

Abington, Massachusetts

August 31, 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: 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.

II. HEARING OF VISITORS

None.

III. READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. June 21, 2022.

VOTED: on motion of Wendy Happel (Heidi Hernandez) the members of the School Committee unanimously voted to approve the minutes of June 21, 2022, as presented.

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

A. Introduction of Dr. Chris Basta, Director Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment

Dr. Basta was introduced this evening as the Abington Public Schools' Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment, a position he was appointed to on August 1, 2022. Dr. Basta thanked Mr. Schafer and the screening committee for the opportunity to serve in this new position.

B. Update on Elementary Professional Development.

Dr. Basta gave an update on this school year's elementary professional development which will focus on improving small group instruction by using student data working with both the building leadership and TLA. The focus will be on literacy, but the learning applies to all small group instruction and this work can transfer to math and science. Beaver Brook's curriculum review committee looked at phonics and recommended project READ for grades 1 and 2 and Lively Letters for Kindergarten, both phonics programs that we purchased. The coaching teachers will receive will be directly through the company and webinars. Wooddale will also focus on literacy this year. There will be a committee at both schools to look at next steps.

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

A. 2022 Extended School Year Wrap Up.

Dr. Robbins reported on the 2022 extended school year programs including the special education and English learners' programs. The extended school year program is available to students with disabilities who are vulnerable to regression. This is part of a federal and state requirement where we prevent regression and prepare students for the year ahead. Dr. Robbins stated that the program allows for an opportunity to trial new intervention arrangements for students such as attempting new student groupings and to work through challenges. Teachers seek fun learning opportunities such as field trips to the library and Timber Lanes bowling and music appreciation for the preschool students. He gave a breakdown of the number of staff both certified and support staff, the content addressed, 114 students participated out of 131 eligible and the hours, four hours per day four days per week. Transportation was IEP dependent. He then reviewed the English Learner Education program which was offered due to ESSER funding. The purpose of the EL summer program was to prepare level 1 and 2 EL students for the 2022-2023 academic year. Level 1 students focused on language support, high school students completed a hands-on learning activity where they read through dialogues, looked at evidence and assessed suspects to solve a crime. Students were able to practice their reading and writing skills in a more relaxed, targeted environment. He gave a breakdown of the number of staff both certified and support staff, grades levels served, student participation, 30 out of 45 eligible and the duration of the program, four hours per day four days per week. Most students received transportation.

B. 2022 Summer Program Review

Dr. Basta gave an update on the summer boost programs starting with the rising grade 2 reading program which was to help maintain the growth during the school year using ESSER funds. Dr. Basta reviewed the intent of the program and highlighted the activities. The program was for students not eligible for the extended school year program or summer EL services but for students who were 2 or more levels below the reading benchmark on the grade 1 spring reading assessment and/or based on teacher recommendation. Students engaged in daily play-based centers to develop essential skills in phonics, sight words, reading comprehension and writing and received small group guided reading instruction. Students increased confidence and competency to help boost readiness for second grade. There were 2 certified staff members and 4 support staff. Twenty one out of 40 invited participated in the program, four hours per day for four days per week. The program was flexible around family planned vacation; however, vacation plans and transportation needs were factors in families lack of participation in the program. Exit evaluations took place and will be prepared and shared with the school committee members.

Dr. Basta then reviewed the more traditional summer program for students in grades 7-12, the Green Wave Summer Academy, a program for credit recovery and promotion

requirements. Megan Tomlin was the Director of this program and she also helped with the ESY and EL programs. Overall the students had a good experience. Out of the 50 students attending, 46 earned credit. Middle School Humanities and STEM, High School Algebra 1 & 2, Geometry, History, English and Interdisciplinary Studies were offered for students. The program had seven certified staff members, two support staff and ran for 1.5 hours per day, four days per week for four weeks. Twenty-five students availed themselves to the free transportation that was provided. All programs were held at the middle/high school complex.

The last focus over the summer was enrichment camps. A summer instrumental camp with 52 students in grades 5-8 participated for two 2-hour sessions, three days per week for two weeks as well as twenty students in grades 9-12 participated in the strength and conditioning camp for two 1.5 hour sessions, four days per week for seven weeks. Dr. Basta thanked the members of the Abington School Committee, Mr. Schafer, Dr. Moschella and Dr. Robbins for supporting the summer programs as well as all the program staff.

C. 2022-2023 Home School Requests.

Dr. Robbins requested the approval of the twelve families to home educate their school-aged children. All families are 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 their request to home educate their child(ren).

