

MEDFIELD SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Zoom Remote Meeting
January 7, 2021

PRESENT: Jessica Reilly - Chair
Leo Brehm - Vice Chair
Timothy Knight - Recording Secretary
Meghan Glenn - Financial Secretary
Anna Mae O'Shea Brooke - Member at Large

ALSO PRESENT: Jeffrey Marsden - Superintendent of Schools
Michael LaFrancesca - Director of Finance and Operations
Andrea Moores – Secretary
Andrew Barrette- Student Representative

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 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 Unit A & B, AFL-CIO Custodians, Cafeteria Workers and Secretaries)

A Roll Call was taken to open the meeting:

- Leo Brehm- yes
- Timothy Knight- yes
- Meghan Glenn -yes
- Anna Mae O'Shea Brooke -yes
- Jessica Reilly- yes

PUBLIC INPUT

There was no public input at this time.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting - 10/8/2020 - The motion to approve was withdrawn and the approval of these minutes was postponed.

Amended Executive Session - 3/11/2019, 4/1/2019, 6/3/2019

A motion was made by Mr. Leo Brehm and seconded by Ms. Anna Mae O'Shea Brooke to approve the Executive Session Minutes from 3/11/2019, 4/1/2019, and 6/3/2019.

A Roll Call Vote was taken to approve the Executive Session Minutes from 3/11/2019, 4/1/2019, and 6/3/2019:

- Leo Brehm-yes
- Timothy Knight-yes
- Meghan Glenn-yes
- Anna Mae O'Shea Brooke-yes
- Jessica Reilly-yes

The motion passed unanimously.

FY21 Budget Update - presented by Mr. Michael LaFrancesca

Mr. LaFrancesca presented the FY21 Budget vs. Actual Report to the School Committee.

School Learning Model Progress – presented by Dr. Jeffrey Marsden

Dr. Marsden updated the committee on the following pertaining to the School Learning Model Progress.

- Student Learning Time Regulations
- K-8/9-12 Special Education Students
- Expanded Synchronous Learning
- Full Day Kindergarten Update
- Wednesdays In-Person/Synchronous

The School Committee shared the following feedback on Dr. Marsden's update on the School Learning Model Progress:

Mr. Leo Brehm inquired about the start date for increased synchronous learning. Dr. Marsden confirmed that January 19th is the start date. Mr. Brehm reported receiving great feedback from elementary parents whose students have returned to school and asked what the anticipated date of return would be for IEP Students in grades 9-12. Dr. Marsden stated that the team is working on a plan to bring those students back to school the first week of February.

Mr. Timothy Knight asked if the strategies used to bring Kindergarten students back could be implemented in other grades? Dr. Marsden explained that the current enrollment of 164 Kindergarten students has made it possible for that grade to return to full in-person learning. The larger class sizes in the other grades prohibits the ability to bring the grade levels back to school full in-person at this time.

Ms. Meghan Glenn asked if the technology equipment purchased to bring students back would be covered by the CARES Act. Mr. LaFrancesca stated that the technology purchased in December to ready the classrooms for synchronous learning will be submitted to the CARES Act for reimbursement.

Ms. Anna Mae O'Shea Brooke inquired about when professional development would take place for the teachers. Dr. Marsden stated that professional development started last week and will be ongoing to continue to support the faculty.

Ms. Jessica Reilly asked if there would be a way for families to get technology support. Dr. Marsden stated that the schools are preparing their school reopening plans for the students to return that will include this type of information and be communicated to families through their building principals.

Andrew Barrette informed the committee of the technology issues that have been happening at the high school and how it has impacted his remote learning experience. He also shared his thoughts on the current hybrid-learning model and increased synchronous learning via live streaming.

Ms. Jessica Reilly thanked Andrew for his feedback and encouraged patience and flexibility as the district increases more synchronous learning for students.

Dr. Marsden acknowledged that there may be a learning curve for teachers as synchronous learning increases and the teachers that have been incorporating synchronous learning already are becoming more comfortable and have reported positive outcomes.

Ms. Jessica Reilly opened the meeting to public comment on the FY21 Budget and the School Learning Model Progress:

Bonnie Marsette, 62 Colonial Road, asked the following questions to the School Committee:

- Will the high school students on IEP be returning to school be in their classes or in a cohort model similar to the elementary schools?
- Will the union negotiations play a part in the return of students?
- Can students return earlier than February 1st and not include elective since the majority of the high school classes are full year courses?

- Is there room to bring all high school students back to school?
- What is the plan for bringing all 504 students back to school?

