

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, A. LeClair, R. Clickstein, & student representative Joseph Joyal

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

Under Highlights on Education, ELA and Math Coaches, Linda DiMartino, Susan Smith, Gisele Sotolotto, & Sarah Hopson provided the Committee with a PowerPoint presentation highlighting their progress with Student-Centered Coaching at the four elementary schools and at the Doering School. In their presentation, the following information was shared:

- What is Student-Centered Coaching
- What are the roles for teachers, coaches, and principals
- Why use this model
- Focus on goals and outcomes for student learning
- Coaching cycle
- Who participates and how
- 17 teachers have either completed a cycle or are involved in one
- Instructional and coaching practices
- Examples of student learning goals and teacher reflections

At the conclusion of their presentation, a question and answer session took place during which Committee members thanked the coaches for all of their efforts and dedication. When asked what they would like to see in the future, the coaches answered a literacy and math coach in every elementary school. Dr. LeClair concluded the remarks by stating the coaching model is a very effective and a cost savings regarding professional development.

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

- Congratulations to the district's music program, which has been named one of the 2017 "Best Communities for Music Education" by the National Association of Music Merchants Foundation. This is the second year that Agawam has received this prestigious recognition.
- Reminder that schools will be closed on Friday, April 14th, in observance of Good Friday. Schools also will be closed from April 17th to April 21st for Spring Vacation. Schools will reopen on Monday, April 24th.
- Reminder that the *Public Hearing on the FY'18 Budget* will take place on April 25th at 6:30 p.m. prior to the regular School Committee meeting, which starts at 7:00 p.m.
- Announcement that the junior high school Drama Club will perform the play, "The Wizard of Oz Junior", on April 26th and April 27th.
- Reminder that the *French and Spanish National Honor Societies* will conduct an induction ceremony at 6:30 p.m. on April 27th in the school auditorium
- Announcement that the *Annual Junior/Senior Prom* will take place on April 28th at 6:00 p.m. at the Log Cabin in Holyoke
- Announcement that the dedication of the *New Athletic Facility and Locker Rooms* will be held on Sunday, April 30th, at 1:00 p.m. at the high school
- Announcement that the *National Honor Society* will conduct an induction ceremony on May 2nd at 7:00 p.m. in the high school cafeteria
- Reminder that the *Pioneer Valley Excellence in Teaching Awards* banquet will take place on May 3rd at 6:00 p.m. at the Log Cabin in Holyoke
- Announcement that the high school will be hosting its *Annual Spring Arts Festival* on May 4th at 6:30 p.m. in the school auditorium
- Reminder that the next DWST meeting will take place on May 5th at 7:30 a.m. in the high school cafeteria

Under Student Advisory Committee Representative Update, Joe reported on the following activities and events taking place at AHS:

- Jake Wieners won the Public Service Announcement contest and was awarded \$10,000, which will be used by one of our schools
- Peer Leadership will be selling ice cream sundaes as a fundraising project

- Band members are again preparing for the MICA competition
- Spring sports have kicked off

Under Unfinished Business, there was none on the agenda.

Under Business Meeting, on a motion made by D. Juzba, 2nd by W. Rua, the Committee voted to approve the March 28, 2017, regular meeting and the March 30, 2017, Special Meeting minutes.

Vote: 7 - 0

Under Correspondence, D. Juzba read a letter from the State Attorney General's Office notifying the district that Agawam has been chosen as a recipient for the *Youth Opioid Prevention Grant* in the amount of \$19,526.00.

Next, on a motion made by A. Bonavita, 2nd by S. Reed, the Committee voted to approve the following warrants as read: SW-17-57 in the amount of \$23,022.25 and SW-17-58 in the amount of \$981,130.73.

