

**MEDFIELD SCHOOL COMMITTEE**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**September 15, 2022**

**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 meeting was called to order by Committee Chair O'Shea Brooke at 7:03 p.m., after announcing that the Committee had just returned from 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 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)

Ms. O'Shea Brooke then introduced Lily Keefe, the School Committee Student Representative for 2022-23 school year.

Ms. O'Shea Brooke stated that the Committee would accept public comment in person at this meeting, but at future regular business meetings will accept public comment either in person or via Zoom. Citizens who wish to give public input via Zoom at future meetings will be required to use the "raise hand" feature and be brought over to give their comment on video. Public comment will not be accepted through the Zoom chat (sic. Q & A) function, nor will the Committee monitor the Q & A during the meeting.

**PUBLIC INPUT (on matters not on the agenda)**

The following citizens were in attendance to share their concerns regarding the books *Flamer* and *All Boys Aren't Blue* amongst others available to students in the Blake Middle School and Medfield High School Libraries:

- Danielle Rameaka, 44 Indian Hill Road
- Amaura Kemmerer, 12 Whichita Road
- Cailin Caskey, 5 Delaware Road
- Flavia Benson, 10 Woodfall Road
- Rick Fink, 8 Donnelly Drive
- Colleen Tierney, 14 Hatters Hill Road

Ms. O'Shea Brooke thanked the public for their feedback and invited Dr. Marsden to speak to the concerns raised by the participants.. Dr. Marsden shared his personal opinion that the book *Flamer* is not appropriate for a Middle School library. He informed the Committee that, per its policy, his team has established a reconsideration procedure to address formal complaints brought against instructional

material. Dr. Christine Power, Director of Instruction and Innovation, gave an overview of the reconsideration process and committee composition.

Mr. Knight asked for clarification on the current review process for books selected for the libraries. Dr. Power explained that book acquisitions happen in a variety of ways depending upon how the material supports curricula in and out of the classroom. Dr. Marsden shared that his team is reviewing the process in which library books are purchased, curated, and put on the library shelves for circulation. He stated that the school level librarian purchases books and those purchases are overseen by the department chair.

Ms. O'Shea Brooke then allowed additional feedback from the meeting attendees who shared their concern that the content that they viewed as inappropriate was not flagged previously if reviewed by multiple people, and voiced their opinion that the Library Department Chair should not be a member of the review process as they made the original purchase decision.

An audience member asked the Committee if the books in question have been taken off the shelves. Dr. Marsden stated that the books would remain until the reconsideration process is complete.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by Ms. Reilly, seconded by Ms. Kirkby, to approve and retain the Executive Session minutes from 6/14/2022, 6/16/2022, 6/24/2022, 8/2/2022, and 8/22/2022.

**The motion passed unanimously.**

A motion was made by Mr. Knight, seconded by Mr. Brehm, to approve the Regular Meeting minutes from 8/2/2022 and 8/22/2022.

**The motion passed unanimously.**

A motion was made by Ms. Reilly, seconded by Ms. Kirkby to approve the Workshop minutes from 8/18/2022.

**The motion passed unanimously.**

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Summer Projects - presented by Mr. Michael LaFrancesca**

Dr. Marsden thanked the Town and Community for providing the School's capital budget which made it possible to accomplish so many projects over the summer.

Mr. LaFrancesca provided an update on the following 2022 Summer Projects:

- Lighting Controls & Upgrades at Medfield High School
- New Lighting - Medfield High School Gymnasium
- New Carpet - Medfield High School Guidance Office
- Boiler and Water Heater Replacement - Blake Middle School
- 6th Grade Wing Classroom Remodel - Blake Middle School
- Library and Main Office Flooring Replacement - Blake Middle School
- Front Column Repair and Painting - Dale Street School
- Classroom Ceiling and Lighting Renovation - Dale Street School
- Abatement and New Floor Installation - Dale Street School
- Mandarin/Music Room Renovation - Dale Street School
- Floor Abatement and New Floor Installation - Wheelock

- Future Electric Vehicle Charging Stations - Wheelock and Blake
- New VCT Flooring Adams Street Wing - Memorial School
- New Fire Alarm Panel - Memorial School
- 3 New Split System AC Units - Memorial School
- Light Pole Replaced - Memorial School

Projects still to be Completed:

- Blake Middle School - Installation of a New Roof in the 6th Grade Wing. (Mid September Start Date)
- Wheelock School - Installation of New Domestic Hot Water Heat Pumps. (Mid September Completion Date)

**Agreement for Allocation of Annual Costs - presented by Mr. Michael LaFrancesca**

Mr. LaFrancesca explained that the Town’s auditors made a recommendation for the School Committee to review and vote on the agreement for Allocation of Annual Cost between the Board of Selectmen and School Committee which outlines the school/town allocations for the end of year report.

A motion was made by Ms. Reilly, seconded by Ms.Kirkby, to approve the Agreement for Allocation of Annual Costs.

**The motion passed unanimously.**

**Disposal of Outdated Curriculum Materials - presented by Dr. Jeffrey Marsden**

Dr. Marsden explained that as a result of a recent review some elementary literacy materials were found to be outdated and not suitable for use. The list of outdated materials was included in the School Committee packet. Dr. Marsden asked the Committee to approve the request to remove and dispose of the materials as presented.

Ms. Kirkby asked how the materials are disposed of. Dr. Marsden explained that the District recycles as much as possible; materials that cannot be recycled will be thrown away.

A motion was made by Mr. Knight, seconded by Mr. Brehm to approve the request to remove and dispose of the materials as presented.

