

MASCONOMET REGIONAL DISTRICT SCHOOL COMMITTEE

March 4, 2020

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

MEMBERS ABSENT:

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 4, 2020 to order at 7:05p.m.in the Ralph Osgood Presentation Room.

B. **Pledge of Allegiance**

C. **Remarks by the Chair** – T. Cooper reminded the Committee and audience that the meeting was being audio and video recorded.

D. **Comments from the Audience** - None

E. **Public Hearing on School Choice and FY21 Budget** - Both Public Hearings were opened. M. Harvey informed the SC that he read the MA School Choice Program and districts opt in annually and determine what grades school choice will be available. The compensation is \$5,000 per student paid by the home district. Students on IEPs and 504 plans and their services were discussed, including reimbursement for those services. The Superintendent’s recommendation is to vote to allow school choice for grades 7, 8, 9 on a space available basis for the 2020-2021 school year. This will allow for consistent class sizes and produce a source of revenue that will allow the district to maintain a rich variety of programming. Once choice students are admitted, even if school choice is discontinued, those students remain in the school until graduation. There was discussion regarding students of teachers, siblings of students already admitted under school choice and the cost to the district for each student. There was further discussion regarding notification of enrollment numbers and acceptance into school choice if passed.

J. Sands reviewed the changes to the budget discussed at the last meeting. The net impact is a \$248,240.00 reduction. The budget is level service plus an investment in critical priorities with a 4.7% increase. Critical priorities were reviewed, including late buses and SRO reimbursement. J. Sands reviewed the total assessment overview and assessments by Town. J. Sands advised the SC that the budget must be adopted by March 11, 2020.

T. Cooper closed the Public Hearings.

F. School Choice Participation Vote – M. Harvey advised the SC that 7th grade makes the most sense to start school choice because so many students are entering at the same time from different communities. Discussion took place regarding current and future class sizes in grades 7, 8 and 9. A. Pascucci added that there is no way to know how many applications will be received. She expressed her belief that the Administration is qualified and has experience in making these decisions. W. Hodges agreed that the Administration can make the decision on the number of students based on better and more current information than the SC has now. M. Harvey clarified that if no vote is taken, Masconomet can allow school choice students in grades 7, 8, and 9.

Z. Bhujju made a motion, seconded by M. Gnoza-Ogden to admit school choice students for 8th and 9th grade not to exceed a ceiling of 30 students.

MOTION: To Admit School Choice Students in Grades 8 and 9 not to Exceed 30 students.

VOTE: 6-5 Motion Carried on a Rollcall Vote

A. Pascucci – yes	M. Ogden-Gnoza - yes
T. Cooper – yes	Z. Bhujju - yes
W. Hodges – yes	B. Thornborough - yes
K. Prentakis – no	D. Volchok – no
C. Miller – no	J. Ciampa – no
K. DeMarco - no	

G. Middle School Principal Report – J. Dillon informed the SC that the 8th grade dance was held and over 180 students attended. The student/faculty basketball game was played. The 21st Century Skills electives, Intro to Coding; Media Communications; Intro to Public Speaking are all being offered to the incoming 8th graders. Drama and stage prep is being offered to incoming 7th graders. The students are using digital learning in conjunction with Google Expedition to visit ancient Egypt interactively. 8th grade staff is working on portfolio projects for all 8th grade teams next year. J. Dillon reviewed the March calendar and upcoming field trips.

H. Approve appointment of David Symmes as the Topsfield Representative to the Essex North Shore Agricultural and Technical School Committee (Topsfield SC Members Only)

Removed from Agenda.

I. Budget Deliberations – This was covered in the Public Hearing portion of the meeting previously discussed. The budget must be approved by March 11, 2020.

J. Consent Agenda

1. Approval of 2-26-2020 School Committee Meeting Minutes
2. Accept MEF Grant in the amount of \$525.00 for Computer Science Field Trip Transportation
3. Statement on Audit from Giusti, Hingston and Company

The consent agenda was read by T. Cooper. A motion was made by K. DeMarco and seconded by Z. Bhujju to accept the consent agenda.

MOTION: To Accept the Consent Agenda

VOTE: 11-0 Motion Carried

K. Adjournment – A motion was made by Z. Bhujy and seconded by K. DeMarco to adjourn at 9:20 p.m.

MOTION: To Adjourn
VOTE: Motion Carried

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. Consent Agenda
3. School Choice Recommendation
4. FY20 Budget Presentation
5. Middle School Principal's Report.