

**NORTHBOROUGH-SOUTHBOROUGH REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE
OPEN MEETING**

Algonquin Regional High School Library
79 Bartlett Street, Northborough, MA

Wednesday, May 15, 2019
7:00 PM

Present: Mrs. Joan Frank, Mr. Paul Desmond, Ms. Kathleen Harragan Polutchko, Mr. Paul Butka, Ms. Cathy Kea, Mr. Daniel Kolenda, and Mr. Sean O'Shea

Absent: Ms. Kathleen Howland, Mrs. Lynn Winter, Mr. John Kane and Dr. Sara Walsh

Also Present: Ms. Christine Johnson, Mr. Greg Martineau, Ms. Marie Alan, Mr. Mike Mocerino, Mr. Andrew McGowan, and Ms. Michelle Tontodonato

Mrs. Frank, Senior member of the Regional School Committee, opened the Regional School Committee Open Meeting at 7:05 p.m.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Mrs. Frank explained the practice of alternating Southborough and Northborough committee members as officers. Last year's election was Northborough members and tonight's election would be Southborough members.

Chairperson

Mrs. Frank asked for nominations for Chairperson.

Mr. Desmond nominated Ms. Cathy Kea as Chairperson of the Regional School Committee (only nomination brought forth), Mr. Butka seconded, and it was unanimously voted, "To elect Ms. Cathy Kea as the Chairperson of the Regional School Committee."

**MOTION ON
CHAIRPERSON**

Ms. Kea accepted the nomination and position as the Chairperson.

Vice-Chairperson

Ms. Kea requested nominations for Vice-Chairperson of the Regional School Committee.

Mr. Desmond nominated Ms. Kathleen Polutchko for Vice-Chairperson of the Regional School Committee, Mr. Butka seconded, and it was unanimously voted, "To elect Ms. Kathleen Polutchko as Vice-Chairperson of the Regional School Committee."

**MOTION ON VICE-
CHAIRPERSON**

Ms. Polutchko agreed to accept the nomination and position as Vice-Chairperson.

Secretary

Ms. Kea requested nominations for Secretary of the Regional School Committee.

Ms. Polutchko nominated Mr. Paul Desmond (only nomination brought forth), Mr. Desmond seconded, and it was unanimously voted, "To elect Mr. Paul Desmond as Secretary of the Regional School Committee."

**MOTION ON
SECRETARY**

Mr. Desmond accepted the nomination for Secretary.

SCHOOL CHOICE PUBLIC HEARING

Ms. Kea opened the Public Hearing at 7:07 p.m. Superintendent Johnson provided an overview of school choice. Superintendent Johnson did not recommend that our district participate in school choice for this coming year. She recommended that the school committee review the program next year. She shared components influencing the decision such as fluctuations in student enrollments, requirement to accept siblings of school choice students, course selection process, classroom sizes, and per pupil expense (\$17,040 at Algonquin, \$5K for school choice reimbursement per pupil). Superintendent Johnson explained the need for the Regional School Committee to take a vote and inform the Department of Elementary and Secondary (DESE) by June 1, 2019 otherwise, the District would automatically be considered a school choice district.

Committee members and Superintendent Johnson discussed the international program and costs. We had one student enroll in the 2018-2019 school year. Committee members discussed the benefits of the program for the future.

Ms. Kea asked for audience participation; no one responded. Ms. Kea closed the Public Hearing at 7:20 p.m.

A. ACTION ON MINUTES:

1. Action on the Open Meeting Minutes of April 24, 2019. Mrs. Winter asked for discussion and action on the minutes.

Mr. Butka motioned, Mrs. Frank seconded, and it was unanimously voted, "To approve the Open Meeting Minutes of April 24, 2019."

**MOTION ON
MINUTES**

B. EDUCATIONAL POLICY:

1. Approval of Best Buddies Overnight Fieldtrip to the Best Buddies International Leadership Conference at Indiana University in Bloomington, IN July 19-22, 2019

Mr. Butka motioned, Mr. Kolenda seconded, and it was unanimously voted, "To approve the Best Buddies Overnight Fieldtrip to the Best Buddies International Leadership Conference at Indiana University in Bloomington, IN July 19-22, 2019."

**MOTION ON
FIELDTRIP**

C. NEW BUSINESS:

1. School Choice Vote – Ms. Kea asked for discussion and action.

Mr. Butka motioned, Mr. Kolenda seconded, and it was unanimously voted, "The Northborough-Southborough Regional School Committee votes to not participate in School Choice in FY2020 and to direct our Superintendent to notify the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education of this decision no later than June 1, 2019."

**MOTION ON
SCHOOL
CHOICE**

2. Social Studies Department Presentation – Ms. Brittany Burns, Department Chairperson, presented a PowerPoint highlighting staff and students and shared a comprehensive overview of course offerings. She thanked her 15 member department and gave special recognition for Ms. Christina Smith for finishing her doctorate program.

Topics discussed included: the new social studies standards, the K-12 alignment of social studies and working closely with K-12 curriculum leaders, professional

development, NEF Grant, department highlights, goals, collaboration, global issues, speakers, and community. Ms. Burns introduced two graduating seniors who spoke about their experiences at Algonquin and future plans in college.

Committee members thanked Ms. Burns for the time this evening and asked the students for feedback on how the School Committee could help more.

3. 2019-2020 School Committee Subcommittee and Liaison Assignments – Superintendent Johnson reviewed and recommended that members inform the Chair of their interest.

D. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT TO THE COMMITTEE:

1. Principal’s Report – Mr. Andrew McGowan, Assistant Principal, gave an update on activities and events at Algonquin including: Tiny Tomahawks event, Annual Town Cleanup, DECA competition, Senior Ball, Junior Prom this coming Saturday, Algonquin Writing Center, Athletics, upcoming MCAS, Algonquin Games, Applied Arts and Technology video, Big Group 9th grade team, Library efforts, *Harbinger*, Physical education, and appreciation efforts.

Committee members thanked Mr. McGowan for the update this evening.

2. Enrollments – In packet.
3. FY’19 Monthly General Expenditure Report – Superintendent Johnson thanked Mr. Mocerino for his management of the athletic budget and success in his first year as Athletic Director.

Mr. Butka motioned, Mr. Kolenda seconded, and it was unanimously voted, “To approve the FY’2019 Monthly Expenditure Report of April 30, 2019 until audited.”

**MOTION ON FY’19
REPORTS**

4. FY’19 Statement of Revenue – Superintendent Johnson briefly reviewed and commented on the report.

Mr. Butka motioned, Mr. Kolenda seconded, and it was unanimously voted, “To approve the FY’2019 Statement of Revenue report of April 30, 2019 until audited.”

5. Treasurer’s Report and Reappointment – Ms. Christine Tague and Mrs. Lynne Winter.

Mr. Kolenda motioned, Mr. Butka seconded, and it was unanimously voted, “To re-appoint Ms. Christine Tague as Treasurer for the upcoming year.”

**MOTION ON
REAPPOINTING
TREASURER**

Mr. Butka motioned, Mr. Kolenda seconded, and it was unanimously voted, “To re-appoint Mrs. Lynne Winter as Assistant Treasurer for the upcoming year.”

E. OLD BUSINESS:

1. Athletics Update
 - Guide to Athletics – Mr. Mike Mocerino gave an update on Athletics and accomplishments this evening. He expressed gratitude to our Booster’s Club for involvement in our athletics, banquets, funding, and support. June 18th is the golf fundraiser for the Booster’s Club.

Mr. Mocerino reviewed the 2019-2020 changes to Algonquin Guide to Athletics. He thanked all the parents, students, and athletes for the efforts in updating the Guide to Athletics. Mr. Butka requested more information on Impact Testing to be included in the final version.

2. Student Handbook Approval – Ms. Tontodonato gave an update on the handbook efforts of many.

Mr. Kolenda motioned, Mr. Butka seconded, and it was unanimously voted, “To approve the Student Handbook as presented.”

**MOTION ON
STUDENT
HANDBOOK**

F. POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND/OR DISTRIBUTION:

1. Second Reading
 - a. E-240 New Bus Transportation
 - b. K-240 New Advertising, sponsorship and Donations

Mr. Martineau gave an update on the policies. Ms. Kea asked for discussion and vote.

Mr. Butka motioned, Mr. Kolenda seconded, and it was unanimously voted, “To approve the E-240 and K-240 policies as presented.”

**MOTION ON
POLICIES**

- G. AUDIENCES: SHARING** – Ms. Kea asked for audience sharing; Ms. Lisa Dunderdale, parent and resident of Southborough, shared thoughts on having an operational manual for athletics and how to mitigate risk for our student athletes. She asked that keeping our students safe is priority and asked to continue discussions and meetings to get policies and procedures in place. Ms. Dunderdale thanked Superintendent Johnson and Mr. Mocerino for bringing the discussion forward.

Mr. Kolenda commented on Superintendent Johnson’s article in the *Harbinger* and all of her efforts over the years as an educator and administrator.

Ms. Polutchko read comments about Superintendent Johnson’s skills, character, collaboration, and professionalism. She stated that the most often used descriptions are collaborative, commitment, and leadership skills. Superintendent Johnson thanked the Committee and extended her appreciation for the District’s support of our schools.

H. PERSONNEL:

1. Distribution of Personnel Report– In packet.

I. COMMUNICATIONS:

1. MARS Newsletter April 2019
2. Distribution of the *Harbinger*

J. APPROVAL OF BILLS AND PAYROLLS:

Superintendent Johnson had bills and payrolls required approval.

K. AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MONTH:

The committee had no further business to discuss; Ms. Kea asked for a motion to adjourn.

Mr. Butka motioned, Mr. Kolenda seconded, and it was unanimously voted, "To adjourn the Open Meeting of the Regional School Committee."

**MOTION TO
ADJOURN**

The Regional School Committee Open Meeting ended at 8:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Eileen Dawson
Recording Secretary

List of documents used at meeting:

1. Agenda for Northborough-Southborough Regional School Committee Meeting for 5/15/19
2. Northborough-Southborough Regional School Committee Open Meeting Minutes, dated April 24, 2019
3. Student Handbook 2019-2020
4. Changes to Algonquin Athletics Guidelines 2019-2020
5. Student Travel J-300 for Best Buddies Overnight Fieldtrip
6. Subcommittee or Liaison 2019-2020
7. Principal Report, May 2019
8. Northborough Southborough Regional School District FY2019 Budget Monthly General Fund Expenditure Report, dated April 30, 2019
9. Northborough/Southborough Regional School District Statement of Revenue, dated April 30, 2019
10. School District Algonquin Regional High School Enrollments, actual 2018-2019: enrollments –5/2/19, actual enrollments as of 10/1/18; and projected 2018-2019 enrollments as of 5/2/19
11. Northborough Southborough Regional FY2020 Proposed Budget Calendar
12. Personnel Report, May 15, 2019
13. Second Readings: E-240 New Bus Transportation and K-240 New Advertising, sponsorship and Donations
14. MARS Newsletter, April 2019
15. *Harbinger*, May 2019, Vol 31, No 5

Approved: 06/19/2019