

MASCONOMET REGIONAL DISTRICT SCHOOL COMMITTEE

February 1, 2023

MEMBERS PRESENT: T. Cooper, Chair, Middleton (remote) M. Ogden, Vice Chair, Topsfield
J. McLean, Boxford T. Currier, Middleton
W. Hodges, Topsfield Z. Bhuj, Topsfield
K. Prentakis, Middleton C. Bolzan, Boxford
C. Miller, Boxford D. Casamassima, Middleton (left 7:50)

MEMBERS ABSENT P. Bernheart, Boxford

OTHERS PRESENT: M. Harvey, Superintendent
J. Sands, Asst. Superintendent. & Chief Procurement Officer
L. Bennett, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services

- A. **Call to Order** – T. Cooper, Chair, called the Regular Meeting of the School Committee of February 1, 2023, to Order at 7:00pm, at the High School Library.
- B. **Remarks from the Chair** – None
- C. **Comments from the Public** – None.
- D. **Recognition of Coach Joe Casey** – John Daileanes recognized Coach Casey and his family. Masco was Coach Casey's first teaching job and he never left. He taught and coached boys' basketball and cross country for years. He started the girls' cross country team 48 years ago and has been the only coach to date. Coach Casey advocated for multi-sport athletes and mentored many Athletic Directors. John read quotes from other coaches and student athletes. Coach Casey provided not only coaching, but guidance and service to others. M. Ogden presented Coach Casey with a proclamation from the Massachusetts House of Representatives in recognition of his retirement. Coach Casey thanked everyone for attending and their kind words.
- E. **SAB Report** – Olivia Richards provided an update. Semester two is complete and semester three is beginning. Breakfast is now being served and students like it. A can drive is being held by student council next week. The freshmen class is holding a Valentine's Day fundraiser. Bathroom passes are thought to be unsanitary by the students and solutions are being discussed. T. Currier asked how M. Block was working. Olivia responded that M. Block is going well and the students appreciate the time to catch up with teachers without having to stay after school.
- F. **FY 24 Budget Deliberations** – J. Sands provided an overview of the recommended budget which is level service and the ESSR III Grants are leveraged. Lynne Bennett reviewed the 5-year overview of increases and costs of tuition and transportation. OOD tuitions reconciliation and student placements and movement in the budget until the end of the fiscal year were reviewed. New OOD placements for grades 8-12 and new agreements that came in after spring and other new costs were reviewed. L. Bennett reviewed students who have aged out of Masco, withdrew, graduated or changes in placement which resulted in the students leaving the district. The 14% tuition increase was reviewed and discussed. Consultation expense cost increases were reviewed, including consultants for student services, special education in the district, special education in both the middle and high schools, and psychological consultations from FY21-24. Families need support for their students, family based intervention and translation of major documents in the district into other languages for families. OOD tuition placements compared to other towns was reviewed and discussed. The Superintendents are sending a letter to the Governor asking to cover

12% of the tuition increase. Z. Bhujju asked if there was a way to determine if the services offered at Masco are allowing students to remain at Masco instead of OOD placement. T. Cooper added that in-house services are expanding and there are ongoing discussions to keep more students at Masco. J. Sands reviewed future budget meeting dates and topics.

- G. **Capital Plan Presentation** – J. Sands reviewed the appendices of the Capital Plan. The primary objective of this initiative was to identify the necessary repairs, upgrades and equipment needed to improve the overall physical condition of our buildings and grounds, enhance the student, staff and community experience while on campus, and extend the useful life of our facilities. The secondary objective was to then develop a preliminary budget, timeline and financing plan for each project. The assessment began in May 2022 and has been a top priority for the past 10 months. The scope of the assessment is “comprehensive” by design. J. Sands reviewed the areas covered by the assessment. The history of the school buildings, wastewater treatment facility and administration building were reviewed. The grounds and athletic facilities were reviewed totaling 93 acres including 5 acres of common area and 19 acres of playing fields. The Capital Expenditures broken down by project for the past 17 years was reviewed totaling \$2.7 million. The major categories of the 5 year plan include grounds athletics, grounds general, facilities general, facilities roof & HVAC, IT, audio and visual communications, equipment, waste water treatment facility and food service. The proposed funding sources for each project were reviewed together with MGL procurement requirements. The cost estimates and timelines were included in the discussion. The estimates only serve as a guideline for planning purposes. Insurance underwriters have earmarked specific projects to be prioritized given our recent unfavorable claims history. The Summary Plan by Major Category was reviewed with costs from FY23-FY28 and totals per category. Bond anticipated notes (BANS) and how they work on an as needed basis were reviewed. Debt service expense, Pro Forma with an amortization schedule was reviewed for the full amount of \$46 million. Additional areas to be evaluated for the next phase were reviewed, including WWTF RBC repairs, interior painting, replace stairway risers and treads, replaces shades and blinds in classrooms, offices, etc., replace bathroom partitions and replace exterior doors, hardware and frames. MGL and AAB requirements were reviewed and discussed including tiers of compliance. Next steps and steps for approval from the Towns was discussed. The Capital Plan calls for state of the art in kind replacement of items.
- H. **Superintendent’s Report** – The Strategic Plan Working Group met 2/14 and will review the survey of the communities and will bring the results to a future meeting. The Pilot Schedule Review Committee will meet Friday to review responses to the survey and discuss any potential changes for the fall schedule. Any minor changes will be communicated to parents by the end of February. Tri-Town Council Community Conversation on youth risk behavior survey results were presented. Masco was featured in the Sunday Boston Globe for being awarded a \$20,000 grant by DESE to work with Salem State University to train educators on genocide curriculum, materials, content, knowledge and teaching strategies. Upcoming HS events include the Jazz Band concert on 2/16. Upcoming MS events include Jazz Band concert 2/14 and spirit week the week of 2/13.
- I. **Approve 2023-2024 School Calendar** – M. Harvey reviewed the changes to the school calendar suggested at a previous meeting. A Motion was made to approve the 2023-2024 School Calendar by K. Prentakis, seconded by C. Miller and unanimously approved by Rollcall Vote:
- | | | |
|------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| T. Cooper - yes | K. Prentakis – yes | J. McLean – yes |
| T. Currier - yes | Z. Bhujju – yes | W. Hodges – yes |
| M. Ogden – yes | C. Miller - yes | C. Bolzan - yes |
- MOTION: Approve 2023-2024 School Calendar as presented
VOTE: 9-0, Motion Carried

