

MEDFIELD SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Regular Meeting - Zoom Remote Meeting
January 13, 2022

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

ALSO PRESENT: Jeffrey Marsden - Superintendent of Schools
Michael LaFrancesca - Director of Finance and Operations
Andrea Moores - Secretary

ABSENT: Anna Mae O'Shea Brooke - Member at Large
Kerry White - Student Representative

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm by Ms. Jessica Reilly 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)

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

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

PUBLIC INPUT

Lauren Liligren, 83 South Street, expressed her thoughts to the School Committee in response to Dr. Christine Powers presentation on Standards Based Reporting from April of 2021 and Mr. Vaughn's presentation to the School Committee in December of 2021. Ms. Liligren made a request for the School Committee and Dr. Marsden to listen to the feedback from Blake Middle School alumni and parents as well as the recommendation from Dr. Christine Power to incorporate true traditional grading practices into the Blake Middle School assessment practices beginning with Term Three of this school year.

Chris McCue Potts, 7 Curve Street, stated that she wanted to follow up on the December meeting as it pertained to the Dale Street project and the deferred maintenance projected for the next three to five years. Ms. Potts stated that when the actual dates of what's involved with pursuing MSBA funding again we are not looking at three to five years, we are looking at more like five or six years. She stated that the SOI submission period closes on April 29th, 2022 and the MSBA vote would not be until December. By the time the MSBA votes on a feasibility study it would be May of 2023, with a school opening in 2027 which conservatively would be five to six years. Ms. Potts said that it is really important to state that anyone who was involved with advocating against the vote as it was put forward really wants to see a school built and that going through the MSBA process is not just a matter of two signatures on a form. Those signatures have to be duly authorized by the entire School Committee of five members, and the entire Board of Selectmen which is three members. She stated that this is not a decision that should be unilaterally by any one person, it is a decision that needs community input and needs to be talked about whether or

not it is financially sound to go through the MSBA process again and if we actually want to accept the fact that they would tie our hands again and not give us the flexibility needed to meet the town's requirements and needs, as well as having Park and Recreation sitting on the sidelines as well waiting for this to come through. Ms. Potts stated again that this is not a unilateral decision, the decision to pursue MSBA needs to be taken up as a community discussion to look at the pros and cons of and to look at the financial implications of especially considering the cost of deferred maintenance which we learned was going to be in the millions. Ms. Potts stated that it is important for the School Committee to realize its role in this and that they are the lead on this project and are the ones who should be spearheading the discussion on how we are moving forward with this project.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Timothy Knight, seconded by Mr. Leo Brehm to approve the 12/9/2021 Regular Meeting Minutes and the 12/10/2021 Policy Workshop Minutes.

A Roll Call Vote was taken to approve the 12/9/2021 Regular Meeting Minutes and the 12/10/2021 Policy Workshop Minutes:

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

The motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Director of Social Emotional Learning Update - presented by Mr. Dave Worthley

Mr. Worthley presented an update on the Social Emotional Learning (SEL) initiatives throughout the district to the School Committee.

His presentation highlighted the following initiatives:

- Inter- Explorer Mindfulness - a mindfulness curriculum for elementary age students implemented for Memorial, Wheelock and Dale Street
- Research of new SEL Curriculum to implement at Memorial and Wheelock for next school year. The Harmony Project, currently used at Dale, is being considered.
- Blake Middle School - adding a full time adjustment counselor has made a positive impact
- High School - One Love Training - will be working to train high school seniors as facilitators in this program which focuses on relationship violence and domestic violence
- Chris Herren is a former professional basketball player, a voice on the topic of substance use prevention and a wellness advocate who will return to the district to speak to students
- Positive impact of the implementation of the High School Flex Schedule
- Chasing Childhood Documentary - available to screen until 1/19 and then discussion with Dr. Peter Gray from Boston College.
- SEL Task Force - focus on data gathering for the district's capacity to support students as a whole to inform the upcoming strategic plan.
- Active Minds Club at the High School

Ms. Jessica Reilly inquired about whether the increased levels of anxiety and depression in students noted throughout the pandemic have begun to decrease or if we are still seeing a rise in need.. Dr. Worthley stated that the levels are higher than before the pandemic, however the district is addressing students needs with more success by being able to identify and recognize issues through a variety of SEL touch points staff have access too.

Ms. Meghan Glenn thanked Dr. Worthley for his continued work and inquired about how secondary teachers are trained in SEL. Dr. Worthley offers training to teachers via professional development and DLD day. Ms. Glenn asked if a day of SEL training for staff would be something that Dr. Worthley would like to have if possible. Dr. Worthley stated that the staff has come a long way since he started six years ago and the faculty does a really good job being flexible and supportive. Dr. Worthley stated that he of course would always like to have more training but would need to think more closely about what that looks like.

