

MEDFIELD SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Regular Meeting
August 22, 2022

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

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

ABSENT: Michelle Kirkby - Financial Secretary

Dr. Marsden called the School Committee Meeting to order at 7:14 p.m. after an Executive Session held under Exception #1 "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 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 (Complaints against the School Committee and Superintendent, the Superintendent and Director of Student Services, and Open Meeting Law complaint of March 9, 2022 filed by Robert Allison)

REORGANIZATION OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE ROLES

Dr. Jeffrey Marsden asked for a nomination for the School Committee Chair.

Ms. Anna Mae O'Shea Brooke made a motion to nominate Mr. Leo Brehm as the School Committee Chair. Mr. Leo Brehm declined the nomination at this time.

Mr. Timothy Knight made a motion, seconded by Ms. Jessica Reilly, to nominate Ms. Anna Mae O'Shea Brooke as the School Committee Chair.

The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Anna Mae O'Shea Brooke asked for a nomination for a School Committee Vice Chair.

Ms. Jessica Reilly made a motion, seconded by Mr. Leo Brehm, to nominate Mr. Timothy Knight as the School Committee Vice Chair.

The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Anna Mae O'Shea Brooke asked for a nomination for School Committee Recording Secretary.

Mr. Leo Brehm made a motion, seconded by Mr. Timothy Knight, to nominate Ms. Jessica Reilly as the School Committee Recording Secretary.

The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Anna Mae O’Shea Brooke asked for a nomination for the School Committee Financial Secretary

Ms. Jessica Reilly made a motion, seconded by Mr. Leo Brehm to nominate Ms. Michelle Kirkby as the School Committee Financial Secretary.

The motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC INPUT

There was no public input at this time.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Ms. Jessica Reilly, seconded by Mr. Timothy Knight to approve the Regular Meeting minutes from 6/16/2022 and 6/24/2022.

The motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Staffing Update – presented by Dr. Jeffrey Marsden

Dr. Marsden explained to the Committee that the staffing update included in their meeting materials had two lists of faculty, one list of Unit A Teachers) and one of Unit B (Instructional Aides). He explained that hiring can be challenging for many districts, but Medfield has been fortunate. Most positions in the District have been filled; a few in Unit B are in the final stages of the hiring process. All new teachers will participate in a two-day new teacher orientation on August 24th and 25th.

Student Handbook Approvals – presented by Dr. Jeffrey Marsden

The student handbooks for the 2022 -2023 school year were included in the meeting materials. Dr. Marsden asked the Committee to approve the student handbooks for the 2022-2023 year as presented in the meeting materials.

Ms. Jessica Reilly requested that the language in the Student Attire Policy for the middle and high school be adjusted to remove the following examples of “inappropriate attire.”:

3. Excessively revealing clothing
 - exposed undergarments
 - bare midriff
 - shorts or skirts that are excessively short/tight
 - shirts that are low-cut and/or excessively short or tight

Ms. Reilly explained that these examples of “inappropriate dress” are historically geared toward female students and perpetuates the idea that young women should be held to different standards of behavior and dress than their classmates. In addition, current mainstream fashion has rendered some of these items as acceptable for all, and the examples become unenforceable without risk of discrimination. The Committee had a brief discussion and agreed to remove the language suggested by Ms.Reilly.

The Committee also had a brief discussion about student cell use and a potential need for a student cell phone use policy. It was decided to revisit this conversation at another time because it is a much larger conversation that needs to be had for each grade level.

A motion was made by Mr. Timothy Knight, seconded by Ms. Jessica Reilly, to approve the District's Elementary hand book as presented, and the, Middle School and High School student handbooks as amended to remove the examples given under item number#3 from the Middle School and High School attire policies.

The motion passed unanimously.

Superintendent TEC and ACCEPT Board Appointment 2022-2023 – presented by Dr. Jeffrey Marsden

Dr. Marsden asked the School Committee to appoint him to the TEC and ACCEPT Board of Directors as they do each year.

A motion was made by Ms. Jessica Reilly, seconded by Ms. Anna Mae O'Shea Brooke to appoint Dr. Jeffrey Marsden to the TEC and ACCEPT Board of Directors for the 2022-2023 School Year.

The motion passed unanimously.

Town of Medfield Representative to Tri-Valley Regional Vocational - Technical High School School Committee - presented by Dr. Jeffrey Marsden

Dr. Marsden informed the Committee that he, the Board of Selectmen, Town Moderator, and School Committee Chair received an email from Medfield resident Jack Rose, who is interested in serving as the Medfield representative for the Tri-County School Committee. This position requires a joint vote of the School Committee Chair, Board of Selectmen Chair, and Town Moderator. The Committee discussed the candidacy of Mr. Rose and were in support of his appointment to the Tr-County School Committee.

