

MASCONOMET REGIONAL DISTRICT SCHOOL COMMITTEE

March 19, 2025

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

MEMBERS ABSENT:

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 19, 2025, to Order at 7:01pm, at the High School Library.

B. Remarks from the Chair

Chair McLean congratulated E. Clements on the birth of her son Monday. There have been a number of emails received regarding the Asst. Principal since Monday night, and they have all been read by the Committee. Public comment is limited to 15 minutes' total tonight.

C. Comments from the Audience

Gwen Lemire, MS Nurse, spoke regarding the current nursing staff and the difference between a certified school nurse and an assistant nurse and their daily responsibilities. Leah Freeman, a sophomore, spoke against reducing the security team. Nicko Tzortzis, MTA President and Teacher, spoke about the MA Library System requirements and the HS Library requirements and one Librarian cannot cover 2 libraries. Alyssa Schatzel, Asst. Principal HS 9th and 10th grade, read a letter sent to the Committee. Sean Kirkpatrick, Masco parent, spoke regarding the cutting of a security position and the impacts it could have on the safety of the students. Peter Algozzini, Masco parent, spoke regarding the cutting of a security position and the importance of the daily interaction with the students. Christopher Kobs, Asst. Principal HS 11th and 12th grade, spoke regarding the critical needs of the Asst. Principals and their daily activities and impact on the students. Rebecca Delmonico, HS English Teacher, Masco, spoke regarding cutting of teachers and the impact.

- D. **SAB Update** – Ava Wexler provided the update to the Committee. The varsity Boys Basketball team made it to the Final Four and had a great season. The Blood Drive is scheduled for March 12th; Women's Hygiene drive is currently happening; the St. Patrick's Dinner for the Senior Citizens is scheduled for next week and Senior Prom is next Friday at the Danversport Yacht Club. Elections for Student Council begin next week with the ballots opening Monday. Students are concerned with study halls being eliminated.

E. **FY26 Budget Deliberation**

M. Harvey informed the Committee that if the budget does not pass 2 of the 3 towns, it is a failed budget, and the Committee has 45 days to resubmit a budget for approval. J. Sands added that if the budget fails, the Committee does not have to reduce the budget, the same budget can be resubmitted.

K. Petrone stated that a lot of feedback has been received regarding the Asst. Principal elimination proposal.

A. Heaphy-Tenney spoke regarding her concern with the elimination of the MS Librarian and the resources available through the library and she does not want to eliminate a security position. She also stated that in her opinion, the Director of Teaching and Learning is an unproved position.

Discussion followed regarding the SRO, how it is staffed and the security staff on campus and their daily duties. Further discussion regarding the elimination of an Asst. Principal position and the impacts on the students.

A motion was made by T. Currier to move the Masconomet Regional School Committee to approve an FY26 General Fund Expenditures Budget of \$44,524,484. This amount includes General Fund Operating Expenses in the amount of \$43,824,484 and General Fund Capital Costs include Debt Service Expense in the amount of \$690,000. The motion was seconded by J. Horrigan.

L. MacInnis expressed her concern with eliminating librarian and nurse positions.

Rollcall vote:

T. Currier – yes	E. Clements – yes	M. Alexander – yes	C. Bolzan – yes
J. Horrigan – yes	A. Heaphy-Tenney – abstain		L. MacInnis – yes
J. McLean – yes	W. Hodges – yes	K. Petrone – yes	M. Ogden – no

MOTION: Approve FY26 Operating Expense Budget

VOTE: 9-1-1, Motion Carried.

A motion was made by M. Alexander to move the Masconomet Regional School Committee to vote to assess the Towns of Boxford, Middleton and Topsfield a combined total of \$36,397,074 as the amount necessary to operate and maintain the District, inclusive of Capital Costs and Debt Service Expense, for FY26. The District's Assistant Superintendent has determined the amounts apportioned to each Member Town, and presented them herein on the slide entitled, "Assessments by Town". The District's Treasurer shall certify and transmit the budget and assessments to each Member Town within 30 days of School Committee approval. The motion was seconded by M. Ogden and approved by Rollcall vote:

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

MOTION: Approve FY26 Budget Assessment

VOTE: 10-0-1, Motion Carried.

F. **Subcommittee Reports**

- a. Community Relations – a working meeting is scheduled for March 27th and the next community dialogue is scheduled for April 30th at 6:00pm.
- b. DCI/Budget – will work with Community Relations on communication plan for the Towns and will invite the SC to the working group scheduled for Friday.
- c. VOCAL – will be meeting soon.
- d. Policy – the policy manual review is complete. Title IX will be revised again.
- e. Liaison – working with the Towns on the budget. Discussion regarding getting more information earlier and a long-range financial plan. M. Ogden recommended meeting with Dept. Heads.
- f. Negotiations – meeting with Administrators Union Monday.

G. **Consent Agenda** –

- a. **Approval of March 5, 2025, Meeting Minutes.**
- b. **Warrants in the amount of \$1,563,393.19.**
- c. **Acceptance of MEF Grants of \$8,008.50 and EBSCO funding of \$1675.**
- d. **Approval of MS Fall 2025 Washington DC Field Trip.**

A motion was made by M. Ogden to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by A. Heaphy-Tenney and unanimously approved by Rollcall vote:

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

MOTION: Approve Consent Agenda
VOTE: 11-0, Motion Carried.

The Meeting was adjourned at 8:15pm on a motion by C. Bolzan, seconded by M. Ogden and unanimously approved by rollcall vote:

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

MOTION: Adjourn Meeting
VOTE: 11-0, 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
3. Consent Agenda