**The motion passed unanimously.**

**MHS Model UN Club Annual Conference Trip Approval - presented by Dr. Jeffrey Marsden**

Dr. Marsden asked the School Committee to approve a request made by MHS Model UN Club Advisor, Rachel Buckingham, to allow ten students to participate in the overnight trip to attend the High School Model UN Club Annual Conference at Brown University in Providence, RI, from November 11- 13, 2022.

A motion was made by Mr. Brehm, seconded by Ms. Kirkby, to approve the MHS Model UN Club’s participation in the High School Model UN Annual Conference in Providence, RI, from November 11- 13, 2022, as presented by Club Advisor Rachel Buckingham.

**The motion passed unanimously.**

## **Other items since posting on September 13, 2022**

### **School Rankings - presented by Dr. Jeffrey Marsden**

Dr. Marsden updated the Committee on the recent Boston Magazine High School Rankings. He explained that the District mistakenly miscoded 11 students from the Class of 2021, and thought that the error was the reason our college attendance was incorrectly listed in the magazine and the primary cause of the District's lower ranking. However, upon further investigation, it was found that those 11 students were not counted in the tabulation and had no impact on the magazine's algorithm.

It was discovered, after discussion with officials from the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), that there was a significant discrepancy in the data generated by the third-party organization that DESE uses to track district college enrollment. Specifically, 23 graduates from the Class of 2021 – all of whom we have confirmed were attending college at the time of data collection, were classified by the third-party vendor as “unenrolled.” If these students had been captured correctly in the data set, the college attendance rate would have been accurately reported. Instead, DESE posted the lower college attendance rate on its website, where Boston Magazine collects its data, yielding a lower ranking for Medfield High School. Boston Magazine would redo their ranking if the DESE changes their data. DESE has stated that due to the number of districts that would be affected by such a change in its data collection, it will not change the data on its website.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **New Elementary School Project - Follow up to the September 12, 2022 meeting - discussion led by Ms. Anna Mae O'Shea Brooke**

Ms. O'Shea Brooke announced that the revised application for an elementary school project was approved by the Board of Selectmen. She shared with the Committee that she had come across Longmeadow School District's School Building Committee application process and reached out to them for more information. She has passed along that information to the Board of Selectmen Chair Gus Murby and the Town Moderator Scott McDermott. A workshop will be scheduled to discuss and develop the School Committee's SBC representatives selection process. The by-law is still waiting on approval by the Attorney General's Office; however the Committee can still develop its SBC process while awaiting the by-law approval.

Mr. Brehm requested to have a future workshop that focuses on space needs in the district. He shared his concerns about the space issues that the Dale Street school is currently facing.

Ms. Kirkby shared her concern that the Town in the past has used band-aid solutions to address past facility issues and hopes that the big picture can be taken into consideration as the Town heads into this project.

### **Communication and Community Update - presented by Mr. Timothy Knight**

Mr. Knight stated that this was a continued conversation from the last meeting. It is important for the School Committee to review its processes and systems to help achieve its goal to effectively engage and communicate with the Community.

He shared the following ideas to achieve this with the Committee:

- School Committee members attend Site Council and PTO meetings, each School Committee member would be assigned to one building
- School Site Council Members join their Principals at a School Committee meeting,

- School Committee member attend SEPAC meetings

Ms. O'Shea Brooke reported that she will add this to a Workshop agenda for further discussion.

#### **Donations - presented by Dr. Jeffrey Marsden**

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

- \$25.00 from Nancy Featherman to the High School Gift Account. This donation was made in honor of MHS Teacher John Cuoco Jr.

A motion was made by Ms. Reilly, seconded by Ms. Kirkby to approve the donation as presented by Dr. Marsden

**The motion passed unanimously.**

#### **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

Student Representative Lily Keefe stated that the year has started off well and things are very busy. The Student Council is busy preparing for the Pep Rally scheduled for October 7, 2022.

Mr. Brehm attended the Blake Middle School Parent Information Night and was impressed with the night's structure and information.

Ms. Anna Mae O'Shea Brooke stated that she is grateful for the partnership that the District has with McLean Hospital. She announced that the Medfield Coalition for Suicide Prevention will be holding Yoga on the Turf on Sunday, September 18 at 12:30 p.m. She informed the Committee that purple lights in town are for September's designation of Suicide Awareness month.

Dr. Marsden reported that the school year is off to a good start. He shared with the Committee that this year's kick-off for teachers was held outside on the turf. It was a beautiful day and it started the school year off on a positive note.

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

**The motion passed unanimously.**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:29 pm.

**Next Meetings** - Workshop - September 23, 2022

Regular Meeting - October 13, 2022

#### **EXHIBITS AND DOCUMENTS**

- 9/15/2022 Meeting Narrative
- DRAFT 6/14/2022 Executive Session Minutes
- DRAFT 6/16/2022 Executive Session Minutes
- DRAFT 6/24/2022 Executive Session Minutes
- DRAFT 8/2/2022 Executive Session Minutes
- DRAFT 8/22/2022 Executive Session Minutes
- DRAFT 8/2/2022 Regular Session Meeting Minutes
- DRAFT 8/22/2022 Regular Session Meeting Minutes
- DRAFT 8/18/2022 School Committee Workshop Minutes

- Summer Projects 2022 Presentation
- Agreement for Allocation of Annual Costs
- Outdated Curriculum Materials 9/9/2022
- MHS Model UN Club Annual Conference
- 2nd iteration of School Committee Application to Board of Selectmen 9/13/2022
- Donations 9/15/2022

Respectfully submitted,  
Andrea Moores  
Secretary

**Minutes Approved by School Committee: November 7, 2022**