

MASCONOMET REGIONAL DISTRICT SCHOOL COMMITTEE
VIA ZOOM TELECONFERENCE

May 13, 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. Bhuju, Topsfield W. Hodges, Topsfield
A. Pascucci, Middleton

MEMBERS ABSENT:

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

A. Call to Order – T. Cooper, Chair, called the regular meeting of the School Committee of May 13, 2020 to order at 7:02p.m. via Zoom Teleconference.

B. Comments from the Audience – Lily Fishman of Boxford asked the SC to take a proactive approach to addressing mental health. She also asked that someone with a medical background be on staff and that the health service director position not be cut.

Karen Trevenen, Health Services Director, is concerned about the students during this crisis and moving forward. She asked that all the letters received in relation to this cut be attached to the minutes.

Meredith Shaw of the Tri-Town Council sent in a letter. She is concerned about cutting health services during a pandemic and the mental health of the students.

Joe from Boxford expressed the concern of the Scout Leaders with the elimination of these positions.

Altheena Galietta of Topsfield asked if testing would be done for evaluation purposes at the end of the school year and if the teachers could provide quarterly outlines for next year.

Bob McCall asked the SC to consider keeping the health positions and asked if the return to school plan has begun and does it address student anxiety.

Gwen Lemire, MS nurse at Masconomet, asked the SC to keep the health positions.

Jess Zaniewski, Masconomet’s medical secretary, of Boxford described what the medical administrative secretary does on a daily basis which allows the nurses to fully focus on the students concerns.

C. Remarks from the Chair – T. Cooper updated the SC on the senior class lawn signs and the Masco class of 2020 Facebook page is celebrating the seniors. School Committee meetings will resume to every other week moving forward.

D. Coronavirus Response Update – M. Harvey updated the SC on the past week of activities including the scheduled cap and gown distribution on May 29th. Graduation will take place on August 1st either in person or virtual. He is working on the MOU with the Teachers Association leadership and will provide an update at the May 27th meeting.

E. Presentations from the English, Foreign Language, Math, Science and Social Studies

Department Heads

Denise Tenanty reviewed the Phase 1 of remote learning and resources used during Enrichment. She also reviewed the transition to remote learning and the training the teachers used and are continuing to use.

Megan Hildebrand reviewed Phases 2 and 3. The teachers are collaborating and planning lessons together. 9th and 10th grade teachers are collaborating on a time capsule project.

Megan Hildebrand provided the update from the English Department. The teachers are continuing to engage the students. Most of the student have textbooks. She reviewed the work being done by each grade and various resources being used to teach when textbooks are not available. The librarians have been very supportive to the students and teachers in finding different resources other than textbooks.

Denise Tenanty provided the update from the Math Department. She reviewed the work being done by each grade and the challenges faced. Paraprofessionals are working with students during class and in academic support sessions. A variety of instructional strategies are being used for content delivery. Textbooks are online.

Tammy Fay provided the update from the Science Department. The teachers have been collaborating in planning lessons, using textbooks and digital subscriptions. Break out rooms are helpful with engaging students. She reviewed the work being done by each grade and the challenges, especially labs experiments.

J. Story provided he update from the Social Studies Department. The teachers are collaborating with each other and have streamlined the curriculum to be able to cover the content. The teachers are connecting what is happening now to past history. She reviewed the work being done by each grade and the contributions to the time capsule project.

Jeanne O’Hearn provided the update from the World Language Department. Students are speaking and writing, working on communication in the target language. Teachers are adapting curriculum and creating new lesson ideas using films and short stories in the target language. She reviewed the work being done by each grade and the challenges. The use of break out groups is used to encourage students to speak in the target language.

K. DeMarco asked how the students are learning the target language since repetitive hearing and speaking are needed. Jeanne O’Hearn stated that the use of films, music and videos are being used with tools that can be brought into the classroom.

D. Volchok asked what percentage of students are engaged in class. Most students are attending and engaged in the classroom.

