is asking for a transfer from the expense account line to the salary account line making the salary account, \$19,941,217 and expense account, \$6,537,596, which does not change our budget amount for fiscal year 2022.

VOTED: on motion of Heidi Hernandez) the members of the School Committee

unanimously voted to transfer funds from the Expense Account line to the Salary Account line in the FY22 Budget as presented.

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

As needed
Wednesday, August 31, 2022 @ 6:30 p.m. Regular Monthly Meeting

IX. **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

- 2022-2023 School Year Bus Applications: it was brought to the community's attention that all bus applications are due by July 1, 2022. There is an on-line process for payment.
- Communication to Abington Music Parents Acknowledging Generous Donation: Mr. Schafer acknowledged the generous donation to purchase new uniforms for the growing band population.
- Powers & Sullivan, LLC, End-of-Year Financial Report, June 30, 2021
- READS Collaborative Quarterly Report
- North River Collaborative Quarterly Report
- 2022-2023 School Committee Meeting Dates
- **Personnel Administration – Informational**
 1. The Superintendent has accepted the resignation for the purpose of retirement from Janet Campbell as a paraprofessional within the Abington Public Schools effective June 23, 2022.
 2. The Superintendent has accepted the resignation of Jessee Clements as the assistant principal at Abington High School effective June 30, 2022.
 3. The Superintendent has accepted the resignation of Elisa DiRito as a teacher within the Abington effective June 30, 2022.

4. The Superintendent has accepted the resignation of Lauren Dooley as a paraprofessional within the Abington Public Schools effective August 1, 2022.
5. The Superintendent has accepted the resignation for the purpose of retirement from MaryAnn Ofstein as a 202-day secretary within the Abington Public Schools effective June 30, 2022.
6. The Superintendent has accepted the resignation of Annalise Sherman as an elementary teacher within the Abington Public Schools effective June 2, 2022.
7. On the recommendation of Megan Tomlin, PreK-12 Site Coordinator and Academic Program Director, the Superintendent has approved the following staff for the 2022 Secondary Summer School Green Wave Academy Program:

Teachers:

Zachary Carey	High School History/Social Studies
William Caseley	High School Paraprofessional
Catherine Ferris	High School Mathematics
Joseph Genest	High School Interdisciplinary Learning
Erin Murphy	Middle School Math/Science
Victoria Tansey	High School English

Support Staff:

William Caseley	High School Paraprofessional
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8. On the recommendations of James Robbins, Director of Student Services, and Elizabeth Despres, Director of ELE Services, the Superintendent has approved the appointment of the following staff for the 2022 ELE summer program:

Teachers:

Dilene Barbosa
Beth Quinn
Fraser Toomey

9. On the recommendation of James Robbins, Director of Student Services, the Superintendent has approved the appointment of the following staff for the 2022 extended school year (ESY) program:

Teachers:

Clare Adamczyk
Carolyn Bunszell
Jennifer Casey
Taiylor DeMarco
Allison Dennehy
Caroline Donahue

Grace Fantoni
Melissa Foley
Victoria Garvin
Stephanie Glynn
Devon Malono
Caitlin McGillicuddy
Jill Meegan
Sandra Meegan
Megan Muise
Katrina Park
Ashley Patterson
Erin Turner
Jill Wainwright
Kristine Walker
Adrienne Whalen
Jennifer Worden

Support Staff:

Jessica Ebert
Andrea Freedman
Leann Hesselschwerdt
Megan Wright

ABA Tutor
Speech Language Pathologist
Nurse
Occupational Therapist

Paraprofessionals:

Colleen Blanchard
Mallory Brink
Debra Buresh
Allison Doherty
Erin Doherty
Lauren Dooley
Donna Gendreau
Jillian Gonzalez
Susan Harrington
Allison Lindvall
Abbie Lyons
Matthew Lyons
Catherine Martin
Angela Nguyen
Abigail Odell
Jillian Park-Paige

10. 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 fall and winter coaches for the 2022-2023 school year:

Jim Kelliher	Head Football
Jim Daly	Assistant Football
Ed Reilly	Assistant Football
Scott Pifer	Assistant Football
Mbela Kabongo	Freshman Football
Tom Shepherd	Assistant Freshman Football
Brian Claus	Head Boys' Soccer
William Caseley	Assistant Boys' Soccer
Kate Casey	Head Girls' Soccer
Kate Cawley	Assistant Girls' Soccer
Tim Hill	Head Golf
Matt Campbell	Head Cross Country
Mike Caseley	Boys' Indoor Track
Kristin Gerhart	Fall & Winter Cheerleading
Judy Hamilton	Varsity Volleyball
Matthew Cutter	JV Volleyball
Tom Carey	Freshman Volleyball
Peter Serino	Head Boys' Basketball
Jason Brown	Assistant Boys' Basketball
Tom Carey	Freshman Boys' Basketball
Dan Norton	Head Girls' Basketball
Jennifer Worden	Assistant Girls' Basketball
Bryan Woodford	Head Ice Hockey
Ed O'Neil	Auxiliary Ice Hockey

- **Dates to Remember**
 1. Thurs., June 23 – Last Day of School
 2. Mon., August 29 – Teachers Report
 3. Tues., August 30 – Professional Development Day for Teachers
 4. Wed., August 31 – Grades 1-12 Report Back to School
 5. Wed., August 31 – Regular Monthly School Committee Meeting
 6. Wed., August 31 & Thurs., September 1 – AEEP & Kindergarten Orientation
 7. Fri., September 2 – No School for Faculty and Students
 8. Mon., September 5 – Labor Day – All School Buildings & Offices Closed
 9. Sun., September 18 – Abington Music Parents' 42nd Annual Craft Fair

X. ADJOURNMENT
@ 8:33 p.m.

VOTED: on motion of Heidi Hernandez (Julie Groom) the members of the School Committee unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting of June 21, 2022, at 8:33 p.m.

Yes:

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

Heidi Hernandez, Secretary