

Chair, R. Cohen, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. in the Roberta G. Doering School auditorium.

Present: A. Bonavita, R. Doering, D. Juzba, K. Mouneimneh, S. Reed & L. Galarneau (arrived at 6:40 p.m.)
W. Sapelli, A. LeClair, P. Cavanaugh, & student representative Leisl Bard

On a motion made by D. Juzba, 2nd by A. Bonavita, the Committee, via roll call, voted to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing collective bargaining.

Vote: 6 – 0 – 1 absent

R. Cohen reconvened the meeting at 7:02 p.m.

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

Next, under Highlights on Education, Mr. Sapelli announced that, to date, 18 new teachers, 8 new paraprofessionals, and 1 new enrichment coach have been hired by the district for the 2011-2012 academic year. He then introduced each building 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:

- Thank you to Mayor Cohen, School Committee, and City Council for approving a \$97,000.00 supplemental budget for the schools thereby eliminating the need for athletic fees
- Letter from Cathedral High School principal, John Miller, praising AHS student Zachary Sabadosa who entered ESPN's "Rise Up For Your School Contest" in order to assist Cathedral High School, which was devastated by an EF-3 tornado in June 2011. As a result of Zack winning the contest, Cathedral High School will receive \$20,000.00 towards rebuilding. During discussion, it was suggested that Zack and his parents attend a Committee meeting so he can be recognized for his act of kindness.
- Announcement that the recent Back-To-School nights at each school were well attended and feedback has been very positive
- Announcement that the annual MMSI Grant "kick-off" will take place on Friday, September 30, 2011, in the high school cafeteria
- Report that Commissioner Chester's visit to Granger School on September 16th was very successful, especially the tour of language based classrooms of Tara LaFond & Carolyn DiClementi. Thank you to those Committee members who could attend the roundtable discussion with the Commissioner.
- Announcement that the Study Team site visit by MSBA on September 21st was highly productive. Joining him on a tour of the entire building and a discussion of the facilities by Mr. Lemanski, Mr. Albro, Miss Cavanaugh together with a MSBA representative and two architects.
- Reminder that on October 11th schools will be closed for students and staff due to the primary election. However, central office will be open.
- Report that every senior and junior high school student has their own Edline account and approximately 1,280 students are participating on Edline. Also, approximately 1,000 parents have signed up for Edline.
- Reminder that Agawam Day at the Big E is Wednesday, September 28th. Students have received vouchers for free admission after 2:00 p.m.

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

- All AP students will participate in the MMSI Grant "kick-off" on Friday, September 30th in the school cafeteria.
- The Navy Seals "Leap Frog" demonstration scheduled for September 27th at 10:00 a.m. was cancelled due to the weather.
- The Navy Band performed from 12:30 - 1:30 p.m. today.
- In early October, for the first time, the PSATs will be taken by Freshman.
- The installation of security cameras throughout the school will soon begin.
- A new system to report student absences has started.

- Edline has been very helpful to students and parents.
- Seniors are meeting with their counselors to begin the college application process.
- Fellow student John Reidy has been appointed Chair of the MIAA Student Advisory Committee.
- Everyone is looking forward to Agawam Day at the Big E.
- Project Wisdom, whereby a quote regarding positive thinking is read throughout the day., has started.

Under Unfinished Business, on a motion made by R. Doering, 2nd by S. Reed, the Committee voted to approve SCR-11-20, Approval of AHS Graduation Ceremony at Symphony Hall on June 10, 2012, at 1:00 p.m.

Vote: 7 - 0

Under Business Meeting, on a motion made by D. Juzba, 2nd by A. Bonavita, the Committee voted to approve the September 13, 2011, regular meeting minutes.

Vote: 7 - 0

Under Calendar/Correspondence, R. Doering read a note from Mr. & Mrs. Plante of Feeding Hills, whose grandchildren attend Cathedral High School. In their note they thanked AHS student Zachary Sabadosa for his efforts in securing a \$20,000.00 grant for Cathedral High School to help in their rebuilding efforts.

