

MASCONOMET REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Regular School Committee Meeting
January 27, 2016

MEMBERS PRESENT: J. Spencer, Chair, Topsfield D. Volchok, Vice-Chair, Boxford
C. Miller, Boxford W. Hodges, Topsfield
L. Richards, Middleton K. Sherwood, Topsfield
K. Prentakis, Middleton B. Messenger, Boxford
T. Buono, Middleton lv. 8:45 p.m. P. Fitzsimmons, Boxford
M. Cocciardi, Middleton

MEMBERS ABSENT:

OTHERS PRESENT: K. Lyons, Superintendent L. Hodgdon, HS Principal
D. Flaherty, MS Principal P. Bullard, Director Pupil Personnel Services
D. Tenanty, Math DH H. Rivers, Start Masco Later
B. Denton, Asst. Special Ed. Class Advisors
Students J. Ricklefs, Boxford Fin. Com.
Others

- A. **Regular Meeting - Call To Order** – Chair J. Spencer called the Regular School Committee meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. on Wednesday, January 27, 2016 in the Ralph Osgood Presentation Room. The meeting is video and audio taped.
- B. **Remarks by the Chair** – Chair J. Spencer recognized the parents, students, the Principals, the Class Advisors and the group of students present at the meeting. J. Spencer shared the ground rules of the evening indicating that this evening was a School Committee meeting, not a public hearing, that the Committee is authorized to approve district budgets, to hire, review and fire the superintendent, and to review and set policy for the District. He stated that the Committee was explicitly limited in direct involvement or management of administrative functions and responsibilities. Committee members will have the opportunity to ask questions for clarification, but will not discuss the issue until there is action on the proposed policy. A statement from High School Principal L. Hodgdon was read by the Chair (included in meeting records).
- F. **Out of Order - Comments from the Audience** – Boxford student and Student Council President S. Mathers shared her concerns and frustrations regarding the lack of student voice in the school highlighting the petition signed by students, the fact that the issue before the Committee contradicts the Principal's statement of 2014 indicating that students would be surveyed regarding a senior prom and requested that a survey be conducted for the Class of 2016. S. Dindo read a statement from former freshman to junior class president D. Cosgrove. Both statements are included with the meeting records. Boxford parent S. Butt shared concerns regarding her child's fears, the issues surrounding taking the prom off the table, and the results of the meeting held with the Principal and Class Advisor. Middleton parent P. Bampos referred to Policies JA, KCB, JI, JIB, JIBA, JIBB, JII, JIA, JJE, JJF and read parts of the policies for the Committee and shared her concerns regarding the lack of detail in some of the policies and that the policies are not followed as intended. She would like to have a survey conducted for the students to voice their choice. J. Spencer shared that the District policies are in review with ideas in place for changes. Class Advisor J. Tierney shared that student voices were being heard by the class advisors and that the decision to eliminate one of the proms was not taken lightly, but with the students' best interest in mind. In response to M. Cocciardi's question, J. Tierney indicated that events are planned with class officers, student council and prom committee input in addition to surveys. Senior Class President S. Heintzelman and Class Vice President M. Kelly stated that the alternative event planned was a good one, that the prom is not necessarily comfortable for all students, and that the planned event was the best way to get the class together, to make bonds to last a lifetime, and to get most of the senior class to participate. M. Kelly shared her experience of attending proms and a senior event. Both officers stated they wanted to work with the student body. Chair J. Spencer declined M. Cocciardi's Point of Order for the Policy Subcommittee Report to be moved in the agenda.
- C. **Consent Agenda**
1. Approval of January 13, 2016 Regular School Committee Meeting Minutes
 2. Accept Donation of a Facial Skin Analyzer Machine from Boston North Cancer Society
 3. Warrants \$1,859,866.89 – Nine (9) Warrants Signed
- K. Sherwood asked if #2 could be made available to the community. K. Lyons indicated that it was being donated for District use at this time. A motion was made by T. Buono.
- MOTION: To approve the Consent Agenda as presented.
VOTE: Motion passed.
ABSTAIN: M. Cocciardi, Jan. 13, 2016 Regular School Committee Meeting Minutes
T. Buono
- D. **Approval of January 13, 2016 Executive Session Minutes** – A motion was made by P. Fitzsimmons.
- MOTION: To approve the January 13, 2016 Executive Session Minutes as presented.
VOTE: Motion passed.
ABSTAIN: M. Cocciardi
T. Buono

