

MASCONOMET REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Regular School Committee Meeting

June 8, 2016

MEMBERS PRESENT: D. Volchok, Chair, Boxford T. Buono, Vice-Chair, Middleton Lv: 7:45, Ret. 8:40  
C. Miller, Boxford L. Richards, Middleton  
K. Prentakis, Middleton H. Rivers, Boxford  
A. Pascucci, Middleton K. Sherwood, Topsfield  
W. Hodges, Topsfield P. Fitzsimmons, Boxford  
J. Spencer, Topsfield

MEMBERS ABSENT:

OTHERS PRESENT: K. Lyons, Superintendent S. Givens, CFO  
D. Flaherty, MS Principal L. Hodgdon, MS Principal  
SAB - M. Casey B. Dow, Art Teacher  
J. Locke, American Legion Rep. D. Mitchell, Teacher  
D. Dussault, Topsfield Resident D. Kelly, Topsfield Resident  
K. Bitto, Boxford Resident G. Humphreys, Boxford Resident  
L. Peacock, Topsfield Resident C. Castle, Boxford Resident  
R. Cornetta, Topsfield Resident D. Batchelder, Director of Operations

A. **Call To Order** – Chair D. Volchok called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. on Wednesday, June 8, 2016 in the Ralph Osgood Presentation Room. The meeting is video and audio taped.

B. **Executive Session** ( Discussion of Superintendent Contract) – A motion was made by P. Fitzsimmons.

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

VOTE: Motion passed by roll call 7:02 p.m.

C. Return to Open Session at 7:08 p.m.

D. **Remarks by the Chair** – D. Volchok -

1. School Committee FY17 Meeting Schedule – A motion was made by T. Buono.

MOTION: To approve the FY 17 School Committee meeting schedule as presented.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously

2. Subcommittee Assignments – D. Volchok informed the Committee that H. Rivers was inadvertently left off of the Start Time Advisory Committee (STAC). The Chair of STAC is now W. Hodges. K. Sherwood indicated that she thought there could have been more movement of members in regard to the subcommittee assignments. D. Volchok stated that members' preferences were considered along with the history for continuity and town representation. All subcommittee meetings are open. K. Sherwood would like to know if recording of subcommittee meetings can be done. This will be researched and discussed at a later meeting. D. Volchok requested that the subcommittee chairs try to schedule meetings before summer started.

E. **Consent Agenda**

1. Approval of April 6, 2016 Regular School Committee Meeting Minutes
2. Approval of April 27, 2016 Regular School Committee Meeting Minutes
3. Approval of May 18, 2016 Regular School Committee Meeting Minutes
4. Approval of International Performance Trip to France Request, April 2017 – removed
5. Accept Donation from Masconomet Education Foundation for \$52,450.40 (Checks #1099 and 1098) to be Used for STEM Lab Equipment and Furniture
6. Warrants \$2,251,907.16 – Nine (9) Warrants Signed

A motion was made by K. Prentakis

MOTION: To approve the consent agenda with item #4 removed.

VOTE: Motion passed

ABSTAIN: K. Sherwood, 4/27/16 Minutes, P. Fitzsimmons, 5/18/16 minutes, R. Hagan and A. Pascucci 4/6 and 4/27 minutes

T. Buono recused herself from discussion. C. Miller asked how/if the school worked with the travel companies in regard to travel warnings, etc.? L. Hodgdon and K. Lyons indicated that they looked at travel warnings for the particular trip and what precautions needed to be made. Reference was made to the travel warnings during the Costa Rica and South Africa trips. If it was determined that travel was not safe, the trip would be cancelled or moved to a different location. The families can get insurance for 100% cost refund. This is not required, but offered. K. Lyons was looking into making it a requirement. The Music trip next Spring would focus on singing rather than instrumentation due to the related cost of traveling with instruments. A motion was made by C. Miller

MOTION: To approve Item #4 as presented.

VOTE: Motion passed.

RECUSE: T. Buono

F. **Comments from the Audience** - None

G. **Comments from SABs** – M. Casey reported on the following: the Memorial Day Celebration, that Student Council Representative interviews were held all week, that Relay for Life raised approximately \$148,000 for Cancer and that she attended the Senior Luau which was a great event

H. **Comments from Principals** – **MS Principal D. Flaherty** reported that MCAS and PARCC assessments have concluded and went very well, the results will be received by the school over the summer and parents will receive results at the end of September or beginning of October, that no major revisions to the School Improvement Plan will be made, that training for parents and staff regarding mental health and depression was being looked into along with increasing cultural sensitivity, social media and appropriate use of technology, continuing more chromebook use, the National Junior Honor Society induction held recently, the Choral and band concerts, the Memorial Day observance, the numerous upcoming events to close out the year and the curriculum corner update. **HS Principal L. Hodgdon** reported on the following: the successful Class of 2016 graduation, the great Senior Luau, recognizing first-hand, the responsibilities of a class advisor, all MCAS testing completed, that L. Hodgdon will report back to the Committee after J. Tierney as the senior class of advisor next year conducts a survey with the juniors regarding what event they would like for their senior year, seniors will reserve the date when they receive a Save the Date with details, the underclassmen academic awards assembly, the Teacher Honor Wall celebration, 2016-2017 schedules distributed, waiting for school visions plans before making major revisions to the School Improvement Plan. Discussion was held regarding the pros of the internship fair

