

MEDFIELD SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Regular Meeting
October 13, 2022

PRESENT: Anna Mae O'Shea Brooke - Chair
Timothy Knight - Vice Chair
Michelle Kirkby - Financial Secretary

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

ABSENT: Jessica Reilly - Recording Secretary
Leo Brehm - Member at Large

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm and asked for a Roll Call:

- Timothy Knight - present
- Michelle Kirkby - present
- Anna Mae O'Shea Brooke - present

Public Input (on matters not on the agenda)

Ms. O'Shea Brooke explained that members of the public will be able to comment through Zoom. She instructed virtual attendees to use the raise hand function and camera when making a public comment through Zoom.

Ms. O'Shea Brooke opened the meeting to public comment:

The following Medfield High School students shared their thoughts pertaining to the books *Flamer* and *All Boys Aren't Blue*:

- Spencer Joline
- Leah Dellamonica
- Neva Fuller
- Sadie Rothstein
- Lauren Foster

The following citizens shared their thoughts pertaining to the books *Flamer* and *All Boys Aren't Blue*:

- Dick Judge, 8 Juniper Lane
- Jim James, 67 Harding Street
- Lynne Clifford, 14 Remsen Way

Flavia Benson, 10 Woodfall Road, stated that her purpose for attending the meeting was to bring to the attention of the School Committee a violation of Policy IL. She questioned if the Superintendent reported an evaluation of the Rocky Woods curriculum to the School Committee. She also stated that there should be an option for students to take out the books in question but not be promoted to all students. She expressed her belief that there is a communication issue in the district and decisions are being made without public input.

Rick Fink, 8 Donnelly Drive, stated that he was inspired by the MHS students who previously spoke and apologized for referring to the books as pornography at the last meeting. He stated he read the books in question and believes that the HS Students should have access to the books but are not appropriate for the middle school library but the book *Flamer* could be made available for middle school students in the guidance office.

Mary Garcia, MHS Teacher and Harmony Advisor shared her thoughts in support of the books *Flamer* and *All Boys Aren't Blue*. She also read an anonymous statement in support of both books from a MHS student.

Catherine Thorp, 115 South Street, read a statement to the School Committee about the upcoming 3rd grade annual field trip to Rocky Woods and the decision to forgo students and staff from wearing the traditional colonial attire during the experience. She alleged that School Committee policies KCB, JICA, JQ, IL and IGA were not followed in making the decision. She asked the Committee to reverse the decision and have the colonial costumes available for students to wear or not wear based on their choice.

Jim Kuehl, 3rd Grade Teacher, read a statement in support of the decision to forgo students and staff from wearing the traditional colonial attire at Rocky Woods from the 3rd grade teaching team. He explained that the decision was thoughtful and a result of grade level discussions over the past five years.

The following citizens shared their concerns pertaining to the decision to forgo students and staff from wearing the traditional colonial attire at Rocky Woods and were not in support of the decision:

- Dick Judge, 8 Juniper Lane
- Paul Hinkley, 106 Harding Street
- Lauren Foster, MHS Student
- Susan Hunt, 238 Causeway Street
- Anthony Bagarallo, (citizen did not state his address)
- Cecelia Camm, Medfield High School Student
- Chris McCue Potts, 7 Curve Street
- Facial Chafouks, 44 Curve Street

Jerry Potts, 7 Curve Street, thanked the School Committee Chair for allowing the members of public to speak longer than the allowed allotted time. He expressed his belief that divisions are created when people do not feel heard and the importance of having opportunities for public discussion and listening before big decisions are made.

