

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, W. Rua,  
W. Sapelli, A. LeClair, R. Clickstein, & student representative Joseph Joyal

During Citizen's Speak Time, Terry Taylor of 222 North Westfield Street, FH, spoke about the popularity of the "Be Kind" message signs that were distributed around town. In addition, "Buddy Benches" were placed at all of the elementary school playgrounds as well as at the School Street Park. Both projects were highly successful; hence, the volunteer group is presently considering ideas for future projects that promote good will.

Under Highlights on Education, Mr. Sapelli announced that, to date, 26 new teachers have been hired for the 2016-2017 academic year. He then thanked the Mayor, School Committee, and City Council for passing the FY'17 School Budget, which allowed all retirees to be replaced. He then introduced each principal who, in turn, introduced the newest members of their staff to the Committee and viewing public.

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

- Announcement that recently held *Back-to-School Nights* were very well attended and feedback has been extremely positive. The final *Back-to-School Night* will take place on October 13<sup>th</sup> at the Early Childhood Center.
- Reminder that "Agawam Day" at the Big E will take place on September 28, 2016. Students in grades K-12 will be issued vouchers, which can be redeemed for free admission passes after 2:00 p.m. Preschool students are admitted free of charge.
- Announcement that the Feasibility Study Committee will meet on September 29<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. in the central office conference room.
- Announcement that an Executive Session has been scheduled for September 29<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the central office conference room.
- Attendance at the *Class of 1946 Reunion* at the Monte Carlo restaurant on October 6, 2016 at 1:00 p.m. This will be the last reunion for the class members who graduated 70 years ago from Agawam High School.
- Reminder that the first DWST meeting will take place on Friday, October 7<sup>th</sup>, at 7:30 a.m. in the high school cafeteria.
- Reminder that schools will be closed on October 10, 2016, in observance of Columbus Day. Schools will reopen on Tuesday, October 11<sup>th</sup>.
- Announcement that the MCAS results have been released, and the district has remained at the Level 2 designation.

Next, under Student Advisory Committee Representative Update, Joe reported on the following activities and events taking place at AHS:

- The first month of school has been going well
- Students are excited about *Agawam Day* at the Big E, saying it is a great opportunity to show town and school spirit, as sports teams and the school band will be marching in the parade
- Advisories will be starting next week. They are a great way to bring students and teachers together.
- Sophomore assembly took place today regarding the PSAT test
- Juniors are signing up for the SATs
- Counseling department has been wonderful and the Naviance software program makes it easier for students to select and apply to colleges and universities
- Students are a little disappointed that the September 30<sup>th</sup> football game will not be played on the new home field. However, they understand the wait is worth it. The bathroom in the rotunda is now open and looks amazing. Students are looking forward to spring when they can have a home track meet on the new turf.

Under Unfinished Business, on a motion made by S. Reed, 2<sup>nd</sup> by D. Juzba, the Committee voted to approve SCR-16-24, Approval of use of Granger School for *Let's Gogh Art* After-School Enrichment Program.

Vote: 7 - 0

Under Business meeting, on a motion made by W. Rua, 2<sup>nd</sup> by C. Mineo, the Committee voted to approve the September 13, 2016, regular meeting and Executive Session minutes.

Vote: 7 - 0

Under Correspondence, Mrs. Juzba read a letter from AHS Principal, Steven Lemanski, thanking the Mayor and School Committee for supporting the new high school Athletic Facility Complex proclaiming the project second-to-none in Western Mass.

Next, on a motion made by A. Bonavita, 2<sup>nd</sup> by D. Juzba, the Committee voted to approve the following warrants as read: SW-17-11 in the amount of \$58,411.57; SW-17-12 in the amount of \$48,149.22; SW-17-13 in the amount of \$27,083.03; SW-17-14 in the amount of \$1,154,212.60; and SW-17-15 in the amount of \$15,134.73. Also approved was payroll warrant PW-16-13 in the amount of \$2,662,877.99.

Vote: 7 – 0

Under Reports, R. Cohen announced that the Committee should have received a *Personnel Update* paper report in their packet of materials.

The only report of the evening was a *New Athletic Facility Update* as presented by Town Procurement Officer, Jennifer Bonfiglio, and Milone and Macbroom design firm representative, Mark Arigoni. In their presentation, the following information was shared with Committee members:

- The substantial completion of the project is scheduled for September 30, 2016
- Bleachers will be completely installed by October 7<sup>th</sup>
- The home football game on September 30<sup>th</sup> had to be moved to Holyoke
- All games will be able to be played on the new turf by October 3<sup>rd</sup>
- The tennis courts also will be ready on October 3<sup>rd</sup>
- Scoreboard training will take place on September 28<sup>th</sup>
- Baseball and softball fields will be ready by spring 2017
- Inside tile work is outstanding
- New team rooms, showers, and bathrooms
- Track coated with a special surface that is high-quality that is the best in the state
- Lines for the track will be painted the week of October 3<sup>rd</sup>
- Substantial completion means almost there with the bleachers the only exception
- Tennis courts are constructed of a post-tension concrete system rather than asphalt, so they will last 30 – 40 years
- The baseball and softball fields are the nicest in New England and include prefabricated concrete dugouts
- Sound system has been upgraded and will be installed under the scoreboard
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At the conclusion of their remarks, the Committee thanked Ms. Bonfiglio and Mr. Arigoni for their wonderful report noting that the new athletic facility looks fantastic and the baseball field is comparable to those found in the major leagues. Ms. Bonfiglio announced that the ribbon-cutting ceremony will take place on Sunday, October 16<sup>th</sup>, at 11:30 a.m. prior to the Hall of Fame ceremony at 12:30 p.m. S. Reed asked that the Committee receive timely updates noting that the Committee was unaware that the home football game on September 30<sup>th</sup> had to be moved to Holyoke. R. Cohen explained that the decision was just made 24 hours ago on Monday. Mr. Sapelli said they had no control over the situation and had to give priority to notifying the coaches and players of the change of venue.

Under Subcommittee Updates, none were given.

Under New Business, SCR-16-25, *MASC Voting/Alternate Delegates*, and SCR-16-26, *MASC Resolutions*, were moved to the next meeting.

Items: All Committee members welcomed the new teachers saying how much they enjoy hearing about each person's prior experience and education. As a member of the "Be Kind Team", W. Rua thanked the adults who were so wonderful and supportive to the students. She also thanked the administration for listening and finding a solution to the junior high school band rehearsal problem, noting that students will now receive rehearsal time once a week plus additional time after school. D. Juzba announced that a PAC meeting will take place on November 15<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. in the junior high school library. The topic for the meeting will be transition. B. Burbank asked if it were possible to get another home game, as band members had lost an opportunity to play at a home game. Mr. Sapelli said it was unfortunate, but couldn't be helped and it wouldn't be possible to schedule another home game this season. Mr. Burbank also thanked Mr. Robbins for finding a creative solution to the band rehearsal problem at the junior high school. A. Bonavita shared that many people from out of town have congratulated him on the new athletic complex saying how beautiful it is.

C. Mineo announced that he had toured the new manufacturing facility at the Collaborative on Friday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>, and stated how impressed he was by what will be offered to students electing to take that program. He also said he is looking forward to Agawam Day at the Big E. R. Cohen said he is also looking forward to Agawam Day and marching in the parade, which begins promptly at 5:00 p.m.,

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: 8:13 p.m.

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

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Diane Juzba, Committee Secretary