

MASCONOMET REGIONAL DISTRICT SCHOOL COMMITTEE

October 9, 2024

MEMBERS PRESENT: J. McLean, Chair, Boxford T. Currier, Vice Chair, Middleton
K. Petrone, Middleton E. Clements, Boxford
A. Heaphy-Tenney, Topsfield W. Hodges, Topsfield
L. MacInnis, Middleton C. Bolzan, Boxford
J. Horrigan, Boxford M. Alexander, Middleton

MEMBERS ABSENT: M. Ogden, Topsfield

OTHERS PRESENT: M. Harvey, Superintendent
J. Sands, Assistant Superintendent & Chief Procurement Officer

- A. **Call to Order** – J. McLean, Chair, called the School Committee Meeting of October 9, 2024, to Order at 7:00pm, in the High School Library.
- B. **Remarks from the Chair** - J. McLean acknowledged the impacts of the recent hurricanes on North Carolina and Florida and thanked the first responders for their efforts. He reviewed the negotiations with the MTA and acknowledged the successes of the fall athletic teams.
- C. **Public Comment** – None
- D. **Student Advisory Board Update** - Jack Savitsky, SAB Senior from Boxford, informed the School Committee that Student Council met Thursday and are planning many events for the school year, including Spirit Week and a Pep Rally. He advised that students are concerned with the loss of study hall next year. Student Council will be bringing back Small-Town Heroes this year.

E. Review Open Meeting Law Complaint from Katherine Carlson

a. Amend August 28, 2024, School Committee Workshop Minutes

J. McLean read the Open Meeting Law Complaint to the School Committee. He advised that meetings can be held in any of the 3 towns with proper notice. He reviewed the proposed amended minutes which included slides and draft goals and a correction to the specified groupings. A motion was made to approve the Amended Minutes as presented and amended by T. Currier, seconded by C. Bolzan and approved by an 9-0-1 vote.

MOTION: Approve Amended Minutes

VOTE: 9-0-1, Motion Carried.

b. Delegate response from School Committee

A motion was made to authorize M. Harvey to respond to the Open Meeting Law Complaint by M. Alexander, seconded by E. Clement and approved by an 9-0-1 vote.

MOTION: Authorize M. Harvey to respond to the OML Complaint

VOTE: 9-0-1, Motion Carried.

F. Finalize School Committee Goals for 2024-2025

The revisions were reviewed. A motion was made to adopt the modifications as presented by W. Hodges, seconded by K. Petrone and approved by 9-0-1 vote.

MOTION: Approve School Committee Goals

VOTE: 9-0-1, Motion Carried.

G. Review Massachusetts Association of School Committee 2024 Resolutions

A. Appoint Delegate to Annual MASC-MASS Joint Conference - A.

Heaphy-Tenney will attend as the Masco delegate.

Resolution #1: Development of an Alternative to the High Stakes MCAS Test

Discussion took place regarding students who are challenged passing the MCAS being a barrier for these students. There was also discussion that the data from MCAS helps make better data driven decisions. M. Harvey reviewed the federal regulations regarding standardized testing. A moratorium on MCAS would violate federal laws. A motion was made to reject Resolution #1 by M. Alexander, seconded by W. Hodges and approved by 9-0-1 vote.

MOTION: Reject Resolution #1.

VOTE: 9-0-1, Motion Carried.

Resolution #2: Increase Compulsory Attendance Age

Discussion followed regarding increasing the compulsory attendance age from 16 to 18 years of age. A motion was made to reject Resolution #2 by A. Heaphy-Tenney, seconded by M. Alexander and approved by 9-0-1 vote.

MOTION: Reject Resolution #2.

VOTE: 9-0-1, Motion Carried

Resolution #3: Safe Storage of Firearms

Discussion followed regarding this education being outside the SC role and being a public safety issue. Discussion regarding the educational aspect being beneficial and partner with the TTC preventing school shootings. A motion was made to accept Resolution #3 by E. Clements, seconded by C. Bolzan and approved by 9-0-1 vote.

MOTION: Accept Resolution #3.

VOTE: 9-0-1, Motion Carried

Resolution #4: School Bus Stop Arm Surveillance Act and Enforcement Penalties

A motion was made to accept Resolution #4 by T. Currier, seconded by E. Clement and approved by 9-0-1 vote.

