

Chair, W. Sapelli, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Doering School auditorium.

Present: A. Bonavita, K. O'Connor, S. Reed, W. Rua, & T. Wilkie  
S. Lemanski, A. LeClair, R. Clickstein, & student representative Honesty Osbourne

Absent: C. Mineo

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

Under Highlights on Education, Athletic Director, David Stratton, was joined by AHS Principal, Thomas Schnepf, in a presentation regarding the Unified Basketball Program, which expands opportunities for those students with disabilities. In his report, Mr. Stratton shared the following information about the proposed program:

- Partners students with disabilities with those without disabilities
- Students play basketball twice a week
- The cost of the program is minimal and the return is great
- The program will begin in mid-September 2018 and conclude in mid-November 2018
- It is considered a MIAA sport and therefore is accountable to the MIAA rules
- Will be reaching out to the AHS Best Buddies Club
- Inclusive and makes students feel a part of the community
- Enhances social skills
- It is a unique experience for all students
- Partnership with Special Olympics

During discussion, the Committee thanked Mr. Stratton for bringing this wonderful program to Agawam's athletic program.

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

- Congratulations to senior Jake Wieners who won 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the "*Stop the Swerve*" Public Service Announcement Contest sponsored by the District Attorney's office and Channel 22. As a result of his award, the AHS technology department will receive a grant in the amount of \$5,000.
- Announcement that Mr. Stratton will be one of three guest speakers at the Baystate Health Conference Center in Holyoke on April 11<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Stratton will speak about the "*Continuum of Care for High School Athletes and MIAA Guidelines for Health Care and Safety*."
- Reminder that schools will be closed for *Spring Recess* from April 16<sup>th</sup> through April 20<sup>th</sup>. Schools will reopen on April 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- Reminder that the *Public Hearing on the FY'19 School Budget* will be held on April 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. prior to the regular school committee meeting at 7:00 p.m.
- Announcement that the *French and Spanish Honor Societies* will conduct an induction ceremony on April 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. in the high school auditorium.
- Announcement that he will be joining Mr. Schnepf and the high school administrators at the *Annual Junior/Senior Prom* at 6 p.m. at the Log Cabin in Holyoke
- Announcement that the AJHS Drama Club will be performing the play "*Aladdin*" on May 2<sup>nd</sup> and May 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7 p.m. in the school auditorium. Adult tickets are \$5, student tickets are \$2, and children under 5 are free.
- Reminder that the *Pioneer Valley Excellence in Teaching Awards Banquet* will take place on May 2<sup>nd</sup> at 5:30 p.m. at the Log Cabin in Holyoke.
- Announcement that the high school will be hosting its *Annual Spring Arts Festival* on May 10<sup>th</sup> beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the school auditorium.
- Reminder that the next DWST meeting will take place on May 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 a.m. in the high school cafeteria.

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

- The student body has been celebrating Autism Awareness Week with students pledging support and signing a poster
- The tuxedo fittings by College Formals at the high school were very successful and many students took advantage of the opportunity

- The Foreign Language Department is working with a new program called AAPPL, which potentially tests students to determine if they are at Level 4 or higher for bi-literacy. In the future, students who score at a high level will have a seal of bi-literacy attached to their diploma at graduation.

Under Unfinished Business, on a motion made by W. Rua, 2<sup>nd</sup> by T. Wilkie, the Committee voted to approve SCR-18-07, *Request to Reschedule Half-Day of Professional Development*.

Vote: 6 – 0 – 1 absent

Under Business Meeting, A. Bonavita made a motion, 2<sup>nd</sup> by K. O'Connor, to approve the March 27, 2018, regular meeting minutes. During discussion, S. Reed pointed out that it was K. O'Connor who said she attended the PAC meeting and not her.

Then, on a motion made by S. Reed, 2<sup>nd</sup> by W. Rua, the Committee voted to approve the March 27, 2018, regular meeting minutes as amended.