Michelle Lederhos, 10 Evergreen Way, asked the committee if there was a way to get additional elementary grades back to school for additional days, specifically 1st grade students. She also shared her concern that 1st grade students are more vulnerable due to the significant loss of their schooling last year. Ms. Lederhos stated that first grade parents have not been surveyed to see how many 1st grade students would return to fully understand how many students would need to be managed. She asked if the district was charging full tuition for full day kindergarten and shared her feedback on the fall conference format for elementary students.

Mary MacInnes, 47 Saw Mill Lane, shared her concerns about keeping younger students engaged with additional livestreaming and the logistics of internet connectivity when there are multiple members of a household using the internet at the same time and not everyone would have access to high speed internet. Dr. Marsden explained that the district has provided technology equipment and internet resources to support students as needed.

Peter Bingenheimer, 19 Marlyn Road, asked Dr. Marsden if he could confirm if it would be possible to bring first grades students back to school more than two days a week. He also asked if there was a specific limitation in the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) pertaining to physical distancing. Dr. Marsden explained that there are currently no pathways to return 1st grade students unless the physical distancing goes below 6 feet. The current MOA states that staff have to be 6 feet and it is silent on students being 6 feet but if the district were to go below 6 feet it would be a change in working conditions that would need to be negotiated.

Steve Caskey, 5 Delaware Road, stated his belief that the committee should explore and discuss lowering the physical distancing threshold below 6 feet to bring students back to school as other districts in the state have done. Msr. Caskey referenced parent survey data and stated that more should be done to bring students back to school and would like the school committee to vote on bringing students back and then address the negotiations after the fact.

NEW BUSINESS

New High School Schedule for 2020 -2021 - presented by Mr. Robert Parga, Ms. Heather Mandosa and Mr. Jeff Sperling

Dr. Marsden explained that this schedule was developed as a result of the work done by Challenge Success and the SEL Task Force. Mr. Parga and Ms. Mandosa presented information on the following changes to the new High School Schedule that will be rolled out to students soon in preparation for their course selections for the next school year:

- Key elements drivers to change the schedule
- New Master Schedule Highlights
- Bell and Lunch Schedule
- Flex Time Benefits/Impact on Advisory
- Common Planning Time
- After School Time
- Schedule Change Communication for students and families.

Ms. Meghan Glenn, Mr. Leo Brehm and Ms. Anna Mae O'Shea Brooke shared their positive feedback and support of the new High School schedule. They acknowledged the committee's hard work and expressed their gratitude for the commitment in making this idea a reality.

Ms. Jessica Reilly opened the meeting to public comment on the new High School Schedule for 2020-2021.

There was no public comment at this time.

Amend FY22 Budget Calendar-presented by Dr. Jeffrey Marsden

Dr. Marsden asked the committee to amend the FY22 Budget Calendar and move the date of the public budget hearing to January 28, 2021.

A motion was made by Ms. Anna Mae O'Shea Brooke and seconded by Mr. Leo Brehm to amend the FY22 Budget Calendar to move the date of the public budget hearing to January 28, 2021 at 7:00 pm.

A Roll Call Vote was taken to amend the FY22 Budget Calendar to move the public budget hearing to January 28, 2021 at 7:00 pm:

- Leo Brehm-yes
- Timothy Knight-yes
- Meghan Glenn-yes
- Anna Mae O'Shea Brooke-yes
- Jessica Reilly-yes

The motion passed unanimously.

Review NESDEC Enrollment Projections - presented by Dr. Jeffrey Marsden

Dr. Marsden reviewed the NESDEC Enrollment Projections with the school committee and specifically discussed the incoming high kindergarten enrollment projections. Dr. Marsden explained that the district's projections have come in lower than the NESDEC projections.

Ms. Jessica Reilly opened the meeting to public comment on the review of NESDEC Enrollment Projections.

There was no public comment at this time.

Scholarships - presented by Dr. Jeffrey Marsden

Dr. Marsden asked the School Committee to release funds from the Madelyn L. Grant Scholarship in the amount of \$3000.00 to Caroline Nealon and to release funds in the amount of \$3500 from the Jeanne McCormick Scholarship to Katharine Lapham both 2020 Medfield Graduates.

A motion was made by Mr. Leo Brehm and seconded by Mr. Timothy Knight to release funds from the Madelyn L. Grant Scholarship in the amount of \$3000.00 to Caroline Nealon and to release funds in the amount of \$3500 from the Jeanne McCormick Scholarship to Katharine Lapham

A Roll Call Vote was taken to amend the FY22 Budget Calendar to release funds from the Madelyn L. Grant Scholarship in the amount of \$3000.00 to Caroline Nealon and to release funds in the amount of \$3500 from the Jeanne McCormick Scholarship to Katharine Lapham.

