

MASCONOMET REGIONAL DISTRICT SCHOOL COMMITTEE

September 9, 2026

MEMBERS' PRESENT: A. Heaphy-Tenney, Topsfield, Chair J. McLean, Boxford, Boxford,
T. Currier, Middleton S. Smith, Middleton
A. Rose-McDonald, Topsfield L. MacInnis, Middleton
W. Hodges, Topsfield M. Alexander, Middleton
M. Meyer, Boxford J. Hall, Boxford

MEMBERS ABSENT: J. Horrigan, Boxford

OTHERS PRESENT: H. Galante, Superintendent

J. Mealey, Asst. Superintendent Finance and Operations

A. **Call to Order** – A. Heaphy-Tenney, Chair, called the School Committee Meeting of September 9, 2026, to Order at 7:02 pm, at the High School Library.

B. **Comments from the Audience** – None.

C. **Consent Agenda**

a. Approval of August 12, 2026, Meeting Minutes.

b. Warrants for \$1,750,762.68.

c. Accept DECA donation for \$11,795.00.

d. Accept EMT Accreditation donation for \$500.00.

T. Currier made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented, seconded by J. Hall and unanimously approved.

MOTION: Approve the Consent Agenda

VOTE: 10-0, Motion Carried.

D. **Remarks from the Chair** – A. Heaphy-Tenny congratulated everyone on the start of the school year and she attended the kickoff meeting.

E. **Superintendent Update** – H. Galante informed the SC that the building is full, energized and excited for the beginning of the school year. The theme for this year is “Moving Forward Together, Building Belonging, Strengthening Partnerships, Inspiring Growth”. The 7th and 9th grade orientations were a success helping the students become acclimated to the building and welcoming them into Masco. She has been visiting classrooms daily and observing. ALICE training took place this week. First responders from all three towns were on hand to place flags on the front lawn in remembrance of 9/11. Open House at the HS is tomorrow and 9/17 at the MS.

a. **Staffing Update** – H. Galante reviewed the new hires for this school year and the expanded responsibilities of some staff. These added responsibilities will be monitored over the next year to make sure students' needs are being met.

b. **Facilities Update** – J. Mealey updated the SC on the MSBA project. The OPM has executed a contract with a design firm. LED redesign project is underway. The light fixtures have not been updated since the construction of the building. The program is in partnership with National Grid to replace the end-of-life fluorescent fixtures in the classrooms throughout both MS and HS and add sensors and centralized

controls. The total cost of the project is \$598,841.00, with National Grid paying \$183,625.00 and the balance of \$415,216.00 will be paid by Masco interest free over 36 months. A portion of the cost can be funded through the School Choice Account. After the program payment is complete, Masco will save \$101,774 per year in electric services. The cost of the HS and MS updates are basically the same. J. Mealey reviewed the breakdown of the costs and monthly payments. The work will be completed by October 31st with the work being done in the evenings and on weekends so there is no disruption to the school day.

- F. **SAB Report** – Evan Silvano introduced himself to the SC and provided an update for the SC. The fall sports update included a win for both varsity soccer teams against Peabody and the football team opens Friday night with First Responders walking the team out. 7th and 9th grade orientations were held and everyone was excited and school spirit was high. Applications for Student Council will be out soon for each grade. The Activity Fair will be held 9/18 hosted by Peer Leaders to showcase the clubs available at Masco. The Soccer teams will be hosting a carwash fundraiser on 10/19 in Middleton. Homecoming in October is in the planning stages.

G. **Donations**

A. **Unified Sports Presentation**

Brad Denton and John Daileanes presented the proposal for a Unified Basketball Team. This is an initiative of MIAA. There are currently 11 basketball teams in the surrounding communities. The proposed schedule for this year is to play 4 regular season games, 2 home and 2 away games with an end of season Jamboree in Danvers on 11/12. There will be 2 or 3 practices a week with the first game projected to be 10/5. The proposed budget includes 3 buses (\$1500), 2 officials (\$160), uniforms and a coaching stipend. DECA is working a unique design for the uniforms. The JV2 Field Hockey team is not running this year, so the money allotted in the budget for JV2 can be used towards the Unified Basketball team. There is also a grant from Special Olympics in the first year for \$2,000, \$1000 in the second year and the program to be self-sustaining by the third year. SEPAC is donating \$5100 towards the coaching stipend, which has not been determined yet. An estimated user fee is \$57.00 for budgeting purposes and is not determined yet. The program falls under Athletics, but the fee is based on a club fee. The long-term goal is to incorporate the cost into the operating budget in year 3, increase to eight games, negotiate the coaching stipend and add Unified Track and Field with recreational programs being offered during the winter. T. Currier asked to revisit the fee when the program increases to eight games. Discussion followed regarding fees, costs and coaching stipend. T. Currier made a motion to approve the Unified Sports Pilot Program seconded by M. Alexander. There was further discussion regarding the cost for the pilot program and funding. T. Currier withdrew his motion.

