MASCONOMET REGIONAL DISTRICT SCHOOL COMMITTEE

**May 29, 2024**

MEMBERS PRESENT: M. Ogden, Chair, Topsfield
T. Currier, Middleton
M. Alexander, Middleton
W. Hodges, Topsfield
L. MacInnis, Middleton
C. Bolzan, Boxford
J. McLean, Vice Chair, Boxford
J. Horrigan, Boxford
A. Heaphy-Tenney, Topsfield
E. Clements - Boxford
K. Petrone, Middleton

MEMBERS ABSENT:

OTHERS PRESENT: M. Harvey, Superintendent
J. Sands, Assistant Supt. & Chief Procurement Officer

A. **Call to Order** – M. Ogden, Chair, called the Regular Meeting of the School Committee of May 29, 2024, to Order at 7:00pm, in the High School Library.

B. **School Reorganization Meeting** – M. Ogden reviewed SC Policy BDA regarding the SC Reorganization Meeting and election of the Chair and Vice Chair.
A motion to nominate J. McLean as Chair of the School Committee was made by C. Bolzan.

**Roll call vote:**

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

**MOTION: Nominate J. McLean as Chair**
**VOTE: 11-0, Motion Passed**

Election of a Vice Chair of the SC – all nominations will be accepted then majority of votes wins. J. McLean opened all nominations.
A Motion was made to nominate T. Currier as Vice Chair by K. Petrone.
A Motion was made to nominate M. Alexander as Vice Chair by C. Bolzan. M. Alexander did not accept the nomination.
A Motion was made to nominate W. Hodges as Vice Chair by J. Horrigan.
Discussion ensued. K. Petrone stated that T. Currier shows up to every committee meeting in Middleton and is ready to speak on any subject matter. He is available, helpful, reliable and knowledgeable about policy and procedure. M. Ogden added that she watched the Town Meetings and has spoken with the Middleton reps and Sally Kerans, who complimented T. Currier on his work prior to Town Meeting and during Town Meeting. M. Odgen supports T. Currier for Vice Chair. J. Horrigan stated that he cannot support T. Currier because he did not vote to approve the Director of Teaching and Learning during the budget discussions. T. Currier responded that the no vote was his personal vote, however that did not undermine the vote of the SC and he promoted that approval vote at Town Meeting.

W. Hodges spoke about his experience as an MBA and the next few years the SC will need to move forward with the Capital Project Plan. Discussion followed regarding the role of Vice Chair including being Chair of DCI/Building Committee. T. Currier stated he is capable of being the Vice Chair with his skill set in policy and added that he would relinquish the position to M. Alexander because of his skill set. J. McLean stated that each nominee brings a different skill set. He expressed a concern that T. Currier's term is up at the end of the year with no guarantee of reelection. T. Currier responded that he intends to run again, and he intends to remain in Middleton. Discussion followed between W. Hodges and T. Currier regarding upcoming roles of the SC and Vice Chair and how to best move the Capital Plan forward and collaborate with Middleton reps.

**Roll call vote for Vice Chair:**

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

**MOTION: Nominate T. Currier as Vice Chair**
**VOTE: 8-3, Motion Passed**

**C. <u>School Committee Public Hearing on School Choice Participation for 2024-2025 School Year and Vote on School Choice Participation</u>**

M. Harvey reviewed MGL c.76, sec. 12B regarding school choice. Districts can withdraw from school choice by vote of the SC. He reviewed 2023-2024 school choice enrollment by grade with 31 total school choice students.

He reviewed the enrollment projections for Grade 7. On October 1, 2023, the projected enrollment was 280 students. As of mid-May 2024, enrollment was 256 students with 15 anticipated students attending for a total projected enrollment of 271 students.

He reviewed the enrollment projections for 9th grade. On October 1, 2023, the projected enrollment was 236 students. As of mid-May 2024, 65 students will not be attending Masco for 9th grade. The projected enrollment is now 217 students.

C. Bolzan asked if exit interviews could be conducted as to why they are leaving Masco. A survey is sent as to where they will be attending 9th grade.

W. Hodges agreed that the reason for leaving should be included in the survey.

Discussion followed as to why students are leaving Masco for Essex Tech or other schools.

J. Sands reviewed the financial aspect of school choice.

A motion was made by M. Alexander for the Masconomet Regional School District to withdraw from participation in the School Choice Program for the 2024-2025 school year in grades 8, 10, 11 and 12 due to enrollment and furthermore move that the Masconomet Regional School District limit School Choice participation to Grades 7 and 9 to ten students for each grade for the 2024-2025 school year. The motion was seconded by C. Bolzan and unanimously approved by an 11-0 vote.

**MOTION: Withdraw from School Choice for grades 8, 10, 11 and 12 and Participate in school choice program for grades 7 and 9**
**VOTE: 11-0, Motion Passed.**

**D. <u>Comments from the Audience</u>**

Edwina Goodhue, Boxford, spoke regarding organic grass information and asked who the point of contact on the SC is to forward information.

Michele Voner, Topsfield, President Music Parents Association, spoke regarding the hiring of the new Department Head for Performing Arts and the scheduling changes for the music department.

Jill Thorpe, President of Masco Parents Activity Association, thanked everyone for their donations which allowed the association to donate $1,000 to each class.

**E. <u>Student Advisory Board Report</u>** – Jack Savitsky informed the SC that the homecoming dance for next year has been approved and the Relay for Life has also been approved for next year. Spirit week is underway, and Seniors are prepping for graduation and the internship fair. Memorial day assemblies and luncheons were held.

F. **<u>Review School Committee Protocols</u>** The SC read the SC protocols aloud with no changes. This will be added to the next Agenda for approval.

