

Chair, W. Sapelli, 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, W. Rua, T. Wilkie, & student representative Honesty Osbourne
S. Lemanski, S. Hoffman, & R. Clickstein

During Citizen's Speak Time, Karin & James Viglione of 103 Lealand Avenue, spoke about their interest in hosting a student from Japan for 1 year and enrolling that student at Agawam High School.

Under Highlights on Education, Mr. Lemanski was joined by Mrs. Hoffman, Mr. Clickstein, the Committee, and the high school administration in the presentation of the "Agawam Academic A" to 157 students who have maintained a grade point average of 3.0 or better for their freshman, sophomore, and junior years, as well as for the first semester of their senior year. Also joining in the presentation were invited guests, City Councilors George Bitzas; Paul Cavallo; Cecelia Calabrese; Joseph Mineo; and Dino Mercadante. Mr. Lemanski noted that the prestigious award originated 19 years ago by former school committee member, Susan Pettazzoni.

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

- Congratulations to Diana Kulmizev, who won the high school's *5th Annual Poetry Out Loud Competition* for her performance in reciting Lisel Mueller's "Monet Refuses the Operation," and William Ernest Henley's, "Invictus."
- Congratulations to *Agawam's 2019 Colleen*, Bailey Thomas, and to the members of her court, Taylor DeGeorge, Meghan Haines, Allison Leonard, and Cassidy Patterson. Bailey and her court will represent Agawam in the *Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade* in Holyoke on March 17th.
- Congratulations to AHS freshman, Emily DeGeorge, who was named *All Western Mass for Soccer*, and to sophomore, Hope Santaniello, who made the *1st Team for Soccer*.
- Announcement that the AHS Guidance Department sponsored a special presentation for incoming 9th grade student and their families on February 14th in the high school auditorium.
- Reminder that the Budget/Finance Subcommittee will meet with all Principals, Directors, and Central Office administration to review the proposed FY'20 School Budget on March 7th at 5:30 p.m. in the junior high school library. Members of the City Council's School Budget Subcommittee have been invited to attend the meeting.
- Announcement that Clark School will be hosting its *Annual Science & Engineering Fair* on March 7th from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. AHS Science students of Mr. Shawn Rumprik will judge exhibits from 2p.m. to 3 p.m.
- Announcement that area superintendents will be discussing the "State of Education in Western Mass" on the television program, *Mass Appeal*, which will air on March 7th beginning at 11 a.m. on Channel 22.

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

- This year's prom theme is "Night at the Museum"
- Tickets will go on sale from March 4th through March 8th.
- Tickets for juniors and seniors are \$75.00, whereas outside guests and underclassmen will be charged \$85.00

Under Unfinished Business, on a motion made by W. Rua, 2nd by C. Mineo, the Committee voted to approve SCR-19-02, *Request to Allow Former School Committee Members to Present Diplomas at Graduation*.

Vote: 7 – 0

Next, on a motion made by W. Rua, 2nd by A. Bonavita, the Committee voted to approve SCR-19-03, *Approval of Agawam Retired Employee Association Scholarship*.

Vote: 7 – 0

Then, on a motion made by S. Reed, 2nd by W. Rua, the Committee voted to approve SCR-19-04, *Approval of 2019-2020 AHS Program of Studies*.

Vote: 7 – 0

Next, on a motion made by C. Mineo, 2nd by K. O'Connor, the Committee voted to approve SCR-19-06, *Approval of AHS Athletic Hall of Fame Committee Scholarship*.

Vote: 7 - 0

Under Business Meeting, on a motion made by A. Bonavita, 2nd by W. Rua, the Committee voted to approve the January 29, 2019, Executive Session, Legal Update Workshop, and regular meeting minutes.

Vote: 7 - 0

Under Correspondence, C. Mineo read a letter from the National Education Association and the Massachusetts Teacher's Association announcing that 8th grade Spanish teacher, Pamela Rivers, has been selected to participate in the National Teachers Institute. She is 1 of 300 participants from 9 states to be selected.

Next, on a motion made by A. Bonavita, 2nd by S. Reed, the Committee, via roll call, voted to approve the following warrants as read: SW-19-72 in the amount of \$97,351.65; SW-19-73 in the amount of \$135,288.70; SW-19-74 in the amount of \$30,757.10; SW-19-75 in the amount of \$94,732.05; SW-19-76 in the amount of \$24,633.46; SW-19-77 in the amount of \$12,630.90; SW-19-78 in the amount of \$237,619.67; SW-19-91 in the amount of \$13,923.90; SW-19-80 in the amount of \$6,731.50; SW-19-81 in the amount of \$7,811.98; and SW-19-82 in the amount of \$53,086.00. Also approved was payroll warrant PW-19-03 in the amount of \$3,032,445.94.

Vote: 7 - 0

Under Reports, W. Sapelli said that the Committee should have received a Financial Update and Personnel Update in their packet of materials.

Next, Superintendent of Schools, Steven Lemanski, who was joined by Assistant Superintendent, Sheila Hoffman, in presenting the district's New Strategic Plan to the Committee and viewing public. In his report, the following information was shared:

- Vision Statement
- Mission Statement
- Core Values
- Objectives
- Core Values
- Student Engagement
- Student Supports
- Integrating Technology
- Importance of Vertical Alignment
- Importance of communicating with residents, as well as with parents/guardians

At the conclusion of his report, the Committee thanked Mr. Lemanski for collaborating with all of the teams who were stakeholders. They also said it is evident that a phenomenal effort was put into the development of this new plan. Mr. Sapelli said that a vote to approve the New Strategic Plan would be taken at the next regularly-schedule Committee meeting.

Under Subcommittee Updates, Mr. Sapelli pointed out that the March 7th Budget/Finance Subcommittee would have to be rescheduled as it conflicts with the March 7th Parent Forum that evening.

Next, Mr. Bonavita reported that the Budget/Finance Subcommittee had met earlier that evening to review and discuss the preliminary FY'20 School Budget. He said the budget process is off to a good start with any increases to next year's budget less than the previous year, making it fiscally responsible.

Under New Business, SCR-19-07, *Adoption of 2019-2020 School Calendar*; SCR-19-08, *Request to Eliminate the Two-Day Preschool Sessions*; and SCR-19-09, *Acceptance of \$5,000 Donation from the Agawam Ice Hockey Booster Club*, were moved to the next meeting.

Policy Review: On a motion made by S. Reed & K. O'Connor, 2nd by T. Wilkie, the Committee voted to approve the 2nd & 3rd readings of Policy JE-1, *Attendance Policy Grades K-8*.

Vote: 7 - 0

Next, on a motion made by W. Rua, 2nd by T. Wilkie, the Committee voted to approve the 2nd & 3rd readings of Policy JE-2, *Attendance Policy Grades 9-12*.

Vote: 7 - 0

Items: All Committee members congratulated those seniors who were recipients of the prestigious “*Agawam Academic A*” award. K. O’Connor said she is pleased with how collaboratively everyone works together. W. Rua pointed out how appreciative parents are regarding the improvement in overall communication in the district. T. Wilkie reminded her colleagues and the viewing public that the next *Parent Forum* will take place on March 7th at 6 p.m. in the junior high school auditorium. The program’s topic will be “How to Manage Your Child’s Social Media and Technology” as presented by the District Attorney’s office. C. Mineo echoed his colleague’s sentiments saying the earlier Budget/Finance Subcommittee meeting was very productive.

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

Vote: 7 - 0

Time: 8:04 p.m.

9

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

C. Mineo, Committee Secretary