

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

**II. HEARING OF VISITORS**

Jaimi Pinola asked to speak about the selection process for books in school libraries. She brought to the attention of the school administration that there was an inappropriate book which the administration agreed to remove from the library. Mr. Schafer appreciated his communication over the past few days with Ms. Pinola and explained that there are policies and procedures in place regarding the selection of instructional materials and challenged educational materials. These policies are posted on our District's website for the community or parents to access. Mr. Schafer wants to honor free speech and not go down the road of censorship. Mr. Coyle encouraged parents to reach out to Mr. Schafer with any concerns.

Michael McDonald asked to be heard regarding the co-curricular clubs at the high school, GSA (Gay Straight Alliance) and GEM (Gender Empowerment Mission). Mr. Schafer stated that these are clubs where people can talk and feel comfortable and give support to one another and are available to anyone. Mr. McDonald asked what other avenues we can offer for these students. He would like more transparency when addressing the student's needs. Mr. Schafer said that it is confidential, and we ask the student to work with their family and that the staff in charge are well respected certified adults who do a good job with kids.

**III. READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. August 31, 2022.

VOTED: on motion of Danielle Grafton (Wendy Happel) the members of the School Committee unanimously voted to approve the minutes of August 31, 2022, as presented.

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

A. Music Department Update. (S. Shannon, Director)

Mr. Shannon was present this evening as a follow-up to last fall's presentation on the music department activities. He was pleased to report on the areas of growth from the last presentation which included a .2 music teacher position at the Woodsdale School maintaining and growing the numbers in the department and providing more robust and consistent instruction in grades 7 & 8 music electives. He reviewed the last four years' enrollment in performance-based and curricular classes, the strengths of the department which included exploring an SEL workshop for upcoming inservice days, increased marching band enrollment and the generous donation and work of the music parents to secure new uniforms for the marching band. He was also pleased to report that plans are confirmed for a New York City trip in April 2023 and that co-curricular offerings at the middle and high school are running at pre-pandemic levels. Lastly, Mr. Shannon reviewed areas of growth and challenges for the music department. He hopes to continue to advocate and request consideration of K-12 music department needs as part of an overall district vision for success, growth, and sustainability of the music program.

V. **PRINCIPAL REPORT**

A. *Matthew MacCurtain – Abington Middle School*

1. Consideration of an Out-of-State Field Trip to Philadelphia for the Abington Middle School, Grade 8 Students from June 8-10, 2023.

Mr. MacCurtain was present this evening to review and request approval for a field trip for eighth grade students to Philadelphia next June 2023. He is pleased to be able to report this evening on the return of this popular field trip. This trip is tied to our district curriculum, specifically the Grade 8 Civics classes. Mr. MacCurtain reviewed the itinerary for the three days, pricing, chaperones, alternate work for students who will not attend and fundraising to help decrease the cost. He stated that there is travel insurance of \$35 built in and families will be refunded if a student cannot attend up to 24 hours prior to the trip. The \$50 deposit is not refundable. There is an information session on October 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.

VOTED: on motion of Heidi Hernandez (Julie Groom) the members of the School Committee unanimously voted to approve the out-of-state field trip to Philadelphia for the Abington Middle School Grade 8 students from June 8 to June 10, 2023 as presented.

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

- A. Correspondence on Equity in Special Education Indicators and Initiatives Status School Year 2022-2023.

Mr. Coyle asked Dr. Robbins to review this piece of correspondence although it is under the informational section of the agenda. Dr. Robbins stated this document is a report card from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. They have indicators to measure a school department's progress on marginalized populations. It is the equity in special education indicators. They review our performance on three characteristics of our program, (1) are we over qualifying individuals for IEPs, (2) determine whether we are putting students in more restrictive situations and (3) seeks to measure if we are expelling and suspending special education students at a higher rate. This document is a clean bill of health for the Abington Public Schools Special Education Department.

- B. Additional Home School Requests for the 2022-2023 School Year.