J. McLean reviewed the roles graphic Venn diagram showing the roles of the School Committee, which is Governance and Results. The SC acts as a bridge between the community and the Superintendent. The Superintendent role is management of the day-to-day operations, methods, implementation and is the bridge between staff and the SC.

Both the SC and Superintendent foster trust, respect and community trust.

M. Alexander asked if language could be added regarding being the bridge between the SC and Superintendent. The document provided is a MASC document, Masco did not create it, so we cannot make changes to the document. Discussion followed regarding the misunderstanding of the role of the SC in the community.

G. **<u>Solicit Sub-Committee Preferences</u>** – J. McLean asked the SC members to provide their preferences for sub-committees. He reviewed the selection process for the sub-committees and the Chairs of the sub-committees. He also reviewed the responsibilities of the Building Sub-Committee in selecting the members of the Building Committee and the voting process. J. Sands added that a SC member is needed to sign warrants with a back-up member**.** He recommended W. Hodges to sign the warrants and M. Ogden be the back-up member.

A motion was made to appoint W. Hodges to sign Warrants and M. Ogden as the back-up member by T. Currier. The motion was seconded by M. Alexander and unanimously approved by an 11-0 vote.

**MOTION: Appoint W. Hodges and M. Ogden to sign Warrants**
**VOTE: 11-0, Motion Passed.**

H. **<u>Turf Field Project Peer Review</u>** – The Turf Field Project Peer Review Proposal was read by J. Sands. The peer review is being directed by the Boxford Conservation Commission regarding the turf field project. The scope of work includes the review of the Riverbank location, review of high-water mark, Riverfront Area and wetlands delineation. The

Conservation Commission determines the need for the peer review, puts out the bids for the peer review and selects the peer reviewer. As the applicant, Masco has no say in who is chosen to conduct the peer review. If payment is not made, the Conservation Commission can deny the project and dismiss it with prejudice which would not allow a reapplication for the project. It is recommended the payment in the amount of $15,900 be made to the Boxford Conservation Commission by June 4, 2024. The next Conservation Commission meeting is scheduled for June 6, 2024.
A motion was made to authorize payment in the amount of $15,900 for the peer review to the Boxford Conservation Commission by M. Odgen. The motion was seconded by M. Alexander and unanimously approved by an 11-0 vote.

**MOTION: Authorize payment of $15,900 for peer review**
**VOTE: 11-0, Motion Passed**

I. **5 Year Food Service Company Procurement Term** - J. Sands read the memo regarding the food service contract which expires June 30, 2024. It is recommended that a 5-year RFP be obtained for better pricing. He reviewed the award criteria with the SC.
A motion pursuant to MGL c.30B, sec. 12(b), the School Committee authorizes the Assistant Superintendent & Chief Procurement Officer to procure and enter into a new contract for Food Service Program Services for a term not to exceed five (5) years was made by M. Ogden. The motion was seconded by C. Bolzan and unanimously approved by an 11-0 vote.

**MOTION: Appoint Asst. Supt. & Chief Procurement Officer to procure the Food Service Program Services**
**VOTE: 11-0, Motion Passed**

**J. Superintendent's Report** – M. Harvey presented his Superintendent's Report to the SC.

- Jarrod Cassidy has been hired as the Performing Arts Department Head. His qualifications were reviewed. A meet and greet is scheduled for 6/17 in the cafeteria.
- 2 Finalists for the Director of Teaching and Learning will each spend the day at Masco and meet with faculty. He reviewed the hiring process to arrive at the 2 finalists.
- On May 23rd 100 Juniors attended the Credit For Life Fair at Salem State.
- Memorial Day assemblies were held in both the MS and HS.
- Senior week is this week with many activities taking place.
- Wished the seniors all the best moving forward.

**K. Sub-Committee Reports**

Anti-Racism – Meeting Minutes were approved by motion of J. Horrigan, seconded by M. Alexander and unanimously approved.
DCI/Budget – there has been interest in the Building Committee spots for community members. The applications will be reviewed by the new DCI sub-committee and the deadline is extended for a week for applications.
Policy – there are outstanding Minutes to be approved by the new Chair.

Liaison – T. Currier stated Middleton reps met with the Select Board. He will watch the meeting and send the SC a memo with recommendations. Discussion followed regarding the feasibility report provided. M. Ogden advised the SC that Topsfield will hold a listening session on 6/15 at 10:00am at the library.
Turf Up – Turf Up is not a sub-committee, T. Currier is a liaison only and had nothing new to report.
Negotiations – met with the Union May 16th and the next meeting is June 6th.

L. **Consent Agenda**

1. Approval of 5/1/2024 Minutes
2. 11 Warrants in the amount of $2,192,193.40 signed since 5/1/24
3. Approve MEF Grants for World Languages and Masco Wood Shop

M. Ogden requested the Minutes be pulled from the Consent Agenda for a correction. During Section G read, policy GCBC was pulled out.
A motion was made to approve the Warrants and Grants in the Consent Agenda by T. Currier. The motion was seconded by M. Ogden and unanimously approved by 11-0 vote.

**MOTION: Approve the Consent Agenda, as presented**
**VOTE: 11-0, Motion passed**

A motion was made to approve the Minutes as revised by M. Ogden. The motion was seconded by T. Currier and approved by a 10-0-1 vote with C. Bolzan abstaining.

**MOTION: Approve Minutes as revised**
**VOTE: 10-0-1, Motion passed**

The next meeting will be held June 6, at 7:00pm. The meeting was adjourned J. McLean at 8:55pm.

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. School Committee Policy BDA
3. School Choice
4. School Committee Protocols
5. School Committee and Superintendent Roles
6. SC Subcommittees Preferences
7. Turf Field Project Peer Review
8. 5 Year Food Service Company Procurement
9. Consent Agenda