

MASCONOMET REGIONAL DISTRICT SCHOOL COMMITTEE

April 10, 2019

MEMBERS PRESENT: W. Hodges, Chair, Topsfield  
K. Prentakis, Middleton  
K. DeMarco, Boxford  
Z. Bhaju, Topsfield  
D. Rivers, Boxford  
J. Ciampa, Middleton  
T. Cooper, Vice Chair, Middleton  
A. Pascucci, Middleton  
C. Miller, Boxford  
J. Spencer, Topsfield (late)  
D. Volchok, Boxford (late)

OTHERS PRESENT: K. Lyons, Superintendent

- A. **Call to Order** – W. Hodges, Chair, called the Regular School Committee Meeting of April 10, 2019 to order at 7:04 p.m. in the Ralph Osgood Presentation Room.
- B. **Remarks by the Chair** – W. Hodges reminded the group that the meeting is audio and video recorded.
- C. **Comments from the Audience** – K. Sherwood of Topsfield came forward to reiterate comments that she had previously made at the Regular School Committee meeting on March 6, 2019 on the topics of the School Budget and School Choice. Chair W. Hodges pointed out that the minutes from March 6, 2019 had previously been approved and that the approval was reaffirmed. K. Sherwood read her statement and submitted a copy of her remarks to W. Hodges, School Committee Chair for the record.

**Chair W. Hodges revised the order of the Agenda to move to item 4 of the Consent A**

- J. **Consent Agenda Item 4-Concept Approval of STEAM Sustainability Field Trip to Germany and Switzerland in April 2020** – T. Fay spoke about a potential international field trip for students to Germany and Switzerland to look at sustainability from a STEAM perspective. Students would meet with urban planners, and environmental scientists and learn about their research. The trip may also include a look at automotive engineering and a visit to a UNESCO Site in Switzerland. She told the Committee that she is also looking at New England, as well as international sites. She explained that she is looking for conceptual approval before doing detailed planning and fundraising. She said she is trying to keep down the cost by looking at multiple STEM packages that are focusing on sustainability and the environment. This may lend itself to interdisciplinary opportunities throughout the year. Z. Bhaju said this seems perfect for the issues that this generation is facing. K. DeMarco asked what the itinerary might look like. T. Fay mentioned Berlin, Freyburg, and Lucerne. D. Rivers asked that equity be considered. A motion was made by K. Prentakis and seconded by C. Miller.

MOTION: To give concept approval of a STEAM sustainability field trip to Germany and Switzerland in April 2020.

VOTE: VOTE: 9 - 0, Motion carried.

**D. Appropriation Request: Gateway Tuitions** – K. Lyons requested an appropriation to pay student tuitions for the North Shore Community College Gateway Program. He described the value of this program in rescuing students who are in crisis and at risk of not getting a diploma. It has been life changing for 2 of the 5 students. K. Lyons reported that last fall it was not built into the FY19 budget as the use of the program was unknown. K. Lyons submitted a request for \$18,000 to fund tuitions for Masco students enrolled in the Gateway to College Program. A motion was made by T. Cooper and seconded by K. DeMarco.

MOTION: To approve an \$18,000 request for the current budget to fund the tuitions of students involved in the Gateway to College Program with North Shore Community College.

VOTE: VOTE: 10 - 0, Motion carried. D. Volchok in attendance and voting.

**E. Budget Message Discussion** – T. Cooper reported that there was a Budget Subcommittee meeting last week to discuss the theme and message of this year's school budget to help ensure consistency when it is presented in the community and at town meetings. T. Cooper has placed a draft of an operational budget message in the School Committee materials Item E. There was some discussion about whether the increase was 3.99% or a 3.77%. T. Cooper said there will be a press release. K. DeMarco will work with K. Lyons and Z. Bhujju to get it in the Transcript by April 29<sup>th</sup>. K. Prentakis said that in Middleton the Operating Budget is not a concern but the Warrant Article is a concern. K. Prentakis feels that the School Committee needs to be trusted to do its job.

