

MASCONOMET REGIONAL DISTRICT SCHOOL COMMITTEE

June 7, 2023

MEMBERS PRESENT: M. Ogden, Chair, Topsfield
T. Currier, Middleton
W. Hodges, Topsfield
M. Alexander, Middleton
J. Horrigan, Boxford
J. McLean, Vice Chair, Boxford
K. Petrone, Middleton
Z. Bhuju, Topsfield
C. Bolzan, Boxford
P. Bernheart, Boxford

MEMBERS ABSENT: D. Casamassima, Middleton

OTHERS PRESENT: M. Harvey, Superintendent

J. Sands, Asst. Superintendent & Chief Procurement Officer
L. Bennett, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services

- A. **Call to Order** – M. Ogden, Chair, called the regular meeting of the School Committee of June 7, 2023, to order at 7:00pm, in the High School Library.
- B. **Executive Session** – Enter into Executive Session to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining with the Masconomet Teachers Association. (Executive Session Purpose #3) The Chair has determined an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body. The School Committee will return to Open Session at the conclusion of the Executive Session on a Motion by M. Ogden, seconded by Z. Bhuju and approved by Rollcall Vote:

M. Ogden – yes
W. Hodges – yes
C. Bolzan – yes
P. Bernheart – yes

K. Petrone – yes
Z. Bhuju – yes
J. Horrigan – yes

T. Currier – yes
M. Alexander – yes
J. McLean – yes

Return to Open Session 7:09pm

- C. **Spring Athletic Presentation** John Daileanes, Athletic Director, thanked the School Committee and parents for the support this season. All of the spring teams qualified for the state tournament. Girls Lacrosse were the NEC Champions, and the Player of the Year, All-Stars and All-Conference players were recognized. Boys Lacrosse All-Star players were recognized. Baseball Team All-Conference players were recognized. Softball Team All-Conference and All-Star players were recognized. Track and Field 4x100 girls qualified for All-States. The Girls team individual accomplishments were recognized and qualifiers for Nationals in Oregon were recognized. Boys 4x100 relay team was recognized for breaking the school record. Individual accomplishments were recognized. Boys Tennis All-Star players were recognized. Girls Tennis have not lost a match in 2 years and are currently undefeated. NEC Player of the Year was recognized, and All-Conference players were recognized.
- D. **Remarks from the Chair** – M. Ogden congratulated the Class of 2023 who graduated last Friday. She thanked the staff and administration for their work putting on graduation. The school year ends in a few weeks, and she reviewed events happening leading up to the end of the school year, including Memorial Day assemblies, luncheons, music concerts, sporting events and more. Masconomet band members marched in Topsfield’s Memorial Day parade. Topsfield held a Pride Parade and Masconomet student representatives were in attendance. June 12th Student Council and Community Relations will present Small Town Heroes Awards.

E. **Comments from the Audience** – Kosta Prentakis, Middleton reminded the Committee to review the District Agreement, reduction in the number of School Committee members and recall. The Capital Plan needs more voices in the development. He supported Roselli, Clark & Associates for the new auditing firm for Masco.

F. **Student Advisory Board Update** – Olivia Richards informed the School Committee that students are preparing for finals. The Freshman class is hosting the Relay for Life at Masco. Small Town Heroes awards are happening this week.

G. **Approve MOU with MTA Re: DECA Stipends** – M. Harvey received a request from the Teachers Association to reopen the stipend for the DECA advisors. Proposed 2022-2023 increase to \$4,490 with an assistant at \$3,266, 2023-2024 increase to \$4,579 with an assistant at \$3,331.00. A motion was made to approve the MOU with the MTA with regard to the DECA stipend by Z. Bhuju, it was seconded by C. Bolzan and unanimously approved.

MOTION: Approve DECA Stipend MOU

VOTE: 10-0, Motion Carried

H. **Master Teacher Recommendations** – M. Harvey recommended the following for Master Teacher Status: Margaret Bridgeo, Patrick Hogan, Nicko Tzortzis, and Richard Schonewald. A Motion was made to approve the Master Teacher Status recommendations as presented by T. Currier, it was seconded by M. Alexander and unanimously approved.

MOTION: Approve Master Teacher Recommendations

VOTE: 10-0, Motion Carried

I. **High School Principal Report and 22-23 School Improvement Plan** – Mary Jo Carabatsos presented the report to the School Committee. She reviewed recent activities happening at Masco: The Freshman walk raised \$16,284, sports teams were recognized, drama club was recognized, proms were held, National Letter of Intent day, Student Council elections, MCAS, Senior internships, and senior events. She thanked the students, parents and faculty who helped with all these events.

Ms. Carabatsos recognized the students, parents and faculty who worked on the School Improvement Plan.

School Climate and Culture – ensure Masconomet is a welcoming, safe, supportive and inclusive school environment for all school community members. YRBS will be held again in the fall to get the data to the students, departments and staff to identify areas of improvement as it relates to belonging and inclusion. All teachers completed IDEAS training this school year.

Social-Emotional Literacy – create a comprehensive mental health program to support the social emotional needs of all students. All faculty completed an SEL workshop directed by school-based adjustment counselors. The SELT met monthly and created a suicide assessment workflow for adults supporting this work; reported the Grade 7 data/screen to SELT and made improvements for the HS administration and created a mental health screen which was piloted in grade 10 health class.

