

MEDFIELD SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Regular Meeting
March 23, 2023 - 7:00 pm
Medfield High School Library Media Center

PRESENT: Anna Mae O’Shea Brooke - Chair
Timothy Knight - Vice Chair
Jessica Reilly - Recording Secretary
Michelle Kirkby - Financial Secretary
Leo Brehm - Member at Large

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

The Chair opened the meeting at 7:02 pm with a Roll Call:

- Timothy Knight - present
- Michelle Kirkby - present
- Jessica Reilly - present
- Leo Brehm - present
- Anna Mae O’Shea Brooke - present

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chris McCue Potts, 7 Curve Street, acknowledged Mr. Knight’s efforts on the MASC Policy Manual Project. She asked the Committee to consider tabling Policy AD since it requires a more in depth discussion. Ms. Potts thanked Ms. O’Shea Brooke for her contributions as a School Committee member and expressed her appreciation for Ms. O’Shea Brooke’s advocacy of educating the whole child during her tenure.

CONSENT AGENDA

- Approval of Minutes - Regular Session 3/9/2023
- DECA International Finals - Trip Approval

A motion was made by Ms. Reilly, seconded by Mr. Brehm to approve the Consent Agenda.

The motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Course Level Changes at Medfield High School - presented by Robert Parga, Brenda Hagan, and Mary Bruhl

Mr. Parga, Ms. Hagan and Ms. Bruhl were in attendance and gave a presentation to the Committee about the course level changes at Medfield High School. The presentation covered the following topics:

- Current format in place at Medfield High School for Grade 9
- New format for Grade 9 English and Grade 9 social studies
- Rationale for this change
 - Transferable skills, greater self advocacy and self confidence
 - Increased student engagement and motivation
 - A supportive, growth-oriented classroom with diverse peer groupings/perspectives
 - Benchmark assessments to measure success
 - No changes to gridded services
- Share instructional strategies that will be used in the classroom to ensure we are meeting the needs of our students

- Differences between Honors and CP in 9th Grade
- Outcomes:
 - This change will provide all students with equal access to appropriate supports
 - Allow all students the opportunity to gain a foundation of skills needed to access the English and social studies curricula
Continue to provide a rigorous experience that will develop the skills necessary to succeed in high school
 - Support the transition from 8th grade to 9th grade
 - Students will have an increased chance of getting their chosen electives since more sections of the CP level will run allowing more flexibility in a student's schedule

Ms. Jessica Reilly asked if a co-taught model would still be accessible to students. Ms. Bruhl explained that there will be no changes to gridded services which are legally bound to be delivered to students and all of those services will remain intact.

Ms. Reilly asked if there is flexibility for students to move between levels. Mr. Parga explained that students typically move up and down throughout their four years and he doesn't anticipate a change in that flexibility.

Ms. Kirby asked what benchmarks would be used to assess student progress. Ms. Hagan explained that common assessments are used to measure student progress.

Ms. O'Shea Brooke wanted to know what the common themes were during the presentation to the Medfield High School families. Mr. Parga stated that the majority of the questions were about student support and accommodations.

Ms. Kirby asked if this change was due to the fact that there is no leveling in 8th grade. Mr. Parga explained that it was prompted by the change of development of students. 8th grade students are making these choices in February prior to their entry into 9th grade and a lot of growth still happens between that time period. This gives students a similar foundation and helps to better understand students as learners which will lead to better recommendation for student placements as they transition from eighth to ninth grade.

Mr. Timothy Knight asked if these changes would impact 10th grade course selection. Mr. Parga stated that there would be no impact. Ms. Bruhl further explained that the same foundational base exists and the classes themselves will maintain the ninth grade established standards.

Discuss Annual Town Meeting Warrant Article 20 and Article 26 – possible vote

The School Committee had a discussion on Warrant Article 20 and Article 26 that are listed on the Warrant as co-sponsored by the School Committee. Dr. Marsden explained that \$250,000 was allocated to the School Building Committee (SBC) last year and those funds were not used and \$250,000 of additional funds will be needed to support the initiatives of the new SBC. The SBC needs to determine what can be used from the initial feasibility study for a new feasibility study. Ms. Kirby stated that she is hopeful that the Town will support the additional fund request so the SBC can continue to move forward to find a solution for Dale Street.

Ms. Reilly stated that additional funds are in fact needed in light of the expenses incurred in the past in order to keep the project moving forward.

A motion was made by Ms. Reilly, seconded by Ms. Kirkby to co-sponsor Warrant Article 20 with the Board of Selectmen.