**F. School Choice Vote** – The public hearing was on March 6, 2019. K. Prentakis reported that the State Legislature has upped reimbursement for School Choice students from \$5,000 to \$6,200. A motion was made by K. Prentakis and seconded by C. Miller.

MOTION: To NOT participate in School Choice.

Discussion followed the motion. A. Pascucci said that Masco is a wonderful school and that there should be an open door policy to share the great education with less fortunate students. K. Lyons reported there is a marginal cost but less than \$5,000 per pupil. K. Lyons said there is close to full reimbursement by formula for Special Education students with high needs. C. Miller said that diversity needs to be investigated more. In the 90's School Choice was done at Masco. A. Pascucci pointed out that the new Superintendent is familiar with School Choice. K. Prentakis suggested that enrollment needs to be looked at. D. Volchok suggested that the new superintendent needs to be asked to look at enrollment and consider if a School Choice recommendation is appropriate. Another option may be to look at a METCO-type program. K. Lyons reminded the Committee that managing School Choice enrollment at the secondary school is not as scientific as it might be at the elementary schools.

MOTION: To NOT participate in School Choice.

VOTE: VOTE: 9 - 1, Motion carried.

**G. Determination of Open Seats for Children of Faculty** – A motion was made by K. Prentakis to determine that there are no seats available for the 2019-2020 school year. Discussion ensued. During discussion, D. Volchok said there is no need for this discussion until June 1<sup>st</sup>. K. Lyons said it is the job of the School Committee to identify the number of available seats. D. Volchok said it is the Union's job to collect the request letters. Also, that only numbers should be used in the selection process, not names. This will be revisited at the

meeting on June 12<sup>th</sup>, following the language in the contract. K. Prentakis withdrew his original motion. No further action was taken.

**H. Project Based Learning** – K. Lyons made a presentation to the Committee about Project Based Learning (PBL) that is being introduced to the Masconomet faculty. He called it an essential element of Vision 2025. He also stated that staff development in PBL and SEL is the essential ingredient for a cultural change to a more student-centered learning environment. He showed two videos showing examples of PBL in the classroom. PBL makes both teaching and learning more exciting. \$60,000 from the Buono Family Foundation will be used over 2 years to support PBL/SEL. There was significant comment on the value of PBL based on the presentation. Z. Bhujju asked if the Masco buildings lend themselves to this type of teaching/learning. This led to further discussion of how PBL and student-centered instructional designs may need more or different spaces than currently exist. The timing is good right now to have discussions about the programming of space that will be needed for renovation planning.

**I. Day on the Hill** – Z. Bhujju expressed an interest in going to the State House and asked other School Committee members with interest to let her know via email. K. Lyons said there is money available to cover the \$75.00 cost budgeted for professional development. A. Pascucci said she has previously attended and it is a worthwhile thing to do.

**W. Hodges revised the agenda order moving to Agenda Item M.**

**M. Other Business** – Turf Up Masco Proposal – T. Cooper spoke of a timeline for this project. She received a check for \$19,000 raised by the Turf Up Masco Fund Raising Committee. The Subcommittee will need to be convened to review and revise a request for proposals that was completed, but not used at a prior time. The check will be held until the next meeting. W. Hodges and T. Cooper will resurrect the RFP with input from S. Givens to bring it up to date and to a usable form.

**J. Consent Agenda:**

1. Warrants: \$1,479, 484.28 (8) warrants signed since last meeting
  2. Approval of March 27, 2019 School Committee Meeting Minutes
  3. Approval of International Field Trip to Spain, February 2020.
- Item 4 on Consent Agenda was approved earlier in the meeting. A motion was made by D. Rivers and seconded by A. Pascucci to approve Consent Agenda Items 1-3.

MOTION: To approve Consent Agenda items 1-3.

VOTE: VOTE: 11 - 0, Motion carried.

**K. Discussion of “How to Raise an Adult”, Chapters 6 and 14** – D. Rivers facilitated the discussion. Discussion opened when W. Hodges pointed out a sentence that captured his interest. Parents need to learn to get out of the way and let their kids figure things out by themselves. T. Cooper said there is a learned helplessness. Other points were made about how parenting is different today, the need to teach children what matters and then step away, affording children opportunities by stepping away. Some parents measure their own success by how successful their kids are. D. Rivers asked how we can bring what this chapter addressed back to Masco? PBL and SEL should help. The next Chapters to be discussed are 21 to 24.

