

Minutes, February 28
2023

Abington, Massachusetts

February 28, 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.

II. **HEARING OF VISITORS**

Acadia Manley of 1180 Washington St. asked to speak, she thanked the Committee on their handling of the book, *"This Book is Gay"*, she shared her feelings and the actions she took in defense of the book. She remarked that students have the right to be heard and feel safe. She suggested that a student should also be part of the Review Committee. Tony Debono 98 Temple Street asked to speak to challenge the amendments made in the Challenged Education Policy. Kurt Charbonier 184 Summer St. proposed that the committee change the number of members in the review committee to an odd number for voting purposes in the event of a tie. Heather Sage-Hartery 175 Randolph St. pointed out the KEC policy is in line with the American Library Association and The Massachusetts Library Association. Therefore, in her opinion the policy should be left as is. Mike McDonnell 3 Pine Crest Road ask to speak. Mike shared his beliefs on the importance of protecting our children and believes the book *"This Book Is Gay"* should not remain in the library.

III. **READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. February 28, 2023

VOTED: on motion of Chris Coyle (Danielle Grafton) the members of the School Committee unanimously voted to approve the minutes of February 28, 2023.

IV. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Chris Coyle opened up the discussion of appointing a new Superintendent of Abington Public Schools due to the retirement of Peter Schafer in June of 2024. He shared details on the different search options and the costs associated. After these options were discussed, Wendy Happel shared her feedback and suggested that Dr. Felicia Moschella, Assistant Superintendent of Abington Public schools should be considered for this position. The Committee unanimously spoke in support of Dr. Moschella's candidacy for Superintendent.

VOTED: on motion of Heidi Hernandez (Julie Groom) the members of the School Committee unanimously voted to appoint Dr. Moschella as Superintendent elect for the 2024-2025 school year pending successful contract negotiations

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V. REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF STUDENT SERVICES

James Robbins shared information on Care Solace, a new service for children and families of Abington Public Schools. These expedited services find mental health providers confidentially. He agreed to share out materials on the Abington website, Constant Contact etc.

VI. REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION AND ASSESSMENT

Michelle Poirier, Department Head of Art, provided updates on her department. She highlighted the strengths of her department as she discussed the Department's standard of curriculum. She shared her spacing concerns at the Woodsdale school. She also asked the committee to consider adding Advanced Digital Art to the AHS curriculum in the future. She talked about the district wide art show coming up and provided AP testing information.

Meg Doherty, Department Head of Math & Computer Science discussed her Department's areas of growth and shared that their goal as a Department is to make sure students are strong in problem solving, as well as to prepare students for the real world and then provided the strategies that the teachers use in the classroom. She and Dr. Basta, discussed the Math department's upcoming pilot program which will assess current curriculum, materials etc. Dr. Basta and Ms. Doherty will share updates. Meg also provided, offered the support tools that they currently have in place such as MCAS tutoring, after school help, NHS tutoring and Boost after school program. She shared an update on the Computer Science curriculum and shared test score results.

Chris Basta shared that the Chet Millett Award announcement will go out March 1st and the recipient will be announced in May. He also spoke about the Deirdre Volunteer Service Award and the DESE Student Achievement Awards.

VII. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDANT OF SCHOOLS

Superintendent Schafer announced the appointment of Julie Thompson as Beaver Brook Elementary School Principal, and Kate Casey as Abington High School Assistant Principal.

He shared and reviewed the amendments to the READS Collaborative Agreement.

VOTED: on motion of Chris Coyle (Danielle Grafton) the members of the School Committee unanimously voted to approve the READS Collaborative Agreement

VIII. REPORT OF POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE

The committee reviewed and voted on the enclosed proposed amendments to the KEC- Challenged Education Materials.

Amendment 1. VOTED: on motion of Chris Coyle (Wendy Happel) the members of the School Committee voted 4:1 on adding the phrase *including library books* to the first sentence in paragraph 1.

Amendment 2. VOTED: on motion of Chris Coyle (Wendy Happel) the members of the School Committee voted 4:1 not to include *the library material will be removed* in line 2.0.

Amendment 3. VOTED: on motion of Chris Coyle (Wendy Happel) the members of the School Committee voted 4:1 to keep and add the following verbiage to line 3 5 in the policy: *Input on who is designated can be provided by the resident make the challenge.*

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Amendment 4. VOTED: on motion of Chris Coyle (Heidi Hernandez) the members of the School Committee voted unanimously to remove amendment 3.6 and introduce 4.0 to read: *The resident challenging material as well as staff in charge of procurement or use of the materials can address the Review Committee prior to their reconsideration.*

Amendment 5. VOTED: on motion of Wendy Happel (Danielle Grafton) the members of the School Committee voted 2:3 to not include the following additional line in the policy: *It is recommended that the School Committee read library materials in question in order to make an informed decision.*

IX. REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Moschella provided an update on the FY Budget as well as an update on School Safety including recent ALICE drills. Also discussed the submittal of a Safety grant and announced the Stop The Bleed Training in partnership with the Abington Fire Department

X. NEW BUSINESS AND ESTABLISHING OF NEXT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING DATE

Tuesday, March 28, 2023 Regular Monthly Meeting

XI. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

- Personnel Administration – Informational

1. On the recommendations of Jonathan Bourn, Principal of Abington High School, the Superintendent has approved the appointment of Kate Casey as the Assistant Principal, effective July 1, 2023
2. On the recommendation of the Screening Committee, The Superintendent has appointed Julie Thompson as the Principal of Beaver Brook Elementary School effective July 1, 2023
3. On the recommendation of Julie Thompson, Principal of the Beaver Brook Elementary School, the Superintendent has approved the reassignment of Haylee Goodwin as a TLC paraprofessional at the Beaver Brook Elementary School to a Grade 2 Special Education Para at the Beaver Brook effective February 28, 2023
4. The superintendent has accepted the resignation of Rachel Bowles as a Recess/Lunch Paraprofessional at the Woodsdale Elementary School effective February 24, 2023
5. On the recommendations of Jonathan Bourn, Principal of Abington High School, the Superintendent has approved the appointment of Caroline Smith as a Tutor effective February 15, 2023
6. On the recommendation of Julie Thompson, Principal of the Beaver Brook Elementary School, the Superintendent has appointed Jacob Mullen as the TLC Paraprofessional at the Beaver Brook Elementary School effective February 17, 2023.
7. The superintendent has accepted the resignation of Brennah Campbell as a School Psychologist at the Abington Middle School, effective March 10, 2023

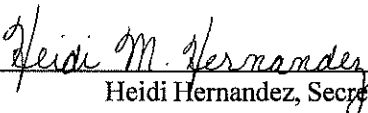
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- **Dates to Remember**

1. Tuesday March 7- Inservice / Early Release Day for Students
2. AHS Presents Carrie the Musical March 9th & 10th at 7:30pm and March 11th at 2:30pm
3. Tues., March 28-School Committee Meeting @ Middle/High School Library
4. Thursday March 30 – Inservice / Early Release for Students

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Members of the Abington School Committee entered into Executive Session at 9:10pm to discuss the parameters for a superintendent contract (see attached meeting minutes).



Heidi Hernandez, Secretary