

MASCONOMET REGIONAL DISTRICT SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Community Relations Subcommittee Meeting
Wednesday, January 12, 2022 – 6:30 PM via Zoom

Minutes

Present: Patti Bernheart (Subcommittee Member, Meeting Chair), Joe Ciampa (Subcommittee Member), Bill Hodges (Subcommittee Member), Zillie Bhujju (School Committee Chair, *ex officio* Subcommittee Member), Kathleen Barbarisi (Topsfield Council on Aging), Matthew Coogan (Boxford Town Administrator)

A. **Community Forum.** As has been our practice since September, the Community Relations Subcommittee invited all members of the Tri-Town community to join us at our meeting for an open discussion. No community members attended the meeting.

B. **Community Engagement.** We invited Kathleen Barbarisi, Director of the Topsfield Council on Aging, and Matt Coogan, Boxford Town Administrator, to join us for a focused discussion about their roles and responsibilities, and ways that we might work together.

Kathleen discussed the Topsfield Council on Aging's priorities and recent activities, including their COVID vaccination clinics. She confirmed that the COA is always looking for volunteers for activities, and that they have posted some opportunities on the Masconomet community service board. Matt stated that as the new Boxford Town Administrator, he is looking for ways to get young people involved. He also mentioned the community center being built for the Boxford Council on Aging, the Center at 10 Elm. The site will have a 2,000 square foot commercial kitchen and will be available for use by community groups. Matt is publishing a bimonthly newsletter and is holding regular office hours. As liaison to the Student Advisory Board, Patti will alert the SAB to these community service opportunities.

The committee also highlighted the following sources of information about Masconomet:

- Dr. Michael Harvey posts *Superintendent's News & Announcements* on the front page of the Masconomet website. This page also includes links to Dr. Harvey's blog and his reports to the Masconomet School Committee: <https://www.masconomet.org/>
- High School Principal Dr. Mary Jo Carabatsos publishes a Weekly Memo, available under "Announcements" here: <https://www.masconomet.org/Domain/8>
- Middle School Principal Dr. Philip McManus posts Weekly Updates here: <https://www.masconomet.org/Domain/9>
- The Masconomet School Committee publishes a blog post following each regular School Committee meeting. You can find and follow the blog here: <https://www.masconomet.org/domain/207>

C. **Concert for Seniors.** Bill continues to discuss this with Randy O'Keefe. St. Patrick's Day is the most likely time frame for the concert.

A. **Updates from Community Organizations.** Patti reported that the Small Town Hero Awards process will begin in March.

E. Approved [Minutes from December 08, 2021.](#)

Upcoming Meetings:

The Community Relations Subcommittee meetings on the second Wednesday of the month at 6:30PM unless otherwise noted. Please refer to the [Public Meetings](#) page on the Masconomet Website for upcoming meetings and agendas.

- February 9, 2022 (NOTE time change 5:30 PM)
- March 9, 2022 (NOTE time change 5:30 PM)
- April 13, 2022
- May 11, 2022
- June 8, 2022 (NOTE time change 5:30 PM)

NB: School Committee meeting minutes are not intended to be a transcription of the meeting. All meeting agendas, minutes and materials are posted on-line at:

<https://www.masconomet.org/domain/53>