

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,
S. Lemanski, S. Hoffman, R. Clickstein, & student representative Honesty Osbourne

Absent: T. Wilkie

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

Under Highlights on Education, former AHS teacher, Richard Joseph, was joined by Assistant Superintendent, Sheila Hoffman, in a presentation regarding the Agawam Cooler Community Challenge. The renewable energy project will take place on Thursday, May 23, 2019, from 5:30 – 8:00 p.m. at Agawam High School. Mr. Joseph explained that the energy projects under consideration include the following:

- Teacher training/workshops
- Classroom supplies and support
- Renewable energy projects within the schools
- Science fairs
- Field trip expenses
- Software, programs and applications for classroom use
- Greenhouse repair at Agawam High School

At the conclusion of his presentation, Committee members thanked Mr. Joseph for his involvement with this worthwhile program that ties in with the Science standards that are taught at all grade levels.

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

- Congratulations to those high school band students who performed at the statewide *MICAA Concert Festival* on April 5th at Belchertown High School. The Wind Ensemble won a silver medal and the Symphony Band earned a bronze medal.
- Announcement that the junior high school Drama Club will perform the play, "*Recess*," on April 11th at 6 p.m. in the school auditorium. Adult tickets are \$5, student tickets \$2, and children under 5 are admitted free of charge.
- Reminder that schools will be closed during the week of April 15th through April 19th for *Spring Vacation*. Schools will reopen on Monday, April 23rd.
- Reminder that the *Public Hearing on the FY'20 Budget* will take place on April 23rd at 6:30 p.m. prior to the regularly scheduled school committee meeting, which starts at 7 p.m.
- Announcement that he will attend the *Annual Junior/Senior Prom* on April 26th at 6 p.m. at the Log Cabin in Holyoke
- Announcement that he will attend the *Hampden District Attorney's Youth Advisory Board Conference* at the Basketball Hall of Fame on April 26th from 8 to 10:30 a.m.
- Announcement that the district will host another *ALICE Training* session for parents on April 30th beginning at 6 p.m. in the junior high school auditorium. A practical experience will also take place for those interested in participating.
- Reminder that the annual *Pioneer Valley Excellence in Teaching Awards* banquet will take place on May 1st at 5:30 p.m. at the Log Cabin. This year's winners include first year teacher, Stephanie Robinson, and veteran teachers Bridget D'Agostino, Amy DiStefano, Jessica Paulo, and Dean Vecchiarelli.
- Reminder that the next *Parent/Community Night* will take place on May 2nd at 6 p.m. in the junior high school auditorium. Sponsored by the Shane Foundation, the guest speaker will be Dr. Ruth Potee who will speak about "The Teen Brain and Risk Taking."
- Announcement that the high school will host its *Annual Spring Arts Festival* on May 9th from 6 to 8 p.m. in the school auditorium and rotunda. General admission is \$5.
- Reminder that the next *DWST* meeting will take place on May 3rd at 7:30 a.m. in the high school cafeteria.
- Announcement that a formal presentation of a check in the amount of \$5,000 from the Big Y Supermarkets will be presented to Clark School on April 26th at 9:30 a.m. Committee members are invited to attend the televised event if their schedules permit.

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

- The first *Spring Spirit Week* kicked off on April 8th.
- Mr. Trahan and his committee have been working tirelessly for the *Annual Junior/Senior Prom* on April 26th.
- Advanced Placement exams begin on May 6th.

- Regional and state Student Advisory Councils had their last meeting of the year on April 5th. The school climate workgroup completed its report and has sent it to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education for review and consideration.

Under Unfinished Business, on a motion made by S. Reed & W. Rua, 2nd by K. O'Connor, the Committee voted to approve SCR-19-14, *Acceptance of \$1,500 Donation for Chess Activities in Memory of Harold Moye*.

Vote: 6 – 0 – 1 absent

Under Business Meeting, on a motion made by A. Bonavita, 2nd by C. Mineo, the Committee voted to approve the March 26, 2019, regular meeting and Executive Session minutes.

Vote: 6 – 0 – 1 absent

Under Correspondence, C. Mineo read a letter from John W. Schnepf, Vice President of Marketing for Big Y World Class Markets, stating the company will be donating \$5,000 to the James Clark School for the purchase of robotics kits.

