

MASCONOMET REGIONAL DISTRICT SCHOOL COMMITTEE

**September 5, 2018**

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

MEMBERS ABSENT:

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

**A. Call to Order** - Chair W. Hodges called the September 5, 2018 Regular Meeting of the School Committee to order at 7:05 p.m. in the Ralph Osgood Presentation Room.

**B. Remarks of the Chair** – W. Hodges stated that there was a posting on Facebook expressing concern about safety issues on campus. Chair Hodges remarked that the situation is being addressed by the Administration. Rather than posting, a better option is to inform the administration as soon as possible and request that it be made a priority.

K. Lyons gave a brief introduction of Carolee Varga, newly hired recording secretary, who was welcomed by the Committee.

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

**D. Superintendent Search** - C. Miller, Chair of the Superintendent Search Committee, announced the kickoff meeting of the committee would be September 6, 2018 at the Central Office. C. Miller provided information about the process of selecting a search firm and recommended the School Committee retain the Massachusetts Association of School Committees. A memo from S. Givens was introduced recommending that the estimated \$10,000.00 cost of the search be appropriated and potentially funded from the School Choice, Charter School and Other Tuition budget lines. J. Spencer spoke about the fact that there is a lot to consider. There is not a need for a nationwide search. The MASC will handle inquiries and pass them on to possible interested candidates outside New England. A motion was made by C. Miller and seconded by J. Spencer:

MOTION: To sign a contract with the Massachusetts Association of School Committees to  
conduct the Superintendent Search.  
VOTE: Motion passed unanimously

**E. School Start Time Update** – D. Volchok, Chair, stated the committee has met. There are still some questions for the consultant. There will be a phone conference on September 13<sup>th</sup> between the Consultant, SBC and NRT on school start times. Things are moving along on target with a public meeting of the Ad-Hoc Committee scheduled on September 24<sup>th</sup>. There is no timeline yet but any changes to start of school times or making a longer school day will need to be negotiated through collective bargaining.

**F. Consent Agenda** –

Two changes were identified for the minutes of July 18, 2018 SC meeting: D. Volchok was not absent for item, H. Zillie Bijou was not present at the meeting. The minutes, as amended, were approved with D. Rivers abstaining.

Warrants of \$4,550,114.87 were approved unanimously.

**G. Reports of Subcommittees:**

**Budget Subcommittee** - T. Cooper reported that our central question is, “How do we work together with the 3 towns to preserve our community asset, Masconomet?” The committee’s goal is for a positive dialogue and more town involvement. She expressed cautious optimism about easily reaching consensus on how to solve our funding dilemma, with our goal to gain consensus about a financial plan to meet Masconomet’s capital needs. J. Spencer spoke about the fact that we have costs that we cannot see because the building appears to look good. He feels that something needs to be done to help the public understand this. K. Prentakis suggested a policy change. He suggested creating a working group with members of the School Committee, Selectmen, and Finance Committee members from each town with Masconomet School Committee taking the lead. T. Cooper added that we need and want a partnership approach. Z. Bhujju suggested creating a forum for open discussion and transparency.

**Policy Subcommittee** - J. Spencer reported the Policy Subcommittee including J. Spencer, D. Volchok, J. Ciampa and. K. Lyons will be meeting tonight following the School Committee meeting to establish a meeting schedule.

**Community Relations Subcommittee** - K. DeMarco reported the group will meet after the School Committee meeting to draft a meeting schedule.

**District Capital Committee** - D. Rivers introduced himself since this is his first meeting and reported that the Capital Investment Task force will be meeting September 18 at 4:30 p.m. at the MRMS.

H. **Other Business, Old or New** - W. Hodges asked if there were any items of Old Business. K. Lyons circulated two pictures of the High School entrance walkway, one-labeled bad and the other labeled not so bad. He was contacted by a parent pointing out the deterioration of the concrete ramp for disability access in front of the High School. There are crumbling sidewalks. He stated that we do patch them, but it is a constant struggle to keep ramps and sidewalks in good repair. He has met with D. Batchelder about getting an estimate of quotes for a professional repair. They came in at \$45,000 to \$65,000. K. Lyons feels that bulldozing and totally replacing the cement is the most permanent repair. It is 20 years old and the concrete is deteriorating because of age and application of salt/ice melt. Cement does not adhere well to cement and a patch has a three to four month life. Buildings and grounds are stretched to keep up with repairs. A. Pascucci asked if we could hire students from Essex Tech. K. Lyons answered that the vocational students from Essex Tech have helped but their classes must match the needs of the job that must be done. We are hoping to find something affordable. K. Prentakis asked if we actually use salt. K. Lyons said milder products are ineffective below 30 degrees. Discussion continued about educating the public about preservation not improvement. It was agreed that this should be a big concern for everyone. We should think about what structures we should put in place to insure a financial commitment. J. Spencer pointed out that Masconomet was built in 2000 and within two years, there was a recession. We need to recognize the historic situation. D. Volchok raised an issue that there is currently a three-credit PE requirement to graduate and fees for participating in sports. D. Volchok referred to a MASC list serve advisory that schools cannot count participation in interscholastic sports for credit, if athletic fees are charged. This has the potential to become a huge issue; K. Lyons stated he requested a legal opinion from School Counsel and will report on September 26th.

**I. Adjournment – A motion was made by D. Volchok, seconded by C. Miller**

MOTION: To adjourn.

VOTE: Motion passed by roll call vote at 8:05 p.m.

Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Jacqueline Bolduc, Records 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 a packet or at the meeting:

1. Agenda
2. Agenda Guide
3. Memo on Funding Approval for the Superintendent Search, S. Givens
4. Consent Agenda
5. 2018/2019 New Hire-Staff Changes
6. Annual Readiness Meeting packet
7. August 14th Coaches Summit Agenda
8. August 23rd and 28th Leadership Team Retreat Agenda
9. Letter from Governor Baker about FY 2019 Fiscal Year BCCC Grant Programs
10. New Teacher Orientation Meeting Agenda
11. Opening of Schools 2018 schedule
12. Memorandum for 1.1 Paraprofessional
13. Recognition to Boxford Police Chief- J. Ritter for Safety and Security
14. Welcome Back Packet for Faculty and Staff
15. Photos of sidewalk in front of High School needing repairs