The following citizens shared their concerns pertaining to the decision to forgo students and staff from wearing the traditional colonial attire at Rocky Woods and were in support of the decision:

- Andrea Balsamo, 23 Country Way
- Lynne Clifford, 14 Remsen Avenue
- Kristin Martin, 91 Granite Street

Dr. Christine Power was in attendance and provided an status update. The process for the reconsideration of instructional materials has been announced. Information about the reconsideration process and a response form has been sent as a follow-up to all emails or phone calls received regarding concerns about the books *Flamer* and *All Boys Aren't Blue*. She explained that submission of the completed Instructional Resource Reconsideration Form is required to initiate reconsideration of school or library resources. She

also explained how the Reconsideration Committee is formed and the steps of the Reconsideration Process.

Dick Judge, 8 Juniper Lane, asked the School Committee if the comments from this evening's meeting would be part of the formal process. Ms. O'Shea Brooke explained that the comments at the meeting are not part of the formal process and explained the parameters of public comment in an open meeting. Mr. Timothy Knight explained that any appeals would come to the School Committee and all of the comments made at the meeting are part of the public record which the School Committee would have access to if an appeal came to the Committee.

NEW BUSINESS

Student Advisory (Agenda Out of Order)

The following MHS students were in attendance and updated the School Committee on the activities for each grade level at Medfield High School:

- Gaby Curl - Class of 2023
- Catherine Bannister - Class of 2024
- Sophie Shield - Class of 2025 and Class of 2026

Approval of Minutes (Tabled)

- Executive Session: 9/15/2022
- Regular Session: 9/12/2022, 9/15/2022
- Workshop: 9/30/2022

Principal Opening Report - presented by Elementary Principals

Ms. Melissa Bilborough, Ms. Holli Caulfield and Mr. Steve Grenham presented the Elementary opening school year report to the School Committee shared the following initiatives for the upcoming school year:

- Student Enrollment
- Elementary Math Pilot
- School Culture
- Professional Development with David Castelline
- School Spirit Days
- Culturally Responsive Practices

The following Elementary School Site Council members were also in attendance and shared their updates and roles as site council members:

- Kristin Martin, Memorial School Site Council
- Joan Dion, Teacher Representative - Wheelock Site Council
- Sonali Pandya, Dale School Site Council

FY24 Budget Calendar - vote - presented by Dr. Jeffrey Marsden

Dr. Marsden presented the FY24 Budget Calendar to the School Committee for their approval. He also noted that there may be changes that need to be made to the calendar in the future and it can be amended as needed in the future.

A motion was made by Mr. Knight, seconded by Ms. Kirkby to approve the FY24 Budget Calendar
The motion passed unanimously.

MHS Music Performing Arts Consultants Festival Trip Approval - vote - presented by Dr. Jeffrey Marsden.

Dr. Marsden asked the committee to approve the Spring 2023 MHS Music Performing Arts Consultants Festival Trip for Spring 2023 as presented.

A motion was made by Ms. Kirkby, seconded by Mr. Knight to approve the Spring 2023 MHS Music Performing Arts Consultants Festival Trip.

The motion passed unanimously.

Public Records Requests Discussion (Tabled)

Learning Space at the Elementary Schools (Tabled)

Other items since posting on October 11, 2022

There were no additional items since posting.

OLD BUSINESS

New Elementary School Project - Follow up from the September 30, 2022 Workshop presented by Ms. Anna Mae O'Shea Brooke

Ms. O'Shea Brooke provided an update on the SBC application and applicant selection process. The application deadline has been extended to November 1, 2022. The by-law was approved by the Attorney General's Office on October 13. The newly formed School Building Committee (SBC) will be announced on December 6, 2022. Ms. O'Shea Brooke stated that the Committee will hold a workshop to select the two School Committee SBC representatives. Ms. O'Shea Brooke shared there has only been two applicants to date.

Community Engagement and Communication - presented Timothy Knight and Michelle Kirkby

Mr. Knight shared the main themes of the Draft School Committee Community Engagement Initiative which was developed to actively engage the community, improve communications and drive more connections between the Committee and schools. The first stage of the initiative focused on engagement with school site councils and parent teacher organizations (PTO). The site council representatives who attend this meeting is one of the first initiatives. A committee member will be assigned to each school and attend two PTO meetings this year. Ms. O'Shea Brooke will work with the Committee members and their school assignments.