E. Accept \$14,000 Gift from the Masco PAC to Fund the Remaining Balance for the Planned Digital Sign – P. Fitzsimmons stated that she filed a Disclosure of Appearance of Conflict of Interest with the Keeper of the Records as required by G.L. c. 268A, §23(b)(3) as she serves on the Zoning Board in Boxford. While she cannot be a conduit of information between the zoning board and the School Committee, she can vote and discuss the sign project. She indicated that the \$14,000 is a very generous gift from the PAC, but was wondering if there was an opportunity to redesign the sign to save \$8500 (brick installation cost on both sides of sign) and request the PAC fund more educational pursuits. Discussion was held regarding the previous approval of the sign design, the previous involvement of the technical school, and the next steps needed if another design was a better option. After discussion was held regarding a sign use policy or lack thereof at the present time and the possibility of a design change, a motion was made C. Miller.

MOTION: To table the acceptance of PAC's \$14,000 donation to fund the remaining balance for the planned digital sign.

VOTE: Motion passed.

ABSTAINED: T. Buono

J. Spencer requested that the Superintendent send the previously approved design and the alternative sign options to the Committee.

G. Math Frameworks Changes – Math Department Head D. Tenanty reported on the curriculum changes in math for the Class of 2020 and beyond highlighting the many reasons the change was needed, why the change was needed now, what math courses the students will take, and the options available for grade 8 students opting to move from grade 8 standard to the high school honors sequence.

H. School Start Times - Chair J. Spencer indicated that after the presentation, he anticipated a motion to appoint up to 3 members to serve on a Tri Town School Start Time Study Committee. When the Committee is formed and representatives appointed from other school committees, that group will be charged with identifying the benefits of alternative school start times, the impacts of such changes, and estimates of the costs involved. At that time, the Committee take a vote on the issue. Boxford parent H. Rivers gave a presentation of the research she has conducted and highlighted the benefits to students of a later school start time.

I. School Start Times - After H. Rivers' presentation, a motion was made by P. Fitzsimmons.

MOTION: To authorize the Chair to appoint up to 3 members to serve as Masco representatives to a Tri Town School Start Time Study Committee.

VOTE: Motion passed.

J. Spencer indicated he didn't think a change would be feasible by September and D. Volchok stated that if there was a financial impact, it would be a longer process because of budget implications.

J. Appointment of School Physician (Dr. M. Allara) – Superintendent K. Lyons reported that the District School Physician Dr. Smith retired at the end of the 2014-15 school year. He requested that the Committee appoint Dr. Allara as the School Physician. A brief history of Dr. Allara, the responsibilities of the position and the benefits of the appointment (Dr. Allara is the School Physician for the Tri Town Union) was given by K. Lyons. The cost for this position is \$5000 a year. A motion was made by K. Prentakis.

MOTION: To appoint Dr. M. Allara as the School Physician for the Masconomet Regional School District.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

K. Superintendent Report – K. Lyons announced that a few tickets were still available for the MEF Dancing With Our Stars fundraiser on Jan. 30th and referred to the Education Weekly article indicating that MA remains on top in all categories.

L. Reports of the Subcommittees

1. Budget Subcommittee – D. Volchok – Nine (9) Warrants were signed since the last meeting.

Payroll Warrant	\$	635,300.48	Vendor Warrant	\$	1,015,232.47
Vendor Warrant	\$	20,018.74	Vendor Warrant	\$	17,651.12
Vendor Warrant	\$	65,205.02	Vendor Warrant	\$	28,194.93
Vendor Warrant	\$	85.98	Vendor Warrant	\$	0.78
Vendor Warrant	\$	78,177.37	TOTAL	\$	1,859,866.89

D. Volchok stated that the subcommittee reviewed all the athletic fees, identified the sports not at the 60/40 ratio made adjustments as needed. An overview of the proposed athletic, co-curricular and other fee changes was given. It was determined to not make any changes to the Excels Program. A motion was made by P. Fitzsimmons.

MOTION: To approve the proposed changes to the user fee schedule as presented.

