

Vice Chair, W. Rua, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Agawam Junior High School auditorium.

Present: A. Bonavita, C. Mineo, K. O'Connor, S. Reed, & T. Wilkie
S. Lemanski, S. Hoffman, & R. Clickstein

Absent: W. Sapelli & student representative, Honesty Osbourne

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

Under Highlights on Education, EL Director/ESL Teacher, Ashley Martins, provided the Committee with an update regarding the district's program for English Language Learners. In her presentation, the following information was shared:

- English Language Education statement
- 2017 LOOK Act
- ESL services mandated for preschool students
- EL Parent Advisory Council
- ELL Benchmarks & Student Success Plans
- Promoting EL Family Engagement
- School Culture Group
- Required confidentiality of district interpreters
- EL Parent Handbook
- Special Education vs. Second Language Acquisition
- Strong collaboration between the Special Services Department and the ELL Department
- ELL student population of 286 students
- 14 different languages serviced by district

At the conclusion of her presentation, a brief question and answer session took place during which Ms. Martins was thanked for her excellent report.

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

- Congratulations to the AHS Band, which was named "*Best High School Band*" for the 2nd year in a row by the St. Patrick's Parade Committee. Congratulations to junior Jamie-Lyn Cavallon, who was named "*Best High School Majorette*", and to band director, William Hueglin.
- Congratulations to Granger School 4th grade teacher, Carrie DiClementi, who is the recipient of the *2019 Barbara Capron Award for Excellence in Elementary Teaching*.
- Congratulations to Career Tech students, Caitlyn Sprague, who won a gold medal, and to Erica Couture, who won a bronze medal, in the *MA Skills USA District Conference*.
- Kudos to the high school's *As Schools Match Wits* team, which qualified for the annual tournament on March 30th and 31st. Good luck to coach, Keith Ireland, and the team as they compete against Lenox High School.
- Attendance at a meeting of the Community Preservation Committee on March 27th at 6:30 p.m. in the public library's Community Room. The Committee will be discussing funding for the *Agawam High School Learning Tree Conservation Park Design*.
- Announcement that the *Annual Spring Bands Concert* will take place in the high school auditorium on March 27th at 7 p.m.
- Attendance with Mrs. Hoffman at a *Social Emotional Learning* training in Pittsfield on March 28th, and in Methuen on April 1st.
- Announcement that the AHS Play Production Class will perform "*Til death Do Us Part*," on April 3rd and 4th in the school auditorium at 7 p.m.
- Announcement that the Budget/Finance Subcommittee will meet with the City Council's School Budget Subcommittee for the *Annual Joint Budget Subcommittee Meeting* on Thursday, April 4th, at 6:30 p.m. in the junior high school library.
- Announcement that *Kindergarten Screenings* will take place at Robinson Park School on April 1st and 2nd; at Phelps School on April 8th and 9th, and at Clark School on April 30th and May 1st.
- Announcement that the junior high school will host its *Annual Book Fair* from April 1st to April 5th.
- Attendance at the *Work Readiness Conference* at STCC from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on April 9th.
- Reminder that schools will be closed for the Annual Spring Recess from April 15th through April 19th. Schools will reopen on Monday, April 22nd.

Under Student Advisory Committee Representative Update, Honesty was absent so no report was given.

Under Unfinished Business, on a motion made by T. Wilkie, 2nd by C. Mineo, the Committee voted to approve SCR-19-10, *Approval of ECC Tuition Increase*.

Vote: 6 – 0 – 1 absent

Next, on a motion made by K. O'Connor, 2nd by A. Bonavita & C. Mineo, the Committee voted to approve SCR-19-11, *Approval of AHS Graduation Ceremony on June 9, 2019, at 1 p.m. in Symphony Hall*.

Vote: 6 – 0 – 1 absent

Then, on a motion made by S. Reed, 2nd by T. Wilkie, the Committee voted to approve SCR-19-12, *Approval of AJHS Trip to Washington, DC from April 15th to April 19, 2019*.

Vote: 6 – 0 – 1 absent

Next, on a motion made by K. O'Connor, 2nd by T. Wilkie, the Committee voted to approve SCR-19-13, *Approval of New District Strategic Plan*.

Vote: 6 – 0 – 1 absent

Under Business Meeting, on a motion made by C. Mineo, 2nd by S. Reed & T. Wilkie, the Committee voted to approve the March 12, 2019, regular meeting, Executive Session, and Program of Studies Workshop minutes.