MOTION: Accept Resolution #4.

VOTE: 9-0-1, Motion Carried

Resolution #5: Aligning Taxing Authority with the Required Local Contribution

A motion was made to accept Resolution #5 by T. Currier, seconded by A. Heaphy-Tenney and approved by 9-0-1 vote.

MOTION: Accept Resolution #5.

VOTE: 9-0-1, Motion Carried

Resolution #6: Support of Legislation to Improve the Fiscal Health of Rural School Districts

A motion was made to accept Resolution #6 by T. Currier, seconded by J. Horrigan, the motion was withdrawn. Discussion followed regarding funding for rural school district. A motion was made to take no position by C. Bolzan, seconded by A. Heaphy-Tenney and approved by an 9-0-1 vote.

MOTION: Take no position on Resolution No. 6.
VOTE: 9-0-1, Motion Carried.

Resolution #7: Full Adjusting Chapter 70 Aid for Inflation

A motion was made to accept Resolution No. 7 by T. Currier, seconded by C. Bolzan and approved by an 8-0-1 vote.

MOTION: Accept Resolution No. 7.
VOTE: 9-0-1, Motion Carried.

Resolution #8: Equitable Funding for Non-Regional School Districts with High Transportation Costs

A motion was made to reject Resolution No. 8 by T. Currier, seconded by C. Bolzan and approved by an 9-0-1 vote.

MOTION: Reject Resolution No. 8.
VOTE: 9-0-1, Motion Carried.

Resolution #9: MSBA Grants Evaluation for Chapter 74

Discussion followed regarding vocational/technical schools receiving the same reimbursements as other high schools for construction costs.

A motion was made to eject Resolution No. 9 by M. Alexander, seconded by J. Horrigan and approved by an 9-0-1 vote.

MOTION: Reject Resolution No.9.
VOTE: 9-0-1, Motion Carried.

Resolution #10: Expansion in Capacity in Chapter 74 Vocational Technical Programs

Discussion followed regarding expanding the capacity of Chapter 74 schools to create programs with districts that lack access to these programs. A motion was made to accept Resolution No. 10 by C. Bolzan, seconded by A. Heaphy-Tenney and approved by an 9-0-1 vote.

MOTION: Accept Resolution No. 10.
VOTE: 9-0-1, Motion Carried.

Reauthorizing Full Funding of Transportation Costs for Students in Foster Care and State Care.

T. Currier stated that the home district is responsible for the costs.

A motion was made to support reauthorizing Full Funding of Transportation Costs for Students in Foster Care and State Care by M. Alexander, seconded by E. Clements and approved by 9-0-1 vote.

MOTION: Support Reauthorization.

VOTE: 9-0-1, Motion Carried.

Reauthorizing Access to Menstrual Supplies.

A motion was made to support reauthorizing access to menstrual supplies by W. Hodges, seconded by M. Alexander and approved by 9-0-1 vote.

MOTION: Support Reauthorization.

VOTE: 9-0-1, Motion Carried.

Reauthorizing Prohibiting the Use of Native American Mascots.

A motion was made to reject reauthorizing Prohibiting the Use of Native American Mascot by T. Currier, seconded by K. Petrone and approved by 9-0-1 vote.

MOTION: Reject Reauthorization.

VOTE: 9-0-1, Motion Carried.

Reauthorization Pertaining to Educator Diversity and Professional Licensure

DESE requires the passing of the MTEL for licensure. The School Committee abstained from voting.

Reauthorization School Committee Anti-Racism.

A motion was made to take no action on this resolution by M. Alexander, seconded by A. Heaphy-Tenney and approved by a vote of 8-1-1 with W. Hodges opposed.

MOTION: Take no Action.

VOTE: 8-1-1, Motion Carried.

A motion was made to abstain from all other resolutions/reauthorizations not voted on by T. Currier, seconded by J. Horrigan and approved by vote of 9-0-1.

MOTION: Abstain on all other resolutions/reauthorizations

VOTE: 9-0-1, Motion Carried.