VOTE: Motion passed

OPPOSED: K. Prentakis

D. Volchok recommended moving the athletic director salary from the revolving fund to the operating budget to be consistent on where expenses are charged and increase the fund transfer from \$500,000 to \$566,000. The spreadsheet outlining the detail of the 60/40 split will be included in the budget book. A brief history of how the 60/40 ratio was developed was given by D. Volchok. A motion was made by P. Fitzsimmons.

MOTION: To authorize the CFO to charge the full athletic salary to the operating budget and increase the fund transfer from \$500,000 to \$566,000.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

D. Volchok reported on the Use of Facilities proposal and reviewed the major changes. Parking fees were not addressed as the fees were comparable to other schools. A motion was made by P. Fitzsimmons.

MOTION: To accept the proposed changes from the Use of Facilities Committee.

VOTE: Motion passed

OPPOSED: K. Prentakis

D. Volchok reported on the athletic game workers stipend changes which are included in the athletic fee schedule. A motion was made by C. Miller.

MOTION: To accept the increase game worker stipends as presented.

VOTE: Motion passed

OPPOSED: K. Sherwood

The FY17 Budget Book will be distributed at the Feb. 10th meeting, Feb. 25th and 26th are the Cost Center Presentations, and Feb. 29th is the Public Open Hearing and Legislative Presentation.

3. Community Relations Subcommittee – C. Miller- No report. The next meeting is Feb. 3rd in the Central Office.

2. Policy Subcommittee – M. Cocciardi stated that the Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan was reviewed by Legal Counsel.

A motion was made by M. Cocciardi.

MOTION: To accept/adopt the Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan as presented.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

- a. Naming Rights Discussion- M. Cocciardi stated there is no policy in place that gives any naming rights for the pending STEM lab and that the subcommittee is working on a plan and would like input from the Committee. K. Lyons indicated that there wasn't any urgency for this policy as the window for the donation had passed. Ideas should be forwarded to M. Cocciardi. Research on how other Districts handle this will be done. The next meeting continuing to review Section J is Feb. 4 at 6:30 p.m. in the Central Office.
- b. Senior Prom Event – M. Cocciardi stated that the subcommittee attempted to develop a policy that would resolve the prom issue at its last meeting. The subcommittee would like input from the Committee on proposed new policy. Discussion was held regarding student engagement and voice, expanding present policies and moving from the line of policy to procedure. J. Spencer distributed Policy BDD, School Committee/Superintendent Relations. After discussion was held regarding the role of the School Committee in regard to building issues, micromanaging as a negative, misinterpretation of the email of 2014 and the need for updates on this issue, the consensus of the Committee was that it was not the role of the Committee to resolve this issue. K. Lyons indicated that he heard many opinions this evening and stated that High School Principal L. Hodgdon was doing an outstanding job, that he will be working with her regarding communication, and that the Committee will not hear that he will change the event decision. P. Fitzsimmons shared a link of a School Committee meeting where SAB L. Tyler explained why the decision to eliminate one of the proms was made. P. Fitzsimmons stated that she didn't want the principals to think that the Committee didn't support them and their leadership.

M. Old/New Business – S. Mathers stated that the Vice-President's statement in the distributed packet was in direct conflict to what she stated at tonight's meeting. S. Mathers stated that she is not asking for a prom, just asking for a vote for what they have for a senior event.

P. Adjournment – A motion was made by P. Fitzsimmons.

MOTION: To adjourn.

VOTE: Motion passed by roll call at 11:14 p.m.

Submitted by: _____
Olga Langlois, Secretary

Approved: _____
Date

Per the New Open Meeting Law, the list of the documents that were either distributed to the Masconomet Regional School Committee before the meeting in a packet, or at the meeting:

1. Agenda
2. Consent Agenda
3. 1/13/16 Executive Session Minutes
4. Qualifications of Dr. Allara
5. Proposed User Fee Changes
6. Policies BDD, JIB, JIBA, JIBB
7. S. Mathers & S. Dindo Statements
8. Vote for a Choice Packet
9. Math Frameworks Changes Presentation
10. School Start Times Presentation
11. Superintendent Report
12. Digital Sign Estimate
13. Education Week's 20th Annual Quality Counts Report