Vote: 6 – 0 – 1 absent

Under Correspondence, C. Mineo read a letter from the Massachusetts Department of Transportation stating that the district's application to the *Mass. Safe Routes to School Infrastructure Project Funding Program* has been selected to advance in the project funding process.

Next, on a motion made by A. Bonavita, 2nd by C. Mineo, the Committee, via roll call, voted to approve the following warrants as read: SW-19-88 in the amount of \$148,655.65; SW-19-89 in the amount of \$8,606.02; SW-19-90 in the amount of \$7,021.49; SW-19-91 in the amount of \$35,112.48; SW-19-92 in the amount of \$155,943.88; and SW-19-93 in the amount of \$75,518.98. Also approved was payroll warrant PW-19-04 in the amount of \$3,053,005.52.

Vote: 6 – 0 – 1 absent

Under Reports, Emily Budzynkiewicz, Statewide Lead from the Mass. Safe Routes to School Program, was joined by Town Engineer, Michelle Chase, in a presentation regarding the proposed plan to redesign the traffic areas relative to the Doering and Robinson Park Schools. The following information was provided in their update:

- Goal to increase safe biking and walking among elementary and middle school students
- Program utilizes the 6 E's of Evaluation, Education, Encouragement, Engineering, Enforcement, & Equity
- Meeting local needs of safety, traffic congestion, attendance, and tardiness
- Evaluation comprised of parent surveys, walkability/bikeability assessments, arrival/dismissal assessments, & student tallies
- Education includes pedestrian safety, bike safety, bike rodeos, elementary & middle school curriculum, behavior modification
- Encouragement provided by walking school buses, theme days, park 'n walk, and in-school activities
- Enforcement includes crossing guard training, work with School Resource Officers and Police Department
- Safety assembly for Doering students
- Construction safety and how to use bike boxes and bike lanes
- Maple Street project will combine bike lane and pedestrian lane
- New crosswalks will be installed at Sutton Place and at Begley Street
- A raised crossing will be installed at the intersection of Bridge and Maple Streets
- New bike lanes will be designated from Begley Street to Rowley Street
- Construction is scheduled to begin in 2022 or 2023

At the conclusion of their report, a question and answer session took place during which the Committee thanked both presenters for their very informative presentation and said they look forward to the new safety infrastructure beginning before too long.

Under Subcommittee Updates, no updates were provided to the Committee.

Under New Business, SCR-19-14, Acceptance of \$1,500 Donation for Chess Activities in Memory of Harold Moye, was moved to the next meeting.

Due to timeliness, on a motion made by S. Reed, 2nd by K. O'Connor, the Committee voted to suspend the rules in order to take action on SCR-19-15, Approval of Christopher A. Kazantis Memorial Scholarship.

Vote: 6 – 0 – 1 absent

Next, on a motion made by C. Mineo, 2nd by T. Wilkie, the Committee voted to approve SCR-19-15.

Vote: 6 – 0 – 1 absent

Items: K. O'Connor said the turnout for the Holyoke St. Patrick's Parade by town and school officials was great. She also thanked those who presented during the evening's meeting. S. Reed said she was glad to hear that Mr. Lemanski would be attending the Community Preservation Committee meeting, as an outdoor classroom at the high school is something that will really benefit students. She also thanked Mr. Lemanski for the Safety Initiative Plan, which notes the many ways the district is moving forward to keep students and staff safe. A. Bonavita asked about the availability of Science rooms at the high school, which was mentioned during Citizen's Speak Time at the last Committee meeting on March 12th. Mr. Lemanski explained that, although some Science teachers share classrooms, the MSBA denied the district's submission for a new high school. He said it will be interesting to see if the need for newer Science classrooms is sited during the forthcoming NEASC accreditation site visit in the fall. C. Mineo reported attending a Technology Committee meeting earlier in the afternoon. He shared that the district is only 300 computers away from offering one to one computer availability to students. That goal may be reached in September 2019. Mr. Mineo said considerations discussed during the committee meeting included whether to allow students to take computers home, insurance, and what if there is not an internet connection at home. W. Rua reminded her colleagues about the high school Spring Band Concert on March 27th and the junior high school Band Concert on March 28th. Both concerts will take place at 7 p.m. in their respective school auditoriums.

There being no further business, on a motion made by K. O'Connor, 2nd by A. Bonavita, C. Mineo, & T. Wilkie, the Committee voted to adjourn.

Vote: 6 – 0 – 1 absent

Time: 7:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Alexis Ferioli
Executive Assistant to the Superintendent/School Committee

C. Mineo, Committee Secretary