

MASCONOMET REGIONAL DISTRICT SCHOOL COMMITTEE

March 17, 2025

MEMBERS' PRESENT: J. McLean, Chair, Boxford
M. Ogden, Topsfield
A. Heaphy-Tenney, Topsfield
L. MacInnis, Middleton
J. Horrigan, Boxford (zoom)
W. Hodges, Topsfield
T. Currier, Vice Chair, Middleton(zoom)
M. Alexander, Middleton
K. Petrone, Middleton
C. Bolzan, Boxford (zoom)

MEMBERS ABSENT: E. Clements, Boxford

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

A. **Call to Order** – J. McLean, Chair, called the School Committee Meeting of March 17, 2025, to Order at 7:01pm, at the High School Library.

B. Remarks from the Chair

Chair McLean stated that during Public Comment the Committee would like to hear new information, please do not repeat statements made previously and comments will be limited to 3 minutes each.

C. Comments from the Audience

Megan Hildebrand, English Dept. Head and Eva Hughes, SS Dept. Head, spoke regarding the roles and impact of combining Dept. Heads, including not filling the World Language Dept. Head position.

Alexis Kostas, Adjustment Counselor, spoke against reducing Adjustment Counselors and how the work is more proactive than crisis management.

Gianna D'Amato, Senior, spoke regarding the impacts of combining Visual Arts and Fine Arts Departments.

Reilly Finnegan, HS English Teacher, spoke regarding combining Depart. Heads and the impacts on the students.

Heather Cote, HS English Teacher, spoke against cutting student-facing positions and in support of keeping the Dept. Heads. She asked the Committee to consider merging smaller departments.

Nicholas Ely, HS Guidance Counselor, spoke about the roles of the guidance counselors and adjustment counselors as first responders for the students, providing support to the parents and how essential they are to the college application process.

Shannon Murphy, English Teacher, spoke about cutting a teaching position and the impacts on learning, and the impacts on sections and courses offered. She also spoke supporting Administration cuts.

Nicko Tzortzis, MTA President and Teacher, spoke regarding the proposals of combining Dept. Heads and the impact on the observations of teachers. He spoke regarding the MS Librarian impact on curriculum and students. He also spoke against the cutting of an MPFT and Security Officer.

Zillie Bhujju, Topsfield, spoke about the past process of meeting with Dept. Heads and the cutting of student-facing positions.

Noah Bollinger, student, spoke against combining English and History Dept. Heads.

D. FY26 Budget Deliberation

M. Alexander informed the Committee that the Middleton representatives met and reviewed the line items for the budget, and then presented a scenario to the Committee. The scenario presented would save \$823,777. T. Currier suggested increasing the parking fees from \$100/year to \$150/year. Discussion followed regarding not filling the Asst. Principal position. Katie DiNardo stated that having 1 Asst. Principal is unattainable for 1000 students. Discussion regarding positions being cut having to be added back to the budget next year took place and how to handle that cost. J. McLean added that the Committee needs to be responsible and still run Masco to the benefit of the students.

Alternate Scenario 1 was presented to the Committee. C. Bolzan reminded the Committee that they have to focus on this years' budget based on the data provided and feedback received, and the Committee needs to come up with a budget the Towns will pass.

M. Ogden discussed the non-controllable costs and that is the story that needs to be told to the Towns. Discussion followed regarding the resources provided from the library, which are free for K-12 through the state, are accessible and cannot be taken away. K. Petrone, M. Ogden and W. Hodges spoke in favor of retaining the Director of Teaching and Learning to make curriculum improvements and assist teachers.

Alternate Scenario 3 was presented to the Committee. Revisions to the alternate scenario were discussed. Discussion regarding the impact of reducing MPFT on the availability of the campus took place. Discussions ensued regarding the hours and duties of the nurses and nursing assistants. There are currently 5 nurses combined in both schools. Eliminating a part-time position would result in savings of \$35,000. Different, revised alternate scenarios were provided by the Committee and discussed. Discussion regarding increasing athletic and co-curricular fees by 25% and the impact on the community took place. Further revisions to the Middleton scenario were discussed. The Committee asked M. Harvey to run the Middleton scenario with revisions and provide at the next meeting for discussion.

The Meeting was adjourned at 10:26pm on a Motion by C. Bolzan, seconded by M. Alexander and unanimously approved by rollcall vote:

W. Hodges – yes
C. Bolzan – yes
L. MacInnis – yes
J. McLean - yes

A. Heaphy-Tenney – yes
K. Petrone – yes
M. Ogden – yes

M. Alexander – yes
J. Horrigan – yes
T. Currier - yes

MOTION: Adjourn Meeting

VOTE: 10-0, Motion Carried.

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. FY26 Budget Deliberation Presentation