VOTED: on motion of Heidi Hernandez (Julie Groom) the members of the School Committee unanimously voted to approve the Home Education Programs for the 2022-2023 school year as recommended by Dr. Robbins.

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

A. Back to School Report.

Mr. Schafer reported on the startup of the school year and that it went well in regard to class assignments, transportation and the return of staff and families, especially after two years of disruption. He stated that in addition to all the summer programs that took place this year buildings were prepared, the hiring process for new staff or new staff assignments was complete, schedules and assignments were made, bus assignments and routes, new student registrations and preparing buildings and individual classrooms. He also thanked the various departments within the school department and their staff for their assistance in helping to make for a smooth opening as well as the fire, police, the building department, library, PTO's, First Student, the DPW and the Abington School Committee for their support.

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

A. Update on Bus Registrations/Busing.

Dr. Moschella began by thanking the transportation summer staff. She reported on the process of establishing routes and stops for students and that over the last two weeks an additional 80 bus applications have been submitted and processed. She asked that parents/guardians be patient as these late applications mean changes to routes and stops. Tags are distributed and lists are updated for the drivers, all part of the process to account for our students. She also asked that parents give it a week or two for the routes to become more established. Next week with the start of kindergarten the Beaver Brook school buses will be slowed down.

B. Status Report on 2022 Summer Facility Projects.

Dr. Moschella talked about summer facility projects, thanking the maintenance and custodial staff and their summer crews. She highlighted some of the work done over the summer beginning with water and air filter replacements, furniture moved to appropriate locations, painting, plumbing repairs and floors were cleaned and waxed. The buildings look great and are very welcoming. There was concern around having a short amount of time to deep clean the areas around the summer programs presence at the middle/high school building, but the custodial staff was able to make it all work for the first day of school. She mentioned that the Town of Abington and the Green Community Group updated LED lighting, fans were added at BBES and Woodsdale to help with air flow. She also reported that the side soccer field is coming along and progress is being made. Seeding and fertilizing will take place before the winter and it is hopeful that light use of the field will take place in the Spring.

C. Update on the Breakfast/Lunch Programs.

Dr. Moschella communicated that this school year breakfast and lunch is free due to the Massachusetts State funding. Families are encouraged to apply for the waiver to get into other programs in the state to help them financially. She reported that the last couple of years lunch numbers were not required at the Beaver Brook and Woodsdale Schools but will now be rolled out slowly this year. They were used at Abington High School and Middle School last year. Families can receive their lunch numbers from the school administrative assistants or from the cafeteria staff. Students cannot get two free lunches but can pay for the additional meal and they also have to pay for snacks and water.

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

Due to a special town meeting on September 27th, the School Committee will look for another meeting date, to be determined and communicated in the near future.

IX. **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

- Announcement of the First Annual *Deirdre Volunteer Service Award* Recipient given by the Townwide PTO to Pamela Neely

Mr. Coyle recognized Pamela Neely as the first recipient of the Deirdre Volunteer Service Award for all her work volunteering in our schools. He also recognized and thanked the other nominees, Rachel Collins, Melissa Merrick, Susan Nash, Melanie Whitney and Katie Williamson.

- MASC/MASS Joint Conference, November 2nd through November 5th

School committee members were asked to let Mrs. Minnehan know if they are interested in attending the conference and she will register them for the conference

- 2022-2023 School Committee Meeting Dates
- 2022-2023 School Committee Subcommittee
- Welcome Back Letter to Staff

- **Dates to Remember**

1. Fri., September 2 – No School for Students
2. Mon., September 5 – Labor Day – All School Offices Closed
3. Tues., September 6 – Town Elections @ BBES
4. Tues., September 6 – AEEP and Kindergarten Begin
5. Wed., September 7 – Green Wave Boosters' Meeting @ 7 p.m.
6. Sun., September 18 – Abington COPES Road Race and Walk @ Woodsdale School – 9 a.m. start
7. Sun., September 18 – Music Parents' Craft Fair @ AMS/HS @ 10 a.m.
8. Thurs., September 22 – Inservice/Early Release Day for Students
9. Tues., September 27 – Special Town Meeting @ AMS/AHS Auditorium @ 7 p.m.

