MASCONOMET REGIONAL DISTRICT SCHOOL COMMITTEE

October 26, 2022

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

MEMBERS ABSENT P. Bernheart, Boxford

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 26, 2022, to Order at 7:01pm, at 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 Association of Support Staff (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. Bhuju – yes	T. Cooper – yes	C. Miller – yes
K. Prentakis – yes	M. Ogden – yes	T. Currier - yes
W. Hodges – yes	C. Bolzan – yes	J. McLean – yes
D. Casamassima – yes		

Returned to Open Session at 7:17 pm.

C. **Remarks from the Chair** – None

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

E. **Welcome Christine Bolzan as a Boxford School Committee Representative** – T. Cooper welcomed new SC Member Christine Bolzan from Boxford. Her term expires May 2023. She was previously on the Boxford Elementary School Committee.

F. **Student Advisory Board Report –** Stella Nagle advised the SC that the first Student Council meeting was today. Preparations for Spirit Week are underway and a Pep Rally to help with the lack of student sprit. The Halloween dance is Thursday night, and the students are excited for school events to be returning.

G. **Approval of Co-Op Wrestling Program with Essex-North Shore Agricultural and Technical School** – J. Daileanes asked to continue the co-op wrestling program with Essex Tech. The program has been running for 2 years and needs to be renewed with MIAA. Essex Tech will remain the host school. The official approval from MIAA has been received. The number of students participating in the wrestling program are slightly down so combining with Essex Tech has worked great for both schools. A motion was made to approve the continuation of the co-op wrestling program with Essex Tech by K. Prentakis, seconded by J. McLean and unanimously approved.

MOTION: Approve Co-op Wrestling Program
VOTE: 10-0, Motion Carried

H. **Middle School Principal's Report** – P. McManus presented the Middle School Principal report to the SC. The overall climate is very positive, and students are excited that fall field trips are back. The Washington DC trip for the 8th grade is happening with 250 students participating. The students who are not attending that field trip will have a series of field trips to Boston and Salem, MA. Parent-Teacher conferences are tomorrow night. Gotcha tickets are still being handed out for students caught doing something good. A culture of kindness is a positive presence in the MS which is being a good friend or student. The Thanksgiving Food Drive kicks off soon and the canned goods collected will be delivered to a local food pantry by students. Project 351, for the 8th grade only, is a community outreach and volunteer program where one student from each town participates in this state level program. After-School Excels Program is back. Author Rajani LaRocca visited the 7th grade class. Activities are being planned for the day before Thanksgiving.
T. Currier asked how the new schedule was working. Both grades are adjusting well and like the schedule. Staff is adjusting and he is receiving positive responses regarding M Block.
C. Miller asked about participation in the Excels Program. All offered programs are filled for the fall.

I. **Superintendent's Report** – M. Harvey reviewed the strategic planning that is under way and ongoing. The Schedule Review Committee has finalized the surveys for faculty and students to obtain feedback regarding the schedule. Their next meeting to review the results is in November. M. Harvey has observed 90 classrooms to date as well as shared classroom visits with Department Heads and Principals. He has observed the teachers' strong connections with the students. Meetings with students is happening weekly. The students are reporting a normal, positive school experience and the teachers are engaging. M. Block is a success and the students like early release Wednesdays. The only drawbacks heard are food options in the cafeteria and learning the new schedule.
Stella Nagle added that second lunch does not have as many options as the earlier lunches and the chicken wings were a huge hit with the students. Discussion followed regarding the pilot program for the state funded lunch program and the significant increase in students having lunch.
The musical Chicago was a success this past weekend. Fall sports teams are getting ready for post season play. M. Harvey reviewed the standings for the fall sports teams.
Tri-Town Council is hosting "What Exactly is Play" and the screening of "Chasing Childhood" on November 3rd in person or on-line. Upcoming school events were reviewed.

J. **Vote on MASC Resolutions and appoint a delegate to the MASC Conference**
T. Cooper advised the SC that there are 6 resolutions to be voted on. She will read the heading of each resolution as the SC members have read the resolutions prior to the meeting.

