

MEDFIELD SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Regular Meeting
June 16, 2022

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

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm after the Executive Session to discuss strategy with respect 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), and to discuss the reputation, character, physical condition or mental health, rather than professional competence, of an individual, or to discuss the discipline or dismissal of, or complaints or charges brought against, a public officer, employee, staff member or individual. The individual to be discussed in such an executive session shall be notified in writing by the public body at least 48 hours prior to the proposed executive session; provided, however, that notification may be waived upon written agreement of the parties (Superintendent, Director of Student Services)

The Chair asked for Roll Call to begin the meeting:

- Anna Mae O'Shea Brooke - present
- Leo Brehm - present
- Tim Knight - present
- Michelle Kirkby - 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. Anna Mae O'Shea Brooke, seconded by Mr. Timothy Knight to approve the 6/8/2022 regular meeting minutes.

The motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Senior Project – presented by students Luisa Brooke and Deeya Yadapadithaya

Brooke and Deeya Yapadithaya were in attendance and presented their senior project to the School Committee. Luisa and Deeya started their project called the period initiative last year as a part of a civics project requirement. They were inspired by the Free Period Products Provisions Bill which required all period products to be free in all public restrooms and schools. Through their research they learned that

period poverty is a global issue due to the high cost of period products. The mission of their civics project was to make free period products available to all students at Medfield High School. This was accomplished by having products available in student restrooms which were funded by their parents and donations but it became unsustainable. Luisa and Deeya continued their initiative by using their Senior Project as an opportunity to secure funding for these products and to create a long-term plan that would be sustainable. Nurse Leader Kathy Thompson introduced Luisa and Deeya to Aunt Flow which is a company that provides high-quality sustainable period products and dispensers that are easy to use and fill. Luisa and Deeya applied for grants to help fund the products and dispensers but due to timing and other reasons the grants were not accepted. Luisa and Deeya met with Dr. Marsden and were able to have the period products funded by the school's operational budget. Luisa and Deeya created a GoFundMe for the Aunt Flow Dispensers. They raised enough funds in 24 hours to purchase dispensers for all of the girls and gender neutral bathrooms at Medfield High School and at the Blake Middle School.

Ms. Jessica Reilly thanked Luisa and Deeya for their commitment and perseverance to bring their initial idea to fruition which will leave a lasting legacy at Medfield High School.

Dr. Marsden shared that he met with Luisa and Deeya two times. They presented compelling reasons why their initiative was important and were professional, articulate and came with some solutions to reach their goal.

Mr. Timothy Knight asked if there were any other schools in the state that are doing this. Luisa and Deeya shared that Dover Sherborn and Needham were inspired by their project and now doing their own.

Ms. Jessica Reilly opened the meeting to public comment on the senior project.

There was none at this time.

End of Year Organization Updates - presented by MHS PTO/MMA/SEPAC

The following representatives from the PTO, MMA and SEPAC were in attendance and presented their respective end-of-year updates on activities, fundraising and projects.

High School PTO Co-Presidents Kim Price and Janie Boylan shared the following PTO updates from the 2021-2022 school year:

- Funded the HS Pep Rally TShirts
- Funded all of the Teacher Luncheons
- Funded the Community Service Awards, the Student Excellence Awards and the School Spirit Awards
- Funded the Teacher Inspirational Award
- High School Fashion Show returned after two years
- All Night Graduation Party returned after two years

Kim Price acknowledged and thanked all of the PTO volunteers and committee members for their efforts that made the All Night Graduation Party a huge success. Janie Boylan acknowledged Kim Price and thanked her for her dedication and commitment to the PTO over the past 15 years. The Committee also thanked Kim for her dedication and commitment to the Medfield Public Schools.

MMA Co-President Cathy O'Neil thanked the generous donors for their support of the music program and shared the MMA updates from the 2021-2022 school year:

- Contributed \$2500 to complete the purchase of concert attire for the high school ensembles
- Brought back the snack table at football games
- Held two successful fundraisers:
 - Annual Wreath and Bulb Sale
 - Story Time Vertical Event
- Hosted the High School Music Banquet
- Provided a stipend for the Jazz Band
- Funded the choral accompanist choreography and guest clinician for sound waves as well as guest clinicians at Blake and the High School
- Contributed funds for the supplies for the Wheelock Arts Night
- Funded a token of appreciation for Dale Street student volunteers
- \$6200 dollars in scholarships Merit awards and Summer Study Awards to students

Cathy O'Neil thanked the volunteers and members of the board for their countless hours of work to make MMA a success. In 2022 MMA celebrated 50 years of successfully supporting the music program in Medfield and will continue to contribute to the music program, students and families.

SEPAC President Kristin Martin stated that SEPAC is proud of the support that they received from the Medfield Public Schools, the community and parents and shared the following SEPAC updates from the 2021-2022 school year:

- Promoted inclusion and equity for all Medfield Students
- Parent Forum on Autism (85 attendees)
- Post Secondary Transitions Presentations for Junior/Senior Parent
- Dr. Temple Grandin Presentation (200 attendees)
- Donated to Angel Run
- Awarded 4 Scholarships to graduating seniors
- Participation in the district's Tiered Focus Monitoring
- Amended the SEPAC bylaws to reflect the state guidelines

Kristin Martin thanked the 2021-2022 SEPAC Board for their efforts for this school year and stated that all of the board positions are filled for the 2022-2023 school year. She also thanked the Committee for their support of SEPAC.

