

MEDFIELD SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Zoom Remote Meeting
April 15, 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 & Kerry White -Student Representatives

The meeting was called to order at 7:16 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)

The Vice Chair called for a Roll Call to enter the meeting:

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

Ms. Jessica Reilly was delayed due to technology issues and joined the meeting after Roll Call was taken.

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. Timothy Knight to approve the meeting minutes from 3/11/21, 3/23/21 and 4/1/21.

A Roll Call Vote was taken to approve the meeting minutes from 3/11/21, 3/23/21 and 4/1/21.

- 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 Ms. Anna Mae O'Shea Brooke, seconded by Mr. Timothy Knight to approve and retain the Executive Session minutes from 4/1/21.

A Roll Call Vote was taken to approve and retain the Executive Session minutes from 4/1/21.

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

The motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

School Choice Public Hearing

The Chair called for a Roll Call to open the School Choice Public Hearing:

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

Dr. Jeffrey Marsden gave an overview and explained the parameters of participating in the School Choice Program. Dr. Marsden recommended that the Medfield Public Schools not participate in school choice for the 2021-2022 school year. The School Committee engaged in a discussion about the pros and cons of participating in School Choice and its financial impact to the school budget.

Ms. Jessica Reilly opened the School Choice Hearing for public comment:

Chris McCue Potts, 7 Curve Street, stated that she agreed that School Choice was not the best decision for the district this year, but was disappointed with the process and would like the Committee to provide more data to the public prior to the School Choice Public Hearing.

Nicole Silvestri Hall, 16 Johns Avenue, stated that she agreed with Chris McCue Potts and that it would be helpful to have more information available prior to the hearing.

Ms. Jessica Reilly made a motion, seconded by Mr. Timothy Knight to close the School Choice Public Hearing.

A Roll Call Vote was taken to close the School Choice Public Hearing:

- 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 Mr. Timothy Knight for the Medfield Public Schools not to participate in School Choice for the 2021-2022 school year.

A Roll Call Vote was taken for the Medfield Public Schools not to participate in School Choice for the 2021-2022 school year.

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

The motion passed unanimously

Elementary Enrollment Discussion - presented by Dr. Jeffrey Marsden

Dr. Marsden updated the committee on the projected elementary enrollment for the 2021-2022 school year. He reviewed the projected class sizes at the elementary level and explained that there is a waiting list for the preschool program. Student enrollment will be monitored closely, especially at the kindergarten level. Dr. Marsden will continue to update the committee on the enrollment shifts within the district.

Ms. Jessica Reilly opened the meeting to public comment on the elementary enrollment discussion.

There was no public comment at this time.

Pooled Testing Expansion to Grades 4 and 5 - presented by Dr. Jeffrey Marsden

Dr. Marsden informed the committee that 4th and 5th grade families have been notified the district will be expanding its testing initiative to Dale Street after vacation.

Dr. Marsden shared highlights from State Representative Jake Auchincloss's visit to Medfield High School on April 15, 2021 including a video of Representative Auchincloss speaking on the house floor about his Medfield visit and what he coined the "Medfield model".

"Last week, I toured @MedfieldHHS and saw their COVID pool testing operation. The Medfield model shows that we can keep students physically and mentally healthy, and I am pleased to see schools in my district leading the way." - Representative Jake Auchincloss, 4th, MA

Ms. Jessica Reilly opened the meeting to public comment on the pooled testing expansion to Grades 4 and 5:

There was no public comment at this time.

High School Student Scholarship Award Approvals - presented by Dr. Jeffrey Marsden

Dr. Marsden asked the School Committee to approve the following student scholarship awards for the 2021 graduating seniors:

- 1 \$1000.00 David E. Medeiros Theatre Society Award
- 1 \$1000.00 MHS Theatre Society Award of Distinction
- 2 \$500.00 MHS Theatre Society Awards
- 3 \$250.00 Student Council Unsung Leader Awards
- 4 \$300.00 National Honor Society Awards
- 7 \$200.00 National Honor Society Awards

A motion was made by Ms. Anna Mae O'Shea Brooke, seconded by Mr. Timothy Knight to approve the High School Student Scholarship Awards for the 2021 graduating seniors as presented by Dr. Marsden.