T. Currier made a motion to approve the Unified Sports Pilot Program, as presented with maximum \$5,000 for costs to launch the program this school year, seconded by M. Alexander.

MOTION: Approve the Unified Sports Pilot Program

VOTE: 10-0, Motion Carried.

B. SEPAC Donation for Unified Sports in the amount of \$5,100 – Jackie Dubois, President of SEPAC presented the donation to the SC and read the donation letter aloud. A local family who wished to remain anonymous made this generous donation and their hope is that these funds will directly benefit students who receive special education services within our district by creating meaningful opportunities for inclusion, leadership, friendship, and school engagement.

T. Currier made a motion to accept the donation from Tri-Town SEPAC for \$5,100 as presented seconded by J. Hall.

MOTION: Approve the Consent Agenda

VOTE: 10-0, Motion Carried.

H. Superintendent Induction Program – H. Galante has joined 35 other Superintendents in the NSIP program this year. She introduced her mentor, Cindy Taymore.

Cindy Taymore reviewed the NSIP program with the SC. This is a program for new Superintendents or Superintendents from other states now working in MA. They focus on leadership, team building, and evaluation. The strategy is focused on students and improving the culture. There are 11 cohort meetings and the meet with their coaches 6 hours per month. She reviewed the timeline of the program during the school year.

I. Superintendent Entry Plan

H. Galante presented the theme of her Entry Plan, “Moving Forward Together: Building Belonging, Strengthening Partnerships, Inspiring Growth”. She reviewed the Value Statements contained in the Entry Plan. The Entry Plan Goals and Focus include a Primary Objective of listen, learn and build a shared understanding of the school district; Key Areas of Examination are evaluating learning practices, leadership structures, budget priorities and commitment to equity; Dual Approach to celebrate existing district strengths while identifying current challenges and their root causes; Student-Centered Focus to target solutions to ensure every student receives lasting support and reaches their full potential; and Future Planning by collaborating with the team and SC to create a formal plan of action. The 1,3- and 5-year plans will be based on feedback from stakeholders. The timeline of implementation was reviewed. She informed the SC that 120 survey responses have been received to date. Work continues on the Portrait of a Learner Competencies.

J. Policy JKAA 1st Read

Lisa MacInnis informed the SC that there is an update to Policy JKAA due to a DESE mandate. Crystall Hall reviewed the existing policy and what changes needed to be included. Our existing policy does not allow student restraint. Most of the changes were applied to the timeout section. Masco is already in compliance with the mandate; we needed to update our Policy to meet the procedure in place.

T. Currier made a motion to approve Policy JKAA, as presented seconded by J. Hall and unanimously approved.

MOTION: Approve Policy JKAA.

VOTE: 10-0, Motion Carried.

K. Budget Update

J. Mealey reviewed the budget highlighting page 5, where it indicates that Instruction Support funds have been spent for the year. The budget is on track to date and J. Mealey will add budget adjustments to the updates moving forward.

L. Subcommittee Reports

- a. Community Relations – met to schedule upcoming meetings and community dialogue dates and goals.
- b. DCI/Budget – meeting 9/18 at 10:00am to discuss goals, charter and purpose.
- c. VOCAL – scheduling a meeting.
- d. Policy – meeting 9/17 to review DESE PROTECT Act.
- e. Liaison Update – Topsfield has scheduled their monthly listening sessions.
- f. Negotiations – No update.
- g. SEPAC – meeting 9/28 at 7:00pm.

W. Hodges made a motion to adjourn; seconded by J. Hall and unanimously approved.

The Meeting adjourned at 8:50pm.

Submitted By: _____ Approved: _____
Lynn Viselli, Recording Secretary Date

Per the Massachusetts Open Meeting Law, the list of documents distributed to the Masconomet School Committee before the meeting in the packet or at the meeting.

1. Agenda
2. Consent Agenda
3. Superintendent Update
4. Staffing Update
5. Facilities Update
6. Donations
7. Superintendent Entry Plan
8. Policy JKAA
9. Budget Update