

Chair, R. Cohen, called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. in the Roberta G. Doering School auditorium.

Present: A. Bonavita, R. Doering, D. Juzba, L. Galarneau, K. Mouneimneh, & S. Reed
W. Sapelli, A. LeClair, P. Cavanaugh,

Absent: student representative Leisl Bard

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

Next, under Highlights on Education, Mayor Cohen was joined by the Committee, Mr. Sapelli, Miss Cavanaugh, and Mrs. LeClair in a presentation of the "Outstanding Citizenship Award" to AHS student, Zachary Sabadosa, for his exemplary act of kindness and thoughtfulness, which resulted in his securing a \$20,000.00 grant to help rebuild Cathedral High School, which was devastated by the June 1, 2011, tornado.

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

- Congratulations to AHS seniors Ashley Casiello, Dillon Cecchi, and Emily Walters who were nominated as "Commended Students" in the *2012 National Merit Scholarship Program*.
- Attendance together with Mr. Lemanski and Mr. Stratton at the MIAA 's 15th Annual Wellness Summit where Mrs. Doering was honored with the prestigious Michael J. Kane Wellness Award.
- Announcement that AHS Environmental Science teacher, Nancy Bobskill, is one of three recipients of this year's "Outstanding Recycler of the Year Award."
- Attendance at the October 12, 2011, "College and Career Day" program at AHS, at which Dave Ratner owner of Dave's Soda & Pet Food City was the keynote speaker. Thank you to Mr. Ratner for his enjoyable and inspirational address to the students.
- Announcement that the AHS Guidance Department hosted its annual "College Fair" on October 21, 2011, at which 87 colleges, universities, technical schools, and military representatives participated.
- Reminder that the next DWST meeting will take place on Friday, November 4th, at 7:30 a.m. in the AHS cafeteria.
- Announcement that former AHS student Pavlina Moysis, who is a New York City print/color designer and graphic artist, recently wrote a column in the *Agawam Advertiser*, in which she credited her success to AHS Visual Arts teachers, Debora Florek and Amber Waters.
- Reminder that schools will be closed for students on Tuesday, November 8th, due to the election. Staff will participate in a full day of professional development.
- Reminder that schools will be closed on November 11th, for Veteran's Day.
- Announcement that APWebDirect, another online communication tool, has been unveiled at the senior high, junior high, and four elementary schools.
- Attendance at the Annual MASC/MASS Joint Conference in Hyannis on November 9th, 10th, and 11th with Mrs. Doering, Mrs. Juzba, and Mrs. Reed.

Next, under Student Advisory Committee Representative Update, no report was given due to Leisl's absence.

Under Unfinished Business, R. Doering nominated S. Reed, 2nd by D. Juzba, to serve as Voting Delegate to the annual MASC Business Meeting on Friday, November 11, 2011. There being no further nominations, nominations were closed.

Vote: 7 – 0

Next, R. Doering nominated D. Juzba, 2nd by S. Reed, to serve as Alternate Delegate to the annual MASC Business Meeting on Friday, November 11, 2011. There being no further nominations, nominations were closed.

Vote: 7 – 0

Also under Unfinished Business, Mrs. Ferioli read the following *2011 MASC Resolutions*, which the Committee voted whether or not to support:

- Resolution #1 – *Providing Greater Access for Students to Exploratory Visits to Chapter 74 Approved Vocational Education Programs*. On a motion made by A. Bonavita, 2nd by R. Doering, the Committee voted to support this resolution.

Vote: 7 – 0.

- Resolution #2 – *Teacher Evaluation*. On a motion made by L. Galarneau, 2nd by D. Juzba, the Committee voted to support this resolution.
Vote: 4 – 3 nay
- Resolution #3 – *Charter School Funding*. On a motion made by A. Bonavita, 2nd by S. Reed, the Committee voted to support this resolution.
Vote: 7 – 0
- Resolution # 4 – *Enactment of a Freeze on Federal Regulations Pending the Reauthorization of No Child Left Behind*. On a motion made by A. Bonavita, 2nd by D. Juzba, the Committee voted to support this resolution.
Vote: 6 – 0 – 1 abstention
- Resolution #5 – *State Educator Evaluation Process*. On a motion made by D. Juzba, 2nd by K. Mouneimneh, the Committee voted to support this resolution.
Vote: 7 - 0

Under Business Meeting, on a motion made by D. Juzba, 2nd by R. Doering, the Committee voted to approve the September 27, 2011, regular meeting and Executive Session minutes.
Vote: 7 - 0

Under Calendar/Correspondence, R. Doering read two email messages from parent Leonard Cooperman, who praised Mr. Lemanski, Mr. Feeley, Mr. Stinson, and the town's public schools, in general, for the excellent education his son is receiving at the high school.

