

MEDFIELD SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Zoom Remote Meeting
February 11, 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
Andrea Moores - Secretary
Andrew Barrette - Student Representative

NOT PRESENT: Michael LaFrancesca - Director of Finance and Operations

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm after the 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)

PUBLIC INPUT

There was no public input at this time.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Ms. Anna Mae O'Shea Brooke, seconded by Mr. Leo Brehm to approve the regular meeting minutes from 10/22/2020.

A Roll Call Vote was taken to approve the regular meeting minutes from 10/22/2020:

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

The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Ms. Anna Mae O'Shea Brooke, seconded by Ms. Meghan Glenn to approve and retain the amended Executive Session minutes from 11/12/2020, 12/3/2020, 12/14/2020, 12/17/2020 1/7/2021, 1/12/2021, and 1/15/2021.

A Roll Call Vote was taken to approve and retain the amended Executive Session minutes from 11/12/2020, 12/3/2020, 12/14/2020,12/17/2020 1/7/2021, 1/12/2021, and 1/15/2021:

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

The motion passes with four yes votes and one abstention.

FY21 Budget Update - presented by Dr. Jeffrey Marsden

Dr. Marsden reviewed the FY21 January Budget vs. Actual Report with the committee. He informed the School Committee that FY21 Operating Budget will be frozen after February vacation as a result of the increased payroll expenses due to COVID-19.

Ms. Meghan Glenn asked for clarification on the equipment budget line. Dr. Marsden explained that this line item is used to replace equipment such as floor scrubbers, lawn mowers and items that do not fall under the capital budget.

Ms. Jessica Reilly asked how the Food Service Department would be impacted by the budget freeze. Dr. Marsden stated that the freeze only applies to the operating budget.

Ms. Jessica Reilly opened the meeting to public comment on the FY21 Budget Update:

Chris McCue Potts, 7 Curve Street, wanted to know if a School Committee vote is required to freeze the budget. Dr. Marsden stated that prior budget freezes have not required a vote by the School Committee.

Mr. Timothy Knight asked if COVID-19 related expenses would be frozen. Dr. Marsden explained that mandatory expenses would not be impacted by the budget freeze.

School Learning Model Progress - presented by Dr. Jeffrey Marsden

Dr. Marsden provided the following update on the School Learning Model Progress to the committee:

- Health and safety guidance and changes
- Transportation restrictions lifted:
 - Bus capacity has increased to allow for more students on the bus
 - Cross-ventilation and mask requirements still remain the same
- Review of the progress of increased in-person learning timeline
- Review of the challenges of increased in-person learning timeline
- Upcoming Parent Survey on return to full in-person

Ms. Meghan Glenn asked Dr. Marsden what has changed to be able to bring students back to school full in-person. Dr. Marsden explained that this has been worked on for a long time and it's a combination of a lot of factors coming together to make it possible for a full in-person return.

Ms. Kathy Thompson provided an overview of the district's plan for COVID-19 Pooled Testing to the committee and the benefits of offering pooled testing in the district. Information will be released to parents on Thursday, February 11, 2021. Dr. Marsden informed the committee that the Shah Foundation will be paying for the first five weeks of testing Medfield and all other districts participating in the state. The district will have to figure out how to continue to pay for the testing for the remainder of the school year. There is a monthly service charge that is approximately between \$250 - \$500 plus the cost of the each pooled test tube and shipping costs. The actual cost will depend on the number of students and staff participating.

Andrew Barrette shared his feedback on the implementation of the pooled testing with the committee and his main concern was finding ways to encourage student participation. Ms. Thompson stated that the parents would give consent for their students to participate and the nurses would test based on the list of students who have given consent.

Dr. Marsden updated the committee on the status of the technology issues at the middle and high school. He referenced a 2/22/21 Boston Globe article that reported on the cyber attacks happening in districts within the state of Massachusetts including Medfield. Dr. Marsden was disappointed to report that the recent outages in the network are a result of a member of the Medfield school community. This district is still working to pinpoint the exact origin. He explained that a portion of the \$176,000 stimulus money will need to be put towards the costs of addressing this technology issue.

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

Michelle Lederhos, 10, Evergreen Way, was excited to hear the news that students will be returning to school. She asked the transportation team to consider keeping students from each school on a separate bus. She asked if Wheelock could be considered to be brought back sooner since there does not seem to be the same space constraints at Wheelock as there are at the Dale Street School. She would like a more robust learning plan to be developed for students who may be quarantined once the district is back to full in-person.

Steve Caskey, 5 Delaware Road, shared his feedback that the district has not followed the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines to get students back to school full-in person earlier in the school year. He reminded the committee of his prior requests for the School Committee to vote to bring students back to school. Mr. Caskey stated that he was happy to hear that students will be returning to school but questioned if the Medfield Teachers' Association would prohibit the return to full in-person learning. Mr. Caskey also referenced a news report from CNN about getting students back to school safely.

Laura McCullough, the school district's physician, shared her thoughts on the pandemic and the toll it's taken on the mental health of children. She stressed the importance of addressing the social and emotional needs of our students as they reintegrate back to school. She stated that the transition back to school will not be a magic fix and it will take some time for children to readjust.

Dr. Jeffrey Marsden shared some of the recent mathematics benchmark student assessment data with the committee. At this time the majority of our students are progressing and the learning loss is minimal. The teachers have focused on the key elements that students need to move to the next grade level and students are progressing.

Ms. Reilly stated that the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) on increased student learning time has been ratified by the Medfield Teachers' Union. The MTA has been operating under this MOA since January 19, 2021. The MOA will be uploaded to the district website.