1. Regarding Sanctuary Laws for Transgender Students. T. Currier believes we should not be highlighting political battles. J. McLean stated this is outside the SC purview. K. Prentakis added that MA law can protect citizens of another state. W. Hodges added that it is hard to gauge the practical effect of this, it is more symbolic support. Z. Bhuju stated that it is about standing in solidarity representing the SC as a whole, not personal beliefs.
A vote was taken and passed 6-3-1 with K. Prentakis abstaining and J. McLean, T. Currier and D. Casamassima voting against.

2. To Increase the Maximum Balance Allowed by the Special Education Reserve Fund. No discussion

A vote was taken and passed unanimously 10-0.

3. Membership of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education. This should be an independent agency without influence of teachers or students.
A vote was taken and passed 7-3 with T. Currier, J. McLean and D. Casamassima voting against.

4. Preserving Local Governance of Massachusetts Schools. Limiting future take overs of schools to no more than 3 years. J. McLean stated that there is not enough information to make a decision.
A vote was taken and passed 7-0-3 with Z. Bhuju, J. McLean and C. Miller abstaining.

5. Personal Financial Literacy Education. No discussion.
A vote was taken and passed unanimously 10-0.

6. Establishment of a Regional School Assessment Reserve Fund. No discussion.
A vote was taken and passed unanimously 10-0.

A vote was taken to nominate T. Cooper as the delegate and Z. Bhuju as the back-up and was approved unanimously 10-0.

K. Policy First Readings

a. Amendments
b. New Policies

M. Ogden reviewed the changes:

- JA rescinded and replaced with JBB
- JB presented as red lined
- JBA delete as it is covered in AC
- JBB is a new policy
- JBAR deleted
- JE rescinded as it is covered in JH
- JF revisions deleting charging tuition
- JFAA deleted
- JFABC no changes
- JFABD delete Masco version accepting MASC version
- JFABE new policy from MASC
- JFABF new policy from MASC
- JFBB delete policy and insert MASC version with stricken paragraphs and addition of paragraph 4. Adding old #5 back with the first sentence as new #1
- JG delete as it is covered in JB
- JH delete and insert MASC version
- JHB delete as it is covered in JH
- JHD delete paragraph 2

A motion was made to approve policies JA-JHD by Z. Bhuju, it was seconded by M. Ogden and passed 9-0-1 with J. McLean abstaining.

MOTION: Approve policies
VOTE: 9-0-1, Motion Carried

L. **Approve contract with Masconomet Association Support Staff** T. Cooper advised the SC that the agreement has been ratified by their union. It is a 3-year contract retroactive to July 1, 2022 and will expire June 30, 2025. M. Harvey reviewed the changes and terms of the agreement.

A motion was made to approve the contract with the Masconomet Association Support Staff by K. Prentakis, seconded by Z. Bhuju and unanimously approved.

MOTION: Approve contract
VOTE: 10-0, Motion Carried

M. Sub-Committee Reports

Community Relations- meeting 11/2 at 6:30pm
Budget – Nothing new.
Anti-Racism – meeting 11/7 at 6:30pm
Policy –12/2 is the next meeting
Negotiations – completed Masco Support Staff contract
Liaison – Z. Bhuju as discussed Select Boards having a monthly session on a Saturday with a SC member attending.
Turf Up –meeting with the Turf Up reps took place last week. The committee is doing research on schools like Masco with turf to update the spread sheet. Stantec will update the figures on the report regarding costs. The next meeting is 11/16.

N. **Consent Agenda**

a. Approval of October 12, 2022, Meeting Minutes
b. Warrants of $2,890,073.12 (9) signed since October 12, 2022.
c. Approve MEF Grant in the amount of $2000.
d. Approve High School Quebec Field Trip April 28-30, 2023, Field Trip Quotes

A Motion was made to approve the Consent Agenda by M. Ogden, seconded by Z. Bhuju and unanimously approved.

MOTION: Approve Warrant
VOTE: 10-0, Motion Carried

O. 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 #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 K. Prentakis.

Rollcall Vote:

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

Meeting was adjourned at 8:50pm by T. Cooper

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. Agenda Guide
3. Consent Agenda
4. Middle School Principal's Report
5. MASC Resolutions
6. Superintendent's Report
7. Policies JA-JHD
8. Quebec Field Trip