

Chair, R. Cohen, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Roberta G. Doering School auditorium.

Present: A. Bonavita, B. Burbank, D. Juzba, C. Mineo, S. Reed (arrived at 7:05 p.m.), & W. Rua  
S. Lemanski, A. LeClair, R. Clickstein, & student representative Honesty Osbourne

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

Under Highlights on Education, Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Allison LeClair, and Special Services Director, April Rist, presented a report regarding Social and Emotional Learning. They shared the following information with the Committee:

- Social and Emotional Learning is for all students in all grade levels
- What is Social and Emotional Learning
- Systemic Framework
- Why Teach Social and Emotional Skills
- Strategic Priority of the Mass. Department of Elementary & Secondary Education
- Main areas of focus are school climate and culture
- Curriculum and Direct Instruction of Social and Emotional Learning
- Classroom procedures to promote SEI
- Robust systems of support
- Community partnerships
- Next steps

At the conclusion of their presentation, the Committee thanked Dr. LeClair and Mrs. Rist for bringing such an important topic to the Committee's attention at the beginning of the school year.

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

- Announcement that schools opened without major incident on September 7<sup>th</sup> for students in grades 1 – 12. Kindergarten and preschool students will begin school on September 13<sup>th</sup>.
- Doering School will conduct a *Back to School Night* on September 13<sup>th</sup>, and the four elementary schools will conduct theirs on September 21<sup>st</sup>. Also, *Back to School Nights* will be held at the junior high on September 19<sup>th</sup>, at the senior high on September 14<sup>th</sup>, and at the Early Childhood Center on October 19<sup>th</sup>.
- Kudos to Building Maintenance Director, Doug White, and his crews for doing an amazing job preparing our schools for opening day.
- Announcement that all 8 schools received occupancy permits at the conclusion of inspection on August 21<sup>st</sup>. Joining Mr. Lemanski were Mr. Clickstein, Mr. White, Fire Inspector Jake Dushane, and Building Inspector Erik Wight.
- Announcement that he attended the town's *Remembrance Ceremony* in recognition of the 9/11 Anniversary. The event took place at the Agawam Fire Department Headquarters on Main Street. Also, an error of omission occurred at the high school, which was rectified with lessons about 9/11 in all social studies classes, as well as a message to all students and staff from the principal who noted the importance of remembering that day in the country's history.
- Reminder that *Agawam Day* at the Big E has been scheduled for September 27<sup>th</sup>. Students in grades K-12 will be issued vouchers which can be redeemed for free admission passes after 2 p.m. on Sept. 27<sup>th</sup>.
- Announcement that the New England Association of Schools and Colleges will be sending a visiting committee to the high school from September 29<sup>th</sup> to October 2, 2017. The visit is part of the school's decennial accreditation process.
- Announcement that the large American flag located on the new football field will be taken down in order to perform repairs.
- Attendance at the *Annual New England Association of School Superintendents Conference* in Southbury, CT from September 28<sup>th</sup> to September 29, 2017. The focus of the 2-day event will be legal issues and challenges facing today's superintendents and how innovation is the key to success in our schools.

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

- The assimilation of freshman into the student body was smooth. Thank you to the junior high and senior high school teachers for a smooth transition to a new school.
- Students are exhibiting a strong sense of school pride and the overall environment of the school is very accepting.

Under Unfinished Business, there was none on the agenda.

Under Business Meeting, on a motion made by D. Juzba, 2<sup>nd</sup> by W. Rua, the Committee voted to approve the June 27, 2017, regular meeting and Executive Session minutes.

Vote: 7 - 0

Under Correspondence, D. Juzba had nothing to report.

Next, on a motion made by D. Juzba, 2<sup>nd</sup> by C. Mineo, the Committee, via roll call, voted to approve the following warrants as read: SW-17-80 in the amount of \$352,565.63; SW-17-81 in the amount of \$254,076.63; SW-17-82 in the amount of \$42,983.29; SW-17-83 in the amount of \$65,275.33; SW-18-01 in the amount of \$84,844.52; SW-18-02 in the amount of \$39,457.35; SW-18-03 in the amount of \$58,116.73; SW-18-04 in the amount of \$69,739.40; SW-18-05 in the amount of \$5,853.04; SW-18-06 in the amount of \$17,147.37; SW-18-07 in the amount of \$168,804.02; SW-18-08 in the amount of \$60,116.07; SW-18-09 in the amount of \$32,541.93; SW-18-10 in the amount of \$110,700.34; SW-18-11 in the amount of \$126,769.93; SW-18-12 in the amount of \$36,977.62; SW-18-13 in the amount of \$58,157.03; SW-18-14 in the amount of \$9,144.69; and SW-18-15 in the amount of \$10,538.23. Also approved were payroll warrants PW-17-08 in the amount of \$4,286,981.17; PW-17-09 in the amount of \$681,878.41; PW-17-10 in the amount of \$2,277,035.24; PW-17-11 in the amount of \$1,975,995.90; PW-17-12 in the amount of \$289,789.02; and PW-17-13 in the amount of \$417,369.55.