W. Hodges asked if there was anything the SC could do to help the departments.

F. FY20 Budget Forecast – J. Sands provided the FY20 forecast. He reviewed revenues and expenditures as well as the shortfalls and favorable operating costs. D. Volchok asked that the salary lines clarified in the FY 20 budget.

G. Reduction in Force Discussion – P. Bullard stated that school is more than just teaching, it is also about the emotional well-being of the students. She is unsure what the extent of the impact will be on the students. Tri-Town Council and the Director of Student Safety are resources that can be used, the medical secretary duties can be transferred to other administrative assistants and the nurse leader position will return.

M. Harvey informed the SC that 2 of the 3 communities asked the SC to review the budget and state aid to reduce it by 20%. Reductions of staff and other services were reviewed.

J. Sands presented the changes to the FY21 budget increases with the addition of 1 full time nurse at the high school and the nurse leader stipend added back to the budget. He then reviewed the decreases in the budget to get to 0 impact on the FY21 budget.

K. Prentakis asked how the nurses are working in remote learning. They are holding virtual office hours, updating the website and working closely with the Board of Health.

K. Prentakis asked that the SC not make this decision now since we are not sure all the students will be back to school in September.

K. DeMarco asked who would have the knowledge and background to fill this need if the Director of Health Services is not put back in the budget. The duties of the Director of Health Services will be distributed to the other nurses.

A. Pascucci agreed that the decision should not be made now with school in September being unknown.

P. Bullard stated that there is a need for another nurse at the high school and that the new positions are relevant to re-entry in September and to be part of the team doing the planning for the re-entry.

Z. Bhujju asked for more time to process the reduction in the budget, not be rushed to make a decision by a certain date. Had she had more time to process the information, she would have voted differently. She asked if there were any other options.

T. Cooper asked if adding another adjustment counselor would be beneficial. P. Bullard responded that there are 3 adjustment counselors and guidance counselors that work with the nurses and all handle mental health as a team.

J. Ciampa added that the nurses are very busy every day, but would agree with waiting to make a decision.

K. Prentakis asked if the stipend for the nurse leader could be reserved for COVID19 related needs and the funds for the additional nurse could be put in reserve for later.

B. Thornborough agreed that more time is needed to consider the proposed cuts.

M. Gnoza-Ogden added that if the original budget is reinstated, other cuts totaling \$157,000 would need to be found.

T. Cooper stated that 6 letters were received in support of the positions from Tri-Town Council member, retired Tri-Town Council member, the Board of Health and a SC member.

M. Gnoza-Ogden made a motion, seconded by W. Hodges to table discussion to the next meeting.

Rollcall Vote:

T. Cooper – yes

C. Miller – no

B. Thornborough –yes

M. Gnoza-Ogden – yes

D. Volchok – yes

K. Prentakis – yes

K. DeMarco – no

J. Ciampa – yes

Z. Bhujju – yes

W. Hodges – yes

A. Pascucci – yes

MOTION: To Table Discussion to Next Meeting

VOTE: 9-2 Motion Carried

J. Sands advised the SC that this recommendation was not taken lightly and there were many discussions with the leadership team. Z. Bhujy asked if the leadership team could speak with the nurses to determine if there is a middle ground and advise the SC.

Z. Bhujy made a motion, seconded by D. Volchok to direct a review of the budget to give \$60,000 back to health services in coordination with health services team to determine what positions are necessary.

MOTION: To Review Budget to Put \$60,000 Back to Health Services

VOTE: 5-5, 1 Abstention. Motion Failed

Rollcall Vote:

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

H. Consent Agenda – The consent agenda was read by T. Cooper. A motion was made by K. Prentakis and seconded by K. DeMarco to accept the Consent Agenda as presented.

MOTION: To accept the Consent Agenda

VOTE: 11-0 Motion Carried

Rollcall Vote:

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

I. Adjournment – A motion was made by K. DeMarco and seconded by W. Hodges to adjourn at 11:09p.m.

MOTION: To Adjourn

VOTE: 11-0 Motion Carried

Rollcall Vote:

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

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. FY20 Masco Forecast Presentation
3. FY21 Masco Budget RIF Discussion Nursing Recommendation
4. Student Lunch Program Gift