

Chair, R. Cohen, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Roberta G. Doering School auditorium.

Present: A. Bonavita, B. Burbank, D. Juzba, C. Mineo, W. Rua, & S. Reed
W. Sapelli, R. Clickstein, A. LeClair & student representative Joseph Joyal

During Citizen's Speak Time, no one from the public came forward.

Under Highlights on Education, Mr. Sapelli, Dr. LeClair, Mr. Clickstein, the Committee, and viewing public were entertained by fourth grade students from Benjamin Phelps and Robinson Park Schools who performed a "Holiday Concert" of four songs under the direction of elementary music teacher, Paul Sawyer.

Under Superintendent's Notes, Mr. Sapelli reported on the following items:

- Congratulations to the Varsity Football Team for their 40-28 victory over arch-rival West Springfield High School on Thanksgiving Day.
- Congratulations to Miss Drake's Kindergarten class at Granger School who collected 1,124 food items during the recent *Mayflower Challenge*. Overall, this worthwhile event collected over 3,906 grocery items valued at approximately \$3,676.73. For their efforts, Miss Drake's class was treated to a pizza party.
- Congratulations to Granger School 4th grade student, Joseph Culhane, who won the Agawam Fire Department's contest to name the new ambulance, which was purchased for the Feeding Hills fire station. Chief Alan Sirois drove the new ambulance to Granger School on November 29th where he unveiled Joseph's winning name, which is "*Knight of Valor*."
- Congratulations to 8th grade student, Thomas Arcelaschi, who was selected as this year's "*Project 351 Ambassador*." Tom will attend a special ceremony in Boston on Martin Luther King Day.
- Congratulations to the *No Name Ninjas* robotics team which won a Golden Ticket to the *State Robotics Championship* on December 17th at WPI. Good luck to the team and their coaches, Mr. & Mrs. Rua and student mentor, Christian Rua, as they compete against 111 teams from across the Commonwealth.
- Congratulations to AHS freshman, Katie Dustin, who was named "*Athlete of the Week*" by MassLive for breaking two school records by winning the 200-yard meet and 100-yard backstroke meet.
- Reminder that the *Annual Holiday Pops Band Concert* will take place on December 14th at 7 p.m. in the high school auditorium. The event is free and open to the public.
- Reminder that the next DWST meeting will take place on Friday, December 16th, at 7:30 a.m. in the high school cafeteria. In addition, the January DWST meeting will take place on Friday, January 6th at 7:30 a.m. in the high school cafeteria.
- Announcement that Phelps School 4th grade music students will take their annual "walking field trip" to the Agawam Senior Center on December 21st where they will perform several holiday songs for the seniors beginning at 12 noon
- Announcement that the 8th *Annual Geography Bee* will take place on Thursday, December 22nd at 8:15 a.m. in the junior high school auditorium.
- Reminder that Friday, December 23rd will be a ½ day of school for all students and staff. Schools will be closed from December 24th until January 3, 2017.
- Announcement that the Fall Sports teams participated in several community projects during October and November including:
 - *The Girls Soccer team participated in the annual *Rays of Hope Walk on October 15th and the in the Crohn's and Colitis Walk on October 29th*.
 - * The Field Hockey Team and Wrestling Team participated in the "*Lisa's Light*" walk on November 20th to raise awareness of eating disorders.
 - * The Girls Volleyball Team participated in two "*Pink Games*" to raise breast cancer awareness.
 - * The Gymnastics team was awarded the *2016 MIAA Gymnastics Sportsmanship Award* on November 12th at the MIAA West Championships held at Minnechaug Regional High School.
 - * The Girls Soccer Team was selected to receive the *Bob McIntyre Sportsmanship Award* by the Pioneer Valley Soccer Officials Association. Coach Laura Ramos accepted the award at a banquet on December 7th.
- Wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy New Year.

Next, under Student Advisory Committee Representative Update, Joe reported on the following activities and events taking place at Agawam High School:

- The Winter Arts Festival on December 7th consisted of artwork and performances by the chorus. It showcased the talents of students and was a huge success.
- The Annual Band Winter Concert will take place on December 14th and is sure to be just as successful.
- The Winter Sports season has started and student turnout has been good. The cheerleaders are performing in their new uniforms and everyone is excited to see how the teams perform throughout the season.
- The National Honor Society recently participated in a Toy Drive in the Community Room of the Agawam Public Library. Six Flags and the community came together to donate toys to needy children. Hopefully, it will become an annual event.

Under Unfinished Business, there was none on the agenda.

Under Business Meeting, on a motion made by W. Rua, 2nd by A. Bonavita, the Committee voted to approve the November 22, 2016, regular meeting and Executive Session minutes. Also approved were the December 1, 2016, Legal Update Workshop minutes.

Vote: 7 - 0

Under Correspondence, Mrs. Juzba read a letter from Town Environmental Project Coordinator, Tracy DeMaio, who thanked the members of the high school's National Honor Society for their participation in the *Town's First Annual Toy Exchange*. She also read a message from Robinson Park School principal, Nicholas Bernier, thanking the "Be Kind Team" for their donation of *Buddy Benches* to each of the district's four elementary schools.

Next, on a motion made by S. Reed, 2nd by D. Juzba, the Committee voted to approve the following warrants as read: SW-17-32 in the amount of \$83,548.96; SW-17-33 in the amount of \$15,908.31; and SW-17-34 in the amount of \$224,703.94. Also approved was payroll warrant PW-16-15 in the amount of \$2,969,057.17.

Vote: 7 - 0

Under Reports, R. Cohen announced that the Committee should have received a LPVEC Update paper report in their packet of materials.

Under Subcommittee Updates, none were given.

Under New Business, due to timeliness, on a motion made by S. Reed, 2nd by W. Rua, the Committee voted to suspend the rules in order to take action on SCR-16-29, *Adoption of Municipal Modernization Bill Language Regarding the Signing of Warrants*.

Vote: 7 - 0

Then, on a motion made by W. Rua, 2nd by D. Juzba, the Committee voted to approve SCR-16-29.

Vote: 7 - 0

Items: All Committee members wished students, staff, the viewing public, and each other Happy Holidays. W. Rua thanked the town's Department of Public Works for assisting with placement of the *Buddy Benches* at the four elementary schools and at School Street Park. She also announced that Doering School students will be assisting with the placement of wreaths at the Veteran's Cemetery on Saturday, December 17th, as part of the national *Wreaths Across America* program. D. Juzba thanked the fourth grade students who sang earlier that evening, saying their annual holiday performance is one to which she always looks forward. S. Reed said she attended the *Winter Arts Festival* at the high school on December 7th and was amazed by the talent of students. B. Burbank provided an update regarding the 2016 MASC Resolutions to his colleagues. R. Cohen said that he hopes many will attend the *Wreaths Across America* ceremony on December 17th. He also expressed his gratitude to the parents and children who participated in the "Be Kind" program at School Street Park, noting how proud he is of those who took part in the project.

There being no further business, on a motion made by S. Reed 2nd by W. Rua, the Committee voted to adjourn.

Vote: 7 - 0

Time: 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Alexis Ferioli

Executive Assistant to the Superintendent & School Committee

D. Juzba, Committee Secretary