Vote: 6 – 0 – 1 absent

Under Correspondence, C. Mineo was absent so no report was provided.

Next, on motion made by W. Rua & S. Reed, 2<sup>nd</sup> by A. Bonavita, the Committee, via roll call, voted to approve the following warrants as read: SW-18-101 in the amount of \$20,623.38; SW-18-102 in the amount of \$22,423.43, and SW-18-103 in the amount of \$170,951.53.

Vote: 6 – 0 – 1 absent

Under Reports, the only report of the evening was the presentation of the FY'19 School Budget by Superintendent of Schools, Steven Lemanski, who was joined by School Business Administrator, Robert Clickstein. In his presentation, the following information was shared with the Committee and viewing public:

- Annual budget process includes school improvement plans, safety, ELL, and CBA obligations
- Social/Emotional Learning
- BHN referrals increased by 30%
- Special Education referrals increased to 639
- Safety & Risk mitigation
- English Language Learners 8-year trend in growth
- Collective Bargaining Agreements
- NESDEC projected enrollment
- FY'19 Enrollment indicates a “bubble class” in grade 5
- Enrollment versus Administrators
- Analyzing current student data
- Total requested budget increase is 3.3% above FY'18 Budget
- Budget Summary

During discussion, A. Bonavita said the needs of the district are real and are a reflection of what is going on in society. S. Reed pointed out that the social/emotional needs of students are increasing and that factor needs to be stressed to the City Council. K. O'Connor and T. Wilkie both said it is an excellent budget and complimented Mr. Lemanski for a job well done. Also stating that the budget was well done, W. Sapelli noted it is important to stress to the City Council that 57 fewer students next year does not mean less teachers, as that number is divided by 8 schools, which could result in only 4 fewer students per grade level.

Under Subcommittee Updates, no reports were given.

Under New Business, there was none on the agenda.

Under Policy Review, on a motion made by T. Wilkie, 2<sup>nd</sup> by W. Rua, the Committee voted to approve the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> readings of Policy JICH, *Alcohol, Tobacco, and Drug Use by Students Prohibited*.

Vote: 6 – 0 – 1 absent

Next, on a motion made by W. Rua, 2<sup>nd</sup> by K. O'Connor, the Committee voted to approve the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> readings of Policy ADF, *School District Wellness Program*.

Vote: 6 – 0 – 1 absent

Then, on a motion made by W. Rua, 2<sup>nd</sup> by T. Wilkie, the Committee voted to approve the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> readings of Policy KHC, *Distribution of Notices and Flyers*.

Vote: 6 – 0 – 1 absent

Items: K. O'Connor noted that parent attendance at the recent PAC meeting was great. She also announced that she will be attending MASC's Day on the Hill. In addition, she said that she enjoyed attending the recent reception for the new DESE Commissioner of Education. S. Reed wished students and staff a safe and fun-filled spring vacation. W. Rua asked to have copies of School Safety information from MASC shared with the other Committee members. She also stated that the speakers from the Western Mass. Correctional Addiction Center were excellent speakers at the recent DWST meeting, noting how powerful their testimonials were. In addition, she said those inmates supported canines in schools, saying if dogs were present they would have been caught with drugs and most likely would not have ended up at the correctional facility. T. Wilkie said she also will be attending Day on the Hill. In addition, the District Attorney will be presenting two special program for high school students on Friday, April 27<sup>th</sup>, at 8 a.m. in the school auditorium. Students in grades 9 & 10 will be shown "Just Once", whereas students in grades 11 & 12 will be shown "Stop the Swerve." She concluded her remarks by wishing everyone a safe spring vacation. A. Bonavita thanked the Mayor for attending several of the budget/finance subcommittee meetings and for participating in conversations regarding the proposed budget.

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: 6 – 0 – 1 absent

Time: 8:11 p.m.

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

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C. Mineo, Committee Secretary