

MASCONOMET REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Regular School Committee Meeting
March 9, 2016

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: W. Hodges, Topsfield

OTHERS PRESENT: K. Lyons, Superintendent S. Givens, CFO
L. Hodgdon, HS Principal D. Flaherty, MS Principal
J. Ricklefs, Boxford Fin. Com. Others

- A. Regular Meeting - Call To Order** – Chair J. Spencer called the Regular School Committee meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. on Wednesday, March 9, 2016 in the Ralph Osgood Presentation Room. The meeting is video and audio taped.
- B. Remarks by the Chair** –Chair J. Spencer stated that the meeting scheduled for March 14th was not needed but that a meeting on March 23 was needed. The meeting will be from 6:00 to 7:00 with the Digital Learning Forum following immediately after the meeting.
- C. South Africa Trip Student Presentation** E. Spencer, R. Vido and other students shared their experience during the South Africa Trip stating that it was an amazing trip and how different the South Africa culture was. L. Hodgdon concluded with remarks about the students and the conversations held during and after the trip.

D. Consent Agenda

1. Approval of February 10, 2016 Regular School Committee Meeting Minutes
2. Approval of Facility Use Request (Roberts Field) from St. Agnes & St. Rose of Lima Churches for September 2016
3. Approval of Ultimate Frisbee Overnight Trips
4. Accept Masconomet Education Foundation (MEF) Donation of \$25,000 to be Used for STEM Lab Design Services
5. Approve/Accept the Following Policies Requiring New Reconsideration Dates (5 years Added):
 - a. JICFA – Hazing - Removed
 - b. JIE – Pregnant Students
 - c. JIH – Student Searches, Locker Privileges, and Interrogations – Removed
 - d. JJ – Athletic and Co-Curricular Activities
 - e. JJA – Student Organizations – Removed
 - f. JJAA – Participation of Private School Students in Interscholastic Sports and School Sponsored Clubs and Activities – Removed
 - g. JJAB – Home School Students General
 - h. JJAC – Participation of Home-Educated Students in Interscholastic Sports and School Sponsored Clubs and Activities
 - i. JJC – Student Performances – Removed
 - j. JJE – Student Fundraising Activities – Removed
6. Warrants \$2,726,663.82 – Five (5) Warrants Signed

A motion was made by K. Prentakis.

MOTION: To approve the Consent Agenda as amended (Policies JICFA, JIH, JJA, JJAA, JJC, JJE removed).

VOTE: Motion passed.

E. FY17 Budget Adoption - A motion was made by T. Buono.

MOTION: To adopt the FY17 Masconomet General Fund Operating & Maintenance Budget of \$31,644,390 and Debt Service of \$2,373,225 for a total FY17 General Fund Budget of \$34,017,615 and direct the CFO to certify assessments to the member towns in accordance with the appropriate provisions of the Education Reform Act and the Masconomet Regional Agreement.

VOTE: Motion did not pass.

OPPOSED: K. Prentakis, B. Messenger, M. Cocciardi, K. Sherwood

Comments were made by the members who opposed the motion - K. Prentakis stated his reason for a no vote was due to declining enrollment and increased staff and he would like the Administration to cut positions or \$200,000 from the budget. B. Messenger agreed, but indicated that the telephone system was a real need and the teacher to student ratio shows reductions can be made. M. Cocciardi agreed with both but felt that the telephone system could wait until the capital needs review. K. Sherwood shared her concern with the student to teacher ratios, discussed the Masco rate of 13.5 last year and now being 12.6 in the projections, and reviewed Level 1 and Level 2 schools, indicating that the ratio at Level 1 schools was 13.4:1. She stated that if she did the math correctly, using the state average of 13.3:1, with 1823 students, cutting 6.9 teachers would get the District back to the state average. K. Sherwood further stated that she did not know where this information will take us but that it should be considered.

T. Buono stated that looking at Hamilton Wenham, she saw less curriculum and opportunities available there than at Masco. L. Hodgdon and D. Flaherty stated that the present numbers assisted our students to live up to their potential and asked that potential cuts be made carefully.

Discussion was held as follows: looking at the numbers, conducting an analysis, the purpose of having the Budget Subcommittee, working on a plan before next year's budget to address issues discussed, where K. Prentakis came up with the figure of \$200,000 for the cuts, charging more fees rather than making cuts, that the purpose of tonight's meeting was to pass the budget and the opposition to the budget undermined all of the subcommittee's work as these issues should have been presented earlier, priorities were set last fall with no discussion of reducing staff until tonight, there appears to be a disconnect on the Committee and that a flawed numerical analysis would lead to the ruin of the District, that the budget process was a good one this year with openness with the finance committees and the value of the thumbnail CFO S. Givens shared. K. Prentakis indicated he would reconsider his vote if a commitment was made to a staffing vision in light of the declining enrollment and asked if anyone else was willing to reconsider. M. Cocciardi stated that he couldn't make a leap of faith about an outline to be presented in the future.

D. Volchok said he would have a discussion with K. Lyons and J. Spencer to develop an enrollment analysis plan. A motion was made by P. Fitzsimmons.

MOTION: To recess for 15 minutes.

VOTE: Motion passed.

Meeting reconvened at 9:10 p.m. by Vice-Chair D. Volchok. D. Volchok stated that there will be a plan to consider reductions for FY18 by December 2016. A motion was made by P. Fitzsimmons.

MOTION: To direct the Administration to prepare a report on FTEs and enrollments and to report to the School Committee by December 15, 2016.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by K. Prentakis.