Mr. Timothy Knight also thanked Dr. Worthley. He asked him to share some examples of what he is currently addressing in the schools and how the School Committee/Community could help support the efforts. Dr. Worthley explained that there is a great level of emotional immaturity and behavioral immaturity across all grade levels in the district as a result of decreased socialization due to the pandemic, in his opinion. Dr. Worthley stated that continued support of SEL recommendations to address issues as they arrive would be most helpful..

Ms. Reilly opened the meeting to public input on the SEL Update presented by Dr. Worthley.

There was no public input at this time.

Madeline L. Grant Memorial Scholarship - presented by Dr. Jeffrey Marsden

Dr. Marsden asked the School Committee to approve the release of funds from Madeline L. Grant Memorial Scholarship for MHS 2021 Graduates Sydney Le and Caroline Callahan for a total of \$6000.00. These graduates will each receive \$3000 for receiving this scholarship.

A motion was made by Mr. Leo Brehm, seconded by Ms. Meghan Glenn to approve the release of funds from the Madeline L. Grant Memorial Scholarship as presented by Dr. Marsden.

A Roll Call Vote was taken to approve the release of funds from the Madeline L. Grant Scholarship as presented by Dr. Marsden.

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

The motion passed unanimously.

Other items since posting on January 11, 2022 - None

OLD BUSINESS

Tiered Focus Monitoring-Recommended Changes to Policies JICFB & JKAA – 2nd Reading & Vote-presented by Ms. Mary Bruhl.

Ms. Bruhl updated the Committee on the successful Tiered Focus Monitoring site visit from DESE. The overall feedback from DESE was that, in the midst of everything that is happening in the schools, the staff were engaged and students were polite, kind, and excited about learning. DESE wanted to see students experiencing the Medfield Public Schools in action and were very excited that they had the opportunity to do so. Ms. Bruhl thanked all of the staff and administration for their flexibility and support throughout the district's participation in Tiered Focus Monitoring.

The final piece of the Tiered Focus monitoring was the recommended revisions to Policies JICFB & JKAA. These policies were presented for a 2nd reading as a result of the District's Tiered Focus Monitoring outcome.

Ms. Jessica Reilly opened the meeting to public comment on the recommended changes to Policies JICFB & JKAA.

There was no public comment at this time.

Mr. Timothy Knight inquired if the District has a current bullying prevention plan. Dr. Marsden stated that every district is required by law to have one. Medfield's plan was created approximately 10 or 11 years ago and has been updated since its creation and is available on the website. Ms. Bruhl stated that the district's prevention plan will now also be incorporated into the Policy JICB as well.

A motion was made by Ms. Megan Glenn, seconded by Mr. Timothy Knight, to approve the revision of Policies JIFCB -Bullying, Retaliation and Harassment, and JKAA -Physical Restraint of Students, as presented by Ms. Bruhl.

A Roll Call Vote was taken to approve the revision of Policies JIFCB- Bullying, Retaliation and Harassment and JKAA -Physical Restraint of Students as presented by Ms. Bruhl.

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

The motion passed unanimously.

MASC Policy Project - Policies BB, BBA & BBAA revisions - 1st Reading – (POSTPONED)

In agreement with the rest of the committee, Ms. Jessica Reilly postponed this to the next meeting which is scheduled for January 27, 2022 along with the other Section B policies to be discussed at the Policy Workshop on January 21, 2022.

DESE Mask Mandate – presented by Dr. Jeffrey Marsden

Dr. Marsden provided an update on the most recent guidance from DESE to the Committee. His recommendation was not to lift the mandate at this time due to the fact that the state is seeing the highest number of cases it's ever seen. He also reported that all of the districts that had lifted their mask mandates have now reinstated them even though they were not mandated to. The mask mandate has been extended to February 28, 2022. Ms. Jessica Reilly stated that this will be added to the March 10, 2022 School Committee Meeting Agenda for continued evaluation and discussion.

Dr. Marsden informed the Committee that the state has provided the district with 16,000 KN95 masks that are being distributed weekly to staff. Approximately 25 staff have requested N95 Masks which the District is also providing weekly. Dr. Marsden also reported that High School students are wearing their masks appropriately.

Staff members were also provided two rapid antigen tests on Sunday, January 2.

Dr. Marsden also informed the Committee that the District is now doing smaller testing pools (2-3 students) in order to isolate a positive case more quickly. There is some discussion that the state will remove contact tracing because it is unsustainable due to the high rate of transmission with the Omicron variant. The removal of this task will greatly decrease the countless number of hours our nurses dedicate to contact tracing. Dr. Marsden is awaiting additional guidance from the state and expects to have it soon. He thanked the nurses for their incredible effort and acknowledged how fortunate this District is to have such a dedicated nursing team.

