

MASCONOMET REGIONAL DISTRICT SCHOOL COMMITTEE
VIA ZOOM TELECONFERENCE

April 1, 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 7:00PM via Zoom Teleconference. T. Cooper reviewed the procedure for remote teleconference and participation. She thanked the administration and staff for the continued work they are doing.

B. Coronavirus Response Update – M. Harvey reviewed the timeline and work done this past week, including faculty meetings which over 150 high school faculty attended and 100 middle school faculty attended. Remote learning will be in place by April 6, employees continued to be paid and the draft remote learning plan was forwarded for review. IT is hosting “drop in” blackboard assistance sessions. The remote learning letter was emailed to parents and the Memo of Understanding is being reviewed. FAQs are being compiled and will be on the website soon. Staff training sessions are continuing and a decision is pending regarding second semester grades. The planning for beyond May 4th is beginning. The remote learning plan extends learning further than May 4th, if it is needed. K. DeMarco asked if there was a plan for students and parents to provide feedback on remote learning. Students and parents should follow the normal chain of command by contacting teachers first with any issues and then the teachers will escalate it accordingly. J. Sands advised students to contact the teacher with technical issues and the teacher will submit a ticket to IT. D. Volchok asked that websites that are trusted be used so there can be no “Zoom Bombing”. Teachers and students are using blackboard and each has their own individual login. J. Sands also added that there are increased security measures in place from IT. M. Harvey added that MCAS, April vacation and graduation all have legislature pending.

C. Public Comments

Gerardo Filitto from Middleton asked what the teachers were doing to get ready for remote learning on April 6th. The teachers have been training for over a week and training continues daily with tech support available.

Kathleena Scarparo from Topsfield ask how this will impact school over the summer, selecting classes for the fall and the success of next year. Curriculum may need to be adjusted to fill in this gap and this is all part of the discussion of what comes next with the administration.

P. Bullard added that guidance from Special Education will be forthcoming soon.

C. Miller stated the Boxford Selectmen sent a letter to the SC requesting another version of the FY21 budget with 0% increase by April 17th. T. Cooper added that a 0% increase would result in a

reduction of services. C. Miller agreed that teachers will have to get the students caught up with less resources in the fall. K. Prentakis also agreed that the student needs will be greater in the fall and having less resources would be counterproductive. He suggested providing relief in the FY22 budget.

Che Elwell of the Topsfield Finance Committee asked for a review of the FY21 budget since there is no way to know what the impact this will have the income provided by the state.

M. Ogden-Gnoza asked what the process for the SC is moving forward. J. Sands informed the SC that a discussion regarding the budget will be on the April 15th Agenda and we will continue with the weekly meeting updates.

All agreed with the weekly update meetings.

D. Adjournment – A motion was made by K. DeMarco at 7:54p.m.to adjourn, it was seconded by C. Miller.

Rollcall Vote:

T. Cooper – yes

B. Thornborough – yes

D. Volchok – yes

J. Ciampa – yes

W. Hodges – yes

C. Miller – yes

K. Prentakis – yes

K. DeMarco – yes

Z. Bhujju – yes

M. Ogden-Gnoza – yes

MOTION: To Adjourn

VOTE: Motion Carried

Submitted By: _____
Lynn Viselli, Recording Secretary

Approved _____
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