

MASCONOMET REGIONAL DISTRICT SCHOOL COMMITTEE

October 6, 2021

MEMBERS PRESENT: Z. Bhaji, Chair, Topsfield
K. Prentakis, Middleton
D. Casamassima, Middleton
C. Miller, Topsfield
T. Teleen, Boxford
M. Ogden, Topsfield
T. Cooper, Vice Chair, Middleton
J. Ciampa, Middleton
W. Hodges, Topsfield
J. McLean, Boxford
P. Bernhart, Boxford

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: M. Harvey, Superintendent
J. Sands, Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations
P. Bullard, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services

- A. **Call to Order** – Z. Bhaju, Chair, called the Regular Meeting of the School Committee of October 6, 2021, to Order at 7:01pm, at the High School Library.
- B. A Motion was made by Z. Bhaju to adjourn into Executive Session for the purpose of bargaining with non-union personnel (Superintendent Harvey) (Executive Session Purpose #2) and discussing strategy relative to collective bargaining with the Masonomet Teachers Association and Paraprofessional Association (Executive Session Purpose #3). The Chair has determined that holding this discussion in Open Session may have a detrimental impact on the District’s Bargaining Position. The Committee will not return to open session after the conclusion of the Executive Session. The motion was seconded by C. Miller and unanimously approved by Rollcall Vote:

Rollcall Vote:

| | | |
|--------------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| C. Miller – yes | Z. Bhaju – yes | T. Teleen – yes |
| K. Prentakis – yes | W. Hodges – yes | D. Casamassima – yes |
| T. Cooper – yes | J. McLean – yes | P. Bernhart – yes |
| J. Ciampa – yes | M. Ogden - yes | |

C. **Return to Open Session** 7:43pm

D. **Remarks from the Chair** – Z. Bhaju informed the SC that Bonnie Thornborough has stepped down and Joe McLean as been appointed as the new SC member from Boxford. Z. Bhaju thanked Bonnie for her service to the SC. Z. Bhaju also welcomed the new High School Principal Mary Jo Carabatsos.

E. **Comments from the Public** –

Robin Wildman, a Masco counselor, stated that the SC walked away from negotiations and the hard conversations and asked that the SC return to the bargaining table.

Shannon Murphy, English teacher, asked the SC to return to the bargaining table and stated the teachers are bargaining for quality-of-life issues.

Brian Mintz, Psychology teacher, stated that the teachers want to meet with the negotiation team to try to negotiate again. 26 contracts have been successfully negotiated prior to this without mediation.

Lisa Esme, parent of prior students, asked why the SC is not negotiating.

Kathleen Scarpato, stated that the MASC regulation prohibiting the use of Native American mascots should have community input. She asked for the vaccination rate of the students and teachers and the status of waiver requests. She asked for the definition of a close contact and how many have tested positive.

F. Approve Memorandum of Understanding on 2021-2022 School Year with Masconomet Teachers Association

Z. Bhujy informed the SC that several meetings took place to work out this MOU. The SC is ready to ratify the MOU and expect the union leadership to have the membership ratify the MOU as well. The SC has invited union leadership to the table with the mediators since June.

A Motion was made by T. Cooper to ratify the MOU; it was seconded by C. Miller and unanimously approved.

MOTION: To ratify the MOU
VOTE: 11-0, Motion Passed

G. Student Advisory Board Update – Raquel Rave informed the SC that the students are engaged in regular activities. The students are concerned with the workload and would like WIN block back with the waterfall schedule.

H. Field Trip Presentation – Ryan Quadros, a French and Spanish teacher requested approval of a 3-day field trip to Quebec the second to last weekend in May 2022 for freshman and sophomore students. Students will have to provide proof of vaccination and a negative test within a certain time frame. T. Cooper asked if there would be refunds of the trip was cancelled. All but the \$50 deposit will be refunded, and the purchase of trip insurance will be recommended.

K. Prentakis asked what would happen if a student got COVID during the trip. This will be discussed with the tour company. A motion was made to approve the field trip to Quebec by C. Miller; it was seconded by M. Ogden and unanimously approved.

MOTION: Approve field trip
VOTE: 11-0, Motion Passed

I. Vision 2025 Showcase

World Language Presentation - Jeanne O’Hearn informed the SC that MA framework was updated, and students will use the target language and be aware of changes that promulgate equity and global understanding. Proficiency is the ability to use the language in a real-world situation with skilled based knowledge of the culture. “Connecting learning to real world solutions and use”.

Lauren Calabrese, a student, has been assisting with families who do not speak English during tours of Masco. She wrote a bilingual polar graphs children’s book which combines Spanish and Calculus. Lauren presented her project and book to the SC. She has donated the books to the Lawrence Public Library. Ada Yu presented her project to the SC. She made Bilingual Essential Phrases question sheets for first responders and EMTs. The language barrier between first responders and EMTs and patients can be an issue when trying to treat them. Proficiency based instruction and strategies which are learning without fear of failing. Learning through school, community and global experiences such as exchange programs, pen pal programs. International dinners with student performers and cooking demonstrations. The Seal of Biliteracy is awarded to a Senior who achieves a high level of proficiency in English and another language. This will begin in Spring 2023 and the requirements were reviewed.

- J. High School Principal's Report** – Mary Jo Carabatsos presented the representatives of the Economics Club, Poetry Club and Rocket Club for approval of the clubs. Henry presented the Economics Club which will build analytical and problem-solving skills. Mr. Walsh is the advisor. Connections will be made with college economic professors. Tracy presented the Poetry Club which will promote creative self-expression, open mike opportunities and review poems and discuss their meanings. Aiden, Laurie and Pascal presented the Rocket Club which already has 23-25 students signed up. The club will design, build and launch rockets, learn about rocketry with hands on activities. This club combines STEM, Math and Science. A motion was made to approve all the club proposals by T. Cooper; it was seconded by D. Casamassima and unanimously approved.

