

MEDFIELD SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Regular Meeting - Chenery Hall, Medfield Town House
June 17, 2021

PRESENT: Jessica Reilly - Chair
Leo Brehm -Vice - Chair
Timothy Knight - Recording 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

NOT PRESENT: Meghan Glenn - Financial Secretary

The meeting was called to order by the School Committee Chair Ms. Jessica Reilly at 7:02 p.m. 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)

This meeting was held in-person and livestreamed for remote viewing on the Medfield TV YouTube Channel and broadcast to the Medfield TV Education Channels - Comcast 12 and Verizon 36.

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 and retain the minutes from the 5/27/2021 Executive Session. **The motion passed unanimously.**

A motion was made by Mr. Leo Brehm, seconded by Ms. Anna Mae O'Shea Brooke to approve the minutes from the 5/27/2021 Regular Meeting and the minutes from the 6/2/2021 Policy Subcommittee Meeting. **The motion passed unanimously.**

NEW BUSINESS

2021 Retiree Recognition - presented by Dr. Jeffrey Marsden

The following retirees were recognized by Dr. Marsden for their contributions and years of service to the Medfield Public Schools. Dr. Marsden and other Committee members shared personal and professional anecdotes of their experiences with each one of the valued long term members of the staff.

In attendance:

- Liz Curran - 18 years of service
- Susan Cowell - 37 years of service
- Nancy Deveno - 28 years of service
- Gail Duffy - 21 years of service
- Marie Hedberg - 24 years of service
- Maryjean Ingram - 27 years of service
- Marie Pendergast - 25 years of service

Not in attendance:

- Barbara Oxholm -23 years of service

End of the Year Organization Updates - presented by PTO, MCPE, SEPAC, and MMA

The following representatives from the PTO, MCPE, SEPAC and MMA were in attendance. Each representative verbally presented to the Committee their respective end-of-year updates on activities, fundraising and projects funded:

- Nicole Drummond, Townwide PTO President
- Cathy O'Neil, MMA Co-President
- Bonnie Marsette, SEPAC President
- Megan Leshnick, MCPE President

The Committee members variously thanked the ambassadors of the organizations and their memberships for their community activities, generosity and creativity over the past year.

End of the Year Student Learning Assessment Update - presented by Dr. Christine Power

Dr. Power presented a Student Learning Assessment Update to the School Committee. The presentation covered the following topics:

- Impact on student learning during the pandemic
- Classroom instruction models K-12
- Achievement of student learning objectives by teachers
- K-12 student assessment tools for math and english language arts
- Positive outcomes
- Areas of focus for the upcoming school year
- Q & A

The School Committee thanked Dr. Power for her presentation and the committee engaged in a conversation about the importance of addressing and supporting the social emotional needs of students for the next school year.

Mr. Leo Brehm left the meeting at the conclusion of the presentation given by Dr. Power.

Other items since posting on June 15, 2021- None

OLD BUSINESS

Donations - presented by Dr. Jeffrey Marsden

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

- \$100.00 Anonymous Donation to the Blake Middle School Theatre Program

A motion was made by Ms. Anna Mae O'Shea Brooke, seconded by Mr. Timothy Knight to approve the donation as presented by Dr. Marsden. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Madelyn L. Grant Scholarship Recipient #2 - presented by Dr. Jeffrey Marsden

Dr. Marsden asked the School Committee to approve the release of funds from the Madelyn L. Grant Scholarship in the amount of \$3000 to Cole Young, a 2020 Medfield Graduate.

A motion was made by Ms. Anna Mae O'Shea Brooke, seconded by Mr. Timothy Knight to approve the release of funds from the Madelyn L. Grant Scholarship in the amount of \$3000 to Cole Young a 2020 Medfield Graduate. **The motion passed unanimously.**

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

Dr. Marsden shared feedback from the Community Forum that was held on Sunday, June 13th. The goal of the forum was to address community concerns and give the public an opportunity to ask questions. The information presented and the robust Q&A provided a better understanding of the project for the community. Ms. O’Shea Brooke stated that the Communication Subcommittee will continue to meet and provide information to the community on the project. Dr. Marsden shared that meetings with the architects on the design development are in progress.

Ms. Jessica Reilly opened the meeting to public comment on the Dale Street Project.

There was no public comment at this time

FY21 Budget Update - presented by Mr. Michael LaFrancesca

Mr. LaFrancesca presented the FY21 Budget vs Actual report for May. Dr. Jeffrey Marsden informed the committee that the district would be applying for the ESSER III Grant this upcoming September/October. The ESSER III funds will give the district fiscal flexibility for the future within grant criteria. Dr. Marsden reported that Esser III grants may also be applied to expenses through FY23 and given his previous experience with the variations of funding in the years surrounding a recession, it would be advisable to use these funds conservatively for now in anticipation of future needs in FY23.

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

There was no public comment at this time.

DEI Task Force Update - presented by Dr. Jeffrey Marsden

Dr. Marsden informed the Committee that the deadline for volunteer applications to the DEI Task Force closed on June 11th. Applications are being reviewed now, with the goal of establishing a well rounded committee to include both district and community members. Volunteers selected to be a part of the task force will be notified by email in the next few weeks. The task force will work with an outside consultant to help facilitate its goal development and actions. Dr. Marsden expressed the importance of having an expert in this field to help guide the work of the task force. The district is on track to begin this work in September of 2021.

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

There was no public comment at this time.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Dr. Marsden shared the elementary class size projections for 2021-2022 school year with the School Committee. They are currently seen to be in alignment with the district’s class size policy. The enrollment will be continued to be monitored over the summer and adjustments will be made if needed.

Dr. Marsden also shared the following informational items with the committee:

- DESE complaint - letter of withdrawal
- Two public records requests
- One citizen email

Dr. Marsden thanked everyone who came to the graduation and reflected on the success of the graduation weekend events.

Ms. Jessica Reilly stated that she is committed to not having any meetings in July to give everyone ample time to relax and reset.

Ms. Anna Mae O’Shea Brooke also reflected on the success of the graduation festivities and is grateful for all the volunteers and organizers making the weekend special for the graduating class of 2021.

Mr. Timothy Knight concurred with Ms. O’Shea Brooke and expressed his gratitude for the experience of graduation weekend for his graduating senior especially after an unprecedented year.

The School Committee thanked Dr. Marsden for his leadership and commitment to putting students first throughout this school year.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS


- Student feedback (August 2021)

Next Meeting: August 26, 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 to adjourn the meeting. **The motion passed unanimously.**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:53 pm.

MEETING EXHIBITS AND DOCUMENTS

- DRAFT 5/27/21 School Committee Meeting Minutes
- DRAFT 6/2/2021 Policy Subcommittee Meeting Minutes
- Retirements June 2021
- Student Learning Assessment Presentation 6/17/2021
- Donations 6/17/2021
- Cole Young - Madelyn L Grant Scholarship Recipient June 2020
- FY21 Budget Report May 2021
- FY22 K-5 Class Size Projections
- DESE Complaint - Letter of Withdrawal
- Thomas Powers Public Records Request 6-15-2021
- 6/15/2021 Email from Chris McCue Potts
- 6/16/2021 Public Records Request from Chris McCue Potts
- Meeting Video:  School Committee 06-17-2021

Respectfully submitted,
Andrea Moores
Secretary

Minutes Approved by School Committee: August 26, 2021