Ms. Michelle Kirby shared suggestions based on her personal research on how to leverage social media as a communication tool. Ms. Kirkby reached out to many school committees across Massachusetts to see how they were using social media to communicate with their constituents. She stated that by using social media, Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram the Committee could share important information in a timely manner. Ms. Kirby suggested that the social media platforms would have commenting turned off. She felt it wouldn't be sustainable for Committee members to monitor the comments and pages. The pages would be strictly informational and a place for the Committee to share meeting information, district-wide initiatives, and school news and updates which could expand to include updates from MCPE, PTO, and SEPAC.

Ms. Kirby also shared information on how the Andover School Committee holds its office hours with the Committee and thought that the structure of Andover School Committee Office would be a good model for the Medfield School Committee. Ms. O'Shea Brooke and Mr. Timothy Knight both liked this idea and its potential. Ms. O'Shea Brooke will add Informational Forum to the next meeting agenda for discussion. The goal would be to hold one before the December break.

Ms. Kirkby also suggested the Committee consider publishing a quarterly newsletter for another tangible way to increase communication.

Ms. O'Shea Brooke thanked Ms. Kirby for taking the lead on this social media initiative and researching tangible ways for the Committee to increase its communication with the community.

Ms. Chris McCue Potts asked the Chair if she could ask a few questions. Ms. O'Shea Brooke invited Ms. Potts to the podium to ask her questions. Ms. O'Shea Brooke also let the public attending virtually to raise their hand if they would like to make a public comment.

Chris McCue Potts, 7 Curve Street, inquired if the district/business office would be set up to do the archiving and records management. She stated that the School Committee is required by law to archive everything that is posted.

She also asked the Committee for the data on how many people are using the Aptegy AP. Dr. Marsden stated that he hasn't received data from Aptegy in a few months and expects to have usage information around the end of November.

Chris Potts also asked the Committee to look at how other districts communicate their budget to the community, and used the Westwood Public School as an example. She shared her belief that the Committee has fallen short on how their budget is presented to the Community.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Student Representative Lily Keefe updated the Committee on the Pep Rally, Spirit Week and upcoming fundraisers at the high school.

Dr. Marden presented the following informational items to the School Committee

- ACCEPT FY23 Quarter 1 Report - This is the first ACCEPT report for the 2022-2023 school year.
- TEC Capital Reserve Fund - Request to Increase Limit - There is no action required by the Committee.

Dr. Marsden also responded to the comment made earlier by Chris Potts regarding the school budget. He clarified that the school budget model that Medfield uses has more than 12 slides and the information presented is the same as many other districts. Dr. Marsden stated that he has received positive feedback from School Committee members and from the Warrant Committee about the presentation of the school budget.

Next Meeting - November 3, 2022

This meeting may be rescheduled due to a potential conflict with the annual MASC conference that is being held on that date.

A motion was made by Mr. Timothy Knight, seconded Ms. Michelle Kirkby to adjourn the meeting.

EXHIBITS AND DOCUMENTS

- Meeting Narrative 10/13/2022
- DRAFT 9/12/2022 Meeting Minutes
- DRAFT 9/15/2022 Executive Session Minutes
- DRAFT 9/15/2022 Meeting Minutes
- DRAFT 9/30/2022 Workshop Minutes
- DRAFT FY24 Budget Calendar
- MHS Music Performing Arts Consultants Festival Trip
- Memo to the SC - Elementary Learning Spaces 10/12/2022
- DRAFT Community Engagement Initiative - PTO & Site Council
- Rocky Woods Update - 10/6/2022
- ACCEPT FY23 Quarter One Report
- TEC Capital Reserve Fund - Request to Increase Limit

Respectfully submitted,
Andrea Moores
Secretary

Minutes Approved by School Committee: November 7, 2022