Next, on a motion made by R. Doering 2nd by D. Juzba, the Committee, via roll call, approved the following warrants as read: SW-12-09 in the amount of \$23,070.51; SW-12-10 in the amount of \$64,366.94; SW-12-11 in the amount of \$518,338.30, SW-12-12 in the amount of \$5,503.97, SW-12-13 in the amount of \$52,599.63, SW-12-14 in the amount of \$6,972.00, and SW-12-15 in the amount of \$444,876.25.
Vote: 7 - 0

Under Reports, R. Cohen stated the Committee should have received four paper reports regarding Student/Teacher Enrollment, High School Course Elimination, AP & SAT Scores, & Personnel in their packets. Questions about any of those reports should be directed to Mr. Sapelli.

The first report of the evening was a MCAS Scores update as presented by A. LeClair, Director of Curriculum & Instruction. In her PowerPoint presentation, she reviewed the following information:

- Adequate Yearly Progress & Affirmative AYP Determination
- Composite Performance Index
- State Performance Targets
- 2011 MCAS Highlights
- DESE Growth Model
- 2011-2012 Required Actions
- Education Proficiency Plan
- ELA & Math Cohorts
- District Initiatives
- Spring 2012 MCAS Schedule

The next report was the School Year 2011 – 2012 District Priorities as presented by W. Sapelli, Interim Superintendent of Schools. In his report, Mr. Sapelli highlighted the additions and changes to the district's 5-Year Improvement Plan, *Building a Bridge to 2015*, noting how most goals have been expanded upon from the previous year, and new goals also have been added. He then reviewed each goal under the following areas:

- Leadership & Governance
- Curriculum & Instruction
- Assessments
- Human Resources & Professional Development
- Student Support
- Financial & Asset Management

During discussion, R. Doering suggested that a workshop regarding the Common Core and the new Teacher/Administrator Evaluation Instrument would be beneficial to the Committee. Mr. Sapelli heartily agreed and said a workshop about these two new initiatives is crucial once all information has been received from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. He said he expects to receive that information sometime in January 2012.

The final report of the evening was a Financial Update as presented by P. Cavanaugh, Director of Finance/HR. In her report, Miss Cavanaugh estimated, to date, a positive variance through September 30, 2011, in the FY'12 Budget of \$145,886.00. Miss Cavanaugh also provided the Committee with an update regarding the awarding of the security camera contract to ADT, saying she hopes these cameras will be installed at the junior and senior high schools by December 2011.

Next, under Subcommittee Updates, no updates were given.

Under New Business, SCR-11-23, *Approval to Dedicate a Rock with Plaque in Memory of Thomas Lockwood at Phelps School*, and SCR-11-24, *Acceptance of Gift by Class of 1959*, were moved to the next meeting where they will appear under Unfinished Business.

Due to timeliness, on a motion made by D. Juzba, 2nd by A. Bonavita, the Committee voted to suspend the rules to take action on SCR-11-25, *Approval to Accept a MSBA Grant for a Green Repair Program for the Agawam Junior High School*.

Vote: 7 – 0

Then, on a motion made by K. Mouneimneh, 2nd by D. Juzba, the Committee, via roll call, voted to approve SCR-11-25.

Vote: 7 - 0

Items discussed, S. Reed asked when parents will receive their Point-of Sales account balances. P. Cavanaugh said they will be sent home with students at the end of the month. Mrs. Reed also said it was a pleasure to attend the recent Harvest Music Festival where the high school received a bronze medal. L. Galarneau asked if any new school lunch nutrition standards have been received yet, saying she would like to see the revisions. P. Cavanaugh said that they had been received, and Mr. Lecuyer is incorporating them into the district's school lunch program. She also asked if perhaps IT Director, Mike Feeley could conduct a survey of AHS graduates who went to college to see if they actually did go and finish 4 years. K. Mouneimneh congratulated Nancy Bobskill for winning the "Outstanding Recycler of the Year Award," and asked if she could be invited to a Committee meeting to educate the group about paper waste. Mrs. Mouneimneh also questioned why so many courses were eliminated. Mr. Sapelli explained that they were not entire courses, but rather sections of courses with low enrollment. She also thanked Mr. Sapelli for providing the Committee with the Student/Teacher Enrollment report, adding that she wished there were more of a balance in class size.

Next, on a motion made by R. Doering, 2nd by D. Juzba, the Committee, via roll call, voted to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing contract negotiations.

Vote: 7 – 0

R. Cohen said the Committee would return for the sole purpose of adjournment. Time: 9:00 p.m.

R. Cohen reconvened the meeting at 9:35 p.m.

There being no further business, on a motion made by D. Juzba, 2nd by L. Galarneau, the Committee voted to adjourn.

Vote: 6 – 0 – 1 absent (K. Mouneimneh)

Time: 9:36p.m.