Next, on a motion made by R. Doering 2nd by D. Juzba, the Committee, via roll call, approved the following warrants as read: SW-12-06 in the amount of \$110,113.67; SW-12-07 in the amount of \$73,016.28; and SW-12-08 in the amount of \$935,118.13.

Vote: 7 - 0

Under Reports, R. Cohen said the Committee should have received three paper reports regarding Reading Recovery, Special Education, and Personnel in their packets. The only other report scheduled was a Financial Update, which will be postponed to the next meeting as the auditor only closed the books at Town Hall on Monday, September 26, 2012.

During discussion, P. Cavanaugh requested that the first Financial Update of the school year be postponed until October, since the auditor does not close the Town's books until late September. It was also the consensus of the Committee to request the Reading Recovery teachers to appear before the Committee at some point so they can hear more about the progress of the program.

Next, L. Galarneau asked that the rules be suspended so the Committee could discuss the Special Education Update, about which she had questions.

On a motion made by A. Bonavita, 2nd by S. Reed, the Committee voted to suspend the rules to discuss the Special Education Update report.

Vote: 7 - 0

L. Galarneau questioned why the \$97,000.00 supplemental budget wasn't earmarked for a possible special education shortfall rather than using the funds to eliminate sports fees. She then asked if the district would have a deficit in the special education account due to a needy child moving to the district. Mr. Sapelli explained that the special education budget is always fluid, and, at present, the district does not have a shortfall in funds. P. Cavanaugh said the \$97,000.00 was earmarked to restore what was cut from the budget and that the district will be receiving more than it anticipated in Circuit Breaker funds, which can be applied to any shortfall that may arise. A. Bonavita noted it only makes sense that the money allocated for a special education student should follow the student to the new district, which did not budget for that student. L. Galarneau said she would like timely reports on Special Education finances.

Next, under Subcommittee Updates, no updates were given.

Under New Business, SCR-11-21, Designation of MASC Voting Delegate & Alternate to the Annual Business Meeting on November 11, 2011, and SCR-11-22, Adoption of 2011 MASC Resolutions were moved to the next meeting where they will appear under Unfinished Business.

Items discussed, K. Mouneimneh asked when the Committee would receive the class size report. Mr. Sapelli said that report is on the Committee's report schedule for the October 25, 2011 meeting. Mrs. Mouneimneh also asked as to the status of the security cameras for the senior and junior high schools. Miss Cavanaugh said that a Request for Proposal was sent out and two vendors qualified for consideration. She will be meeting with the selected vendors during the next week and will be ready to award a contract soon. D. Juzba praised the Reading Recovery report and said she looks forward to the Reading Recovery teachers appearing before the Committee to give a more detailed report. Mr. Sapelli said he would arrange for the Reading Recovery teachers to appear once he checked the monthly report schedule. A. Bonavita thanked the Mayor and City Council for giving \$97,000.00 in supplemental funds to the schools in order to eliminate athletic fees, noting their action shows their strong support for education. R. Doering congratulated AHS student John Reidy for being elected chair of the MIAA Student Advisory Committee saying how this position will help to develop his leadership skills. S. Reed echoed her colleague and said she would enjoy having the Reading Recovery teachers present to the Committee. She also questioned why parents cannot receive a balance on their child's lunch program account. P. Cavanaugh said parents should be getting a monthly or biweekly statement of their child's account and promised to check into the situation. In her final remark, Mrs. Reed thanked Helen Marganti for all of her hard work overseeing school bus transportation for the district's students.

There being no further business, on a motion made by D. Juzba, 2nd by R. Doering, the Committee voted to adjourn.
Vote: 7 - 0
Time: 8:01p.m.

Alexis Ferioli
Executive Assistant to the Superintendent & School Committee

Roberta G. Doering
Secretary