A motion was made by Mr. Leo Brehm, seconded by to authorize the Ms. Anna Mae O'Shea Brooke to attend the meeting to appoint Jack Rose to the Tri-County School Committee as the Medfield representative.

The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion of potential changes to regular meeting guidelines - (Postponed to a later meeting)

Other items since posting on August 18, 2022

There were none at this time.

OLD BUSINESS

New Elementary School Project

Follow up discussion on the Elementary School project proposal to Board of Selectmen

The Committee had a follow up discussion on the New Elementary School project proposal to the Board of Selectmen and reviewed the edits to the new elementary school application at the August 18th School Committee Workshop. As a result of the Committee's discussion additional edits were made to the proposal to be submitted to the Board of Selectmen at their next meeting on August 30, 2022.

Ms. Anna Mae O'Shea Brooke opened the meeting to public input on the follow-up discussion on the New Elementary School Project proposal to the Board of Selectmen.

Jerry Potts, 7 Curve Street, stated that he was excited that the agenda is moving ahead with the school project and getting to a two-thirds vote on the project. He also expressed his disappointment that the Committee held its first workshop 10 months after the failed vote during a time when a lot of people are on vacation and there was almost no public communication regarding the workshop. Mr. Potts stated that he was in support of voting the proposal but if the goal of the School Committee was to involve and engage the community this was not the way to do so. He also stated that this proposal could have been done right after the failed vote and that the messaging on this project since there is a feeling that there was a lack of transparency with this project the first time around. He also stated that the proposal even though it is a new document it is very similar to the original proposal and no new additional data on enrollment has been presented to support that enrollment will increase. He urged the Committee to listen to the arguments that were compelling to have people vote against the project and engage in open honest transparent dialogue with the Community.

A motion was made by Mr. Timothy Knight, seconded by Mr. Leo Brehm, to approve the Committee's Educational Proposal for a new Elementary School Project without further amendment at this time.

The motion passed unanimously.

Guidelines for recruitment and selection of School Building Committee membership – presented by Ms. Anna Mae O'Shea Brooke.

Ms. O'Shea Brooke updated the Committee on the SBC membership. She explained that once the application is approved by the Board of Selectmen the SBC selection process can begin. The Committee discussed the potential criteria/qualities for their SBC membership that represent the School Committee and the importance of having a well rounded SBC. A formal application process will be established to help create a well balanced group of committee members representing all of the boards. The Committee agreed that it would be important to work with the other Committee's during the SBC selection process.

DESE COVID Guidance - presented by Dr. Jeffrey Marsden

Dr. Marsden informed the Committee that the August 15th update from Commissioner Riley was included in the meeting materials. Surveillance testing, contact tracing and universal masking are discontinued for the 2022-23 School Year. The state has made masks and test kits available for Districts to purchase. Dr. Marsden explained that the District has a supply of masks and a small supply of test kits, and plans to purchase additional test kits to have on hand for in school antigen testing if students or staff present to the nursing staff with potential symptoms. Nurse Leader, Kathy Thompson, plans to hold vaccination clinics again this year.

Future workshop topics: Tim Knight - presented by Mr. Timothy Knight

Ms. Anna Mae O'Shea Brooke asked the Committee to look at their calendars in order to schedule a future workshop in late September or early October to continue the communication and community engagement discussion.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Ms. Jessica Reilly shared that the Aunt Flow dispensers donated and installed through the efforts of a Senior Project have been installed in the restrooms.

Mr. Leo Brehm shared that the electric charging stations are up and running at Blake and Wheelock.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Summer Projects

A motion was made by Ms. Jessica Reilly, seconded by Mr. Leo Brehm to adjourn the meeting.

The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm

EXHIBITS AND DOCUMENTS

- 8/22/2022 Meeting Narrative
- DRAFT 6/16/2022 Regular Meeting Minutes
- DRAFT 6/24/2022 Regular Meeting Minutes
- Unit A Staffing Update 8/22/2022
- Unit B Staffing Update 8/22/2022
- Medfield High School Student Handbook
- Thomas A. Blake Student Handbook 2022-2023
- Elementary Handbook 2022-2023 - with Addendums
- Email to the Town Administrator - Tri-Valley Regional HS School Committee
- DRAFT New Elementary School Application 8/22/2022
- Update on K-12 COVID-19 for Fall 2022
- Back to School COVID -19 Vaccine Clinics
- School Committee Meeting Video:  School Committee (08-22-2022)

Respectfully submitted,
Andrea Moores
Secretary

Minutes Approved by School Committee: September 15, 2022