

Vice Chair, W. Rua, 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; & T. Wilkie
S. Lemanski, S. Hoffman, & R. Clickstein

Absent: W. Sapelli & Honesty Osbourne, student representative

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

Under Highlights on Education, Mr. Lemanski, Mrs. Hoffman, Mr. Clickstein, and the Committee were entertained by the 4th grade music students from Phelps and Robinson Park Schools, who performed a "Holiday Concert" of 5 songs under the direction of elementary music teacher, Paul Sawyer. At the conclusion of their performance, the Committee thanked Mr. Sawyer for instilling such a love of music into his students and for making the December school committee meeting such an outstanding event.

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

- Congratulations to Mrs. Flaherty's 4th grade class, which collected over 1,000 food items during the 6th Annual Mayflower Challenge. Students collected \$3,302 worth of groceries, which will be donated to the Springfield Food Pantry.
- Congratulations to the "No Name Ninjas" FIRST Lego League team, which won 1st place for Robotics Performance and 1st place for the Championship Award at the recent robotics competition at WNEC on December 8th. The team will next compete at WPI on December 15th.
- Kudos to the high school's Ice Hockey team who held a food and toy drive in support of the *Toys for Tots* holiday campaign sponsored by Channel 22.
- The *Annual Winter Arts Festival* will take place at the high school on December 12th from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. The event is open to the public and free of charge.
- Announcement that junior high students will perform in a *Winter Chorus Concert* on December 13th at 7 p.m. in the school auditorium
- Announcement that the Career Center will sponsor an *Open House at the Governors American Corporation facility* at 720 Silver Street in Agawam
- Announcement that the district will partner with the Harold Grinspoon Charitable Foundation in the *Cooler Agawam Initiative*
- Announcement that Doering students will perform in a *Winter Concert* on December 18th at 7 p.m. in the junior high auditorium
- Reminder that the *Annual Holiday Pops Band Concert* will take place on December 19th at 7 p.m. in the high school auditorium
- Announcement that 4th grade students at the Benjamin Phelps School will take their annual "walking field trip" to the Agawam Senior Center on December 19th where they will perform for the senior citizens
- Announcement that a *Career Panel* comprised of former high school students will be held on December 20th from 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. in the school auditorium
- Reminder that December 21st will be a ½ day of school for students and staff. Schools will be closed on December 24th through January 1, 2019. Schools will reopen on January 2, 2019.
- Reminder that the next DWST team meeting will take place on January 4th at 7:30 a.m. in the high school cafeteria
- Wishes to the Committee, staff, students, and viewing public for a Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy New Year

Under Student Advisory Committee Representative Update, Honesty was absent, so no report was given.

Under Unfinished Business, on a motion made by S. Reed, 2nd by T. Wilkie, the Committee voted to approve SCR-18-24, *Approval of Pay Rate Increase for Substitute Teachers*.

Vote: 6 – 0 – 1 absent

Next, on a motion made by C. Mineo, 2nd by T. Wilkie, the Committee voted to approve SCR-18-25, *Approval of AHS Class of 1962 Scholarship*.

Vote: 6 – 0 – 1 absent

Under Business Meeting, on a motion made by T. Wilkie, 2nd by S. Reed, the Committee voted to approve the November 27, 2018, regular meeting minutes.

Vote: 6 – 0 – 1 absent

Under Correspondence, C. Mineo had nothing to report.

Next, on motion made by S. Reed, 2nd by T. Wilkie, the Committee, via roll call, voted to approve the following warrants as read: SW-19-49 in the amount of \$7,234.50; SW-19-50 in the amount of \$117,371.47; SW-19-51 in the amount of \$65,551.02; SW-19-52 in the amount of \$63,861.21; and SW-19-53 in the amount of \$165,825.77. Also approved was payroll warrant PW-18-15 in the amount of \$4,683,183.61.

Vote: 6 – 0 – 1 absent

Under Reports, AHS Assistant Principal, Susan Feyre, provided the Committee with a NEASC Update. The following information was provided to the Committee:

- NEASC accredits 630 public schools throughout New England
- Districts are required to complete a self-study at least once every 10 years
- AHS received its last accreditation in 2008
- Initial membership in NEASC began in 1944
- NEASC will send a visiting team to AHS from September 29th to October 2, 2019
- A self-study is a collaborative reflection reviewing existing conditions, analyzing evidence, & drawing conclusions
- Programs and support services must align with the 7 NEASC Standards for Accreditation
- Standard 1 - Core Values, Beliefs, & Learning Expectations
- Standard 2 – Curriculum
- Standard 3 –Instruction
- Standard 4 – Assessment of and for Student Learning
- Standard 5 – School Culture and Leadership
- Standard 6 – School Resources for Learning
- Standard 7 – Community Resources for Learning
- Steering Committee Members
- Workflow for Fall/Winter 2018, Spring 2019, & Fall 2019
- Self-Study Work Sessions Timeline
- Formal Presentations of Standards Report at Faculty Meetings & Vote
- NEASC Chairman visit in June 2019
- Must develop a 2 year & 5 year Targeted Plan
- Develop School-wide Critical Strengths & Needs
- NEASC Team site visit Welcome Reception on September 29, 2019

At the conclusion of her presentation, a brief question and answer session took place during which Committee members thanked Mrs. Feyre for her report and for explaining the NEASC accreditation process.

Under Subcommittee Updates, S. Reed said the Policy Subcommittee met on November 13th to review the district's attendance policies. She said the Committee had made some revisions to the policy for grades K-8 and would be reviewing the policy for grades 9-12 at their next meeting on December 18th. The subcommittee will also review the district's policies on vaping, social media, and notification at their next meeting.

Under New Business, SCR-18-26, *Approval of AHS Empowerment Club*, was moved to the next meeting.

Under Policy Review, on a motion made by K. O'Connor, 2nd by A. Bonavita & T. Wilkie, the Committee voted to approve the 2nd & 3rd readings of Policy JFJ, *Student Activity Accounts*.

Vote: 6 – 0 – 1 absent

Items: All Committee members wished students, staff, and the viewing public a Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, and a Happy, Healthy New Year. S. Reed reported that at the December 7th DWST meeting new procedures for emergency dismissals were shared and may be used as a template. W. Rua said that she was pleased to learn that the high school's greenhouse is back. Mr. Lemanski explained that teacher Dan Balboni, who loves horticulture, has taken on the task of bringing the greenhouse back to full force by the spring. The problem with maintaining the greenhouse occurs during the summer months when school is not in session and no one is available to take care of it.

There being no further business, on a motion made by S. Reed, 2nd by C. Mineo, the Committee voted to adjourn.

Vote: 6 – 0 – 1 absent

Time: 7:56 p.m.

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

C. Mineo, Committee Secretary