Next, he read a letter from the Mass. Teachers Association announcing that three of the district's teachers will be presented with "Crystal Awards" in recognition of their superior work in the National Education Association Leadership Program. Teachers who will be honored are Jennifer MacDonald, AHS Spanish teacher; Donna Mendonca, Doering school counselor; and Pamela Rivers, AJHS Spanish teacher.

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-19-94 in the amount of \$25,204.56; SW-19-95 in the amount of \$110,793.87; SW-19-96 in the amount of \$29,862.58; SW-19-97 in the amount of \$83,932.13.

Vote: 6 – 0 – 1 absent

Under Reports, the first report of the evening was a Special Education Update as presented by Director, April Rist, and Speech Language Pathologist, Maribeth Coon. In a change from previous special education reports, Mrs. Rist asked three special education students to share their experiences while enrolled in the Agawam Public Schools. Students Josh, Meadow, and Dharbi shared what they liked best about school including their favorite activities as well as participation in sports and work.

At the conclusion of their report, the Committee thanked the students for their wonderful presentation and noted how brave they were to speak in front of so many people.

The second report was the Presentation of the FY'20 School Budget by Superintendent of Schools, Steven Lemanski, who was joined by the district's Business Manager, Rob Clickstein. In his presentation, the following information was shared with the Committee and viewing public:

- Collective bargaining agreements with five bargaining units
- Increase in steps, degree changes, stipends, and longevity
- Request for two additional Lead Teachers
- Request for two additional Special Education Teachers
- Request for one English Language Director
- Request for one Social Emotional Learning Director
- Increase in Special Education Supplies
- Increase in Transportation
- Increase in Agawam High School services due to NEASC site visit
- Increase in Athletics
- Increase in Instructional Technology
- Total increase to budget in the amount of \$1,699,756.00
- Decrease in building-based budgets
- Decrease in Special Education Tuitions
- Decrease in Non-Special Education Tuitions
- Total decrease to budget in the amount of \$401,339.00
- Actual budget increase in the amount of \$1,298,417.00
- FY'20 Requested Budget in the amount of \$46,403,111.00

During discussion, the Committee thanked and congratulated Mr. Lemanski for developing a very transparent budget that is fiscally responsible. They also pointed out that the FY'20 Budget was the first to attack social and emotional issues. Also noting that the FY'20 Budget is the lowest in 5 years, Committee members said they were grateful that extra meetings were scheduled thereby allowing staff to attend and answer their questions as well as to explain what the needs are in their schools and in the district as a whole. At the conclusion of their comments, Mr. Lemanski thanked Committee members for all of their time, effort, commitment, and input, which helped him in developing next year's budget.

Under Subcommittee Updates, Mr. Bonavita said that the annual joint meeting with the City Council's Budget Subcommittee was very productive with councilors asking good questions. He also said he believes the councilors now have a better understanding of the increase in social/emotional issues exhibited by students and the growing English Language Learner population that now includes 16 different languages. Mr. Sapelli agreed with Mr. Bonavita saying it was an excellent meeting with everyone very focused. He further stated that Mr. Bonavita made sure everyone could ask questions thereby addressing all of the issues and providing a better understanding of the district's needs.

Under New Business, SCR-19-16, *Approval of Early Childhood Full-Day Option*, was moved to the next meeting.

Items: C. Mineo wished students, staff, and administration a safe, happy, and healthy spring vacation week. A. Bonavita said he researched the Science issue that had previously been raised. He explained that the issue is not the Science curriculum, but rather the physical plant, such as electrical wiring. Mr. Bonavita said that the district should consider submitting another Statement of Interest to the Massachusetts School Building Authority to revamp the Science wing at the senior high school. W. Rua suggested waiting until the NEASC accreditation site visit is completed in the fall, as the MSBA is more receptive to requests that impact accreditation. She also announced that the Special Education Advisory Council will conduct a meeting on April 10th at 6:30 p.m. in the junior high school library. The meeting will feature a Behavior Interventionist as guest speaker. S. Reed echoed her colleague's sentiments saying the high school Science wing definitely needs revamping and hopes the NEASC findings will help the district with its submission of a Statement of Interest. K. O'Connor also agreed that the Science wing needs attention and thanked those special education students who presented earlier. She concluded her remarks by saying it is always enjoyable when any of our students present to the Committee.

There being no further business, on a motion made by W. Rua & A. Bonavita, 2nd by C. Mineo, the Committee voted to adjourn.

Vote: 6 – 0 – 1 absent

Time: 8:12 p.m.

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

C. Mineo, Committee Secretary