

MASCONOMET REGIONAL DISTRICT SCHOOL COMMITTEE

May 28, 2025

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

MEMBERS ABSENT:

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

- A. **Call to Order** – J. McLean, Chair, called the School Committee Meeting of May 28, 2025, to Order at 7:01pm, in the High School Library.

B. School Committee Reorganization

J. McLean informed the School Committee that Policy BDA dictates that nominations for the office of the Chair will be made from the floor. J. McLean called for nominations for the office of the Chair. J. Horrigan nominated T. Currier as Chair. T. Currier declined the nomination due to upcoming work obligations.

T. Currier nominated M. Alexander as Chair. M. Alexander accepted the nomination.

Roll call vote:

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

M. Alexander took over as Chair and asked for nominations for Vice Chair.

M. Ogden nominated A. Heaphy-Tenney as Vice Chair. A. Heaphy-Tenney accepted the nomination.

Roll call vote:

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

C. Public Comment –

Stacy Smith, Middleton, thanked the School Committee for helping to pass the overrides.

D. Remarks from the Chair

M. Alexander thanked J. McLean and T. Currier for their work as Chair and Vice Chair during a very difficult budget season and passing the budget in all 3 Towns. He also added that Masco has a legal obligation to fund OOD tuition and to provide students who require OOD schooling an education.

- E. **SAB Update** – Genevieve Poth provided the update to the Committee. The Cultural Fair was held last week and the students enjoyed learning about other cultures. The Memorial Day assembly and luncheon with Veterans was held. Junior Prom was held at Sea Glass last week. Seniors returned to school this week and graduation is Friday. The Freshman walk is this Friday and so far over \$6,000 has been raised for The Home for Little Wanderers.
- F. **Turf Field Update with Stantec** – **Mike Stoltzus, Ananda Bergeron and Tony Moura**
Mike provided the timeline regarding the timeline with the Boxford Conservation Commission. The NOI application was filed January 22, 2025; Conservation Commission comments were received January 30, 2025; Response to the comments was filed February 4, 2025; Hearing opened February 6, 2025; continued to April 17 2025 for peer review comments and responses; Responses submitted April 24, 2025; Site visit done April 30, 2025; and May 1, 2025 hearing continued, All responses and additional information requested has been submitted to the Conservation Commission and peer reviewer.
J. Sands reviewed the timeline since 2023 when the design, architect and stormwater engineering began. 2024 is when the permitting phase began.
J. McLean asked how the stormwater issued could be resolved and if reducing the project to 1 field would make it easier. If the project was reduced to 1 field the stormwater management would still need to be reviewed even though the WPA and Local By-Law are no longer a consideration. Stantec informed the Committee that the biggest hurdle is that the Conservation Commission does not want turf fields.
T. Currier asked if the Committee could have legal representation at the Conservation Commission meetings. It could be beneficial when the hearing date is set to remind the Conservation Commission what the law is and what their jurisdiction is.
Discussion followed regarding water testing pros and cons and how the results can vary from day to day. The Conservation Commission may do their own water testing.
Mike from Stantec stated that the peer reviewer will provide the Conservation Agent with follow up questions and requests, conduct another site visit with the peer reviewer to determine the mean annual high-water line. An alternative analysis was provided to the Conservation Commission.
Discussion followed regarding the process if the project moved forward with only one turf field. The application and plans would have to be modified, and calculations redone for the stormwater standards. The same process would apply to changing to a grass field. The stormwater standards will still be reviewed.
Discussion followed regarding engaging public support, attending Conservation Commission meetings, sending emails and involving Town Counsel.
Stantec has asked for a continuance from the June 5th Conservation Commission meeting and will update the peer review responses.
J. Sands informed the Committee that Stantec needs to be paid from the stabilization account to continue with the permitting process. Stantec will provide a change order for up to 4 meetings and no more than 100 hours to prepare responses for review. **A motion was made by M. Ogden to solicit a change order as discussed to keep the project moving forward. The motion was seconded by T. Currier.**
M. Ogden withdrew the motion.