I. **PUBLIC HEARING** - Chair D. Volchok explained that the purpose of the Public Hearing was to receive comments and input from the audience and then to have the Committee discuss the comments/input. The following audience members commented: R. Dussault, Topsfield asked if the hearing was to decide whether to participate or not in School Choice that the District has not participated in for the last 25 years. He indicated that a discussion regarding School Choice would be beneficial for the Committee. As the Superintendent in 1992, the District opted to participate but was forced to opt out after changes were made to the program. He indicated that he was not in favor of participation as the revenue would not cover the student cost and based on economics, the incurred cost was not feasible for the towns. He hoped that the Committee would think carefully making this decision. D. Kelley, Topsfield wanted to be more educated about the program and that she didn't understand the benefits of it. She also hoped that the decision was not being made for this fall as there were many aspects that needed to be reviewed before making the decision. K. Bitto, Boxford indicated that the District should find out why students were leaving Masco and why bring in more students when the present students couldn't get into the classes they wanted. She shared about the classes her children couldn't take, that admitting non-resident students would be taking away limited resources, that she worried about lower test scores and the need to make Masco better. G. Humphreys, Boxford asked if the pros of the program were discussed and if the decision was based on financials. D. Volchok indicated that discussion regarding the program was being held due to decreased enrollment and to better inform the Committee and the public about the pros and cons of the program. L. Peacock, Topsfield indicated that she was surprised that information about the program and the hearing was not better known in the towns. She assumed that a message would have been sent out. She also didn't think that Masco needed to be bigger, that she was disappointed that students couldn't change classes in the fall, that taking in more students wouldn't help the situation of things being taken away from the students, that the Committee needed to view the students as the #1 priority and that better communication was needed. D. Volchok indicated that the audience could speak after the Committee discussion was held. C. Castle, Boxford asked why a committee couldn't be formed to research School Choice to make an informed decision. D. Volchok indicated that a decision needed to be made tonight which negated forming a committee to research before a decision was made. R. Cornetta, Topsfield recognized K. Sherwood for putting information about the Public Hearing in the paper. He stated Topsfield's fiscal situation and indicated that it was fiscally irresponsible for the District to consider participation in School Choice and asked the board to so say. The Public Hearing closed. **School Choice Discussion and Decision** - K. Prentakis said the decision should wait until the results of the staff study were made which would give a broader picture of enrollment management and the ability to look at all the options. The logical decision for him was to say no at this time. P. Fitzsimmons stated that a vote on participation was held every year at an open meeting and that nothing underhanded was being done. She didn't want to audience to get the impression that this was not a topic discussed every year. Statements were made by Committee members that the discussion this evening was to be more transparent and that the Committee makes no attempt at sneaking items by the audience as that is not the way the Committee works. Discussion was held regarding communication, how the formula is developed by the State decreased enrollment, the projected enrollment, potential staff cuts, the pros and cons of School Choice, the process of admitting School Choice applicants and not wanting to put a further burden on the taxpayers. A motion was made by K. Prentakis.

MOTION: To opt out of School Choice for the 2016-2017 school year.

K. Prentakis stated that once the staffing study is presented, a decision regarding forming a committee could be made.

VOTE: Motion passed.

J. **Request for Permission for Child of Faculty Member to Attend Masconomet for the 2016-2017 School Year** – Art teacher B. Dow requested that his child be allowed to attend Masconomet as a 9<sup>th</sup> grader under the provisions of the language in the MTA agreement. D. Volchok gave an overview of the agreement language and the analysis of the number of requests made and acceptances. Discussion was held regarding the pros and cons of accepting faculty children. A motion was made by C. Miller.

MOTION: To approve the request made by B. Dow to have his child attend Masconomet as a grade 9 student.

VOTE: Motion passed by roll call.

OPPOSED: K. Sherwood, K. Prentakis and A. Pascucci

**K. Baseball Boosters Scoreboard Proposal (Related Policies Included)** – D. Volchok recused himself from discussion. J. Locke, American Legion Representative distributed material showing where the proposed scoreboard would be placed. A history of the request was given. He indicated that he worked with D. Daileanes and D. Batchelder regarding the type of sign and location. This sign would be at no cost to the District as the Boosters would do all of the fundraising for the sign and maintenance. Discussion was held regarding the life expectancy of the sign and anticipated maintenance. If the Committee did not want names of donors on the sign, the boosters would raise more funds. In response to K. Lyons’ reference to the Naming Policy, J. Locke stated that he rescinded his request for advertising and more fundraising would be held. P. Fitzsimmons stated that a discussion with the Town of Boxford regarding a building permit should be held by the group. A final rendition of the sign will be presented to the Committee. A motion was made by P. Fitzsimmons.

