

Minutes, January 24,  
2023

Abington, Massachusetts

January 24, 2023

Regular Meeting

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

A regular meeting of the School Committee was held in the Library at 201 Gliniewicz Way.

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 for Business and Finance; Ms. Elizabeth Lindo, Student Representative and Ms. Danielle Gaylor, Executive Secretary.

Mr. Coyle and Mr. Schafer acknowledged Danielle Gaylor as the new Executive Assistant to the Superintendent of Schools beginning on February 1, 2023

II. **HEARING OF VISITORS**

Paul Haggerty of 515 Summer St. asked to speak and commended Chris Coyle on his leadership and composure during the months of September through January. Tony De Bono 98 Temple Street asked to speak and thanked the Committee for voting to uphold the Superintendent's decision to keep the book "*This Book Is Gay*" in the library, he also reiterated a censorship request for Committee Member Happel.

Committee Member Wendy Happel publicly apologized to Committee Member Julie Groom and read a statement explaining her points and addressing the events from the January 3<sup>rd</sup> School Committee Meeting. She reiterated her concern about student access to the materials in the book "This Book Is Gay".

III. **READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Coyle made a request to update his motion in the meeting minutes from the January 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting to read "Chris Coyle asked for a motion to support the appeal of the Superintendent's decision to keep the book, *This Book is Gay* on the high school library."

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VOTED: on motion of Chris Coyle (Julie Groom) the members of the School Committee unanimously voted to approve the minutes of January 3<sup>rd</sup>, with corrected amendment

IV. **Report of Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment**

Jason Scott, Department Head of Social Studies and Business provided updates on his department. He discussed the department's Thematic Approach to World History. He shared that his department will be implementing a high-quality performance assessment to meet the expectation of the Vision of the Graduate. Mr. Scott also discussed how they are addressing the accountability and expectations of students post covid. In addition, Mr. Scott reviewed AP testing data, and any areas of improvement as it pertains to the overall AP scores. He also touched on AP class recruiting i.e. teacher recommendations. Lastly, he shared that an AP Psychology class will be added to the curriculum for next year.

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Nicole Corbett, Department Head of the Science Engineering & Technology Department provided curriculum updates and discussed the department's areas of growth that included the add on of an additional AP class. She used MCAS data to determine areas of need and made changes to accommodate students in need of additional support. She indicated that the use of new materials and technology attributed to the success of the students. Ms. Corbett reviewed AP testing data, and any areas of improvement as it pertains to the overall scores. She also touched on AP class recruiting i.e. teacher recommendations.

#### **V. Principal Report**

Jonathan Bourn, Abington High School Principal presented the proposed revisions to the 2023- 2024 High School program of Studies which include adding the following classes:

##### **Mathematics**

- Engineering Design and Development for Grades 10,11 & 12
- Senior Math Grade 12

##### **Social Studies**

- Psychology Grade 12

##### **World Language**

- Portuguese I Grades 9-12
- Portuguese II Grades 10-12

##### **Special Education**

- Replace Academic Support Grades 9-10 (unleveled) with 2 separate courses, one course for grade 9 students and one course for grade 10 students.

Mr. Bourn also announced that Abington High School was awarded accreditation through NEASC by meeting all foundation elements.

VOTED: on motion of Chris Coyle (Heidi Hernandez) the members of the School Committee unanimously voted to approve the proposed revisions to the 2023-24 HS Program of Studies as presented

#### **V1. Report of the Superintendent of Schools**

Superintendent Schafer spoke on the School Goals of 2023, which included the raising of academic achievement and the improvement of social, emotional, and mental health.

VOTED: on motion of Chris Coyle (Heidi Hernandez) the members of the School Committee unanimously voted to approve Mr. Schafers 2023 School Goals as presented

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VII. **NEW BUSINESS AND ESTABLISHING OF NEXT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING DATE**

*Tuesday, February 28, 2023 Regular Monthly Meeting*

VIII. **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**


- North River Collaborative's 2022 Annual Report
- Abington High School Guidance Newsletter
- Flyer from the Abington High School Foundation – Internet Safety Program
- **Personnel Administration – Informational**
  1. Mr. Christopher Coyle, Chair of the Abington School Committee, has accepted the resignation for the purpose of retirement from Mr. Peter Schafer, Superintendent of Schools effective on June 30, 2024.
  2. The Superintendent has accepted the resignation of Martine Augusma as a substitute paraprofessional within the Abington Public Schools effective on January 13, 2023.
  3. The Superintendent has accepted the resignation of Carol Duchaney as a recess/lunch paraprofessional effective January 20, 2023.
  4. The Superintendent has accepted the resignation of Marissa Hebert as a speech language pathologist assistant within the Abington Public Schools effective on January 31, 2023.
  5. The Superintendent has accepted the resignation of Janet Parsons as a recess/lunch paraprofessional effective January 13, 2023.
  6. On the recommendation of Jennifer Barresi, Principal of the Woodsdale Elementary School, the Superintendent has approved the appointment of Rachel Bowles as a recess/lunch paraprofessional effective on or about January 23, 2023
  7. On the recommendation of Jennifer Barresi, Principal of the Woodsdale Elementary School, the Superintendent has approved the appointment of Catherine Catrambone as a substitute wellness teacher effective on or about February 25, 2023 and continuing to on or about April 26, 2023.
  8. On the recommendation of Matthew MacCurtain, Principal of the Abington Middle School, the Superintendent has approved the reassignment of Sonia Nunes as an EL tutor at the Beaver Brook Elementary School to a tutor position at the Abington Middle School effective on or about January 23, 2023.
  9. On the recommendation of Jonathan Bourn, Principal of Abington High School, the Superintendent has approved the appointment of Seanna O'Donnell as the guidance administrative assistant effective on January 23, 2023.
  10. On the recommendation of Jennifer Barresi, Principal of the Woodsdale Elementary School, the Superintendent has approved the appointment of Heidi Rizzo as a recess/lunch paraprofessional effective on or about January 23, 2023

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11. On the recommendation of Melanie Savicke, Assistant Principal of the Beaver Brook Elementary School, the Superintendent has approved the appointment of Barry Sullivan as a recess/lunch paraprofessional within the Abington Public Schools effective on January 3, 2023.
12. On the recommendations of Jonathan Bourn, Principal of Abington High School, and Peter Serino, Athletic Director, the Superintendent has approved the appointment of Matthew Cutter as the Head Ultimate Frisbee Coach for the 2023 Spring Season.
13. On the recommendation of Matthew MacCurtain, Principal of the Abington Middle School, the Superintendent has approved the appointment of the following advisors:
  - Katherine Beckvold Enrichment Advisor (drama club)
  - Brendan Remillard Enrichment Advisor (drama club)
14. The Superintendent has granted Ms. Samantha Curry, a paraprofessional within the Abington Public Schools, a parental leave of absence in accordance with Option A as stipulated in Article VI, of the Unit B Agreement. This leave of absence will begin on or about January 9, 2023, and will continue to on or about April 10, 2023.

• **Dates to Remember**

1. Thurs., January 26 – Digital Safety Presentation sponsored by the Abington Education Foundation @ 7 p.m. @ AMS/AHS Auditorium
2. Fri., January 27 – Inservice/Early Release Day for Students
3. Wed., February 8 – AEF Board of Directors Meeting @ Abington Town Hall @ 7 p.m.
4. Fri., February 17 – Inservice/Early Release Day for Students
5. Mon., February 20 – Presidents' Day – All School Offices and Buildings Closed
6. Mon., February 20 – Fri., February 23 – Winter Vacation Break

  
Heidi Hernandez, Secretary