A Roll Call Vote was taken to approve the High School Student Scholarship Awards for the 2021 graduating seniors as presented by Dr. Marsden:

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

The motion passed unanimously.

2020-2021 School Committee Meeting Schedule Revote - presented by Ms. Jessica Reilly

Ms. Jessica Reilly explained that due to the Annual Town Meeting being rescheduled to May 17th and May 18th it is necessary to adjust the School Committee Meeting schedule.

The following School Committee meetings have been cancelled:

- May 3, 2021
- May 20, 2021

Ms. Reilly proposed the following School Committee meeting dates to the committee:

- May 6, 2021 - 6:30 Executive Session/7:00 Regular Meeting
- May 17, 2021 - 4:30 Regular Meeting (preceding town meeting)
- May 18, 2021 - 4:30 Regular Meeting (if needed-preceding town meeting)
- June 3, 2021 - 6:30 Executive Session/7:00 Regular Meeting

A motion was made by Ms. Meghan Glenn, seconded by Mr. Leo Brehm to approve the proposed School Committee Meeting dates as presented by Ms. Jessica Reilly.

A Roll Call Vote was taken to approve the proposed School Committee Meeting dates as presented by Ms. Jessica Reilly:

- 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 April 12, 2021 - None

OLD BUSINESS

FY21 Budget Update – presented by Mr. Michael LaFrancesca

Mr. LaFrancesca reviewed the FY21 Budget vs. Actual Report from July 2020 to March 2021 and the status of the ESSER II Grant with the School Committee. Ms. Reilly thanked Mr. LaFrancesca for his efforts to keep the School Committee informed on the status of the FY21 operating budget over the course of this school year. She shared her concern that the non-union personnel in the district were impacted by the FY21 budget cuts and would like to brainstorm ways to rectify the situation and asked committee

members to share their thoughts with her individually with the hope to hold a future Executive Session to discuss this as a committee.

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

There was no public comment at this time.

FY22 Budget Update – presented by Dr. Jeffrey Marsden

Dr. Marsden reviewed the FY21 budget reductions with the School Committee and explained that some of the reductions have been restored in the FY22 budget and the reductions that were not restored are not necessary based on the student enrollment. Ms. Reilly inquired about bringing back the Wheelock Math Specialist and the .8 HS Math Teacher. Dr. Marsden explained that the district would love to bring back but the classroom teachers take precedence over support positions. He stated that in order to bring those positions back into the FY22 budget something else would need to be eliminated.

Ms. Anna Mae O’Shea shared her concerns about not bringing back a Math Specialist to Wheelock and feels that this is a must have position. The School Committee was in agreement that this is an important position and would like to be presented with scenarios if that position were to be brought back for FY22. It was decided that Dr. Marsden, Mr. LaFrancesca and Ms. Glenn would meet to discuss potential scenarios and report back to the committee at the meeting on May 6th.

Ms. Meghan Glenn inquired if there was any additional information on the release of the ESSER III Grant. Dr. Marsden indicated that the information and grant application should be available to districts in May. The Education Commissioner has informed Superintendents that money will be set aside for districts who do not qualify under the Title I formula. It is not yet clear on what that exactly means for Medfield although Dr. Marsden is optimistic that Medfield will qualify for some of those funds. He also informed the committee that the district will receive \$65,000 of additional Chapter 70 funding for FY22.

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

There was no public comment at this time.

New Elementary School Project Update – presented by Dr. Jeffrey Marsden, Ms. Anna Mae O’Shea Brooke and Mr. Leo Brehm.

