

Chair, R. Cohen, called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. in the Roberta G. Doering School auditorium.

Present: A. Bonavita, B. Burbank, D. Juzba, C. Mineo, S. Reed, & W. Rua
W. Sapelli, R. Clickstein, & A. LeClair

Absent: Student representative Robert Johnston (graduated)

During Citizen's Speak Time, Gary Janulewicz of 41 Elm Street spoke about Agawam's designation as a "Purple Heart City" and the designation of Main Street as a "Purple Heart Trail." He also noted that a sign marking the "Purple Heart Trail" will be placed in front of Doering School. During his final comments, he presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Doering School teacher, Kathy Goyette-Jediny, for her assistance in securing funding for these signs which will be placed along Main Street.

Next, Aldo Mancini of 482 South West Street, recognized AHS 10th grade student, Mara Winer, who, despite the foul weather, served as a bugler for the Memorial Day wreath laying at the Veteran's Memorial Bridge and Cemetery.

Under Highlights on Education, AJHS Art instructor, Marcia Scherpa, was joined by her 8th grade student, Shelybeth Bermudez, whose drawing won 1st place honors in the Veteran's Council Memorial Day Poster Contest.

Next, James Clark School principal, Shelley Russell, was joined by elementary Science specialist, Tammy Rumpalik, in the presentation of certificates and medals to the 37 students who participated in the *National Science League* competition. Also recognized was Clifford Granger School student, Isabella Spaulding, who won the *Curiosity Challenge* competition.

The final highlight of the evening was a presentation of citations from the Town of Agawam, State House of Representatives, and the State Senate to the retiring 14 teachers, 1 paraprofessional, 1 library/media assistant, 1 IT Specialist, and 1 elementary principal, who collectively have given 398 years of service to the children of Agawam. Joining in the presentation were members of the School Committee, Mr. Sapelli, Dr. LeClair, and Mr. Clickstein.

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

- Congratulations to everyone who was involved with the June 5th Graduation ceremony at Symphony Hall where 323 seniors received their Agawam High School diplomas.
- Congratulations to the Girls Softball Team who won their second straight Western Mass Division I title on June 13th. The team will face Central Mass Champion, Doherty High School, in the State Semifinal Game on June 15th at 6 p.m. at Worcester State College.
- Kuddos to AHS teachers Rich Feeley, Sean Jennings, and Dean Vecchiarelli who, on May 26th, brought a group of student volunteers to the Veterans Memorial Cemetery where they placed flags at the gravesites in recognition of Memorial Day.
- Reminder that the City Council will be voting on the FY'17 Town Budget at a Public Hearing on June 20th at 7 p.m. in the Doering School auditorium. The entire school department administrative team will attend that meeting in support of the school department's portion of the town budget.
- Announcement that schools will close for the summer recess on Friday, June 17th, which will be a ½ day of school for students and staff. Staff will return on September 1st for the Annual Convocation and will participate in professional development activities on September 2nd. Students in grades 1-12 will return for the first day of classes on Tuesday, September 6th.
- Reminder that the Annual Administrator's Retreat will take place on August 23rd, 24th, and 25th at the Oak Ridge Golf Club from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Committee members are welcome to attend any session if their schedule permits. A schedule of topics will be forwarded to Committee members once it has been finalized.
- Wish for a safe and happy summer to all students and staff.

Next, under Student Advisory Committee Representative Update, no report was given as Robert has graduated.

Under Unfinished Business, on a motion made by A. Bonavita, 2nd by W. Rua, the Committee voted to suspend the rules in order to take action on SCR-16-18, Request to Change the Process to Fill a Vacancy on the School Committee.

Vote: 7 – 0

Then, on a motion made by A. Bonavita, 2nd by W. Rua, the Committee voted to amend resolution SCR-16-18.

Vote: 7 - 0

During discussion, A. Bonavita explained the rationale for amending the original resolution noting that the new wording addresses concerns about the voting public having input as to who should serve on the school committee.

Next, on a motion made by A. Bonavita, 2nd by W. Rua, the Committee voted to approve SCR-16-18 as amended.

Vote: 7 - 0

Next, on a motion made by S. Reed, 2nd by C. Mineo, the Committee voted to approve SCR-16-19, *Adoption of School Improvement Plans*.

Vote: 7 - 0

Then, on a motion made by D. Juzba, 2nd by W. Rua, the Committee voted to approve SCR-16-20, *Approval of Revised IT Specialist-Administrative /Curriculum Job Description*.

Vote: 7 - 0

Under Business meeting, on a motion made by B. Burbank, 2nd by C. Mineo & D. Juzba, the Committee voted to approve the May 24, 2016, regular meeting minutes.

Vote: 7 - 0

Under Correspondence, Mrs. Juzba had nothing to report.

Next, on a motion made by A. Bonavita, 2nd by S. Reed, the Committee voted to approve the following warrants as read: SW-16-68 in the amount of \$13,460.80; SW-16-69 in the amount of \$124,252.61; SW-16-70 in the amount of \$174,537.97; and SW-16-71 in the amount of \$142,091.59.

Vote: 7 - 0

Under Transfers, on a motion made by D. Juzba, 2nd by A. Bonavita, the Committee, via roll call, voted to authorize the administration to make the necessary transfers to close out the FY'16 books. If there are any unexpended funds, they will be used to pre-pay Special Education tuitions.

Vote: 7 - 0

Under Reports, R. Cohen announced that the Committee should have received two paper reports regarding Drop-Out/Withdrawals and Non-Graduating Seniors in their packet of materials.

