

MASCONOMET REGIONAL DISTRICT SCHOOL COMMITTEE

October 12, 2022

MEMBERS PRESENT: T. Cooper, Chair, Middleton
C. Miller, Boxford
D. Casamassima, Middleton
J. McLean, Boxford
M. Ogden, Topsfield
K. Prentakis, Middleton
T. Currier, Middleton
W. Hodges, Topsfield
Z. Bhujju, Topsfield
P. Bernheart, Boxford

MEMBERS ABSENT

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

A. **Call to Order** – T. Cooper, Chair, called the Regular Meeting of the School Committee of October 12, 2022, to order at 7:00pm, in the High School Library.

B. T. Cooper made a Motion to Adjourn into Executive Session to conduct strategy relative to collective bargaining with the Masconomet Teachers Association (Executive Session Purpose #3). 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 return to Open Session after the conclusion of the Executive Session. The motion was seconded by C. Miller.

Rollcall Vote:

Z. Bhujju – yes	T. Cooper – yes	C. Miller – yes
K. Prentakis – yes	M. Ogden – yes	T. Currier – yes
W. Hodges – yes	P. Bernhart – yes	J. McLean – yes
D. Casamassima – yes		

Returned to Open Session at 7:12 pm.

C. **Remarks from the Chair** – None.

D. **Comments from the Public** – None

E. **Vote to Appoint School Committee Vice-Chair** – T. Currier asked if the Vice Chair is to be rotated by Town. C. Miller offered that the Vice Chair position is best held by someone with experience and Boxford has 2 new members. K. Prentakis added that rotating is not a policy but a tradition.

A Motion was made to nominate M. Ogden as the Vice-Chair by C. Miller; it was seconded by D. Casamassima and unanimously approved.

MOTION Appoint M. Ogden as Vice-Chair

VOTE 10-0, Motion Carried

F. **Student Advisory Board Report** – Raquel Rave informed the SC that the students are engaging in all activities. Students are being encouraged to come out for Student Government. The Homecoming Dance was success.

G. **Youth Risk Behavior Survey Presentation and Student Services Report** – This survey is done every other year by the Tri-Town Council.

Nicole Gregoire-Allis presented the survey results to the SC. The data is from last fall and the shape on the graph presented indicates that the self-reporting is accurate as the shape is consistent from 2010-2021. There were new categories included in the survey such as IEP, Race, Ethnicity, and Sexual Orientation. Caution will be taken in sharing data as it is a small subset and represent real youth in the Tri-Town. The 30 days use rate has gown down over all substances. Participation by age was reviewed. Crosstab populations for 30 days was reviewed. The majority of MS students are not using substances and the numbers are dropping in the HS. It is important for the students to know that most kids are not using substances.

Physical/Sexual Health and Well-Being – The number of students involved in sexual activity has declined by 10%. HS youth reporting sexual contact without consent went up in sexually active students. Girls are 5 times more likely to report this behavior. The dating violence questions were reviewed and discussed. Weight and body image survey results were reviewed and discussed.

Bullying/Teasing – Students on IEPs are the highest percentage of students reporting this behavior. About 25% of MS students are reporting this behavior and 13% of the HS students are reporting this behavior. The highest categories of students subject to bullying/teasing are students on IEPs, LGBTQ+ and Hispanic students. There is a concern that special education, non-white, non-straight students are experiencing more bullying.

Technology and Social Media – The daily usage has increased since 2018. Half of MS students and three-quarters of HS students reported 3-5 non-school hours of screen time per day. The rates of cyber bullying have increased since 2016 in both the MS and HS.

Protective Factors – These are factors that help influence young people toward making healthy decisions regarding substances, healthy and risky behaviors. Supportive adult relationships are extremely important, both in and out of school. 50% of HS students and most MS students do not talk to their caregivers about these topics. Only half of the HS students feel valued by the adults in the Tri-Town community.

Mental Health – Problem stress was reviewed by group and the sources of the stress were discussed. Depression is on a steady increase. Self-harm and considering suicide have also risen. T. Currier asked if the report would be made public. It will be on the Masco website and the Tri-Town Council website.

Student Services Report

Brad Denton presented the Student Services Report including reviewing the Mission Statement and Vision. Emergency room visits for mental health for children ages 5-11 have increased by 24% and by 31% for children ages 12-17 compared to 2019. The importance of mental health in school was discussed. The number of students using the support center by both MS and HS students was reviewed. The number of students receiving assistance is on the rise.

Comprehensive Mental Health System would provide a full array of tiered mental health services and would implement support services to students at any tier.

Collaborative for Academic Social and Emotional Learning would support all students in bullying and the skills they need in order to prevent them from struggling immensely with outside stressors. This is very structured, research based, and data driven. A student's academic impact will improve with participation in SEL programs for every student. Tiers 1, 2 and 3 were reviewed. Tier 1 is classroom instruction; Tier 2 is targeted small group instruction. Tier 3 is intensive individual intervention.

W. Hodges asked if there was sufficient funding and support in place and if not to let the SC know. T. Cooper added that the new schedule allows for more PD and supports it being used in this manner.

H. **Approve 5 Year Transportation Procurement Term**

J Sands will release the bid package 3 weeks from Friday, and he would like a 5-year contract to receive preferred pricing.

A Motion was made pursuant too M.G.L. c. 30B, section 12(b), the School Committee authorizes Jeff Sands, Assistant Superintendent & Chief Procurement Officer, to procure and enter into a contract for Student Transportation Services for a term not to exceed five (5) years by Z. Bhuj; seconded by K. Prentakis and unanimously approved.