Ms. O’Shea Brooke updated the committee on the efforts of the Communication Subcommittee. The subcommittee is in the process of organizing some community conversations that will happen throughout the month. These conversations will focus on one or two topics and last about an hour in an effort to solicit more community engagement and explain to the community that the choice is to build the project at the Wheelock site or not build the project at all. If the decision is not to build the new elementary school the current project will end and the process would begin again.

Dr. Marsden reported that members of the committee were able to go for a tour of an elementary school in Harvard, MA which was designed by Arrowstreet. It was helpful to see some of the features and design elements realized in the space and gave the committee members a real sense of what a new building will look like. He also informed the committee that a new website is being developed for the project and it is almost complete and will be released soon after school vacation week.

Mr. Leo Brehm informed the committee that the Board of Selectmen have voted to adopt a net zero building.

Ms. Jessica Reilly opened the meeting to public comment on the new elementary school project:

Chris McCue Potts, 7 Curve Street, wanted to know if the School Committee Chair needs to be authorized by the School Committee to sign the Feasibility Study Agreement that is part of the next Board of Selectmen meeting.

Mascot Task Force Update – presented by Ms. Jessica Reilly

Ms. Reilly provided a status update on the Mascot Task Force to the committee. The committee came to the realization that the decision to use or not use the “Warrior” name should fall under the work of the new Superintendent’s DEI Task Force. The committee will share their findings and feedback with the task force so the work can be continued with a larger group. Dr. Marsden added that information on the Superintendent’s DEI Task Force will be in May with the goal to have the committee established before summer. The Medfield Public Schools will continue using the “Warrior” name along with the capital “M” logo.

Ms. Jessica Reilly opened the meeting to public comment on the Mascot Task Force Update:

There was no public comment at this time.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Dr. Jeffrey Marsden shared the following informational items with the committee

- Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Complaint Determination Letters
- Medfield Patch Article on Representative Jake Auchincloss visit to Medfield

Ms. Jessica Reilly informed the committee that she is working with the Town to have the School Committee Meeting minutes posted to the Town Website. She also informed the committee that she will be sending out a communications calendar and reminded members to reply only back to her when responding to her email. Ms. Reilly would like the committee to begin meeting in person again if possible by June or by August at the latest. She would like the committee to take a break in July and resume with a workshop or two in August.

The committee thanked Student Representative Andrew Barrette for his contributions to the School Committee in this most unprecedented year. The School Committee welcomed Kerry White who will take over as the School Committee Student Representative.

Dr. Marsden thanked Andrew for the work that he has done this year and commended his efforts. Dr. Marsden thanked everyone who helped and supported getting students all back to school.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Standards Based Report Card Feedback (Workshop-April 16)

- Social Emotional Learning (May)
- Follow-up on Student Assessments (June 3)
- End of Year Updates - PTO, MCPE, MMA/SEPAC
- Student Feedback (Summer 2021)

Next Meeting – May 6, 2021

Ms. Reilly called for a motion to adjourn. A motion was made by Ms. Anna Mae O’Shea Brooke, seconded by Mr. Timothy Knight.

A Roll Call Vote was taken to adjourn the meeting:

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

The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:06 pm.

Minutes Approved by School Committee: May 13, 2021

MEETING EXHIBITS AND DOCUMENTS

- Meeting Narrative 4/15/21
- DRAFT 3/11/21 School Committee Minutes
- DRAFT 3/23/21 School Committee Minutes
- DRAFT 4/1/21 School Committee Minutes
- 2021-2022 Projected Elementary Enrollment
- MHS Student Activity Awards for Graduating Seniors
- FY21 Actual vs Budget Report July - March 2021
- School Committee budget reductions FY21 04-13-21
- Auchincloss commends the Medfield Model of Pool Testing - Medfield Patch 4-8-2021
- Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Determination Letters

Respectfully submitted,
Andrea Moores
Secretary