Student-Specific Supports and Instruction to All Students – ensure strategies and structures that allow students to meet their personal success goals. Two ASC teachers completed EF training. EF curriculum was created and implemented through the ASC. A total of 62 students benefited directly from the training. The peer tutoring program did not take off as predicted. The student leaders were identified, and the program was marketed, however no one signed up for training. Incremental changes are being made in Grade 11 to address our co-teaching model. Support for the

growth of our teachers to ensure the roll-out of more inclusive learning environments to meet the needs of our students. Enrichment activities to capture students who are struggling. The department chairs are thinking about how to address these needs within the regular school day, not after school.

Curriculum, Instruction and Educator Growth – provide ongoing and intentional professional development to meet the needs of all learners. Newsela is being used in a limited capacity to assist students based on their reading level. The plan is to implement it more fully during the 23-24 school year professional development. Ensuring the school curriculum is relevant and provides opportunities for authentic learning. All departments have completed documents using a school-wide template.

Z. Bhuju asked if there is an annual mental health screening. Screening is done twice a year to catch students before it is too serious. Grades 7 and 10 were tested during the pilot program.

J. **Set FY24 School Committee Meeting Calendar** – M. Harvey reviewed the proposed meeting calendar. The August 2nd meeting was changed to August 9th due to scheduling conflicts. A Motion was made to approve the FY24 School Committee Meeting calendar as amended by C. Bolzan, it was seconded by M. Alexander and unanimously approved.

MOTION: Approve FY24 School Committee Meeting Calendar
VOTE: 10-0, Motion Carried

K. **Auditor Recommendation** – J. Sands informed the School Committee that the current Auditor will be retiring after finishing the 2023 audit. J. Sands contacted three major municipal auditors to request proposals. Two proposals were received, one from Powers and Sullivan and one from Roselli, Clark and Associates. The quote received from both was the same, \$32,000 per year for a 3-year term. J. Sands recommended Powers and Sullivan based on his previous experience working with them and was impressed with their professionalism, subject matter expertise and responsiveness.

A Motion was made to authorize Assistant Superintendent Jeff Sands to execute a contract with Powers and Sullivan on its behalf reflecting price, terms and scope of services as outlined in their proposal dated April 28, 2023, by W. Hodges, it was seconded by P. Bernheart and approved with Z. Bhuju, T. Currier and K. Petrone opposed and J. McLean abstaining.

MOTION: To Authorize J. Sands to Execute a Contract with Powers and Sullivan on behalf of the School Committee
VOTE: 6-3-1, Motion Carried

L. **Subcommittee Composition, including Warrants and Subcommittee Guidelines** – M. Ogden stated that she combined the Budget and Capital Improvements sub-committees. T. Currier believed Budget should be kept separate. Discussion followed regarding separating the Budget and Capital Plan sub-committees. C. Bolzan stated that there are issues with the Capital Plan that need immediate attention and need to be addressed. J. Sands agreed that the critical priorities are a good start. M. Ogden stated that the two sub-committees need to be combined because we may not need a Budget sub-committee moving forward. J. McLean added that there are Boxford residents who would like to be part of the Turf Up task force. T. Currier reminded the School Committee that the Turf Up is charged with fundraising only for the turf fields. J. Sands stated that Stantec will develop a timeline and program. The project team will be assembled for the administration of the project. M. Ogden stated that the chairs of the sub-committees will draft the suggested committee goals in writing. The meetings can be held virtually and must notify Jackie of the meeting dates so the agenda can be posted. She suggested the sub-committees meet before the scheduled retreat and bring the goals to the retreat, to be approved by full committee. Z. Bhuju reminded members that subcommittee actions must be at the direction of the full committee (majority approval).

A Motion was made to approve the sub-committee composition as presented by Z. Bhuju, it was seconded by C. Bolzan and unanimously approved.

MOTION: Approve Subcommittee Composition
VOTE: 10-0, Motion Carried

M. **Transportation of Students in Private Vehicles Policy** – M. Harvey stated that students are having issues getting to extracurricular events due to bussing issues. Parents are asking to drive students, other than their own, to events. There is no policy in place for this activity. MASC has a policy we can review. A CORI will be needed if someone is driving someone other than their own child. A Motion was made to authorize the Policy the sub-committee to create a policy and present to the School Committee by W. Hodges, it was seconded by C. Bolzan and unanimously approved.

MOTION: Authorize Policy Subcommittee to Create Transportation Policy
VOTE: 10-0, Motion Carried

N. **Consent Agenda**

1. Approval of Minutes of May 24, 2023, Meeting Minutes.
2. Warrants \$1,312,944.76 (11) Warrants signed since May 24, 2023.

A Motion was made by Z. Bhuju to approve the Consent Agenda as presented, it was seconded by C. Bolzan and unanimously approved.

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

The Meeting was adjourned by M. Ogden at 9:05pm.

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. MOU with MTA re: DECA Stipends
3. Master Teacher Recommendations
4. HS Principal School and Improvement Plan Report
5. FY24 SC Meeting Calendar
6. Auditor Recommendation and Proposals
7. Subcommittee Composition and Guidelines
8. Consent Agenda