

MASCONOMET REGIONAL DISTRICT SCHOOL COMMITTEE
VIA ZOOM TELECONFERENCE

April 15, 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. Bhujju, Topsfield W. Hodges, Topsfield
A. Pascucci, Middleton

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 April 15, 2020 to Order at 7:02p.m. 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. **Remarks from Chair** – T. Cooper thanked the Leadership team for their work this past week.

C. **Coronavirus Response Update** – M. Harvey reviewed the timeline and work done this past week. Chromebooks were distributed to faculty and students. Training continued for both staff and students on the use of blackboard. MCAS have been cancelled for the 2019-2020 school year. Seniors who have not passed the MCAS will not receive a diploma and they do not have another opportunity to pass the MCAS. The 1/12th budget may be implemented if Town Meetings can't be held before June 30th. The privacy policy was emailed to all parents. The extended school closure will be addressed next week as well as if September 14th will be a holiday because the Boston Marathon has been rescheduled to that date. Food service staff have been in school daily since the closure making lunches for families in need and donating the extra food. Transition for the incoming 7th and 9th graders may have to be done virtually. C. Miller asked if there were seniors that needed to pass the MCAS and if the Commissioner would waive the requirement. Z. Bhujju asked about the feedback on remote learning. The responses have been all positive from teachers, parents and students. K. DeMarco asked when a decision would be made about grades. This is contingent upon students returning May 4th. Once a decision is made then that issue will be addressed. W. Hodges expressed his concern with the quality of remote learning and the consistency for the students. The same structure applies to remote learning as if the students were in class. The Department Head has quality control over the lesson plans and there is an expectation that the teachers teaching the same classes plan the lessons together to teach the same material.

D. **FY21 Budget Update** – J. Sands reviewed the budget process completed to date which included a 4.7% increase over FY2020 and the budget was certified on March 25th. Potential changes to the approved budget will be reviewed, however it is critical to keep funding necessary to preserve level service for FY21. J. Sands reviewed the tiered approach to reducing the budget. Tier 1 does not impact student learning; tier 2, positions eliminated; and tier 3, normal attrition teacher positions.

Tier 1 includes eliminating the late buses, additional property insurance, 4 Chromebook carts at the MS and remove pay increase for substitute teachers. This will result in a savings of \$87,600.00.

Tier 2 includes proposed elimination of one administrator position, one administrator support position, one district wide support position (IT/Operations), 1 MPFT position, and non-renew three paraprofessional positions. This will result in a savings of \$262,304.00. Tier 3 includes eliminating two teacher positions for teachers that have either resigned or have indicated retirement, these positions will not be filled. This results in a savings of \$145,874.00. These savings total \$495,778.00 or 2.9% increase to FY2020 budget. Other: "Excess & Deficiency" to offset shortfalls in revenue if needed in the amount of \$346,893.00. The SC would need to revise Policy DIBA to reduce the minimum to 3%. K. Prentakis believes that cutting the FY21 budget is short-sighted, however relief to the communities is important. He would like to make it up in the FY22 budget. The students will need resources upon returning to school. There was discussion about "thinking outside the box" for further reductions, such as athletic and co-curricular activities. The possible positions eliminated under tier 3 were reviewed and discussed. One of the positions will be vacant due to retirement and one would be the elimination of a HS Guidance Counselor. C. Miller asked to keep the late buses. Z. Bhuju and B. Thornborough agreed. D. Volchok would like to keep the maintenance position as this impacts everyone in the school. M. Gnoza-Ogden would like to keep the IT position and the late buses.

Michael White of the Boxford Finance Committee asked if the budget increase could be brought to 0% since there is uncertainty with state funds.

Che Elwell of Topsfield Finance Committee added that revenue is down drastically and that may reduce money received from the state.

Volchok made a motion, seconded by C. Miller to direct the Administration to reduce the budget as presented by \$463,474.00 and remove the elimination of the late buses.

Rollcall Vote:

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

MOTION: To Reduce FY21 Budget as Discussed

VOTE: 11-0 Motion Carried

E. Approve Changes to the NEC Articles of Agreement – NEC provides Special Education

Services. The three changes are:

1. Admit Pentucket Regional School District
2. Amend language to ensure the Board is made up of Superintendents only
3. Amend language regarding responsibilities of members.

K. Prentakis made a motion, seconded by D. Volchok to approve the changes to the NEC Articles of Agreement.

Rollcall Vote:

T. Cooper – yes	C. Miller – yes
-----------------	-----------------

M. Gnoza-Ogden – yes
K. Prentakis – yes
J. Ciampa – yes
D. Volchok – yes
W. Hodges – yes

B. Thornborough – yes
K. DeMarco – yes
A. Pascucci- yes
Z. Bhujju – yes

MOTION: To Approve the Changes to the NEC Articles of Agreement
VOTE: 11-0 Motion Carried

F. Consent Agenda

1. Approval of School Committee Meeting Minutes from March 4th, March 11th, March 25th and April 1st.
2. Warrants \$3,234,969.58 – Fourteen (14) Warrants signed since 3-11-2020.
3. Accept Puritan Lawn Memorial Park Gift in the amount of \$500.00

T. Cooper asked that the minutes from March 25th be removed from the consent agenda for revisions. Z. Bhujju made a motion, seconded by D. Volchok to approve the consent agenda.

Rollcall Vote:

T. Cooper – yes
M. Gnoza-Ogden – yes
K. Prentakis – yes
J. Ciampa – yes
D. Volchok – yes
W. Hodges – yes

C. Miller – yes
B. Thornborough – yes
K. DeMarco – yes
A. Pascucci- yes
Z. Bhujju – yes

MOTION: To accept the Consent Agenda
VOTE: 11-0 Motion Carried

Amendments to the March 25th minutes include correcting Lillian to Lily and amending a sentence to read: T. Cooper received information that nothing was changing at this time in an email. K. DeMarco made a motion, seconded by D. Volchok to accept the March 25th minutes as amended.

Rollcall Vote:

T. Cooper – yes
M. Gnoza-Ogden – yes
K. Prenatkis – yes
J. Ciampa – yes
D. Volchok – yes
W. Hodges – yes

C. Miller – yes
B. Thornborough – yes
K. DeMarco – yes
A. Pascucci- yes
Z. Bhujju – yes

MOTION: To Accept Changes to 3/25 Minutes
VOTE: 11-0 Motion Carried

G. Comments from the Audience

Dick Grant from Topsfield thanked the leadership team for their work in reducing the budget.

Discussion followed regarding additional upcoming meetings and meeting on a weekly basis.

D. Volchok made a motion, seconded by K. DeMarco to add 4/22; 5/6; and 5/13 to the meeting calendar.

Rollcall Vote:

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

MOTION: To add Additional Meeting Dates to the Meeting Calendar

VOTE: 11-0 Motion Carried

H. Adjournment– A motion was made by K. DeMarco at 8:56pm to adjourn, it was seconded by C. Miller.

Rollcall Vote:

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

MOTION: To Adjourn

VOTE: 11-0 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
2. Consent Agenda
3. FY21 Operating Budget
4. NEC Articles of Agreement