## **L. Reports of the Subcommittees**

1. District Capital Improvement Task Force – D. Rivers reported that engineering study funding will be needed next spring. The work needs to be kick started and work must continue to be done over the summer. D. Rivers said that he has announced meeting dates and set up an agenda for the new committee. C. Miller suggested that be a practice for all sub-committees.
2. Budget Subcommittee –T. Cooper reported that the Subcommittee will be meeting on 4/22/19.
3. Policy Subcommittee – J. Spencer reported that there had been an explosion of productivity to finish proposed policy changes. He submitted 29 items for a first reading.

1. ADF Wellness, Revision
2. DA Fiscal Management Goals, Revision
3. DB Annual Budget, Revision
4. DBE Budget Process , Revision
5. DBJ Transfer Authority, Revision
6. DD Federal and State Capital Grant Funds, Revision
7. DDA Grants from Private Sources, Revision
8. DEB Revenues from State and Federal Tax Sources, Revision
9. DFD Gate Receipts and Admissions, Revision
10. DH Bonded Employees and Officers, Revision
11. DIBB Types of Funds/Revolving Funds, Revision
12. DID Inventories, Revision
13. DIE Audits, Revision
14. DJE Procurement Procedure, Revision
15. DJE-R1 Quotation Process, Revision
16. DJE-R2 Purchasing Process, Revision
17. DJE-R3 Delivery of Goods and Payment of Invoices, Revision
18. DJGA Sales Calls and Demonstrations, Revision
19. DKC Expense Re-imbursments , Revision
20. DM Cash in School Buildings, Revision
21. KBE Relations with School-Community Organizations, Revision
22. KBEA Relations with booster and Support Organizations, New Policy
23. KF Authorized Use of School-Owned Equipment, Revision
24. KFB Community Use of School Facilities-Revision
25. KFBA Community Performances by School Musicians, Rescission
26. KFCA Use of School Grounds for Motor vehicles, Revision
27. KHA Public Solicitation by the Schools, Revision
28. KHB Advertising in the Schools, Revision
29. KHC Promotional Materials in the Schools, Revision

J. Spencer said that all of the “D Items” 1-20, deal with fiscal management and the Subcommittee received input from Susan Givens. J. Spencer noted that the Subcommittee has had its last meeting.

4. Community Relations Subcommittee – K. DeMarco reported that there would be a scheduled meeting after vacation.

**N. Adjournment and Executive Session To Discuss Strategy in Regard to Collective Bargaining**

At 10:27 a motion was made by T. Cooper and Seconded by D. Rivers.

MOTION: To go into Executive Session in accordance with Chapter 30 Section 21 (a) of the General Laws for the purpose of discussing strategy with respect to collective bargaining with the Masconomet Teachers Association and Massachusetts School Administrators Association and with the AFL-CIO State Council 93, Local 939 (MPFT's) whereas discussing these subjects in open session might have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the School Committee. The committee will not return to Open Session.

VOTE: VOTE: 11- 0, Motion carried.

Submitted By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Jacqueline Bolduc, Record Access Officer

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. Agenda Guide
3. Comments of K. Sherwood added to meeting materials
4. Request for Appropriation: tuition to Gateway Program
5. Draft Press Release re: Stabilization Funds Request
6. Draft- Reference Points for Warrant Articles
7. Draft- FY 20 Operational Budget Increase Drivers and Offsets
8. JFBB Admission Policy for School Choice
9. Article XIV; Seats Available for Children of Faculty Living Out of District (2019-2020 SY)
10. Handouts on Project Based Learning (PBL)
11. E- mail from Z. Bhujju re: Day on the Hill
12. MASC Day on the Hill flyer
13. Consent Agenda
14. Book Discussion-“ How to Raise an Adult”
15. Executive Session Motion Wording
16. Draft of School Committee Meeting Calendar- FY20
17. Power Point Presentation of PBL and Masco Vision 2025