Dr. Robbins requested the approval of two additional families to home educate their school-aged children. These requests came in after our August meeting. These 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 Danielle Grafton (Chris Coyle) the members of the School Committee unanimously voted to approve the additional Home Education Programs for the 2022-2023 school year as recommended by Dr. Robbins.

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

- A. Be SMART Safety Program. (Ms. Ellis & Ms. Maguire)

Prior to the presentation Mr. Schafer gave a brief description of the Be SMART program and Abington Public Schools' work years ago with this program and again getting information out to families. This presentation is not for or against gun ownership but about getting information out there on gun safety and being a responsible gun owner. The school and police departments will be sharing more information in the coming months. He thanked Ms. Ellis and Ms. Maguire for helping to get this campaign out to the community. Ms. Ellis and Ms. Maguire gave a very thorough and informative presentation on tips for talking with your child about gun safety, raising awareness about responsible gun storage, normalizing conversations about gun safety and security, educating and

sharing resources for both gun owners and non-gun owners. They shared research on gun death and injury amongst children. Mr. Coyle thanked them for attending this evening and sharing their presentation.

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

A. FY-2024 School Department Development and Article Planning Schedule.

Dr. Moschella reviewed the FY-2024 school department budget development and article planning schedule with the members of the Abington School Committee. This is the schedule that has been followed for many years on budget development. FY-2024 budget materials will be sent to principals, directors and department heads and meetings will take place during the first week of December in preparation for the preliminary budget hearing of the Abington School Committee on January 3, 2023. Subcommittee meetings will take place in the spring and the Town Manager has set April 3, 2023, as the Spring Town Meeting date.

VOTED: on motion of Julie Groom (Chris Coyle) the members of the School Committee unanimously voted to approve the FY-24 school department budget development and article planning schedule as presented.

**IX. NEW BUSINESS**

A. Report of the Resolutions Committee.

Mr. Coyle reviewed the handout in the packet entitled, Report of the Resolution Committee. He stated that he will hold on voting these resolutions until the October School Committee meeting. He reminded the members that Heidi, Julie and Wendy all expressed interest in attending the MASC/MASS joint conference in November and that a delegate representing the School Committee on Wednesday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> will need to be appointed which will also take place at the October School Committee meeting.

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

*Tuesday, October 25, 2022 @ 7 p.m.*

XI. **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

- 9-11 Hannah Tirrell, Jack Regan, Charlie Hernandez

*Mr. Coyle thanked Jack, Hannah and Charlie for attending and supporting the 9-11 tribute service.*

- READS Collaborative Quarterly Report – September 2022
- Correspondence on Equity in Special Education Indicators and Initiatives Status School Year 2022-2023

*Dr. Robbins reported on this under his section earlier in the meeting.*

- **Dates to Remember**

1. Wed., October 5 – SEPAC Meeting @ Abington Middle/High School Library @ 7 p.m.
2. Mon., October 10 – Columbus Day – All School Buildings and School Offices Closed
3. Tues., October 11 – GreenWave Boosters’ Meeting @ AHS @ 7 p.m.
4. Wed., October 12 – Learning Expo @ Woodsdale School @ 6 p.m.
5. Wed., October 12 AEF Board Meeting @ Town Hall @ 7 p.m.
6. Sun., October 16 – Green Wave Boosters’ Annual Door-to-Door Drive from Abington Town Hall from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
7. Tues., October 25 – Regularly Scheduled School Committee Meeting @ AMS/AHS Library at 7:00 p.m.

*Mr. Coyle highlighted additional events being held by the Abington Education Foundation (AEF) such as a new logo contest, a meet and greet on October 23<sup>rd</sup>, and a trivia night in early January 2023.*

- **Personnel Administration - Informational**

1. On the recommendation of Jean Connon, Director of Food Services, the Superintendent has approved the appointment of Heather Cordaro as a three hour per day cafeteria worker within the Abington Public Schools effective on Monday, September 19, 2022.
2. On the recommendation of Jonathan Bourn, Principal of Abington High School, the Superintendent has approved the appointment of Ashley Dinsmore as an EL tutor within the Abington Public Schools effective on Monday, September 12, 2022.

