

MASCONOMET REGIONAL DISTRICT SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
VIA ZOOM TELECONFERENCE

March 25, 2020

MEMBERS PRESENT: T. Cooper, Chair, Middleton C. Miller, Vice Chair, Boxford  
B. Thornborough, Boxford M. Gnoza-Ogden, Topsfield  
D. Volchok, Boxford K. Prentakis, Middleton  
K. DeMarco, Boxford J. Ciampa, Middleton  
Z. Bhaju, Topsfield W. Hodges, Topsfield

MEMBERS ABSENT: A. Pascucci, Middleton

OTHERS PRESENT: M. Harvey, Superintendent  
J. Sands, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations

**A. Call to Order** – T. Cooper, Chair, called the regular meeting of the school committee of March 25, 2020 to Order at 7:01 p.m. via zoom teleconference. T. Cooper reviewed the procedure for remote teleconference and participation. She thanked the administration and staff for the work they are doing.

**B. Update on Coronavirus Shutdown** – M. Harvey thanked the leadership team, and crisis response team for their work and assistance in preparations for the upcoming weeks. M. Harvey reviewed the events that have transpired since March 11, 2020:

- 3/13 school closed for deep cleaning to reopen Monday;
- 3/16 schools closed for 2 weeks

FAQ have been updated on the website and enrichment activities have been prepared and published for students. Administration is waiting for more explicit guidelines from the Commissioner regarding continuation of learning.

A Memo of Understanding has been issued regarding teacher availability during the shutdown and the continuation of learning, this will be renegotiated with the continuation of the shutdown. The MCAS have been suspended for seniors.

M. Harvey met with the Boxford Finance Committee and they asked the leadership team to review the FY21 budget based on the financial impact of the pandemic.

D. Volchok expressed his concern with the expectation of the teacher's availability during school hours. M. Harvey informed the SC that the union contract with the teachers calls for impact bargaining when there is a change to the regular work day. D. Volchok would like to see the teachers in the classroom streaming live during school hours. M. Harvey explained that no one is allowed in the school buildings at this time.

K. DeMarco thanked M. Harvey for the timeline and update. She is concerned with the communication with parents and thought it would be helpful to outline the next steps to the parents.

Z. Bhaju asked if students and families have access to guidance or social workers.

M. Harvey informed the SC that the enrichment resource list is up and teachers will be reaching out to students by the end of the week. Blackboard will be utilized and the assignments will be made

more robust. He then reviewed the teacher contracts and how the contract is negotiated with the union during a shutdown.

Joseph Galiette asked if teachers will be sharing curriculum with students on Friday. M. Harvey responded that there will only be enrichment resources for the next week with changes and enhancements to happen on April 6.

C. Miller asked if Middleton Finance Committee has asked for a review of the FY21 Budget since both Topsfield and Boxford have asked. T. Cooper heard from the Middleton FC meeting and they are not planning on changing anything at this time.

Both Boxford and Topsfield have moved their town meetings to June, Middleton will be deciding in the new few weeks.

D. Volchok reminded the SC that the budget needs to be submitted 45 days prior to town meetings. If Middleton does not move their town meeting the budget remains as it is.

J. Sands agreed with D. Volchok. J. Sands reported the budget was certified per the statute, however if town meetings are moved to June 15<sup>th</sup> for example, there is time to discuss changes to the budget.

C. Miller made a motion, which was seconded by K. Prentakis to have M. Harvey and J. Sands review the FY21 budget to identify any areas for reductions.

MOTION: M. Harvey and J. Sands to review the FY21 Budget to Identify any areas for Reductions

VOTE: 10-0 Motion Carried on Rollcall Vote

T. Cooper – yes

Z. Bhaju – yes

M. Ogden-Gnoza – yes

K. Prentakis – yes

D. Volchok – yes

C. Miller – yes

W. Hodges- yes

J. Ciampa – yes

K. DeMarco – yes

B. Thornborough – yes

There were questions regarding students on IEPs and 504 plans. K. DeMarco informed the SC that there are meetings coming up to address this and how to reach out to families and students.

Lilly, a Masco sophomore asked if third quarter grades would be issued based on the work completed at this time. M. Harvey responded that the leadership team is working through this situation and they do not want to put students at a disadvantage due to the shutdown.

**C. Review Statement from School Committee** – T. Cooper read the draft of the SC statement. There will be edits to the 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph due to the extension of the shutdown that occurred today. K. Prentakis asked that the last line be amended to read “good intentions”.

**D. Adjournment** – A motion was made by C. Miller and seconded by K. DeMarco to adjourn at 8:44pm.

MOTION: To Adjourn  
VOTE: 10-0, Motion Carried on Rollcall Vote

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|----------------------|-----------------------|
| T. Cooper – yes      | D. Volchok – yes      |
| C. Miller – yes      | K. Prentakis – yes    |
| Z. Bhujju – yes      | K. DeMarco – yes      |
| M. Ogden-Gnoza – yes | B. Thornborough – yes |
| J. Ciampa – yes      | W. Hodges - yes       |

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. Statement from School Committee