The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Marsden explained that Warrant Article 26 is related to the power purchase agreement (PPA) that has been discussed with the Medfield Energy Committee at prior meetings. This is the final step in order to start the project.

A motion was made by Mr. Knight, seconded by Mr. Brehm to co-sponsor Warrant Article 26 with the Medfield Energy Committee.

The motion passed unanimously.

Other items since posting on March 21, 2023

There were none at this time.

OLD BUSINESS

FY24 Budget - Update and potential vote - presented by Mr. Michael LaFrancesca, Ms. Michelle Kirkby, and Dr. Jeffrey Marsden

An update on the FY24 Budget and the March 20th Warrant Committee Meeting was given to the Committee. The Warrant Committee asked the District to again reduce their FY24 budget. The Warrant Committee requested that the budget be reduced to \$41,176,784.00 which is an increase of 4.23%. This reduction will balance both the school and town budget. Dr. Marsden presented his suggested reductions in order to meet the request made by the Warrant Committee.

Ms. Reilly inquired about the food service revolving accounts and wanted to know if those accounts are back in line since the pandemic. Dr. Marsden explained that the District has continued to receive reimbursements so those accounts are doing well.

Ms. Reilly also expressed her wish to continue to build the revolving accounts in order to move to a full day kindergarten for all model. Dr. Marsden explained that this was discussed with the Warrant Committee at the Monday night meeting. Districts do qualify for additional Chapter 70 funds when offering full day kindergarten for all but those funds are not received until the year after the program has been started. A broader conversation will need to happen because full day kindergarten for all could not be absorbed by the operating budget alone and an override would be required.

Ms. O'Shea Brooke opened the meeting to public comment on the FY24 Budget.

Chris McCue Potts, 7 Curve Street, inquired about the Late Bus Pilot and wanted to know if the remaining \$22,3000 allocated to the pilot is contractually obligated to that or can the District discontinue the pilot due to low ridership. Dr. Marsden explained that the pilot can be ended at any time and the District will reassess ridership in the spring.

A motion was made by Mr. Brehm, seconded by Ms. Kirkby to approve the new FY24 Budget in the amount of \$41,176,784.00.

The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Marsden thanked Ms. Kirkby for her work throughout the budget process and acknowledged the positive process while working with Mr. Ed Vozella and Mr. Steve Callahan on the FY24 Budget.

Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) Statement of Interest (SOI) - Vote - presented by Dr. Marsden

Dr. Marsden informed the Committee that the updated SOI was included in their meeting materials. After School Committee approval the SOI will be presented to the Selectboard at their meeting on April 4th. The Selectboard also needs to vote to approve the SOI submission to the MSBA by the April deadline. Dr. Marsden asked the Committee to vote to approve the SOI submission to the MSBA.

A motion was made by Ms. Reilly, seconded by Mr. Knight to authorize the Superintendent to submit the SOI to the Massachusetts School Building Authority.

The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Kirby inquired about the next steps in regards to School Committee representation at the next SBC meeting. Ms. O'Shea Brooke stated that Jessica Reilly would attend the next SBC meeting and then at the April 13th School Committee meeting a new School Committee SBC Representative will be selected. Ms. Kirby will reach out to the potential candidates prior to the election about the SBC.

MetroWest Adolescent Health Survey - Update - presented by Dr. Marsden and Ms. Anna Mae O'Shea Brooke

Ms. O'Shea Brooke informed the Committee that she and Dr. Marsden met with Russ Becker, Mary Fitzgerald, and Kathy McDonald to discuss how best to get the MetroWest Adolescent Health Survey data and resources out to the community at large. At first the thought was to do a presentation as in years past but Ms. Fitzgerald suggested a more interactive format where each piece of information would be presented at a smaller table to a group of people. This would allow attendees to ask questions and interact and connect with each other at the same time. The event has been scheduled for May 8th at the Memorial School and will be open to the community.

Community Engagement and Communication - Update - presented by Ms. Michelle Kirby and Mr. Tim Knight

Ms. Kirby reported that she did not have any major update and there is continued increased engagement on all three of the School Committee social media platforms. Mr. Knight reminded the Committee to attend their assigned PTO meeting in either April or May for a year end wrap up.

Massachusetts School Building Authority Statement of Interest (SOI) - Vote - presented by Dr. Marsden (Agenda Out of Order - vote revisited)

Dr. Marsden informed the Committee that there is specific language needed for the SOI vote and asked the Committee to revote the SOI submission to the Massachusetts School Building Authority.