Dr. Marsden stated that the COVID Dashboard will be updated weekly since it is unsustainable to send an email every time there is a positive case now.. He also informed the Committee that the District will be holding a booster clinic for eligible students and that information will be released to families tomorrow.

Ms. Meghan Glenn asked if the state would stop funding the pooled testing. Dr. Marsden stated that he expects the state to continue to fund pooled testing for the rest of the school year. Ms. Glenn inquired why there would be changes to a testing system that seems to be working. Dr. Marsden explained that using rapid antigen testing more frequently may be a viable option to keep students in school. In this option the state would provide the rapid antigen test for students weekly.

Ms. Jessica Reilly opened the meeting to public comment on the DESE Mask Mandate.

There was no public input at this time.

FY23 Budget Update – presented by Dr. Jeffrey Marsden

Dr. Marsden informed the Committee that the Public Hearing for the Fiscal Year 2023 Budget (2022-2023 School Year) is scheduled for January 27, 2022 at 7:00 pm. The Public Notice for the Public Hearing is being advertised in the Hometown Weekly and the Medfield Patch. The budget books have been delivered to the Committee as of this morning and the Warrant Committee will be receiving their budget books shortly. In addition to the website there is always a budget book available at Central Office for the public to view. Dr. Marsden informed the Committee that he and Mr. LaFrancesca will continue to fine tune the budget which will be ready for the Public Hearing in two weeks on January 27, 2022 at 7:00 pm.

Ms. Jessica Reilly opened the meeting to public comment on the FY23 Budget Update

There was no public input at this time.

Donations– presented by Dr. Jeffrey Marsden

Dr. Marsden asked the School Committee to approve the following donations:

- \$4000 to the Medfield SEPAC gifted by the Louis and Mary Kay Smith Family Foundation
- \$200 to the Medfield Public Schools gifted by Lueders Environmental.
- \$1500 to the MHS Gift Account from the Norfolk District Attorney. MHS earned this award for being the 2020-2021 Team Rival 100 Point Champion.

- \$2274.79 to the MHS Gift Account from Grynn & Barrett Enterprises
- \$2500 to the Blake Middle School Theater Department by an anonymous donor. This donation will be used to upgrade the microphones and lighting equipment.
- \$2976.71 to the Blake Gift Account from Grynn & Barrett Enterprises
- \$1000.00 gifted by Thornburg Investment Management on behalf of Robert Joseph IV to be used in a kindergarten classroom

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

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

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

The motion passed unanimously.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Ms. Meghan Glenn stated that at the last meeting the next steps on the school building project were discussed and an information decision was made to do a survey of some sort on this topic. Ms. Glenn wanted to know if there were any updates or movements on this.

Ms. Jessica Reilly stated that this will be at the next meeting. The Board of Selectmen has reached out to the School Committee to have a joint meeting to discuss the potential warrant articles. Ms. Reilly would like to have a conversation with the School Committee about the warrant article itself and formal conversation with the Board of Selectmen about its collaboration with the School Committee. Ms. Reilly is waiting on future meeting dates from the Board of Selectman in order to coordinate a joint meeting.

Ms. Meghan Glenn also updated the Committee she has gotten through a big portion of the MASC Policy Review.

Mr. Leo Brehm stated that Denise Garlick's Annual Report to the Community will be held virtually on February 8th, 2022 at 7:00 pm.

Mr. Timothy Knight expressed his gratitude to Dr. Jeffrey Marsden and Mr. Michael LaFrancesca for their continued leadership.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS (anticipated schedule)

- School Budget Hearing (January 27, 2022)
- Potential ATM Warrant/Joint Meeting with Selectmen (discussion) (January 27, 2022)
- Student Advisory Update (February 10, 2022)
- Superintendent's Evaluation (February 10, 2022)
- Health Advisory Committee Update (February 10, 2022)
- DESE Mask Mandate (March 10, 2022)
- Policy Manual Updates (Ongoing)

Next Meetings: Policy Workshop, January 21, 2022 at 9:00 am

FY23 School Budget Public Hearing/Regular Meeting January 27, 2022-7:00 pm

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

A Roll Call Vote was taken to adjourn the meeting.

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

The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:28 pm.

EXHIBITS AND DOCUMENTS

- 1/13/2022 Meeting Narrative
- DRAFT 12/9/2021Regular Meeting Minutes
- DRAFT 12/10/2021 Policy Workshop Minutes
- Draft Policy JICFB 2nd Reading 1/13/2022
- Draft Policy JKAA 2nd Reading 1/13/2022
- Donations 1/13/2022
- School Committee Meeting Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=syR-7Q8C1ho>

Respectfully submitted,
Andrea Moores
Secretary

Minutes Approved by School Committee: January 27, 2022