Vote: 7 – 0

Under Reports, R. Cohen said the Committee should have received two paper reports in their packet of materials that included a Summer School Update as well as one regarding Summer Enrichment Programs.

Next, IT Director, Michael Feeley was joined by members of his department in presenting the Committee with a Technology Update. Joined by Network Support Technician, Barry Stacy, and IT Specialist, Kathleen Poggi, Mr. Feeley also introduced IT Support Technician Pam Koudelka, IT Data Support Technician Ann Ledger, and IT Specialist Ed Jacques. In his update, the following information was shared:

- Four major projects were initiated this summer
- New Student Information System
- New E-Mail and Connect Ed Systems
- Wi-Fi Routing at each building
- 3,000 mobile devices
- Football field cameras installed
- New keyless entry access system at high school
- New intercom system at the high school installed
- Donations from Westover Air Reserve Base
- More Chrome books for 1:1 learning
- ALICE on-line training

At the conclusion of his presentation, the Committee thanked Mr. Feeley and the members of his department for all of their hard work, diligence, and dedication.

Under Subcommittee Updates, Policy Subcommittee Chair, W. Rua, announced that the subcommittee members had met earlier that evening to review 11 policies and will be bringing forward on the next school committee agenda several existing policies that were revised with updated language, as well as several new policies that were issued by MASC.

Under New Business, SCR-17-12, Acceptance of \$1,668 Donation from the Italian Government to Continue Growth of Italian Language Studies at Agawam High School; SCR-17-13, Approval of AHS Graduation Ceremony on June 9, 2018, at 1:00 p.m. in Symphony Hall; SCR-17-14, Approval of *Star Wars Club*; and SCR-17-15, Approval of *Let's Gogh Art* After-School Program, were moved to the next meeting.

Due to timeliness, on a motion made by S. Reed, 2<sup>nd</sup> by W. Rua, the Committee voted to suspend the rules in order to take action on SCR-17-16, Acceptance of Donated Podium to AHS Band from Lisa Ziegert Memorial Fund & AHS Class of 1986.

Vote: 7 – 0

During discussion, S. Reed noted that the new band podium will be dedicated in honor of Lisa Ziegert at the September 15<sup>th</sup> home football game.

Then, on a motion made by S. Reed, 2<sup>nd</sup> by W. Rua, the Committee voted to approve SCR-17-16.

Vote: 7 - 0

Items: All Committee members welcome students and staff back to school and wished them a good start. W. Rua announced that she has assumed the role of president of the Parent Advisory Council and has designed a new pamphlet that explains the purpose of the group. She also plans to send out a survey to determine how she can get more parents involved with the PAC. Mrs. Rua noted the overwhelming amount of paperwork that parents must complete at the beginning of the school year especially if they have more than one child in the district. She is hopeful that more electronic forms will be used in the future. She concluded her remarks by asking when the first DWST meeting will take place. Mr. Lemanski answered that it will take place on Friday, October 6<sup>th</sup>, at 7:30 a.m. in the high school cafeteria. D. Juzba thanked her colleagues for their kind remarks that recently appeared in a newspaper article about her retirement from the Committee. She also said that she is thrilled that Mrs. Rua is replacing her as PAC president and attempting to revitalize the group. S. Reed welcomed Mr. Lemanski and Honesty Osbourne to the first Committee meeting of the new school year. She asked if the Committee would be involved with the high school accreditation process as it was in the past. Mr. Lemanski said yes and that process will begin in 2019. Mrs. Reed announced that Mrs. Rua will accompany her to Boston to continue the fight to retain the Indian Head logo for our district. She also said she is looking forward to hearing and seeing recommendations for a one-color graduation gown, other than the black gowns, which were worn by the Class of 2017. A. Bonavita praised both presentations made to the Committee that evening noting how important social and emotional issues are for students. In addition, he said he supports the district retaining the Indian Head logo, as it honors the Native American tribe for which the town is named. C. Mineo thanked Mr. Lemanski for discussing the 9/11 observance omission at the high school, saying how it is important to remain transparent. R. Cohen concluded remarks by announcing that the scheduled October 10, 2017, School Committee meeting has been cancelled due to the town's primary election taking place on that day.

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

Vote: 7 - 0

Time: 8:25 p.m.

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

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D. Juzba, Committee Secretary