J. Policy Second Readings

a. Policies KA, KBA, KBBA, KBD, KDB

b. Policies JJ, JJE, JJF, JLCA, JLCB, JLCD

M. Ogden removed Policy KBA as discussion at the administrative level to be reviewed by Town Counsel. A Motion was made to approve KA, KBBA, KBD AND KDB Policy Second Readings as presented, by Z. Bhuj, seconded by C. Miller and approved.

T. Cooper - yes	K. Prentakis – yes	J. McLean – abstain
T. Currier - yes	Z. Bhuj – yes	W. Hodges – yes
M. Ogden – yes	C. Miller - yes	C. Bolzan - yes

MOTION: Approve Policy Second Readings for K Policies as presented

VOTE: 8-0-1, Motion Carried

A Motion was made to approve JJ, JJE, JJF, JLCA, JLCB, JLCD Policy Second Readings as presented, by Z. Bhuj, seconded by C. Miller and approved by Rollcall Vote:

T. Cooper - yes	K. Prentakis – yes	J. McLean – yes
T. Currier - yes	Z. Bhuj – yes	W. Hodges – yes
M. Ogden – yes	C. Miller - yes	C. Bolzan - yes

MOTION: Approve Policy Second Readings for J Policies as presented

VOTE: 9-0, Motion Carried

K. Sub-Committee Reports

Community Relations – no new update.

Budget –meetings are posted for the meetings with the Finance Committees and Select Board members. Discussion regarding meeting with each Town separately to discuss the budget. It was agreed that having everyone in the same room from the 2 towns is helpful to understand for everyone to understand everyone's budget constraints.

Anti-Racism – met Monday and discussed goals and the charge of the sub-committee. Also discussing a possible community event before the end of the school year and reaching out to community leaders.

Policy – meeting 2/9 at 2:30pm via zoom.

Turf Up – no new update.

Liaisons – K. Prentakis suggested a meeting with the SB and FC to discuss the Capital request. J. McLean suggested a roundtable meeting for the capital plan and ballot question for the athletic fields. M. Ogden added that the next meeting for the FC is Monday.

L. Consent Agenda

a. Approval of January 18, 2023, Meeting Minutes

b. Warrants of \$2,184,117.82 (08) signed since January 18, 2023.

c. Accept Donation from the Institute for Savings

d. Accept Additional funding of MS MEF Grant

A Motion was made to approve the Consent Agenda by Z. Bhuj as presented, seconded by C. Miller and unanimously approved by Rollcall Vote:

T. Cooper - yes	K. Prentakis – yes	J. McLean – yes
T. Currier - yes	Z. Bhuj – yes	W. Hodges – yes
M. Ogden – yes	C. Miller - yes	C. Bolzan - yes

MOTION: Approve Consent Agenda

VOTE: 9-0, Motion Carried

M. M. Ogden made a Motion to Adjourn into Executive Session to conduct strategy relative to bargaining with non-union personnel (Superintendent Harvey) (Executive Session Purpose #2). The Chair has determined that holding this discussion in Open Session may have a detrimental impact on the District's Bargaining Position. The Committee will not return to Open Session after the conclusion of the Executive Session. The motion was seconded by M. Ogden.

Rollcall Vote:

Z. Bhuj – yes	T. Cooper – yes	T. Currier – yes
K. Prentakis – yes	M. Ogden – yes	J. McLean - yes
W. Hodges – yes	C. Bolzan – yes	C. Miller - yes

Meeting was adjourned at 9:49pm by M. Ogden.

Submitted By: _____ Approved: _____
Lynn Viselli, Recording Secretary 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. Consent Agenda
3. FY24 Budget Overview Presentation
4. Capital Plan Presentation
5. Superintendent Report
6. 2023-2024 School Calendar
7. Policies KA, KBBA, KBD, KDB, JJ, JJE, JJF, JLCA, JLCB, JLCD