

MEDFIELD SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Zoom Remote Meeting
March 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
Michael LaFrancesca - Director of Finance and Operations
Andrea Moores - Secretary
Andrew Barrette - Student Representative

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 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)

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 Forum on Return to Full Time In-Person Learning

Dr. Jeffrey Marsden presented the Medfield Public School plan to return to full in- person learning to the School Committee.

Dr. Marsden's presentation focused on the following:

- Timeline of Events from March 2020 to date
- Key Communications
- Key Areas to Facilitate a full return
 - Transportation
 - Ventilation
 - Physical Distancing
 - Pooled Testing/BinaxNow Testing
 - Other important details and return dates for specific grades

After Dr. Marsden's presentation Ms. Jessica Reilly opened the Public Forum for comment and questions:

Mathew Newberg, 92 Woodend Lane, asked for clarification on the requirements for quarantine for his children if one child was identified as a close contact. Dr. Marsden explained his child would only be required to quarantine if identified as close contact.

Maura McAteer, 35 Green Street, asked if the Dale Street Before School Program would be offered and when additional information regarding transportation would be provided to families. Dr. Marsden

explained that the Before School Programs would not be offered and a binding Transportation Survey will be sent to parents next week.

Julie Baker, 51 Green Street, inquired if students will be eligible for bus transportation five days a week if they have been riding the bus currently two days a week. Dr. Marsden stated yes.

Meredith Chamberland, 10 Pleasant Street, expressed her concern about the transition back to school, it's impact on students and if there was additional support available to students if needed. Dr. Marsden stated that the guidance department is ready and available to support students as needed.

Andrew Barrette shared student perspective on the return to full in-person learning. The general consensus is that students are really excited to return to school full in-person. He inquired if the High School schedule would change. Dr. Marsden explained that the schedule at the High School will remain as is and students will continue to participate in "grab and go" lunches.

Dr. Marsden explained that students who are out of school due to COVID-19 will be able to livestream into the classroom. He further explained that livestreaming into the classroom is only available to students who are out due to COVID-19.

Bill Werner thanked all the members of the Medfield Public Schools for their hard work and effort over the past year. He expressed his gratitude for the plan to bring students back to school and his belief that getting students should be a full community effort. This belief initiated his commitment to develop a community coalition with the goal to raise funds and support the students of Medfield return to full in-person learning.

The Public Forum ended at 7:57 pm.

PUBLIC INPUT

Danielle Rameaka, 44 Indian Hill Road, expressed her concerns pertaining to the definition of racism being used by MERJ which is the Medfield Educator for Racial Justice group. Ms. Jessica Reilly explained that there is an agenda item pertaining to the establishment of a DEI Task force and asked Ms. Reameaka to hold her comment until then since it pertains to an item on the meeting agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Jessica Reilly explained that the approval of the following Executive Session minutes will be further reviewed and tabled for approval at the next meeting:

- 1/28/21
- 2/9/21
- 2/11/21
- 2/22/21
- 2/26/21

A motion was made by Ms. Anna Mae O'Shea Brooke, seconded by Mr. Tim Knight to approve the regular meeting minutes from 11/12/2020, 12/3/2020, 12/17/20 and 1/7/21.

A Roll Call Vote was taken to approve the regular meeting minutes from 11/12/2020, 12/3/2020, 12/17/20 and 1/7/21:

- 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 Mr. Leo Brehm, seconded by Ms. Anna Mae O’Shea Brooke to approve the workshop minutes from 10/16/20, 11/5/20 and 12/4/20

A Roll Call Vote was taken to approve the workshop meeting minutes from from 10/16/20, 11/5/20 and 12/4/20:

- 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 Actual vs Projected Budget Report from July 2020 through February 2020. Dr. Marsden explained that additional stimulus the district receives will be disbursed using the Title 1 funding formula. He explained that the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) is planning to put aside stimulus for districts who do not receive adequate funding due to the Title 1 funding formula and the hope is that Medfield will qualify but it has not yet been determined.

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

There was no public comment at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

Superintendent’s Establishment of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Task Force - presented by Dr. Jeffrey Marsden

Dr. Marsden informed the School Committee of the district’s intent to form a DEI Task force as a result of the work happening throughout the district in this area. This Task Force will combine all efforts together to work under one umbrella and develop a comprehensive plan to move the district forward. This Task Force will be developed using the same model as the current Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Task Force. The SEL has been successful with tangible results throughout the district. The School Committee was in full support of the development of a DEI Task force.

Ms. Jessica Reilly opened the meeting to public comment on the Superintendent’s Establishment of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Task Force:

Danielle Rameaka, 44 Indian Hill Road, shared her concerns about the definition of racism used by MERJ.

Chris McCue Potts, 7 Curve Street, shared her thoughts on the structure, development and appointment process as it relates to the development of these types of committees. She requested that the School Committee develop a policy/protocol prior to the development of this committee.

Andrea Small, 95 Pine Street, expressed her support and enthusiasm for the development of the DEI Task force and thanked the committee for making this a priority.

End of the Year Financial Report Audit from Powers and Sullivan - presented by Mr. Michael LaFrancesca

Mr. LaFrancesca reported to the committee that the district's End of the Year Financial Report was audited in February and there were no findings.

Ms. Jessica Reilly opened the meeting to public comment on the End of the Year Financial Report Audit from Powers and Sullivan:

There was no public comment at this time.