3. On the recommendation of Matthew MacCurtain, Principal of the Abington Middle School, the Superintendent has approved the appointment of Patricia Griffith as a paraprofessional within the Abington Public Schools effective on Thursday, September 1, 2022.
4. On the recommendation of Matthew MacCurtain, Principal of the Abington Middle School, the Superintendent has approved the appointment of Jordana Gomes as a paraprofessional within the Abington Public Schools effective on Monday, September 19, 2022.
5. On the recommendation of Matthew MacCurtain, Principal of the Abington Middle School, the Superintendent has approved the appointment of Gianna Johnson as a paraprofessional within the Abington Public Schools effective on Monday, September 12, 2022.
6. On the recommendations of James Robbins, Director of Student Services, and Ms. Julie Thompson, Principal of the Beaver Brook Elementary School, the Superintendent has approved the appointment of Tracy King as a long-term substitute TLC paraprofessional within the Abington Public Schools effective on Monday, September 19, 2022.
7. On the recommendation of Matthew MacCurtain, Principal of the Abington Middle School, the Superintendent has approved the appointment of Michaela Neves as a paraprofessional within the Abington Public Schools effective on Wednesday, August 31, 2022.
8. On the recommendation of Jennifer Barresi, Principal of the Woodsdale Elementary School, the Superintendent has approved the reassignment of Laura Nuttall from a paraprofessional position to an EL tutor position at the Woodsdale Elementary School effective on Monday, September 26, 2022.
9. On the recommendation of Jennifer Barresi, Principal of the Woodsdale Elementary School, the Superintendent has approved the appointment of Stacy Reed as an EL teacher within the Abington Public Schools effective on Monday, September 19, 2022.
10. On the recommendations of James Robbins, Director of Student Services, and Ms. Jennifer Barresi, Principal of the Woodsdale Elementary School, the Superintendent has approved the appointment of Laura Storey as a specially certified tutor within the Abington Public Schools effective on Wednesday, September 21, 2022.
11. 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 coaches for the 2022-2023 school year:
  - Connor Bennett                      Auxiliary Cross Country
  - Matthew Henriksen                  JV Golf

12. On the recommendation of Jonathan Bourn, Principal of Abington High School, the Superintendent has approved the appointment of the following advisors for the 2022-2023 school year:

• Patricia London	Honor Society
• Victoria Tansey	(ACE) Academic Center for Enrichment
• Daniel Murphy	Student Council
• Megan Tomlin	Spring Musical Producer Newspaper
• Brian Lanner	Anti-Bullying Club
• Bill Siegel	Peer Leader
• Karin Daisy	Gay Straight Alliance Club Global Studies
• Steve Shannon	Director of the Fall Show, Drama Society & Music Director/Conductor
• Brendan Remillard	Producer Fall Show
• James Sullivan	Director of the Musical
• Presley Mahanna	Costumer
• Kelly Woodrow	Art/Scenic Design Director
• Henry Beckvold	Technical Director
• Susan Mullen	Sophomore Class
• Susan Harrington & Katrina Park	Senior Class Co-Advisors
• Shannon Burke	Junior Class
• Christen Couture	Visual Art/Media Club
• Adam Talbot	High School Intramural
• Jason Scott & Matt Cutter	Gaming Club Co-Advisors
• Erin Slayton	Yearbook Advisor
• Tim Leonelli	Jazz Band & Middle School Enrichment
• Janny Kelliher	HS Student Account Bookkeeper
• Tim Leonelli & Charlie Blanchette	Co-Marching Band Advisors
• Bridget Wakelin	Unified Sports

13. On the recommendation of Matthew MacCurtain, Principal of Abington Middle School, the Superintendent has approved the appointment of Ann Parks as the middle school student account bookkeeper.

XII. **ADJOURNMENT**  
@ 8:03 p.m.

VOTED: on motion of Julie Groom (Heidi Hernandez) the members of the School Committee unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting of September 28, 2022, at 8:03 p.m.

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Heidi Hernandez, Secretary