

MEDFIELD SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Regular Meeting
April 14, 2022

PRESENT: Jessica Reilly - Chair
Anna Mae O'Shea Brooke - Member at Large
Michelle Kirkby - Member at Large

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

NOT PRESENT: Leo Brehm - Vice Chair
Timothy Knight - Recording Secretary

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 Units A & B)

The Chair asked for a Roll Call:

- Michelle Kirkby - present
- Anna Mae O'Shea Brooke - present
- Jessica Reilly - present

PUBLIC INPUT (on matters not on the agenda)

There was no public input at this time.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Ms. Jessica Reilly, seconded by Ms. Anna Mae O'Shea Brooke to approve and retain the Executive Session Minutes from 3/18/2022 and 3/24/2022.

The motion passed with two yes votes and one abstention.

A motion was made by Ms. Jessica Reilly and seconded by Ms. Anna Mae O'Shea Brooke to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes from 3/24/2022.

The motion passed with two yes votes and one abstention.

NEW BUSINESS

Student Activity Account Transfer – Vote – presented by Mr. Michael LaFrancesca

Mr. LaFrancesca presented a set of adjustments to inactive student activity accounts in order to zero out balances in categories that are no longer active and transfer these funds to active student clubs. The specific journal entries list was included in the School Committee packet along with the supporting documents from club advisors. Mr. LaFrancesca explained that a vote is required by the School Committee to approve the adjustments presented.

Ms. Jessica Reilly opened the meeting to public comment on the Student Activity Account Transfer.

There was no public comment at this time.

A motion was made by Ms. Anna Mae O'Shea Brooke, seconded by Ms. Michelle Kirkby to approve the journal entries as presented by Mr. LaFrancesca.

The motion passed unanimously.

Other items since posting on April 12, 2022 - None

OLD BUSINESS

FY23 Budget Update - presented by Dr. Jeffrey Marsden

Dr. Marsden explained to the Committee that there have been no changes to the FY23 operating budget since the last School Committee meeting. The number has gone to print for the Town Warrant and will be presented at the Annual Town Meeting for approval.

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

There was no public comment at this time.

Feedback and Discussion - Elementary School Project Listening Session April 7th /SOI Submission – Vote – presented by Ms. Jessica Reilly and Dr. Jeffrey Marsden

The Committee shared the following feedback from the Elementary School Project Listening Session on April 7, 2022:

Ms. Anna Mae O’Shea Brooke stated that she was grateful that Stephen Callahan spoke to the importance of hiring a future OPM that has expertise in communications. She agreed that this is an important part of the process that needs to be included for the next elementary school project.

Ms. Jessica Reilly agreed with Ms. O’Shea Brooke then stated that it is important for the information to be put out to the community so that there is a full understanding of the project and as well as be able to intake feedback from the community and be able to respond to that feedback without exhausting committee members.

Dr. Marsden stated that Ms. O’Shea Brooke and the Communications Subcommittee did a phenomenal job of getting information out to the community. There are neighboring communities who have had similar projects have allocated funds for a PR firm in their project budget and that is something to consider for the next school project. He explained that the school department can communicate with the school community very quickly via email and getting information out to the community who do not have students in the schools is important and figuring out how to do that with the town would be beneficial.

Ms. Michelle Kirkby agreed with Dr. Marsden. She stated that, as someone who advocated for the elementary school project, she experienced firsthand the battling false narratives on every front. She stated that having a third party to manage the information would be a way to address the false narrative. She also stated the importance of communicating the project milestones to the community in order to gain community buy-in for the project.

The Committee appreciated the feedback that was submitted to the School Committee after the Listening Session. The Committee acknowledged that they heard from people who were on both sides of the project and the overall consensus was that a new school is needed. The Committee was encouraged by respectful and constructive dialogue that took place during the Listening Session and looked forward to continued collaboration to bring a new elementary school to the Town.

Ms. Jessica Reilly led a discussion with the Committee pertaining to the upcoming deadline to apply for the Massachusetts School Building Association (MSBA) Core Program. In order for Dr. Marsden to submit for the Statement of Interest (SOI) on behalf of the District, a School Committee vote is required using the MSBA approved motion which was included in the Committee’s meeting materials. The Medfield Board of Selectmen will also need to approve the action of submitting the SOI to MSBA. The following three signatures are required for the SOI submission:

- Board of Selectmen Chair
- School Committee Chair
- Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Marsden stated that the decision to submit the SOI is up to the School Committee and the Board of Selectmen and will submit the SOI if that is what the School Committee and Board of Selectmen would like to do. If that is not the case he will support a project without MSBA funding. The goal is to get a new elementary school project started and completed.