Additions to SC Meeting Calendar, April 15, 2021 & April 16, 2021 - presented by Ms. Jessica Reilly

Ms. Reilly explained the reasoning behind adding an additional School Committee Meeting and a School Committee Workshop. The additional School Committee meeting will allow for additional time to address the business of the district. The School Committee Workshop will be held for the Standards Based Report Card feedback to be presented by Dr. Christine Power.

A motion was made by Ms. Anna Mae O'Shea Brooke, seconded by Ms. Meghan Glenn to schedule an additional School Committee meeting on April 15, 2021.

A Roll Call Vote was taken to schedule an additional School Committee meeting April 15, 2021

- 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 March 9, 2021 - None

OLD BUSINESS

FY22 Budget Update - presented by Dr. Jeffrey Marsden

Dr. Marsden was informed that the Warrant Committee is requesting the school department to reduce it's FY22 Budget by 1% which is \$380,000. The Town's FY22 Budget gap is approximately \$421,000. Dr. Marsden reminded the committee that personnel reductions would need to be made in order to cover the proposed cut of 1%. Dr. Marsden asked the committee to share their recommendations for potential budget reductions prior to the April 1st School Committee meeting. Dr. Marsden reviewed the parameters on the next round of stimulus. The School Committee discussed the possibility of instituting fees for next year and the intent to have further discussions on this topic. The School Committee also engaged in a discussion pertaining to the budget timeline in regards to the Annual Town Meeting which is scheduled for May 17th & 18th.

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

Ms. Sharon Tatro, Warrant Committee Chair, clarified the Town's budget timeline for the committee. The Warrant Committee is scheduled to meet on March 25th to vote on their budget recommendations for FY22. She explained that any changes to the School Committee's budget would need to be submitted to the Warrant Committee prior to March 25th. The balanced budget will be presented at Warrant Hearing scheduled for April 1st, 2021.

There was no additional public comment at this time.

Elementary School Project Update - presented by Mr. Leo Brehm

Mr. Leo Brehm provided a brief update on the School Building Committee (SBC) meeting held on March 10, 2021. The meeting focused on the building site, traffic pattern solutions, and ways to maximize interior spaces in a cost effective manner. Ms. Anna Mae O’Shea Brooke informed the School Committee that the project’s new name is the Elementary School Project and a new logo has been designed by community member Ms. Janie Boylan. Dr. Marsden stated that the SBC will need to decide to move forward with either ‘Construction Management at Risk’ or ‘Design Bid Build’. It will be important to understand how each will impact the schedule and to be cognizant that delays could increase the overall cost of the project.

Ms. Jessica Reilly opened the meeting to public comment on the Elementary School Project:

There was no additional public comment at this time.

Townwide Master Plan & Implementation Update - presented Ms. Jessica Reilly

Ms. Reilly gave a brief update on the progress of the Townwide Master Plan Committee and notified the committee that a Townwide Master Plan has been developed and available to the community. The next steps for the Townwide Master Plan Committee is to develop a plan for implementation.

2021-2022 School Calendar – 2nd Draft - presented by Dr. Jeffrey Marsden

The 2nd Draft of the 2021-2022 was included in the School Committee meeting materials. The revisions were discussed and it was recommended moving the Wednesday, April 13th Teacher Professional Day to Monday, April 11th.

A motion was made by Ms. Meghan Glenn, seconded by Mr. Leo Brehm to approve the 2021-2022 School Calendar with the amendment to move the April 13th Teacher Professional be moved to Monday, April 11th.

A Roll Call Vote was taken to approve the 2021-2022 School Calendar with the amendment to move the April 13th Teacher Professional be moved to Monday, April 11th.

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

The motion passed unanimously.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Ms. Anna Mae O’Shea Brooke proposed reinstating School Committee Office Hours beginning on Tuesday, March 16th. The Office hours will be held via Zoom with a maximum of two School Committee members present. Ms. Brooke will develop the schedule, set up a webinar, and use the School Committee Aspen email account to notify the school community.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS (APRIL)

- Bus Fees (March)
- Standards Based Report Card Feedback (April 16 Workshop)
- Student Feedback
- Mascot Task Force Update

Next Meeting – April 1, 2021

A motion was made by Mr Leo Brehm, 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 - yes
- Tim Knight - yes
- Anna Mae O’Shea Brooke - yes

The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:26 pm.

Minutes Approved by School Committee: April 15, 2021

EXHIBITS AND DOCUMENTS

- 3/11/21 Meeting Narrative
- MPS Returning to Full In-Person Learning Presentation 3-11-21
- DRAFT 1/7/2021 School Committee Minutes
- DRAFT 10/16/ 20 School Committee Workshop Minutes
- DRAFT 11/5/20 School Committee Workshop Minutes
- DRAFT 11/12/20 School Committee Meeting Minutes
- DRAFT 12/3/2020 School Committee Meeting Minutes
- DRAFT 12/4/2020 School Committee Workshop Minutes
- DRAFT 12/17/20 School Committee Meeting Minutes
- FY21 Budget vs Actual Report February 2021
- Memo to School Committee - Establishment of DEI Task Force
- End of Year Financial Report Audit from Powers Sullivan
- 1-MEDFIELD-TWMP-VOLUME-1-V4
- 2-MEDFIELD-TWMP-VOLUME-II
- 3-MEDFIELD-TWMP-Vol-III
- Implementation Plan - All
- DRAFT 21-22 School Calendar 1-28-21 (2)
- School Committee Meeting Video:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EwBwLKf3Y0M&list=PLypOIIJHc4M11uhMSb4wb8Z1bf_hWzEwR&index=3

Respectfully Submitted,
Andrea Moores
Secretary