Ms. Jessica Reilly and Mr. Leo Brehm expressed their appreciation for the Temple Grandin Presentation and the impact it made on the community.

Other items since posting on June 14, 2022 - None

OLD BUSINESS

Medfield State Hospital Redevelopment follow up discussion – presented by Dr. Jeffrey Marsden

Dr. Marsden informed the Committee that Trinity has pledged \$1 million to the District as a mitigation for the Medfield State Hospital Project. This resolution is a great solution for the District, the Community and the project is a very positive project for the town.

Ms. Jessica Reilly agreed with Dr. Marsden and she stated that Trinity has demonstrated that they want to be a solid partner with the Town and values the Community's commitment to education by offering one million dollars in mitigation funds to the District.

Mr. Leo Brehm stated that he was impressed with Trinity's immediate response to address the issues the Committee brought forth at the previous meeting.

Mr. Timothy Knight echoed the statements of Ms. Reilly and Mr. Brehm and he stated that the Committee would have to continue to work with the Town on long term planning.

Ms. Anna Mae O'Shea Brooke stated that her concerns stated at the last meeting were alleviated by the mitigation offer from Trinity. The offer is a safety net for the district and a good faith gesture from Trinity showing that they want to work in partnership with the Town.

Ms. Michelle Kirkby stated that she was in support of the project and appreciated that Trinity and the development team listened to the concerns of the School Committee in regards to future planning.

The School Committee discussed strategies to show their support for the project at the Special Town Meeting scheduled on June 21, 2022. The Committee agreed to write a statement and be available at the Special Town Meeting to answer questions about the project and its impact on the schools. The Committee also agreed to take a vote to show their support of the project.

A motion was made by Mr. Leo Brehm, seconded by Ms. Anna Mae O'Shea Brooke for the Medfield School Committee to vote in support of Article 1 as presented at the Special Town Meeting on June 21, 2022 and for the School Committee to communicate their support to the Community at the Special Town Meeting on June 21, 2022.

The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Jessica Reilly asked for public comment on the Medfield State Hospital Redevelopment discussion.

There was no public comment at this time.

School Building Committee /School Building Project update – discussion led by Ms. Jessica Reilly

The School Committee engaged in a discussion about the next steps pertaining to the School Building Committee (SBC) and School Building Project.

The following was discussed:

- Ms. Anna Mae O'Shea Brooke will be speaking with the Town Moderator on June 17th about collaborating on a process to create a well-rounded SBC.

- Ms. Jessica Reilly referred to an email sent by Selectboard Member Gus Murby which the Committee discussed. The email was added to the meeting materials for this meeting to be posted on the website.
- The Committee was in agreement that the SBC needs to be formed so that concrete timelines for the School Building Project can be established.
- The School Committee's goal is to get a SBC formed as soon as possible.

Ms. Jessica Reilly opened the meeting to public comment on the School Building Committee/School Building Project Update.

There was no public at this time.

FY21 Budget End of Year Report – presented by Mr. Michael LaFrancesca

Mr. Michael LaFrancesca provided a brief update on the FY21 Budget End of Year Report to the School Committee. The Town is working with new auditors this year and due to staffing issues the FY21 End of Year Audit was delayed. The district was in compliance with the auditing procedures. The auditors made a recommendation that the agreement between the Selectboard and the School Committee on how they charge the school department with functions should be reviewed and revoted in the fall. Mr. LaFrancesca explained that the functions fall under health insurance, financial services, resource officer and different aspects that are required by law. The auditors did not have an issue with the agreement but recommended a review since the School Committee is new and the agreement was reviewed over 10 years ago. The letter from the auditors was included in the meeting materials.

Donations – presented by Dr. Jeffrey Marsden

Dr. Marsden asked the Committee to approve the following donations:

- \$5000.00 to the Medfield SEPAC from the Louis and Mary Kay Smith Foundation
- \$1000.00 to the Medfield High School Gift Account from Gail Duffy
- \$8.10 to the Blake Middle School Gift Account from Box Tops for Education
- \$920.00 to the Medfield High School Gift Account from donations made in honor of former MHS teacher John Cuoco Jr. An itemized donation list is included in your materials.

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

The motion passed unanimously.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Dr. Marsden thanked all of the Committee members for their dedication and work this school year. He also acknowledged the hard work of the Medfield teachers and wished everyone a great summer.

Ms. Jessica Reilly stated that the School Committee would not meet during the month of July.

Mr. Leo Brehm shared his experience at the 5th grade end of year celebration. He reported that it was very well done.

Ms. Anna Mae O'Shea Brooke thanked the community organizations for their efforts and partnership.

Mr. Timothy Knight requested to share his thoughts on creating a meeting structure that facilitates more community engagement at the next meeting or workshop.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Community Involvement and Communication
- MASC School Committee Roles Responsibilities
- 2022 - 2023 School Committee Election of Officers

Next Meeting – August 25, 2022

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

The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:32 pm.

EXHIBITS AND DOCUMENTS

- 6/16/2022 Meeting Narrative
- DRAFT 6/8/2022 School Committee Meeting Minutes
- Email from Selectboard Member Gus Murby - Establishing a School Building Committee
- FY21 End of Year Report
- Donations 6/16/2022
- School Committee Video:  School Committee (06-16-2022)

Respectfully submitted,
Andrea Moores
Secretary

Minutes Approved by School Committee: August 22, 2022