Dr. Jeffrey Marsden read a memo to the Committee that highlighted his conversations with a town official from Martha's Vineyard regarding the "Tisbury Model" that has been referenced in emails and publications as a model that Medfield could adopt for their school building project. Dr. Marsden's memo offered factual information to provide clarity and details about a model that continues to surface as a potential path for Medfield.

School Committee Chair Jessica Reilly read the specific language required for the vote to authorize Superintendent Jeffrey Marsden to submit the SOI to the MSBA for the Dale Street School.

Ms. Jessica Reilly opened the meeting to public comment on the SOI Submission – Vote

Catherine Thorpe, 115 South Street, stated that she agreed with most of what the Committee was saying and that this is a moment to come together. She stated that she did not sit in the Listening Session but it seems like there was great spirit and people were able to come together which is something that Ms. Thorpe supports. She continued by saying that the SOI submission in her eyes is a community buy-in data point and would like to have a more flushed out pros and cons list prior to submitting the SOI. She stated that having more data on the MSBA process would be helpful and has concerns that there may be ramifications for submitting the SOI now and then to decide not to go through the MSBA process.

School Committee Chair Jessica Reilly asked for a motion to approve the following resolution:

Resolved: Having convened in an open meeting on April 14, 2022, 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 April 29, 2022 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 Ms. Anna Mae O'Shea Brooke, seconded by Ms. Michelle Kirkby to approve the resolution read by Ms. Jessica Reilly. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Former Medfield State Hospital Redevelopment Update & Discussion – presented by Dr. Marsden

Dr. Marsden informed the Committee that he and Ms. Reilly met with two representatives from the Redevelopment Committee this week. They were able to go over what the plans are for the Special Town Meeting and give input on how the project may impact the School District. The District will work with NESDEC to do an enrollment projection that includes the anticipated population of the project. There are some variables in how many 3 bedroom units the state will require based on the historic status of the property vs. and 40B obligations; Trinity is expected to seek a waiver to decrease the number of three bedroom units required to meet the 40B regulations for affordable housing. There is also a concern about timing of a potential increase in student population, which will impact the district differently if the units open all at once or on a rolling basis. Once there is more specific enrollment information the District will have a better understanding of the project's impact to the schools.

Ms. Jessica Reilly explained to the remote attendees that there were no members of the public physically in attendance, so she would not call for public comment on this agenda item.

Donations

There were none at this time.

Informational Items -presented by Dr. Marsden

The following informational items were included in the Committee's meeting materials and referenced by Dr. Marsden at the meeting:

- 2020 - 2021 Annual Reports – ACCEPT and TEC
- Public Records and Open Meeting Law requests
- Email from Ms. Chris Potts to Senator Feeney, Representative Garlick, and Representative Dooley

Ms. Jessica Reilly informed the Committee that at the May 19, 2022 School Committee a MASC Representative will be coming to give a workshop on School Committee Roles and Responsibilities. Ms. Reilly felt that this was a good opportunity since there is a new School Committee member, and that including this workshop within the meeting could give the public insight on the specifics of the School Committee's responsibilities

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS (anticipated schedule)

- Health Advisory Update (May 19)
- Student Advisory (May 19)
- School Choice Public Forum (May 19)
- School Committee Subcommittees (May 19)
- MASC School Committee Roles Workshop (May 19)
- School Committee Subcommittees (May 19)
- Policy Manual Updates (Ongoing)
- Organization Updates (June 2/June 16)
- Hospital Redevelopment Committee (June 2)

Next Meeting – Annual Town Meeting May 2, 2022

A motion was made by Ms. Anna Mae O'Shea Brooke, seconded by Ms. Michelle Kirkby to adjourn the meeting.

The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:01 pm.

EXHIBITS AND DOCUMENTS

- Meeting Narrative 4/14/2022
- DRAFT 3/24/2022 Meeting Minutes
- MHS Student Activity Account- Adjustment Journal
- Memo to the School Committee from the Superintendent 4/14/2022
- SOI Vote Form - School Committee 4/14/2022
- Post-Session Feedback - New Elementary School Project 4/14/2022
- FY21 TEC Annual Report
- FY21 ACCEPT Annual Report
- Email from Chris Potts regarding Dale Street School
- Public Record and Open Meeting Law Requests
- School Committee Meeting Video:  School Committee Meeting (04-14-2022)

Respectfully submitted,
Andrea Moores
Secretary

Minutes Approved by School Committee: May 19, 2022