School Committee Chair Anna Mae O'Shea Brooke asked for a motion to approve the following resolution:

Resolved: Having convened in an open meeting on March 23, 2023, prior to the SOI submission closing date, the School Committee of Medfield, in accordance with its charter, by-laws, and ordinances, has voted to authorize the Superintendent to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority the Statement of Interest Form dated March 23, 2023 for the Dale Street School located at 45 Adams Street, Medfield, MA which describes and explains the following

deficiencies and the priority category(s) for which an application may be submitted to the Massachusetts School Building Authority in the future:

---Replacement, renovation, or modernization of school facility systems, such as roofs, windows, boilers, heating and ventilation systems, to increase energy conservation and decrease energy related costs in a school facility.

---Replacement of or addition to obsolete buildings in order to provide a full range of programs consistent with state and approved local requirements and hereby further specifically; acknowledges that by submitting this Statement of Interest Form, the Massachusetts School Building Authority in no way guarantees the acceptance or the approval of an application, the awarding of a grant or any other funding commitment from the Massachusetts School Building Authority, or commits the Town of Medfield to filing an application for funding with the Massachusetts School Building Authority.

A motion was made by Mr. Leo Brehm, seconded by Ms. Michelle Kirkby to replace the previous position and to approve the resolution read by Ms. Anna Mae O'Shea Brooke.

The motion passed unanimously.

Strategic Plan - Update - presented by Dr. Jeffrey Marsden

Dr. Marsden informed the Committee that the first round of focus groups took place with the Leadership Team, Town Department Heads, School Committee, and SEPAC. This first round of focus groups was a success and the remaining focus groups will be held on April 3rd and April 4th. The focus group for the Community will be held on April 3rd at the Dale Street Cafeteria at 6:30 pm. The forum will be advertised in the Patch, via email, and social media. In mid April a survey will be sent to all stakeholders.

Policy Update - presented by Mr. Timothy Knight and Mr. Leo Brehm

Mr. Knight and Mr. Brehm informed the Committee that the Policy Manual Section A and Section B was included in their packet for review and updated the Committee on the progress on the Policy Manual Project. Section A and Section B will be presented at the next School Committee meeting for a first reading and discussion. Policy Manual Section C and Section D were reviewed at the March 23rd Policy Subcommittee and may be ready to be presented as informational at the next meeting. Mr. Knight encouraged the Committee to read through the policies to become familiar prior to the Committee's review process. Mr. Knight expects going forward that policies will be presented in various stages of the Committee's policy review process at each School Committee until the Policy Manual Project is complete.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Student Representative Lily Keefe updated the Committee on the following Student Council events happening at Medfield High School:

- Kindness Week
- Junior Prom
- Putting for Patients - fundraising for the Jimmy Fund
- Senior Fashion Show

Dr. Marsden expressed his gratitude and appreciation for Ms. O'Shea Brooke and Ms. Reilly's commitment and contributions during their tenure as members of the School Committee.

Mr. Knight, Ms. Kirkby and Mr. Brehm each shared their reflections about Ms. O’Shea Brooke and Ms. Reilly contributed while serving on the School Committee and expressed their appreciation for their efforts.

Ms. O’Shea Brooke shared her final thoughts with the Committee and expressed her gratitude for her experience and with fellow committee members and Dr. Marsden.

Next Meeting – April 13, 2023

A motion was made by Ms. Reilly, seconded by Mr. Knight to adjourn the meeting.

A Roll Call vote was taken on the motion:

- Timothy Knight - yes
- Michelle Kirkby - yes
- Jessica Reilly - yes
- Leo Brehm - yes
- Anna Mae O’Shea Brooke - yes

The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:26 pm.

EXHIBITS AND DOCUMENTS

- 3/23/2023 Meeting Narrative
- DRAFT 3/9/2023 School Committee Meeting Minutes
- Course Level Changes Medfield High School Presentation 3/23/2023
- DECA Internationals Finals - Trip Approval
- Annual Town Meeting Warrant Article 20 and Article 26
- Statement of Interest Submission for MSBA
- FY24 Budget Final Reductions -3/23/2023
- Section A Policies V2- 3/9/23
- Section B Policies V2 -2/14/23
- Approved 11/29/2022 Policy Subcommittee Meeting Minutes
- Approved 2/14/2023 Policy Subcommittee Meeting Minutes

Respectfully submitted,
Andrea Moores
Secretary

Minutes Approved by School Committee: April 13, 2023