MASCONOMET REGIONAL DISTRICT SCHOOL COMMITTEE

January 4, 2023

MEMBERS PRESENT:	T. Cooper, Chair, Middleton	M. Ogden, Vice Chair, Topsfield
	J. McLean, Boxford	K. Prentakis, Middleton
	W. Hodges, Topsfield	Z. Bhuju, Topsfield
	C. Bolzan, Boxford	D. Casamassima, Middleton
	C. Miller, Boxford	T. Currier, Middleton
MEMBERS ABSENT	P. Bernheart, Boxford	
OTHERS PRESENT:	M. Harvey, Superintendent, L. Bennett, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services	

A. **Call to Order** – T. Cooper, Chair, called the Regular Meeting of the School Committee of January 4, 2023, to order at 7:00pm, in the High School Library.

B. **Remarks from the Chair** – None

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

D. **SAB Report** – Genevieve Clapp provided an update. Movie night and can drive are being planned. Students are saying the long block is either too hard or working great, depending on their class.

E. **Tri Town YAAB Community Conversation** – Dawn Seymour, Youth Services Coordinator informed the SC that their goal is to elevate the youth voice in the discussion of the 2021 data collected. High school students were introduced who are working and reviewing the survey results. January 26th at 7:00pm a community conversation will be held to share findings with the community. They shared some areas that will be covered at on the 26th.

F. **Superintendent's Report** – M. Harvey informed the SC that the English and Social Studies Departments received a $20,000 grant from Commonwealth of MA for genocide education. It is now a requirement that schools teach the history of genocide to middle school and high school students. M. Harvey reviewed the guidelines under the bill signed by the Governor into law. In partnership with Salem State University curriculum will be developed and professional development offered to provide enrichment on genocide education. Another grant was received for Proficiency Based on Outcomes in languages other than English. DESE awarded $8,473 to fund the purchase of proficiency testing for all 8th-12th grade world language students, including French, Spanish and Chinese, as well as students who are proficient in another home language. M. Harvey reviewed the parameters of the testing. The Middle School Student Council collected more than $2,000 worth of toys and books which have been donated. The 5 Days of Giving at the High School included over 170 gifts and gift cards donated which were delivered to various organizations in the Tri-Town. The High School Open House for 8th grade parents is scheduled for January 12th at 6:30pm to present academics, student activities and clubs as

well as offer tours. M. Harvey reviewed the event calendar for January. T. Cooper added that the Senior Holiday Concert was a huge success. K. Prentakis added that the Salem News ran an article that Danvers is losing students between 8th and 9th grades. As a result, a questionnaire was sent out to the find out the reasons. Should Masco do the same? M. Harvey informed the SC that paraprofessional hiring is still an issue and there are 14 open positions. L. Bennett added that almost half of the positions are empty and the recent bump in the salary has not made a difference in the number of applications. The administration is now starting to consider part-time paraprofessionals.

G. **FY23 Financial Forecast** – M. Harvey presented the FY23 Financial Report to date. We are halfway through the fiscal year and 45% through the school year. The budget is projected to be $110,000 favorable at the end of FY23. M. Harvey reviewed the changes to the budget causing the favorable budget variance. FY23 expense drivers were reviewed, including savings and costs. The increase in the out of district costs and placements were discussed.

H. **2022-2023 NESDEC Enrollment Projections** – M. Harvey reviewed the 2022-2023 enrollment project report. Historical enrollment by grade was reviewed. This showed a downward trend from 2012-2023 of 25% over `10 years. K-12 is down 14% in the same time period. Only residents are covered in this report. Historic enrollment by town was reviewed. The lowest projected enrollment is within the next few years, then it will steadily increase. Enrollment projection by grade is based on live birth numbers to estimate how many people will enroll in our schools. The aging demographic of MA and New England was discussed including the enrollment in private schools or technical schools after 8th grade. With the growth coming, we do not want to strategically cut programs or teachers.

I. **Policy Second Readings** Policy JHDA – Policies JIH through JRD excluding JJ, JJE, JJF, JLCA, JLCB and JLCD

A Motion was made to approve the Policy Second Readings as presented, Policy JHDA, Policies JIH through JIRD, excluding JJ, JJE, JJF, JLCA, JLCB, JLCD by Z. Bhuju, seconded by C. Miller and unanimously approved.

MOTION: Approve Policies as Presented
VOTE: 10-0, Motion Carried

J. Policy First Reading

a. Policy JJ

The language added after Section B was reviewed including not needing SC approvals but to be a part of the budget process. Adding a third team would become part of the budget process. Only 2 sports, golf and volleyball have enough interest for 3 teams, but do not have that option. The number of teams needs to be set before try-outs to accommodate coaches and schedules, etc. W. Hodges asked if the teams could be included in the budget and not used if there is not enough interest. M. Ogden added that clarifying through the budget process that more teams can be funded if enough students want to participate and not need SC approval. C. Bolzan added that JV2 teams may not have other schools to complete with and have games cancelled making them feel lesser. Would a club team or another alternative work better. T. Cooper stated that if the team approval is done in

advance there is time to schedule games outside the NEC conference. W. Hodges agreed and added that having the opportunity for JV2 is better than not having it available. C. Miller asked if paragraph B could be stricken and covered in the budget. M. Ogden added that some activities require stipends which becomes part of the contract. M. Harvey stated that the CBA spells out that the stipend is part of the budget. Discussion followed regarding new clubs and if SC approval is necessary. M. Harvey reviewed the steps required for forming new clubs and stipends. C. Miller stated that the Administration should have autonomy to approve clubs then the SC hears about it in the budget process. D. Casamassima added that this may encourage more clubs without having to come before the SC. The sub-committee will remove paragraph B and fix the lettering.

K. Sub-Committee Reports

Community Relations – next meeting is January 11th at 6:30pm. Community as a partner will be discussed.
Policy –next meeting is Friday at 11:30am via zoom.
Budget – Budget will be presented January 18th and January 25th is the Dept. Head meeting.
Anti-Racism – next meeting is January 9th at 6:30pm and the agenda will be posted tomorrow.
Turf Up – nothing new.
Liaison – C. Miller informed the SC that the Boxford SC round table meeting with the chairs of the Boards and the warrants from each department are being considered. C. Miller will attend. The design study for the turf field will be a warrant article and the cost will be in this week. T. Cooper informed the SC that the Middleton Fin Comm. was meeting January 23rd.

L. **Consent Agenda**

a. Approval of December 14, 2022, Meeting Minutes
b. Warrants of $2,212,400.18 (12) signed since December 14, 2022.
c. Accept $600 gift from North Shore Medical Supply

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

MOTION: Approve Consent Agenda
VOTE: 10-0, Motion Carried

M. 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 Z. Bhuju.

Rollcall Vote:

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

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm 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. Superintendent Report
3. Consent Agenda
4. FY23 Financial Forecast
5. 2022-2023 NESDEC Enrollment Projections
6. Policies JJ
7. Policy JHDA, Policies JIH-JRD excluding JJ, JJE, JJF, JLCA, JLCB, JLCD