MOTION: To reconsider the motion to adopt the FY17 Masconomet General Fund Operating & Maintenance Budget of \$31,644,390 and Debt Service of \$2,373,225 for a total FY17 General Fund Budget of \$34,017,615 and direct the CFO to certify assessments to the member towns in accordance with the appropriate provisions of the Education Reform Act and the Masconomet Regional Agreement.

DISCUSSION: Discussion was held in response to K. Sherwood's asking CFO S. Givens if Acton/Boxborough was a Level I school. C. Miller reiterated B. Messenger's concern regarding the phone system.

VOTE: Motion passed.

OPPOSED: M. Cocciardi

F. Turf Up Masco Update – K. Lyons reported that Officers of the Turf-Up Masco organization made a presentation to the Advisory Committee on Facilities on Monday, Jan. 29th. Member P. Fitzsimmons represented the School Committee. A Power Point presentation was given by K. Lyons highlighting the two projects (turfing the football field/renewing the track around the field and construction of a new multi-sport turf field and facilities in the area of the existing soccer field), the immediate request and issue of naming rights and determining impacts and net costs of operation and maintenance of the two projects. Discussion was deferred until the Policy Subcommittee presented a proposed Naming Rights Policy.

G. Comments from the Audience – None.

H. 1:1 Initiative Update – K. Lyons - A Power Point presentation was given by K. Lyons highlighting the following: 10 Point Update, Educational Philosophy, Devices, Draft of Minimum Specifications, Project Plan Timelines, and Forum Night and Concept Approval by School Committee.

I. Report on Crisis Response Guidelines – K. Lyons gave an overview of the Crisis Intervention and Response Guide, its development and purpose. He requested that the Committee accept the report on the Guidelines and their development. He indicated that the guideline would be a living document revised regularly in collaboration with Public Safety officials and Masco staff. Acceptance of the report would signify to the Superintendent that the Committee is in agreement with the concept of implementing the Guide. His intention is to report on crisis intervention and response to the Committee at least annually. A motion was made by M. Cocciardi.

MOTION: To accept the report on Crisis Response Guidelines and endorse the concept as a training document going forward with an annual report to the School Committee by the Superintendent.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

J. Superintendent Report – K. Lyons reported on the following: MEF Gift for the STEM Lab, an update on senior activities, College Night for Students with Disabilities, the Tri-Town Council sponsored Staying Ahead of Anxiety and Depression presentation, and the *Is There an Art Career in Your Future* evening hosted by Art teacher B. Dow.

K. Reports of the Subcommittees

1. **Budget Subcommittee** – D. Volchok – Five (5) Warrants were signed since the last meeting.

Payroll Warrant	\$	627,567.31	Vendor Warrant	\$	65,707.35
Vendor Warrant	\$	5,376.73	Vendor Warrant	\$	1,960,068.40
Vendor Warrant	\$	67,944.03	TOTAL \$		2,726,663.82

2. **Policy Subcommittee** – M. Cocciardi asked that the policies removed from the Consent Agenda be reviewed at the March 17 Subcommittee meeting. A motion was made by M. Cocciardi.

MOTION: To approve/adopt Policies JIAA and JIBB as presented.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

- a. Policy JIBA, Student Government, 2nd Reading
- b. Policy JIBB, Student Advisory Board, 2nd Reading
- c. Policy JICFB-E, Bullying Prevention and Intervention Incident Reporting Form – Rescind, 1st Reading
- d. Policy JICG, Rules and Regulations Affecting the Use or Possession of Tobacco Products on School Property, 1st Reading
- e. Policy JICH, Use, Possession and Distribution of Drugs, Alcoholic Beverages and Inhalants When Under School Control: On-Campus or at School-Related Activities Off Campus, 1st Reading
- f. Policy JICI, Weapons in School, 1st Reading
- g. Policy JII, Student Complaints and Grievances, 1st Reading
- h. Policy FF, Naming Of a Facility, 1st Reading
- i. Policy KFA, Use of District LED Sign and Other Outdoor Signs, 1st Reading

M. Cocciardi reviewed the Anti Bullying Policy that is to be rescinded, Policy FF Naming of a Facility and Policy KFA, Use of District LED Sign and Other Outdoor Signs. D. Volchok stated that there should be a separate policy for commercial naming with a 10-year expiration (managing donations). M. Cocciardi asked that comments regarding these two policies be sent to him. Subcommittee meetings are scheduled for March 17 and March 31.

3. Community Relations Subcommittee - C. Miller – No report.

L. Old/New Business – T. Buono stated that the School Start Time Advisory Committee has been formed and distributed the membership list. K. Lyons requested approval of an amendment to the Northshore Education Collaborative Member Agreement as indicated on the first page of the document received by the Members. All member School Committees are asked to vote in the affirmative and to authorize the Chair to sign a form confirming approval by the Committee. The amendment will allow the Collaborative to charge a higher tuition to non-member Districts for Collaborative programs and services.

A motion was made by P. Fitzsimmons.

MOTION: To approve the March 2016 Amendment to the Northshore Education Collaborative Member Agreement as presented and to authorize the Chair to sign a form confirming approval by the Committee.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

K. Lyons provided a communication from the Support Staff Association requesting that collective bargaining for a successor agreement be commenced after the April school vacation.

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

MOTION: To adjourn.

VOTE: Motion passed at 10:58 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. Proposed FY17 Budget
4. Policies JIAA, JIBB, JICFB-E, JICG, JCH, JICI, JII, FF, KFA
5. 1:1 Initiative Update
6. Crisis Response Guidelines
7. Northshore Education Collaborative Member Agreement
8. Support Staff Association
9. Superintendent Report