

MEDFIELD SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Regular Meeting
February 10, 2022

PRESENT: Jessica Reilly - Chair
Leo Brehm - Vice Chair
Timothy Knight - Recording Secretary
Meghan Glenn - Financial Secretary

ALSO PRESENT: Dr. Jeffrey Marsden - Superintendent of Schools
Michael LaFrancesca - Director of Finance and Operations
Andrea Moores - Secretary
Kerry White - Student Representative

ABSENT: Anna Mae O'Shea Brooke - Member at Large

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 pm after an Executive Session to discuss issues related to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body. (Medfield Teachers' Association Units A & B, AFL-CIO School Secretaries, Custodians and Cafeteria Workers, and to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for non-union personnel or contract negotiations with non-union personnel - Superintendent)

The Chair asked for a Roll Call to begin the meeting:

- Leo Brehm - present
- Timothy Knight -present
- Meghan Glenn - present
- Jessica Reilly -present

PUBLIC INPUT (items not on the agenda)

Rick Fink, 8 Donnelly Drive, read a statement to the Committee about the School Committee's lack of communication and transparency when interacting with the community. A copy of his full statement is included in the exhibits and documents list for this meeting.

Chris McCue Potts, reiterated her concerns from the last School Committee meeting regarding the School Committee's process for policy review. She expressed her view that it is important for the community to be engaged in the policy review process and to have access to redlined policies indicating any changes prior to a School Committee vote. She stated that the policy pertaining to public policy review be reviewed before continuing with the policy reviews. She made a request that the Committee not to approve the policies listed on this meeting agenda.

OLD BUSINESS (agenda out of order)

DESE COVID-19 Testing/Guidance/Mask Mandate – Board of Health (invited) – Potential Vote - presented by Dr. Jeffrey Marsden

Dr. Marsden updated the Committee on the most recent update from Governor Charlie Baker and Commissioner Jeffrey Riley. As result of the latest guidance and consultation with medical and public health officials Dr. Marsden recommended three possible scenarios for the Medfield Public Schools to transition to a mask optional environment for students and staff.

In conjunction with all three scenarios presented, all mitigation strategies around fresh air (HVAC, air purification, and open windows) will stay in place. Symptomatic testing, home antigen testing programs, and pooled testing will continue. The District has offered families the opportunity to have their child tested twice a week. Pooled testing will continue to be monitored for effectiveness of pooled testing and may be potentially phased out in the spring. Dr. Marsden also said if the District does transition to a mask optional environment, students, teachers, and staff that choose to keep their masks will be supported and respected by all members of our school community.

Ms. Jessica Reilly inquired about how these scenarios would impact the preschool aged students in the district. Dr. Marsden stated that the scenarios presented are for K-12 students and wait a bit longer to lift the masks for preschool aged students. School Physician, Dr. Laura McCullough, stated that a 2 dose vaccine for children under five is close to being recommended and rolled out by the end of February. Kathy Thompson, the District's school nurse leader, also stated that a vaccine for children under five is expected at the end of February.

The School Committee discussed the recommended scenarios presented by Dr. Marsden. Ms. Meghan Glenn inquired if there would be accommodations made for students who were not comfortable eating lunch in the traditional cafeteria setting and what plans were regarding socially distant options at each school. Dr. Marsden stated that he will be meeting with the Leadership Team to discuss the transition to a mask optional environment.

Ms. Jessica Reilly asked the student representatives in attendance to express their concerns about students being supported if they chose to continue to wear masks. The consensus from the students was that mask wearing has become something that they are all used to and students would be supported in their choice to wear or not wear a mask.

Ms. Reilly polled the Committee on what scenario they felt comfortable with. Mr. Brehm, Ms. Reilly and Mr. Timothy Knight were in favor of adopting Scenario #1. Ms. Meghan Glenn was also in support to adopt Scenario #1 with the caveat that preschool age children continue to wear masks until the vaccine is rolled out for children under 5 years of age.

Mr. Timothy Knight asked Dr. Marsden what the feedback was from staff. Dr. Marsden said most of the staff feedback was positive and teachers are looking forward to being able to see their students' faces in the classroom. There were some who expressed concerns but overall in favor of removing masks.

Ms. Reilly opened the meeting to public comment on the DESE COVID-19 Testing/Guidance/Mask Mandate:

John Sullivan, 7 Pine Grove, read his statement to the Committee in support of removing the masks in school.

