

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, no one from the public came forward.

Under Highlights on Education, *2017-2018 Excellence in Teaching Award* winners, Karen Albano, Kathleen Goyette-Jediny, Matthew LaCroix, & Naomi Murdock, shared the projects they developed for their classes, which earned them the *Excellence in Teaching Innovative Award*.

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

- Congratulations to AHS freshman, Mia DiLullo, who won the individual title in floor exercise at the *Western Mass Gymnastics Competition* last month.
- Congratulations to AJHS 7<sup>th</sup> grade student, Lauren La, who is one of several students from across the United States, Canada, Europe, and Asia who will be performing at Carnegie Hall in New York City on January 26<sup>th</sup>.
- Announcement that the *Annual Geography Bee* will take place at the junior high school on January 9<sup>th</sup>.
- Reminder that schools will be closed on January 21<sup>st</sup> in observance of the Martin Luther King holiday. Schools will reopen on January 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- Attendance with Mrs. Hoffman at the *Annual M.A.S.S. Mid-Winter Conference* in Marlborough on January 24<sup>th</sup>.
- Announcement that the *Third Annual Poetry-Out-Loud Competition* will take place on January 31<sup>st</sup> from 9 to 11 a.m. in the high school auditorium.
- Attendance at the *Across Boundaries Conference* in Boston from January 31<sup>st</sup> through February 1<sup>st</sup> at the Hynes Convention Center.
- Announcement that the first semester *D.A.R.E. Graduation* will take place on February 1<sup>st</sup> at 1:15 p.m. in the Doering School auditorium.
- Announcement that due to the Martin Luther King Holiday, the second school committee meeting in January has been postponed to January 29, 2019.

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

- Students from other districts have expressed their desire to have a *Poetry-Out-Loud* competition in their school. The event speaks to the dedication of our teachers who offer their students the best programs.
- The *Massachusetts Music Educators Association Western District Concert* will take place on January 12<sup>th</sup> beginning at 3 p.m. at UMASS in Amherst. Our district has 10 students who were selected to perform at the prestigious event.
- Implementation has begun of the pilot *Individual Learning Time* sessions, which are being held on Tuesdays and Thursdays for 30 minutes each. These ILT sessions allow students to target areas of weakness with their teachers, as well as to pursue more time on subjects that they enjoy. Students have been very positive about this new learning resource.

Under Unfinished Business, on a motion made by K. O'Connor, 2<sup>nd</sup> by C. Mineo, the Committee voted to approve SCR-18-26, *Approval of AHS Empowerment Club*.

Vote: 7 - 0

Under Business Meeting, on a motion made by W. Rua, 2<sup>nd</sup> by T. Wilkie, the Committee voted to approve the December 11, 2018, workshop and regular meeting minutes.

Vote: 7 - 0

Under Correspondence, C. Mineo said he had nothing to report.

Next, on a motion made by S. Reed, 2<sup>nd</sup> by T. Wilkie, the Committee, via roll call, voted to approve the following warrants as read: SW-19-54 in the amount of \$119,617.03; SW-19-55 in the amount of \$19,601.48; SW-19-56 in the amount of \$13,957.30; SW-19-57 in the amount of \$44,228.92; SW-19-58 in the amount of \$11,446.16; SW-19-59 in the amount of \$63,161.29; SW-19-60 in the amount of \$56,391.77; SW-19-61 in the amount of \$46,021.06; SW-19-62 in the amount of \$242,496.05; and SW-19-63 in the amount of \$4,062.75. Also approved was payroll warrant PW-19-01 in the amount of \$3,031,349.97.

Vote: 7 - 0

Under Reports, the only scheduled report of the evening was the *2018-2019 AHS Program of Studies* as presented by AHS Principal, Thomas Schnepf. In his presentation, Mr. Schnepf pointed out that he is looking to offer two (2) more courses to the Program of Studies. He then reviewed the following changes and additions:

- Graduation requirements have increased for 10<sup>th</sup> grade students
- More books are being added in the Literature classes
- A new “Survival Science” class, which is more hands-on, is being added
- The World History course description has been updated per the new state standards
- Sophomores will be able to take AP U.S. History classes
- Internships will now be open to 10<sup>th</sup> grade students
- A double period for National Art Honors classes has been added
- A new Studio Production and Composition class for students has been added in the music department
- A new description regarding college credits for Career Tech courses has been added

At the conclusion of his report, the Committee thanked Mr. Schnepf for his report and also thanked Career Center Supervisor, Lisa Sheehan, for all of her efforts.

Under Subcommittee Updates, S. Reed said the Policy Subcommittee met on December 18<sup>th</sup> with retired IT Specialist, Ann Flynn, who provided a great deal of information regarding changes that should be made to the district’s social media policy. She explained that revisions to that policy would be made and the policy brought forward at a later date. In addition, revisions to the district’s attendance policies will be placed on the January 29, 2019, school committee agenda for a first reading.

Mr. Bonavita announced that the Budget/Finance Subcommittee will conduct its first meeting with administration on February 12<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. prior to the regularly scheduled school committee meeting at 7 p.m.

Under New Business, SCR-19-01, *Approval of Wilson Thompson American Legion Auxiliary Unit 185 Scholarship*, was moved to the next meeting.

Items: All Committee members wished students, staff, and the viewing public a Happy New Year. C. Mineo said he enjoyed hearing about the Innovative Awards won by our teachers last year. A. Bonavita asked about the content of the column Mr. Lemanski will be writing for the Agawam Advertiser on a monthly basis. Mr. Lemanski said he wants to share with residents all of the wonderful things we are doing in our schools. Mr. Bonavita said he would like more newspaper coverage regarding what the committee discusses and how they vote on issues. W. Rua praised the Governors America Corporation for sponsoring internships and for providing three (3) of its employees at all of the Rosie Robotics build sessions. Mrs. Rua also praised the District Wide Support Team saying what an incredibly useful group it is for community building, especially around safety. T. Wilkie announced that four (4) Parent/Community Forums have been scheduled. The first will be on February 6<sup>th</sup> regarding safety with our Safety Supervisor, John Nettis; the second will be on March 7<sup>th</sup>, with the District Attorney speaking about the dangers of social media; the third will take place on May 2<sup>nd</sup>, with Dr. Potee who will speak about the Teenage Brain and Risk Taking; and the fourth will feature former Celtics star, Chris Herron, who will speak about his journey from addiction to sobriety. All sessions will take place at 6 p.m. in the junior high school auditorium. S. Reed said she thinks that implementing the Individual Learning Time sessions prior to mid-term exams is a great idea. She complimented Mr. Schnepf and Mr. Nettis for their message about vaping which was sent. In her final comment, she praised the members of the AHS Drama Club who performed in the play, “A Christmas Carol,” saying they were excellent. K. O’Connor thanked the Innovative Award winners for their great presentation. She also inquired about the Sheriff’s Department collaborating with our schools. Mr. Sapelli said he would have more information about that in the future. He also said that he enjoyed working with the Committee last year noting all that the group had accomplished. He concluded his remarks by saying he looks forward to working with everyone again this year.

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

Vote: 7 - 0

Time: 8:28 p.m.

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

---

C. Mineo, Committee Secretary