- **Personnel Administration - Informational**
 1. The Superintendent has accepted the resignation of Alyssa Barrientos as a paraprofessional within the Abington Public Schools.
 2. The Superintendent has accepted the resignation of Neve Browne as a paraprofessional within the Abington Public Schools.
 3. The Superintendent has accepted the resignation of Rachael Copenrath as a Specially Certified Tutor within the Abington Public Schools.
 4. The Superintendent has accepted the resignation of Heather Cordaro as a 3-hour per day cafeteria worker within the Abington Public Schools.
 5. The Superintendent has accepted the resignation of Janet Caron as a special education teacher/team chair within the Abington Public Schools.
 6. The Superintendent has accepted the resignation of Amanda Darling as a special education teacher/team chair within the Abington Public Schools.
 7. The Superintendent has accepted the resignation of Sharlene Fedorowicz as the Abington Public Schools' Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment within the Abington Public Schools.
 8. The Superintendent has accepted the resignation of Andrea Freedman as a speech language pathologist within the Abington Public Schools.
 9. The Superintendent has accepted the resignation of Victoria Garvin as a TLC paraprofessional within the Abington Public Schools.
 10. The Superintendent has accepted the resignation of Holly Hynes as a special education teacher within the Abington Public Schools.
 11. The Superintendent has accepted the resignation of Ceara Kelly as a tutor within the Abington Public Schools.
 12. The Superintendent has accepted the resignation of Cheryl Kelly as an elementary teacher within the Abington Public Schools.
 13. The Superintendent has accepted the resignation of Heather Sexton as a technology tutor within the Abington Public Schools effective August 29, 2022.

14. The Superintendent has appointed Dr. Christopher Basta as the Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment effective August 1, 2022.
15. The Superintendent has appointed Kate Casey as the Interim Assistant Principal at Abington High School effective July 1, 2022.
16. The Superintendent has approved the reassignment of Ed Donahue as an elementary teacher at Abington Middle School to an elementary teacher at the Woodsdale Elementary Schools effective in the 2022-2023 school year.
17. The Superintendent has approved the appointment of Marissa Hebert as a speech language pathologist assistant within the Abington Public Schools for the 2022-2023 school year.
18. The Superintendent has approved the reassignment of Nicholas Rodriques as a special education teacher at the Woodsdale Elementary School to a Team Chair at the Woodsdale and Beaver Brook Elementary Schools effective in the 2022-2023 school year.
19. The Superintendent has approved the appointment of Diane Salvetti as a long-term substitute math teacher for Ms. Lauren Bates effective on September 6, 2022, and continuing to October 3, 2022.
20. The Superintendent has approved the appointment of Melanie Savicke as the Interim Assistant Principal at the Beaver Brook Elementary School effective August 17, 2022.
21. The Superintendent has approved the reassignment of the following paraprofessionals to a tutor position within the Abington Public Schools for the 2022-2023 school year:

Colleen Blanchard	Middle School Math Interventionist
Shannon Burke	High School Tutor
Melissa Manley	Middle School Tutor
Michelle Meehan	BBES/WES Technology Tutor
Susan Tirrell	Middle School Math Interventionist
22. On the recommendation of Jonathan Bourn, Principal of Abington High School, the Superintendent approved the appointment of the following staff for the 2022-2023 school year:
 - Shannon Burke Tutor
 - Frank Cormos One-Year Substitute Wellness Teacher
 - Allison Dennehy Math Teacher
 - Jamaal Dixon Special Education Teacher
 - Catherine Ferris Math Teacher

- Philip Foley Math/Computer Science Teacher
- Matthew Henriksen Wellness Teacher for Middle/High School
- Moira Leon Special Education Teacher (CBV Program)
- Olivia Leonardo Math Teacher
- Rebekah Lish Biology/Environmental Science Teacher
- David Lyons Paraprofessional
- Julia Pendrak Tutor
- Beth Quinn EL Teacher
- Ross Weber Science Teacher
- Katrina Wilson World Languages Teacher

23. On the recommendation of Matthew MacCurtain, Principal of the Abington Middle School, the Superintendent approved the appointment of the following staff for the 2022-2023 school year:

- Connor Bennett Science Teacher
- Samantha Bollin Paraprofessional
- Carolyn Bunszell Paraprofessional
- Bridget Byrne Grade 5 Teacher
- Brennah Campbell School Psychologist
- Michael Caseley Math Teacher
- Joseph Costantino Digital Literacy/Computer Science
- Christen Couture .5 Art Teacher for Middle/High School
- Amy LeFort English Teacher
- Kyra Hockey Paraprofessional
- Lindsey MacNeil Geography Teacher
- Jill Meegan Special Education Teacher
- Katelyn Minnehan Specially Certified Tutor
- Laura Regan Grade 6 Teacher
- Susan Saunders Grades 5 & 6 Literacy Specialist
- Stephanie Shields Special Education Teacher
- Stephen Werra One Year Substitute Wellness Teacher

24. On the recommendation of Jennifer Barresi, Principal of the Woodsdale Elementary School, the Superintendent approved the appointment of the following staff for the 2022-2023 school year:

- Michelle Beatrice Special Education Teacher
- Jason Drinkwater EL Teacher
- Carol Duchaney Recess/Lunch Paraprofessional
- Cynthia Gannon Special Education Teacher
- Kristen Lewis .2 Music Teacher
- Amber McNamara Grade 3 Teacher
- Melissa Moore EL Teacher

- Susan Mullen Grade 3 Teacher
- Kasey Zielinski Grade 4 Teacher

25. On the recommendation of Chris Basta/Julie Thompson, Principal of the Beaver Brook Elementary School, the Superintendent approved the appointment of the following staff for the 2022-2023 school year:

- Keila Alves EL Teacher
- Claudia Barry 15-Hours Per Week Title One Para
- Marisa Clougher One-Year Substitute Special Education Teacher
- Ashley Cuomo Kindergarten Paraprofessional
- Jessica Deery Paraprofessional
- Donna Desmond Paraprofessional
- Michele Donlon Speech Language Pathologist
- Tessa Dracoules .4 School Nurse
- Melissa Foley Special Education Teacher
- Matthew Galvin Paraprofessional
- Courtney MacFadgen Grade 2 Teacher
- Katie McPhee Recess/Lunch Para
- Sonia Nunes EL Tutor
- Julie Porter Reading Teacher
- Kristina Quigley Special Education Teacher
- Brendan Remillard Paraprofessional
- Susan Sayce Recess/Lunch Para
- Julia Thompson Interim Principal

26. On the recommendation of Annie Robinson, Coordinator of the Early Education Program, the Superintendent has approved the appointment of the following staff member for the 2022-2023 school year:

- Taiylor DeMarco Paraprofessional
- Michelle Hart Administrative Assistant
- Stacey Roberts Paraprofessional

27. On the recommendation of Jean Connon, Director of Food Services and Custodial Services, the Superintendent has approved the appointment of the following staff Members for the 2022-2023 school year:

- Deidre Antes Manager of Nutrition & Food Services Operations
- Karima Yakouty Cafeteria Worker

28. On the recommendations of Jonathan Bourn, Principal of Abington High School, and Peter Serino, Athletic Director, the Superintendent has approved the following coaches for the 2022-2023 school year:

- Kiana Bueno Fitness

- Matthew Henriksen JV Golf
 - Samantha Zina JV Girls' Soccer
29. On the recommendations of Jonathan Bourn, Principal of Abington High School, and Peter Serino, Athletic Director, the Superintendent has approved the following volunteer fall coaches for the 2022-2023 school year:
- **Boys Soccer:**
Jose Andrade, John Stark
 - **Girls' Soccer:**
Olivia Leonardo
 - **Football:**
Joe D'Antonio, Keith Faxon, Kalonji Kabongo and David Lyons
 - **Cheerleading:**
Jen Krouse and Sue Pack
30. The Superintendent has granted Ms. Katelyn Hawkes, a special education 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 August 29, 2022 and continue to on or about October 24, 2022.
31. The Superintendent has granted Mr. James Gorman, a wellness teacher within the Abington Public Schools, a career leave of absence as stipulated in Article XXV of the Unit A Agreement for the 2022-2023 school year.
32. The Superintendent has granted Ms. Melanie Savicke, a special education teacher within the Abington Public Schools, a career leave of absence as stipulated in Article XXV of the Unit A Agreement for the 2022-2023 school year.
33. The Superintendent has approved the following recommendations from principals for Professional Teacher Status beginning in the 2022-2023 school year:
- Jennifer Caseley – Abington Middle School
 - Orianne Greene – Abington High School
 - Katelyn Hawkes – Beaver Brook Elementary School
 - Sarah LaPointe – Abington High School
 - Rebecca Lennon – Woodsdale Elementary School
 - Timothy Leonelli – Abington Middle School
 - Patricia London – Abington High School
 - Kacie McCarthy – Early Education Program
 - Daniel Murphy – Abington High School

- Alison Rand – Beaver Brook Elementary School
- Nicholas Rodriquez – Woodsdale Elementary School
- Melanie Savicke – Beaver Brook Elementary School
- Rebecca Selenow – Abington Middle School
- Mercy Vaillancourt – Beaver Brook Elementary School
- Bridget Wakelin – Abington High School

X. EXECUTIVE SESSION
@ 7:28 p.m.

VOTED: by roll call vote, members of the Abington School Committee adjourned the regular meeting to enter into Executive Session to present updates on negotiations with the Abington Education Association Units A and B, and discussion of the Assistant Superintendent's contract and not to return to regular session.

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

Heidi Hernandez, Secretary