Next, LPVEC Executive Director, Andrew Churchill, provided the Committee with an update regarding the programs and services offered to municipalities by the collaborative. In his presentation, the following information was shared with the Committee and viewing public:

- Thank you to Mrs. Juzba and Mrs. Rua who serve on the LPVEC Board of Directors and Board of Governors, respectively
- LPVEC is one of 26 collaboratives across the state
- Mission has expanded over the years from specialized services to money saving programs
- Offerings include educational programs, professional development programs, and money saving programs
- Highly successful Career Tech Education Center ½ day program
- Specialized programs include those for students with autism, emotional/social issues, and who are medically fragile
- Provider of transportation to districts for both regular education and special education students
- Management of Municipal Medicaid reimbursement for districts
- Group purchasing options for oil, gas, and electricity
- Job alike group meetings for Superintendents, Assistant Superintendents, Directors, and Business Managers
- Professional development opportunities available
- Grant writing
- New Machine Technology Program

At the conclusion of Mr. Churchill's report, Committee members thanked him for attending the meeting to discuss all of the exciting programs the collaborative offers to districts and students.

Under Subcommittee Updates, none were given.

Under New Business, SCR-16-21, *Acceptance of \$750 Donation from AIC to the AJHS Arts Education Program* was moved to the next meeting where it will appear under Unfinished Business.

Next, due to timeliness, on a motion made by A. Bonavita, 2nd by W. Rua, the Committee voted to suspend the rules in order to take action on SCR-16-22, *Authorization to Construct a New PreK & K School*, and SCR-16-23, *Authorization to Fund the Feasibility Study/Schematic Design Phase of the “Accelerated Repair Program” for the Roberta G. Doering School*.

Vote: 7 – 0

During discussion, A. Bonavita, C. Mineo, D. Juzba, & W. Rua said that they fully support the resolution noting the deplorable condition of the present Early Childhood Center, which is not only overcrowded, but also lacking in space for parent/teacher conferences and specialized services such as Occupational Therapy and Physical Therapy. Mr. Burbank asked if approving the resolution would negate applying for MSBA funding to help defray construction costs. Mr. Sapelli explained that the MSBA would only fund the Kindergarten portion of the building and at only about 50% of the cost. In addition, the MSBA process would take at least 5 years if accepted into their program. By that time, the cost of construction materials would have increased significantly thereby nullifying any savings. A. Bonavita echoed Mr. Sapelli’s comments stating his experience with the construction industry and how the cost of construction never goes down, but rather always increases. Mr. Bonavita also noted that the estimated cost increase for the average taxpayer would be approximately \$173.00 per year, which he believes is worth having a new school. S. Reed asked if additions to the existing elementary schools were considered. Mr. Sapelli explained that according to the architects, only two of the four elementary schools would have room for additions. However, additions would require new infrastructure as heating systems presently in place could not accommodate extra rooms, nor could the cafeteria or gymnasium, thereby costing the districts more to upgrade than to build a new school. He concluded by saying that all options are on the table.

At the conclusion of discussion, on a motion made by A. Bonavita, 2nd by W. Rua, the Committee, via roll call, voted to approve SCR-16-22.

Vote: 6 - 0 – 1 present (R. Cohen)

Next, on a motion made by A. Bonavita, 2nd by W. Rua, the Committee, via roll call, voted to approve SCR-16-23.

Vote: 7 - 0

Under Policy Review, on a motion made by D. Juzba, 2nd by W. Rua, the Committee voted to approve the 1st reading of Policy GBEC, *Drug-Free Workplace Policy*.

Vote: 7 – 0

Next, on a motion made by S. Reed, 2nd by B. Burbank, the Committee voted to approve the 1st reading of Policy IHAMB, *Teaching about Alcohol, Tobacco, and Drugs*.

Vote: 7 – 0

Then, on a motion made by D. Juzba, 2nd by W. Rua, the Committee voted to approve the 1st reading of Policy JICH-1, *Alcohol, Tobacco, and Drug Use by Students Prohibited*.

Vote: 7 - 0

Next, on a motion made by A. Bonavita, 2nd by S. Reed, the Committee voted to approve the 1st reading of Policy JJF, *Student Activity Accounts*.

Vote: 7 – 0

Then, on a motion made by S. Reed, 2nd by C. Mineo, the Committee voted to approve the 1st reading of Policy JLCD, *Administering Medicines to Students*.

Vote: 7 – 0

Next, on a motion made by C. Mineo, 2nd by W. Rua, the Committee voted to approve the 1st reading of Policy ADF, *School District Wellness Program*.

Vote: 7 - 0

Then, on a motion made by W. Rua, 2nd by D. Juzba, the Committee voted to approve the 1st reading of Policy EBC-B, *Narcon Policy and Procedure*.

Vote: 7 – 0

Items: C. Mineo urged the City Council to pass the School Department portion of the FY'17 Town Budget. He also wished students and staff a safe and relaxing summer vacation. A. Bonavita also urged the City Council to support the School Department Budget and the resolution regarding filling a vacancy on the school committee. B. Burbank thanked the Veteran's Council for all that they do and congratulated the Girls Softball Team on their second straight Division I Title. S. Reed thanked the Mayor and Jennifer Bonfiglio for the track update. She also thanked AJHS principal, Norm Robbins, and Assistant Principal, Mike Donovan, for agreeing to be duct taped to the cafeteria wall as a fundraiser for a junior high school student who is battling lymphoma cancer. D. Juzba thanked the AHS Counseling Department for their year-end-summary report. She also urged the City Council to approve the school budget and vacancy resolution. W. Rua echoed her colleague's sentiments and also thanked the retirees for their dedication and many years of service wishing them a happy and well-deserved retirement. R. Cohen remind the Committee that the Superintendent's evaluation form is due to him by Monday, June 20th.

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

Vote: 7 - 0

Time: 8:43 p.m.

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

Diane Juzba, Committee Secretary