Renee Howley, 3 Harding, stated that she was encouraged by what she was hearing and read her statement in support of lifting the mask mandate in the district.

Flavia Benson, 10 Woodfall Road, stated that she was also encouraged by what she was hearing and made a statement advocating that the mask mandate be also lifted for the district's preschool aged students at the same time as students in grades K-12.

Lauren Liligren, 35A South Street, made a statement advocating to lift the mask mandate for the district's preschool aged students at the same time as students in grades K-12.

She stated that preschools that are regulated by the early childhood education department do not require 2, 3, and 4 year olds to wear masks, masks are optional. She also stated that mask wearing would cause a generation of children with autism.

Laura McCullough, 1 Overfield Drive, stated that she agreed with Ms. Liljegren that her comment about a generation of autism and autistic kids was appropriate. She stated that the preschool age children will have the greatest benefit in terms of socialization to be in a mask optional environment. She explained that in her experience as a pediatrician there are many families who are waiting for a vaccine for their younger children and will continue to mask until it is available and those children should be supported but in her opinion there would be no reason not to lift the mask mandate for the preschool aged children in the district. Dr. McCullough also stated that the pandemic is now in an endemic stage.

Lee Ann Bravo, 23 Lowell Mason Road, expressed concern that students who chose not to wear a mask could be subject to bullying as well and wanted to ensure the same supports are in place for students who do not wear a mask and as for those who chose to wear a mask.

A motion was made by Mr. Leo Brehm, seconded by Mr. Timothy Knight to adopt scenario #1 in all schools and rescind EBC Supplemental- Interim Policy to address the COVID-19 Pandemic Crisis, School Year 2021-2022.

The motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Ms. Meghan Glenn, seconded by Mr. Timothy Knight to approve the Regular Meeting minutes from 1/27/2022.

The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Timothy Knight, seconded by Mr. Leo Brehm to approve and retain the Executive Session minutes from 1/27/2022.

The motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS (agenda out of order)

Student Advisory - presented by Student Representatives

The following student representatives were in attendance and presented their class updates to the Committee

- Katherine Waters - Class of 2022
- Elizabeth Panciocco - Class of 2023
- Catherine Bannister - Class of 2024
- Sophie Shield - Class of 2025

Superintendent's Evaluation – presented by Ms. Jessica Reilly

Ms. Jessica Reilly explained the Superintendent evaluation process, goals and read a summary compiled from the end of cycle summative evaluation report completed by each School Committee member. She reported that the majority of the Committee agreed that Dr. Marsden reached the level of Proficient for his overall end-of-cycle summative evaluation, and two Committee members believed that Dr. Marsden reached an exemplary level. Ms. Reilly read a summary of excerpts compiled from the evaluation submitted by each Committee member. The Committee praised Dr. Marsden's management of the schools throughout the pandemic. Ms. Reilly stated that any goals not met in their entirety since they were set at the beginning of this evaluation period in November of 2019 were deliberately deferred because of higher priorities of supporting students and staff through the pandemic.

Ms. Reilly shared the comments and ratings on the following standards from Dr. Marsden's evaluation:

- Standard 1- Instructional Leadership: Proficient
- Standard 2- Management and Operations: Exemplary
- Standard 3 - Family and Community Engagement: Exemplary
- Standard 4 - Professional Culture: Exemplary

Dr. Marsden thanked the Committee for their feedback and stated that he is fortunate to work in a community that supports education with an awesome leadership team, great faculty and staff.

Ms. Jessica Reilly opened the meeting to public comment on the Superintendent's Evaluation.

There was no public comment at this time.

Massachusetts DECA States Trip – presented by Dr. Jeffrey Marsden

Medfield High School students will be competing in the DECA States from March 10-12 this year. The details of the event were included in the meeting packet. Dr. Marsden asked the Committee to approve this event for the high school students.

A motion was made by Mr. Leo Brehm, seconded by Ms. Meghan Glenn to approve the High School students' participation in the DECA States.

The motion passed unanimously.

School Equipment Surplus – presented by Dr. Jeffrey Marsden

Dr. Marsden referred to the memo in the meeting packet which listed the items to be declared surplus and sent to auction. The district will use the same vendor the DPW uses for this purpose and will receive proceeds for any sales.

A motion was made by Ms. Meghan Glenn, seconded by Mr. Leo Brehm to declare the items presented by Dr. Marsden as surplus.