MOTION: To approve the concept of baseball scoreboard proposal by baseball boosters subject to approval of final design and all permitting received.

DISCUSSION: D. Batchelder asked if cages would be installed on the scoreboard to eliminate damage from balls. J. Locke said yes. After discussion was held regarding other sports using the scoreboard, J. Locke said he would contact the soccer boosters to see if they would be interested in coupling with the baseball boosters. Padding for the posted will be installed, if required

VOTE: Motion passed.

RECUSE: D. Volchok.

**L. STEM Lab Update** – D. Batchelder, Director of Operations – K. Lyons gave a brief overview of the project, the bidding process and the subcontracting that had to be handled in house. D. Batchelder reviewed the chronology of the STEM project and the impact on his staff over the summer. He indicated that projects would be completed before the start of school to maintain the safety and comfort of the District population and that lower priority items would be deferred for another time. All major renovations and the ventilation portion of the work should be done by September 15, the cooling portion of work, the installation of furniture and all punch list items by October 15<sup>th</sup>. K. Lyons informed MEF about the delay in opening. L. Hodgdon indicated that a teacher would continue to have a floating classroom until the lab was completed and that the course would not be affected.

**M. Superintendent Contract** – A motion was made by P. Fitzsimmons.

MOTION: To approve the Superintendent contract as presented with an effective date of July 1, 2016.

VOTE: Motion passed.

**N. Superintendent Report** – K. Lyons announced that the Class of 2016 voted to gift \$8000 to the School Committee for completion of the Digital Sign project. A rendition of the sign and placement was circulated. L. Hodgdon indicated that if the Class had funds remaining, they would contribute to landscaping for the sign. She requested that a plaque be placed saying that the sign was given by the students of Masconomet. K. Lyons announced that this project was started by R. Serino and numerous class have contributed funds toward the project.. Bidding for this project needed to start around August 1. A motion was made by K. Prentakis.

MOTION: To approve the sign as presented to the committee and authorize the administration to conceptually move forward with the sign design and placement, purchasing and bidding.

VOTE: Motion passed.

K. Lyons reported on the 1:1 Digital Learning Device Open House and sales and will look into having another time period for purchasing devices, Relay for Life, the SEPAC Carnival, the Architecture Fair, the Internship F, National Honor Society Banquet, Senior events, the Junior National Honor Society Induction and the High School Lower House Academic Awards.

**O. Reports of the Subcommittees**

1. Budget Subcommittee – T. Buono – No report – Nine (9) Warrants signed

Payroll Warrant	\$	649,395.44	Vendor Warrant	\$	1,994.00
Vendor Warrant	\$	1,494,978.25	Vendor Warrant	\$	1,301.62
Vendor Warrant	\$	0.12	Vendor Warrant	\$	3,545.62
Vendor Warrant	\$	67,303.94	Vendor Warrant	\$	<u>23,221.49</u>
Vendor Warrant	\$	10,166.68	<b>TOTAL \$</b>		<b>2,251,907.16</b>

2. Community Relations Subcommittee – C. Miller announced that the recent article was published on the first page and the next meeting is scheduled for June 22.

3. School Start Time Advisory Committee – T. Buono reported on the parent and staff survey and the number of responses received, that the student survey will be going out shortly by D. Flaherty and L. Hodgdon. She’s working with B. Creeden on the elementary school questions. A brief overview of the responses was given. Data will be reviewed over the summer with a report developed at the beginning of the school year for review. The report will be shared with the community and a public form regarding the survey results will be held. An informational pamphlet is being developed.

**P. Other Business, Old or New** – K. Prentakis stated that the Committee should discuss and establish how to evaluate the 1:1 Digital Learning Program. A set of criteria to judge the success of the program should be established. W. Hodges indicated that he reviewed the conversation held at the last Committee meeting regarding an independent study with the Turf Up Masco Group and they agreed to it. Specific ideas and parameters need to be established in order to go out to bid. A team of W. Hodges, D. Volchock, S. Givens, D. Batchelder, J. Daileanes and L. Hodgdon will comprise the team to determine the parameters

**P. Adjournment** - A motion was made by P. Fitzsimmons  
MOTION: To adjourn.  
VOTE: Motion passed unanimously at 10:06 p.m.

Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Olga Langlois, Secretary

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Per the New Open Meeting Law, the list of the documents that were either distributed to the Masconomet Regional School Committee before the meeting in a packet, or at the meeting:

1. Agenda
2. FY17 School Committee Meeting Calendar
3. Subcommittee Assignments
4. Consent Agenda
5. Policy JFBB – Admission School Choice
6. NESDEC Projected Enrollment
7. Faculty Member’s Child to Attend Masconomet Request
8. Baseball Boosters Scoreboard Proposal
9. Sign and Placement Rendition
10. Superintendent Report