MOTION: Authorize Jeff Sands to procure and enter into a contract for Student Transportation Services for a term not to exceed 5 years.

VOTE: 10-0, Motion Carried

- I. **Superintendent's Report** M. Harvey provided an update on the Strategic Planning. There will be a community conversation to redefine what success should look like for students and the schools. Schools may need to look differently post-COVID, and programs become increasingly nimble. The mental health of student and adults is important. M. Harvey reviewed the items to be discussed and revised to produce a vision for the next -5 years. This will be completed by November 1, 2023. A meeting was held to discuss the feedback on the pilot schedule, the benefits and drawbacks of longer periods, a fixed Monday through Friday schedule, M block, and Wednesday early release for PD. A survey is being developed for students and faculty. A decision will be made by February 2023 if any changes need to be made.
- Staff Development is ongoing with structured PD underway. M. Harvey described the cohorts teachers are attending during this 10-week session. PSATs were given today for 10th and 11th grade students. Activities for students not taking the PSAT were reviewed.
- The musical "Chicago" is this weekend. Tri-Town Council is hosting What is Play and why it is crucial for healthy development with Peter Gray. The film "Chasing Childhood" will be hosted by Tri-Town Council, and it can be viewed online or in person on 11/3 at 6:30pm.
- Upcoming MS and HS activities were reviewed.
- J. **Finalize School Committee Goals** T. Cooper reviewed the workshop and read the goals.
1. **Create an environment for success of District, Superintendent and School Committee.**
The action items were reviewed for this goal. P. Bernheart asked to revise the language for bullet point 3 by adding "in a systematic manner to drive school committee decision making". Tools or ways to achieve this were discussed, including more assessments. M. Harvey added that MCAS is the only standardized assessment used currently. Further discussion followed regarding testing, surveys and curriculum and other measures or activities to measure growth.
 2. **Enhance Community Relations.**
T. Cooper reviewed the bullet points.
T. Currier asked if sending the SC agenda to the towns to post on their websites would be beneficial. M. Harvey stated that only 1 official posting of the SC Agenda is made on the Masco website per the Open Meeting Law. It cannot be published in other spots, but we can provide a link to the Agenda on the Masco website. C. Miller added that the liaisons should review their Town's website and see if the link is present. Z. Bhuj added that the town websites should make it clear that Masco is the official website for posting.
The first bullet point was amended to read: "Foster community engagement and dialogue"
The fifth bullet point was amended to add at the end "and where to find Masco information".
 3. **Updating Committee Efficiencies/School Committee Policies**
T. Cooper reviewed the bullet points.
Z. Bhuj stated that capital planning was discussed at the workshop.
W. Hodges asked to add bullet point "Support ELT in the development and execution of capital plan and strategic plan".
C. Miller asked to add a review of SC progress towards meeting goals with midyear progress report and year-end report before next election.

M. Harvey presented the updated SC Goals.

A Motion was made to approve the amended Goals as presented by W. Hodges; seconded by C. Miller and unanimously approved.

MOTION: Approved amended SC Goals

VOTE: 10-0, Motion Carried

K. Vote to Approve Side Letters with Masconomet Teacher's Association

a. Stipend Positions

b. Class Coverage Compensation

Two side letters were negotiated changing the CBA with stipends for new student clubs in Appendix

B. A Motion was made to approve the side letters with Masconomet Teachers Association as presented was made by Z. Bhujju; seconded by D. Casamassima and unanimously approved.

MOTION: Approve side letters with Masconomet Teachers Association

VOTE: 10-0, Motion Carried

Payment to teachers covering classes for absent teachers changing the CBA was discussed.

A Motion was made to approve the class coverage compensation as presented was made by D. Casamassima; seconded by J. McLean and unanimously approved.

MOTION: Approve class coverage compensation

VOTE: 10-0, Motion Carried

L. Sub-Committee Reports

Community Relations- no meeting yet, hoping to meet next week

Budget – Nothing new.

Anti-Racism – scheduling the next meeting

Policy –10/21 meeting and will present Section J at the next meeting. We are making good progress on the review

Negotiations – Nothing new

Liaison – Topsfield has updated its Town website.

Turf Up – Stantec will update its report regarding pricing. The questions to be answered will either be done by the consultant or the task force. J. McLean asked if an alternative such as restoring the existing fields is being worked on. J. Sands will include that in the capital plan because it is important to be looking beyond the turf scope.

M. Consent Agenda

1. Approval of September 7 and September 21, 2022, Meeting Minutes

2. Warrants of \$2,980,001.99 (20) signed since September 7, 2022.

3. Accept \$250.00 check from the Boxford Historical Society for the Art Department.

A Motion was made to approve the Consent Agenda by Z. Bhujju, seconded by C. Miller and unanimously approved.

MOTION: Approve Consent Agenda

VOTE: 10-0, Motion Carried

- N. T. Cooper made a Motion to Adjourn into Executive Session to conduct strategy relative to bargaining with non-union personnel (Superintendent Harvey) (Executive Session Purpose #3). 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 C. Miller.

Rollcall Vote:

Z. Bhuj – yes	T. Cooper – yes	C. Miller – yes
K. Prentakis – yes	M. Ogden – yes	T. Currier - yes
W. Hodges – yes	P. Bernhart – yes	J. McLean – yes
D. Casamassima – yes		

Meeting was adjourned at 9:53pm by T. Cooper

Submitted By: _____
Lynn Viselli, Recording Secretary

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. Consent Agenda
3. Youth Risk Behavior Survey Presentation
4. Student Services Presentation
5. 5 Year Transportation Procurement Term
6. Superintendent's Report
7. School Committee Goals
8. Side Letters with the Masconomet Teachers Association