The motion passed unanimously.

Additional School Committee Meeting - presented by Ms. Jessica Reilly

A motion was made by Mr. Timothy Knight, seconded by Ms. Meghan to add a School Committee meeting to the meeting schedule on 3/24/2022.

The motion passed unanimously.

Other items since posting on February 8, 2022 – None at this time

OLD BUSINESS (agenda out of order)

2022-2023 School Calendar - 2nd Draft - vote - presented by Dr. Jeffrey Marden

Dr. Marsden made a recommendation to the Committee to have October 7th be an early release day only for secondary students which will accommodate the Pep Rally at the High School, and October 31st be an early release day only for elementary students.

Mr. Leo Brehm shared that he has received feedback from families concerning the number of half days during the school year. Dr. Marsden explained that it is really important for our teachers to have the ability to participate in professional development together.

A motion was made by Mr. Timothy Knight, seconded by Ms. Meghan Glenn to approve the 2nd Draft of the 2022-2023 School Calendar.

The motion passed unanimously.

MASC Policy Project – Section B Policies – 2nd Reading & Standardization of language norms for policy manual - potential vote – Policies: BA, BB, BBA, BBAA, BBBC, BBBE,BCA, BDA, BDB, BDE, BDF, BDFA, BDFA-E, BDFA-E1,BDFA- E3, BE, BEDA, BEDD/BEDF, BEDG

This agenda item was postponed to a future meeting.

Update on Workshop planning with Board of Selectmen – presented by Ms. Jessica Reilly

Elementary School Project/ Potential School Building Committee By-Law

Ms. Reilly informed the Committee that she spoke with Mr. Mike Marcucci, Board of Selectmen Chair, about scheduling a workshop with the School Committee. Mr. Marcucci is in support of this idea and the goal is to schedule a workshop the week after February vacation. Ms. Jessica Reilly asked the Committee to share their availability in order to schedule a meeting.

Donations – presented by Dr. Jeffrey Marsden

Dr. Marsden asked the Committee for their approval on the following donations:

- \$43.40 to the Blake Middle School Gift Account from Box Tops for Education
- \$184.00 to the Dale Street School Gift Account from Box Tops for Education
- \$400.00 to the Dale Street School Gift Account from the Dale Street PTO

A motion was made by Mr. Leo Brehm, seconded by Ms. Meghan Glenn to approve the donations as presented by Dr. Marsden.

The motion passed unanimously.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Dr. Jeffrey Marsden provided a brief update on Standards Based Reporting at Blake Middle School. He informed the Committee that Christine Power, Nathaniel Vaughn and teachers are working with a consultant from Boston College, Nathaniel Brown, to look at the current grading system to create an algorithm that will allow teachers to use SBR as one means of communication while also developing a system for determining a letter grade as well. Letter grades are not intended to be a simple SBR rating conversion.

Ms. Jessica Reilly informed the Committee that she has spoken with Kathy McDonald and Meri Hass to invite them to the next meeting to speak about Meri's role and the substance abuse initiatives happening at Medfield Outreach.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS (anticipated schedule)

- Health Advisory Update (March 10, 2022)
- DESE COVID -19 Guidance (March 10, 2022)
- Policy Manual Updates (Ongoing)

Next Meetings – Policy Workshop February 11, 2022 - 9:30 am
Regular Meeting March 10, 2022 - 7:00 pm

A motion was made by Ms. Meghan Glenn, seconded by Mr. Timothy Knight to adjourn the meeting.
The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:52 pm.

EXHIBITS AND DOCUMENTS

- Meeting Narrative 2/10/2022
- Statement by Rick Fink 2/10/2022
- DRAFT 1/27/2022 Public Hearing FY23 School Budget/Regular Meeting Minutes
- DECA Competition March 10-12, 2022
- 2nd DRAFT 2022-2023 School Calendar
- Surplus Equipment Memo 2/9/2022
- 2/10/2022 Memo to School Committee - Mask Policy Recommendations
- 2/9/2022 DESE Memo Update on Mask Requirement
- File EBC Supplemental -Interim Policy to address the COVID-19 Pandemic Crisis, School Year 2021-2022
- Donations 2/10/2022
- Superintendent Summative Evaluation
- School Committee Video: [📺 School Committee Meeting \(02-10-2022\)](#)

Respectfully submitted,
Andrea Moores
Secretary

Approved by School Committee: March 24, 2022