

MASCONOMET REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

April 24, 2019

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: K. Lyons, Superintendent, S. Givens, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations

A. Call to Order – W. Hodges, Chair, called the Regular Meeting of the School Committee on April 24, 2019 to order at 7:00 p.m., in the Ralph Osgood Presentation Room.

B. Executive Session – A motion was made by K. DeMarco and seconded by D. Rivers to go into Executive Session.

MOTION: To go into Executive Session in accordance with Chapter 30, Section 21a (3) of the General Laws for the purpose of discussing strategy with respect to collective bargaining with the Masconomet Teachers Association, whereas discussing these subjects in open session might have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the School Committee. The Committee will return to open session.

VOTE: 11- 0, Motion carried by roll call vote.

C. Return to Regular Open Meeting – Following the discussion in Executive Session a motion was made by K. Prentakis and second by C. Miller at 7:22 PM.

MOTION: To come out of Executive Session.

VOTE: 11- 0, Motion carried by roll call vote.

D. Remarks by the Chair – W. Hodges reminded the committee and audience that the meeting was being audio and video recorded.

E. Vote on Proposed Successor Agreement (August 16, 2019 to August 15, 2021) with Masconomet Teachers Association. A motion was made by T. Cooper and seconded by K. DeMarco.

MOTION: To approve the proposed successor Agreement with the Masconomet Teachers Association as presented in the Tentative Agreement and Appendix D documents.

VOTE: 10- 1, Motion carried by roll call vote, D. Rivers in opposition.

Following the vote to approve there was a handshake and signing of the Tentative Agreement by representatives from the Masconomet Teachers Association and the School Committee Bargaining Team.

F. Comments from the Audience – W. Hodges recognized K. Sherwood of Topsfield. K. Sherwood asked about the terms of the teacher contract. J. Spencer, Chair of the Bargaining Team, gave her an overview. The contract includes teacher evaluation language incorporated into the contract, reduction-in-force language to comply with state law, housekeeping such as deletion of outdated information including a credit union that no longer exists. It is a two-year agreement with a 2.5 % salary increase each year, on the pay scale only, not applying to longevity, stipends, or Master Teacher status.

G. Interscholastic Athletics: MIAA League Realignment – P. Delani and J. Daileanes described an opportunity Masconomet may have to move from the Cape Ann League (CAL) to the Northeastern Conference (NEC). A projected visual presentation pointed out why, with Masco’s enrollment, it is a better fit with NEC Schools. It would give an opportunity to compete at the JV and JV-2 levels because there are multiple teams at more NEC schools than at Cape Ann schools. A chart of schools was projected comparing enrollments and travel distances. The transportation provider (NRT) was consulted and the game travel expense would be roughly equivalent in either league.

J. Daileanes has been transparent with members of the Cape Ann League that this change is being considered. P. Delani closed by saying that a side-benefit is that sports are a good builder of community and that the change would expose Masco kids to different cultures. D. Rivers commented that teams can learn more from failure than success and that stronger competition can provide more challenge.

H. Financial Report – S. Givens stated that revenue does not look very different now than it did in October. The March 31st FY19 Financial Report was reviewed by the Budget Subcommittee on Monday, April 22nd. As of March 31st, there is a positive revenue variance of \$215,925. When the year closes, it is fairly safe to assume that at least \$175,000 of this unanticipated revenue will remain. On the expense side, all expenses for academic and student support programs have been encumbered. All positions are filled and accounted for except for the HVAC Mechanic. There is a positive variance of \$59,153 at this time; however, this will be drawn down and likely overspent by the end of the year as repairs, some professional development activities, and other emergency procurement will be necessary before the year ends. A motion was made by D. Rivers and seconded by K. Prentakis.

MOTION: To accept the FY19 March 31st Financial Report as presented by the Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations.

VOTE: 11- 0, Motion carried.

S. Givens presented a request to revisit for approval the purchase of 50 desks for the Middle School and a laminating machine for the High School that were removed during the budget vetting process.

A Motion was made by T. Cooper and second by D. Rivers.

MOTION: To increase the FY19 general fund operating budget by \$8,721 for 50 desks and chairs for the Middle School and a laminating machine for the High School and to appropriate that amount from Excess and Deficiency.

VOTE: 11- 0, Motion carried.

I. Selection of Auditor: Recommendation from Budget Subcommittee -T. Cooper reported that several auditing firms were considered during discussion but the recommendation of the Subcommittee is to offer a two-year contract to the auditing firm Giusti, Hingston and Company. The Subcommittee felt that as questions arise it is helpful to have someone with past experience that can offer consistency. A motion was made by C.Miller and seconded by T. Cooper.