NEW BUSINESS

High School Advisory - presented by High School Student Representatives

Olivia Stanton (9th), Elizabeth Panciocco (10th grade), Kerry White (11th) and Ava O'Toole (12th) were in attendance and presented their grade level updates to the School Committee. Andrew Barrette, School Committee Student Representative, updated the committee on the Student Council's fundraising efforts.

Social Emotional Learning/SEL Task Force - presented by Mr. Dave Worthley

Mr. David Worthley presented an update on the district's SEL initiatives, the SEL Task Force, and the RISE program to the School Committee.

Ms. Meghan Glenn expressed her gratitude for the work of the SEL Task force and is grateful for the support and resources that the Task Force pushes out to the School Community. Ms. Glenn asked if resources and support are available for faculty and staff. Dr. Worthley will be working with Ms. Susan Cowell to identify supports for teachers and staff. Dr. Marsden added that there is an Employee Assistance Program available to staff.

Ms. Anna Mae O'Shea Brooke also expressed her gratitude for the work of the SEL Task Force and reiterated the need to add an additional adjustment counselor to the district.

Mr. Leo Brehm commended Dr. Worthley on the success and importance of the RISE Program in the district.

Andrew Barrette thanked Dr. Worthley and the Guidance Department for their continued support of the students at Medfield High School.

Ms. Jessica Reilly opened the meeting up to public comment on the Social Emotional Learning/SEL Task Force.

There was no public comment at this time.

Other items since posting on February 9, 2021 - None

OLD BUSINESS

School Admissions Policy Review - 2nd Reading & Vote - presented by Dr. Jeffrey Marsden and Ms. Mary Bruhl

Ms. Bruhl informed the committee that there were no changes to the policy since the 1st reading. Ms. Reilly asked the committee for a motion to approve the updated School Admissions Policy.

Ms. Jessica Reilly opened the meeting up to public comment on the School Admissions Policy Review.

Christine McCue Potts, 7 Curve Street, asked for clarification on the various updates on the laws pertaining to the discriminatory language and it's criteria specifically regarding disabilities and immigration status. Ms. Potts referenced a 2017 advisory from the state's attorney general's office that did not include disabilities and immigration status and inquired if this criteria had been added since that advisory.

A motion was made by Ms. Meghan Glenn, seconded by Mr. Timothy Knight to approve the School Admissions Policy as presented.

A Roll Call Vote was taken to approve the School Admissions Policy as presented.

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

The motion passed unanimously.

FY22 Budget - presented by Dr. Jeffrey Marsden

Dr. Marsden discussed the following topics with the School Committee regarding the FY22 Budget:

- Review of Warrant Committee meeting and presentation from February 8, 2021.
- State and Federal Revenue projections
- Priorities for reductions if necessary (postponed to a future meeting)

- Transportation and Technology Fees discussion (postponed to a future meeting)

Ms. Jessica Reilly opened the meeting meeting up to public input on the FY22 Budget:

There was no public input at this time.

Dale Street School Project Update - presented by Dr. Jeffrey Marsden, Mr. Leo Brehm and Ms. Anna Mae O'Shea Brooke.

Dr. Marsden informed the committee the Massachusetts School Building Authority(MSBA) Board approved the district's PSR and moved the district onto the next phase. This is a major milestone and the district looks forward to moving ahead with the project. Ms. Anna Mae O'Shea Brooke announced that the Sustainability SubCommittee will be holding a Public Forum on February 25, 2021.

Ms. Jessica Reilly opened the meeting meeting up to public input on the Dale Street School Project Update:

There was no public input at this time.

2021-2022 School Calendar - 2nd Draft - This agenda item was postponed to the next meeting scheduled on March 11, 2021.

Donations - presented by Dr. Jeffrey Marsden

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

- \$248.44 from the Dale Street PTO to the Dale Street School for recess bags and playground equipment
- \$105.07 from the Dale Street PTO to the Dale Street School for a holiday staff appreciation event

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

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

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

The motion passed unanimously.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Dr. Marsden shared the following informational items with the School Committee:

- Letter from Tri-County Superintendents to Governor Baker/Response from Secretary Peyeser
- TEC Legislative Breakfast Agenda

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Standards Based Report Card Feedback (March 11, 2021)
- Draft of 2021-2022 School Calendar
- Priorities for Reductions if Needed
- Transportation and Technology Fees Discussion
- Student Feedback (April 1, 2021)
- Mascot Task Force Update (April 1, 2021)

Next Meeting – March 11, 2021 at 7:00 pm.

A motion was made by Ms. Anna Mae O'Shea Brooke, seconded by Mr. Timothy Knight to adjourn the meeting.

A Roll Call Vote was taken to adjourn the meeting:

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

The motion passed with four yes votes and one abstention.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:08 pm.

Minutes Approved by School Committee on April 1, 2021

EXHIBITS/DOCUMENTS

- School Committee Meeting Narrative 2/11/21
- DRAFT 10/22/20 School Committee Minutes
- FY21 Monthly Budget vs. Actual Report January 2021
- 2/10/21 Memo to the School Committee
- SEL Presentation to School Committee 2/11/2021
- DRAFT School Admissions Policy JF and JF- 2nd Reading
- Transportation Technology Fee Data 2/11/21
- Donations 2/11/21
- 2/9/2021 Letter to MSBA & Medfield School Committee from Attorney Benjamin Dowling
- Hacking attacks plague Massachusetts schools - The Boston Globe 2/10/21
- Letter from TriCounty Superintendents to Governor Baker-Response from Secretary Peyser
- TEC Legislative Breakfast Agenda 2-5-2021

Respectfully Submitted,
Andrea Moores
Secretary