A motion was made by M. Ogden to solicit a change order as discussed and for the Administration to engage Special Legal Counsel to assist with the project. The motion was seconded by T. Currier and unanimously approved 11-0.

**MOTION: Approve solicitation for change order and engage Special Legal Counsel
VOTE: 11-0, Motion Passed.**

G. Review School Committee Protocols

M. Alexander reviewed the School Committee protocols which are reviewed annually. There were no changes and will be signed at the next meeting.

H. Solicit Subcommittee Preferences

M. Harvey stated that the mission statements for the subcommittees are from last year. The Committee members will submit their preferences to the Chair with their views on the existing subcommittees.

I. Update on Process for Superintendent's Evaluation

J. McLean and M. Ogden will collect input from the School Committee members for their towns, then a discussion in Open Meeting will take place. J. McLean will forward the rubric for the evaluation which is based on DESE's example. M. Alexander suggested doing the recommendation now and then possibly a semi-annual review in December if necessary.

J. VOCAL Committee Report

A. Heaphy-Tenney reviewed the Mission Statement for VOCAL. MCAS trends for grade 10 were reviewed for ELA, Math and Science. 68-72% of Masco students are meeting or exceeding expectations. MCAS trends for grade 7 were reviewed for ELA and Math. These provide a snapshot of how students are arriving at Masco. MCAS trends for grade 8 for ELA, Math and Science were reviewed. There are upward trends in 8th grade. MCAS trends for grade 10 were reviewed. There were some downward trends across 10th grade cohorts. This cohort has made gains since 2021 in ELA and math and held steady in Science. Student needs and delivery of education are changing, and the District has made investments to support the needs of our students. Student Wellness needs are being addressed with the increase in staff support roles increasing statewide since 2018. Masco is trending downward on guidance, nurses and social workers in contrast to state trends.
A motion was made by L. MacInnis to approve the May 5, 2025, VOCAL minutes. The motion was seconded by A. Heaphy-Tenney and unanimously approved.

K. Superintendent's Report

M. Harvey thanked the residents from the 3 towns for supporting the budget at their Town Meetings. Senior activities are underway for the Class of 2025 with graduation on May 30th at 6:00pm. He thanked PAC for their contributions during Teacher Appreciation week. Middle school hosted parent meetings for incoming 7th grade parents. M. Harvey recognized the 15 student athletes who will continue as student athletes in college. Upcoming events include the Class of 2025 Senior Internship Fair; MS Chorus and Band Spring Concert; Masco peer leaders are connecting with 8th graders.

The Memorial Day ceremonies were held with an all-school assembly at the Middle School and a ceremony and luncheon for veterans at the High School. The next MS coffee will be held May 30th at 8:30am. L. MacInnis received an email regarding the lack of access to the weight room over the summer due to projects on campus.

L. Subcommittee Reports

- a. Community Relations – Heaphy-Tenney made a motion to approve the April 30, 2025, meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by K. Petrone and unanimously approved.
- b. DCI/Budget – no updates.
- c. VOCAL – no updates.
- d. Policy – M. Ogden made a motion to approve the March 10, 2025, meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by L. MacInnis and unanimously approved.
- e. Liaison Updates – T. Currier thanked the Middleton Finance Committee and Select Board for supporting the override.
- f. Negotiations – met with the Association of Professional Administrators Union on May 5th and 19th and are meeting Monday at 3:00pm. MPFTS contract is settled. Meeting with Support Staff next Wednesday.

M. Consent Agenda –

- a. Approval of April 18, 2025, and April 30, 2025, Meeting Minutes.
- b. Warrants in the amount of \$4,158,119.95.
- c. Acceptance Rotary Club Gift for \$1,000.

A motion was made by T. Currier to move the Masconomet School Committee vote to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by M. Ogden and unanimously approved.

MOTION: Approve Consent Agenda

VOTE: 10-0, Motion Carried.

The Meeting was adjourned at 9:13pm on a Motion by M. Ogden, seconded by W. Hodges and unanimously approved.

MOTION: Adjourn meeting

VOTE: 10-0, 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. School Committee Protocols
3. VOCAL Committee Report
4. Consent Agenda