MOTION: Approve Club Proposals

VOTE: 11-0, Motion Passed

Mary Jo Carabatsos reviewed the return to pre-COVID rotating schedule; safety and preparedness; and bus challenges due to the shortage of drivers. Athletics are also impacted by the bus shortages and the AD is working on the issue. The teams have had a successful fall season. Open House was held remotely. The delayed opening allowed teachers to work with their departments on PD and to focus on goals for the upcoming year. PSAT and SAT testing will be held October 13th.

- Ensuring students feel supported with empathy during relearning.
- Ensuring adults feel supported, re-establishing routines and integrating COVID within instructional practices.
- Building school-based team with relationship building trust etc.

The yearlong focus will be on relationships, relevance and deep learning. Mary Jo is visiting classrooms and seeing the students engaged. The MCAS data is being reviewed. The hiring of a drama teacher is a high priority. The return of student events in person is something everyone is looking forward to.

- K. Superintendent's Report** – M. Harvey reviewed the COVID cases in the HS and MS with a total of 19 students and staff positive with no evidence of spread in school. There has been a decrease in cases every week since school began. The Test and Stay Program is for unvaccinated persons in school who are a close contact with a positive COVID case. There is testing at Masco for students and the Tri-Town grades 3-6 from 6:50am-8:30am daily. It was initially run by senior leadership team, tri-town school union and nurses. We now have CIC staff operating the test center. A systematic testing program has been developed. If a vaccinated person is a close contact and shows no symptoms, they are exempt from testing. The mask mandate is in effect until November 1st. Once the 80% vaccination rate is achieved staff and students can attend without masks. We are currently at 76.22% vaccination rate. The Board of Health requires face coverings and in order to obtain an approved exemption from the Boxford Board of Health we need to present written approval from DECE; and unvaccinated students and staff will have to wear masks. How will this be enforced? Discussion regarding reaching the 80% threshold. The Yale Education Award recipient is HS guidance counselor Nick Eli.

- L. Vote on MASC Resolutions and Appoint a Delegate to the MASC Conference MASC Resolutions**

Z. Bhujju advised the SC that by voting on the resolutions provides guidance for the delegate to the MASC Conference votes.

Z. Bhujju read each resolution and the SC voted as follows:

Resolution #1: T. Cooper made a Motion to approve Resolution #1; it was seconded by M. Ogden and unanimously approved.

Resolution #2: T. Cooper made a Motion to approve Resolution #2; it was seconded by D. Casamassina and approved 10-1 with K. Prentakis against.

Resolution #3: T. Cooper made a Motion to approve Resolution #3; it was seconded by M. Ogden and unanimously approved.

Resolution #4: M. Ogden made a Motion to approve Resolution #4; it was seconded by T. Teleen and approved 10-1 with K. Prentakis against.

Resolution #5: J. Ciampa made a Motion to approve Resolution #5; it was seconded by T. Cooper and unanimously approved.

Resolution #6: T. Cooper made a Motion to approve Resolution #6; it was seconded by T. Teleen and unanimously approved.

Resolution #7: M. Ogden made a Motion to approve Resolution #7; it was seconded by W. Hodges and approved 9-1 with K. Prentakis against and J. McLean abstaining.

Resolution #8: T. Teleen made a Motion to approve Resolution #8; it was seconded by T. Cooper and approved 10-1 with K. Prentakis against.

Resolution #9: M. Ogden made a Motion to table the vote. M. Ogden amended her Motion to have the delegate abstain from this vote; it was seconded by C. Miller and approved 9-2- with K. Prentakis and W. Hodges against.

C. Miller made a Motion to appoint Z. Bhujju as the delegate to the MASC Conference; it was seconded by T. Cooper and unanimously approved.

MOTION: Appoint Z. Bhujju as Delegate

VOTE: 11-0, Motion Passed

M. Sign School Committee Protocols – The SC Protocol was signed by all members.

N. Set Superintendent's FY22 Salary – Z. Bhujju suggested a 2% salary increase for M. Harvey. T. Cooper made a Motion to approve a 2% salary increase for M. Harvey; it was seconded by J. McLean and unanimously approved.

MOTION: Approve 2% salary increase

VOTE: 11-0, Motion Passed

O. Revised Subcommittee Appointments

J. McLean will be part of the Anti-Racism subcommittee.

T. Teleen will be the chair of Community Relations.

P. Consent Agenda

1. Approval of July 21 and September 1, 2021, Meeting Minutes
2. Warrants of \$3,767,186.026 (32) signed since September 1, 2021.

M. Ogden abstaining from approving the July 21st Minutes.

MOTION: Approve Consent Agenda

VOTE: 10-0, Motion Passed

Meeting Adjourned at 10:10 PM by Z. Bhaju

Submitted By: _____ Approved _____
Lynn Viselli, Recording Secretary Date

Per the Massachusetts Open Meeting Law, the list of documents that were either distributed to the Masconomet School Committee before the meeting in the packet or at the meeting.

1. Agenda
2. MOU with the Teacher's Union
3. Field Trip Presentation to Quebec
4. World Language Vision 2025 Showcase
5. HS Principal Report
6. New Club Proposals
7. Superintendent Report
8. MASC Resolutions and Delegate Appointment
9. SC Protocols
10. Revised Subcommittee Assignments
11. Consent Agenda