H. Approve Charter of Anti-Racism Subcommittee

J. Horrigan reviewed the renaming and repurposing of the subcommittee. Currier added that no other subcommittee has a charter except the Building subcommittee and it is binding on future School Committees. T. Currier also questioned needing a full School Committee vote to change the charter. C. Bolzan supported the charter for more direction for this subcommittee. W. Hodges added that this charter details what the subcommittee's broad objectives are and those will not change. Discussion followed regarding making this a policy to be reviewed annually and the actions of the subcommittee. W. Hodges reviewed the original charter and collaboration with TTC. J. McLean tabled this to a future meeting.

I. Approve Revised Masconomet Building Committee Charter M. Alexander reviewed the proposed changes to the charter with 3 DCI members making a quorum among others. A motion was made to approve the proposed changes to the Masconomet Building Committee Charter by T. Currier, seconded by A. Heaphy-Tenney and approved by vote of 9-0-1.

MOTION: Approve changes to Masconomet Building Committee Charter

VOTE: 9-0-1, Motion Carried.

J. Superintendent's Report - M. Harvey informed the School Committee that TTSCU and Masco are hosting an event to welcome multi-lingual families. The Global Diploma Program will be in attendance as will interpreters. The National Merit Scholarship Commended students were recognized. Parent coffees are ongoing with the next MS coffee on 10/18 at 8:30am and HS on 10/25 at 8:30am.

K. Subcommittee Reports

Community Relations – a community dialogue is scheduled for 10/23 at 6:00pm.

DCI – next meeting will be scheduled, met last Friday to start discussing capital and Town Meeting presentations. Working on a plan to present to the SC in November.

Anti-Racism – working on the charter.

Policy – reviewing Section H and Section F remains to be reviewed. The next meeting is scheduled for 10/21.

Liaison Updates – Middleton may be having a Special Town Meeting on December 12th. J. McLean will be meeting with Boxford SB next week.

Turf Up – J. McLean spoke with Sarah and there is no update. They cannot collect funds until the plan is approved.

Negotiations – met 10/1 with MTA and it was a productive meeting. Next meeting is scheduled for 10/28 at 3:00pm.

L. Consent Agenda

1. Approval of September 25, 2024, Minutes.

2. 10 Warrants in the amount of \$1,320,636.91.

3. Approve DECA Field Trip.

4. Approve Quebec City Field Trip.

A motion was made to approve the Minutes by T. Currier, seconded by M. Alexander and approved by a vote of 8-1-1.

MOTION: Approve Minutes

VOTE: 8-1-1, Motion Carried.

A motion was made to approve the Warrants by C. Bolzan, seconded by L. MacInnis and approved by a vote of 9-0-1.

The DECA field trip is a recurring field trip with the confirmation that a male and a female chaperone are attending the trip, and a post trip memo will be sent to the Chair.

W. Hodges added that when there is an issue on a field trip, the SC should be informed.

J. Horrigan stated that a presentation should be made before the SC after the field trip.

A motion was made to approve the DECA field trip with a memo to the chair upon return by W. Hodges, seconded by L. MacInnis and approved by a vote of 8-1-1.

MOTION: Approve DECA field trip.

VOTE: 8-1-1, Motion Carried.

A motion was made to approve the Quebec field trip by T. Currier, seconded by M. Alexander and approved by a vote of 8-1-1.

MOTION: Approve Quebec field trip.

VOTE: 8-1-1, Motion Carried.

J. McLean made a motion to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing strategy relative to contract negotiations with the Masconomet Teachers Association (Executive Session Purpose #3). The Chair has determined that holding these discussions in open session will have a detrimental impact on the School Committee's bargaining position. The School Committee will not return to Open Session. The motion was seconded by A. Heaphy-Tenney and unanimously approved by Rollcall Vote:

J. Horrigan – yes W. Hodges – yes M. Alexander – yes E. Clements – yes
T. Currier – yes A. Heaphy-Tenney – yes C. Bolzan – yes K. Petrone – yes
J. McLean – yes L. MacInnis – yes

The Meeting was adjourned at 9:10pm.

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. Open Meeting Law Complaint
3. School Committee Goals
4. MASC 2024 Resolutions
5. Anti-Racism Charter
6. Masco Building Committee Charter
7. Consent Agenda