MOTION: To approve the recommendation that the auditing firm Giusti, Hingston and Company, Certified Public Accountants, be retained in a new two-year contract to perform the required audits on District finances.

VOTE: 11- 0, Motion carried.

J. Turf Up Masco Proposal – T. Cooper reported that there was a meeting earlier on Wednesday with S. Givens. The bottom line is “what does Masco want to do with the recent gift from Turf-Up Masco”? There will be two RFP’s. We need to consider the feasibility for the campus and the Masco community and have expert opinion on a proposed business model to sustain a field if built. W. Hodges stated if we go forward we want to be sure that there is revenue adequate to maintain a field and not have to go to taxpayers to restore or replace it. T. Cooper said that we want to be sure that it is good match for our program. K. Prentakis asked what process would we have to follow to establish long- term contracts with renters. It may be difficult to establish contracts prior to a field or fields being operational. A motion was made by D. Volchok and seconded by J. Spencer.

MOTION: To employ a third party consultant or consultants to evaluate the feasibility of a turf field project and to ascertain the viability of a business model that would ensure adequate revenue to sustain a project over the long term.

VOTE: 11- 0, Motion carried.

K. Consent Agenda

1. Warrants-\$2,240,553.79 (9) warrants signed since the last meeting
2. Accept gift from “Turf-Up Masco” for \$19,000 for Marketing and Feasibility Studies
3. Accept additional gift from Baseball Boosters for \$2,500 to repair damaged batting cage by covering “insurance gap.”

A Motion was made by T. Cooper and seconded by Z. Bhujju. Item 2 was approved earlier under Item J.

MOTION: To approve Consent Agenda Items 1 and 3.

VOTE: 11- 0, Motion carried.

L. Discussion of “How To Raise an Adult” – W. Hodges suggested that there be a time limit on discussion but no specific time limit was set. K. DeMarco facilitated discussion of Chapters 21 and 22. K. Prentakis pointed out a quote at the bottom of page 295. It discussed family decisions and pointed out that kids are one element of the family. The schedule of the whole family should not revolve exclusively around the children. W. Hodges suggested that if co-parenting, your wife or partner should also read the book so that you have common ground. There was significant discussion on these points.

M. Reports of the Subcommittees:

1. District Capital Improvement Task Force – D. Rivers reported that the Subcommittee met yesterday with a goal to plan for the future and to move forward. D. Rivers stated they will need a Boxford member. Besides repairs, a comprehensive capital plan needs to be developed. D.Rivers said plans should involve instructional space reconfiguration. The incoming Superintendent will be asked to share his vision, especially in regard to facility redesign that may be possible to better accommodate the instructional program. Department Chairs will also need to give input. D.Rivers said that sequencing should be developed with a need to begin detailed planning for next year. There should be space accommodations for both large and small groups with flexibility built in. D. Rivers also spoke of the need for cozy smaller places, nooks, and alcoves. J. Spencer said that most importantly it be vision-driven by educational philosophy. K. Lyons added the selection of the architect is especially important.

2. Budget Subcommittee – T. Cooper reported that there is a press release that will be going out soon illustrating the significant portions of the FY20 budget increases and the messages developed by the School Committee.

3. Policy Subcommittee – J. Spencer introduced the 29 policy action items that are presented as second reading and for approval.

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

29. KHC-Promotional Materials in the Schools, Revision-2nd Reading

A Motion was made by D. Volchok and Second by C. Miller.

MOTION: To approve the 29 Policy actions as listed on the Agenda
VOTE: 11- 0, Motion carried.

4. Community Relations Subcommittee – K. DeMarco reported that the subcommittee will be meeting next week.

J. Spencer and D. Rivers were recognized for their service to the School Committee as this is their last Regular Meeting. The departing members were invited to the June 12th meeting where there will be formal recognition for their service. T. Cooper asked if former members could be brought back to work on special projects. The answer is that any community member may be invited to do so.

A Motion was made to Adjourn at 9:25 p.m. by C. Miller and seconded by J. Spencer.

MOTION: To Adjourn.
VOTE: 11- 0, Motion carried.

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. Copy of Proposed Successor Agreement with Masco Teachers Association
4. Interscholastic Athletics PowerPoint Presentation
5. Financial Report
6. Quotes for Audit Contract
7. Stabilization Fund Analysis
8. Turf Up Masco Proposal
9. Consent Agenda
10. Policy Revisions
11. Masconomet Stabilization Funds requested from Towns, Draft Press Release
12. Draft Financial/Budget Reports
13. The Sagamore Literary Magazine
14. Draft Schedule of July 2019-June 2020 School Committee Meeting Dates

Submitted By: _____
Jacqueline Bolduc, Record Access Officer

Approved _____
Date