Vote: 7 - 0

Under Reports, the first report of the evening was an ALICE Training Update as presented by AHS Principal, Steve Lemanski; Safety & Truancy Supervisor, John Nettis, APD Sergeant Steve Grasso, and Officers Robert Burke and John Field. Their presentation included a video of the 1999 Columbine High School shooting as well as the following information:

- Practice traditional lockdown
- ALICE empowers people and gives them a chance to live
- From 2000 to 2012, 219 people were shot in schools and 115 people died in schools
- Virginia Tech shooting
- ALICE is an acronym for Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate
- Recommended by the FBI, Homeland Security, Emergency Management, U.S. Department of Education, Mass. Task Force, M.A.S.S., MTA, and the Mass. Chiefs of Police Association

A question and answer session took place at the end of their report during which Committee members said how happy they are that the district will be implementing ALICE Training. S. Reed said she would like to see all teachers, paraprofessionals, and substitutes trained in the protocol. She also said she would like to see an anonymous tip-line implemented so students will feel free to report something that is not right. When asked who will be trained first, S. Lemanski said administrators and members of the emergency response teams. C. Mineo asked if a timeline has been created for training. Mr. Nettis said that training for administrators will begin on June 27th and June 28th. Other groups will receive training once schools reopen in September. R. Cohen asked if the Committee members can be trained and was told yes. D. Juzba asked how students at the elementary schools will be trained. Officer Burke explained that training at the elementary level focuses more on distracting and is age appropriate. W. Rua asked if parent volunteers can be trained. Mr. Sapelli said that he would like to expand the training to substitutes and parents in the future, but for now we need to train one group at a time. R. Cohen suggested placing the ALICE video on the educational cable channel 12 as well as on channel 15, so more parents can understand what ALICE is all about. B. Burbank asked if the elementary schools can use a device to place under the classroom door to keep out intruders. Mr. Nettis said he is looking into those devices. In the meantime, Building Maintenance is checking to make sure all classroom doors lock.

At the close of the question and answer session, the Committee thanked Mr. Lemanski, Mr. Nettis, and the police officers for an excellent, comprehensive report.

The second report was the Presentation of the Proposed FY'18 School Budget as presented by school superintendent, William Sapelli. Prior to presenting the final draft of the budget, Mr. Sapelli turned the meeting over to Dr. LeClair who began by explaining how the school budget is formulated by incorporating the district's mission statement, vision, core values, and goals. She also pointed out that the District Improvement Plan serves as a feeder for the individual School Improvement Plans, which drive the focus of the individual school budget requests.

Next, Mr. Clickstein explained the funding sources for a school budget, which include the Local Aid Required Contribution and Chapter 70 Aid Funding. He noted that the FY'17 School Budget had an increase of 3.25% over the previous year, whereas the FY'18 School Budget is only 3.06% over the FY'17 Budget.

Mr. Sapelli then reviewed the final summary page of the FY'18 School Budget as follows:

- FY'17 Approved Budget in the amount of \$42,365,719.00
- Total Salary Increase of \$1,353,420.00
- Increase in Building-Based Budgets in the amount of \$57,044.00
- Increase in Athletic Supplies in the amount of \$2,000.00
- Increase in Out-of-District Non-Sped Tuitions in the amount of \$16,485.00
- Increase in Special Education Tuitions in the amount of \$6,259.00
- Total Increase to Budget in the amount of \$1,435,208.00
- Decrease in Special Education Supplies in the amount of \$50,000.00
- Decrease in Transportation in the amount of \$88,651.00
- Total Decreases to Budget in the amount of \$138,651.00
- Actual Budget Increase of \$1,296,557.00
- Requested FY'18 Budget in the amount of \$43,662,276.00

Next, Mr. Sapelli pointed out that all salaries in each cost center have remained the same due to negotiations not being settled with one bargaining unit. At the conclusion of his presentation, Mr. Sapelli thanked the Committee for their continued support.

Under Subcommittee Updates, none were given.

Under New Business, there was none on the agenda.

Items: D. Juzba thanked Mr. Lemanski, Mr. Nettis, and the police officers for coming to explain the ALICE program. She also thanked the ELA and Math Coaches for their very informative presentation. S. Reed said she thoroughly enjoyed touring the schools as part of the superintendent search committee site visits. She said seeing the special education classrooms was an eye opener, as those teachers need more room for all they do with students. Mrs. Reed also said she met with a group of girl scouts who were earning their government badge and shared some of their likes and dislikes about school. According to Mrs. Reed, they like their teachers and principals. However, they would like longer lunch periods. The fourth graders said they didn't like taking the MCAS test on a computer or taking the PACER test in physical education class. Dr. LeClair clarified that the PACER test is an assessment that physical education teachers use. B. Burbank concluded the remarks by saying the school tours were very enlightening.

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

Vote: 7 - 0

Time: 8:50 p.m.

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

D. Juzba, Committee Secretary