- Leo Brehm-yes
- Timothy Knight-yes
- Meghan Glenn-yes
- Anna Mae O'Shea Brooke-yes
- Jessica Reilly-yes

The motion passed unanimously

Other items since posting on January 5, 2021 - MCAS Update presented by Dr. Marsden

Dr. Marsden informed the committee that DESE will be reducing the amount of time required for MCAS for students grades 2-8 and MCAS will be used as a diagnostic tool for the state. The commissioner has made a recommendation to the board to allow students to use their grades from their math and or ELA courses for competence determination. This has not been voted on yet and Dr. Marsden will keep the

committee informed as more information is received.

OLD BUSINESS

FY22 Budget - presented by Dr. Jeffrey Marsden

Dr. Marsden updated the committee on the progress of the FY22 Budget. He explained that the budget is level funded and does not add any new programs. The increase is tied to personnel and the district was informed that some technology expenses that were in the capital budget will now be moved to the operating budget. Dr. Marsden will work with the Warrant Committee to get further clarification.

Ms. Jessica Reilly opened the meeting to public comment on the FY22 Budget

There was no public comment at this time.

Mascot Task Force Update - presented by Ms. Jessica Reilly

Ms. Jessica Reilly informed the committee that an invitation has gone out so people can apply to be a part of the Mascot Task Force Committee. The goal of the Task Force will be to work to develop a mascot that represents the entire school community. There have been a lot of responses to the invite which will allow for a diverse committee to be established to represent the school community.

Ms. Jessica Reilly opened the meeting to public comment on the Mascot Task Force Update

There was no public comment at this time.

Dale Street School Project Update - presented by Dr. Marsden, Ms. Anna Mae O'Shea Brooke

Ms. O'Shea Brooke informed the committee on the status of the Wheelock Neighborhood Traffic Survey and the survey will close on Monday, January 11th and a public forum on this topic will be held on Monday February 1st, 2021. Mr. Leo Brehm informed the committee of the upcoming joint meeting with the School Building Committee and the Board of Selectmen on February 3rd to review the School Model Program that the Board of Selectmen have shown interest in exploring. There is also an upcoming meeting scheduled on January 20th with the MSBA.

Ms. Jessica Reilly opened the meeting to public comment on the Dale Street School Project Update

There was no public comment at this time.

Donations - presented by Dr. Marsden

Dr. Marsden asked the School Committee to accept the donation in the amount of \$200 from Lueders Environmental design to the Medfield School Department.

A motion was made by Mr. Leo Brehm, seconded by Ms. Anna Mae O'Shea Brooke to approve the donations as presented by Dr. Marsden

A Roll Call Vote was taken to approve the donations as presented by Dr. Marsden

- Leo Brehm-yes
- Timothy Knight-yes
- Meghan Glenn-yes
- Anna Mae O'Shea Brooke-yes
- Jessica Reilly-yes

The motion passed unanimously

Information Items - presented by Dr. Jeffrey Marsden

Dr. Marsden informed the committee that the Student Opportunity Act (SOA) Plan (that has been delayed and now has a submittal due date of January 15th. Dr. Marsden and Ms. Mary Bruhl has developed a SOA plan that focuses on special education and english language learners. Dr. Marsden asked the committee to schedule a meeting on January 12th, 2021 so that the plan can be presented to the School Committee for approval.

The School Committee scheduled a meeting for January 12, 2021 at 5:00 pm and an executive session will be held after the public meeting and the committee will not return back to open session after the executive session. to begin after the meeting.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Social Emotional Learning/SEL Task Force (February 11, 2021)
- Standards Based Report Card Feedback (March 11, 2021)
- Student Feedback (TBD March/April)

Next Meeting - January 28, 2021

A motion was made by Ms. Anna Mae O'Shea Brooke and seconded by Mr. Leo Brehm to adjourn the meeting.

A Roll Call Vote was taken to adjourn the meeting.

- Leo Brehm-yes
- Timothy Knight-yes
- Meghan Glenn-yes
- Anna Mae O'Shea Brooke-yes
- Jessica Reilly-yes

The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:28 pm.

Minutes Approved by School Committee: March 11, 2021

EXHIBITS AND DOCUMENTS

- SC Narrative 1/7/21
- DRAFT Amended Approved Executive Session Minutes 3/11/2019
- DRAFT Amended Approved Exec Session Minutes 4/1/201
- DRAFT Amended Approved Exec Session Minutes 6/3/2019
- December 2020 Budget vs Actual Monthly Report
- MHS New Master Schedule - School Committee Presentation -1/7/2021
- Proposed MHS Schedule 2021-2022
- NESDEC 2020-2021 Enrollment Projection Report
- Donations 1/7/21
- Meeting Video Link:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SkUY54a6tZ0&list=PLypOllJHc4M11uhMSb4wb8Z1bf_hWzEwR&index=5

Respectfully submitted,
Andrea Moores
Secretary