

MASCONOMET REGIONAL DISTRICT SCHOOL COMMITTEE

September 6, 2023

MEMBERS PRESENT: M. Ogden, Chair, Topsfield
T. Currier, Middleton
W. Hodges, Topsfield
J. Horrigan, Boxford
E. Clements, Boxford
J. McLean, Vice Chair, Boxford
D. Casamassima, Middleton
Z. Bhuj, Topsfield
C. Bolzan, Boxford
K. Petrone, Middleton

MEMBERS ABSENT: M. Alexander, Middleton

OTHERS PRESENT: M. Harvey, Superintendent
L. Bennett, Assistant Supt. For Student Services
J. Sands, Asst. Supt. & Chief Procurement Officer

- A. **Call to Order** – M. Ogden, Chair, called the Regular Meeting of the School Committee of September 6, 2023, to Order at 7:02 p.m., in the High School Library.
- B. **Remarks from the Chair** – M. Ogden asked for a moment of silence in remembrance of Nolin Kierney, a former Masco student who was killed in a car accident. Counseling services are available at Masco for anyone in need of them.
The new school year is underway, and M. Ogden thanked all who helped make the opening a success. She welcomed Erica Clements, the new School Committee member from Boxford. M. Ogden also reviewed the procedures for filling a vacancy on the School Committee that is unanticipated.
- C. **Comments from the Audience** – Kathleena Scarpato expressed her concern regarding the transportation policy, she feels it is not necessary and parents should be able to carpool without restrictions in a policy. She also mentioned that the Salem HS Superintendent is measuring success to include parent engagement and she would like to see this at Masco. She then questioned the budget surplus mentioned at the last meeting, asking for clarification. Administration clarified that the favorable budget variance is not a surplus.
- D. **Second of Policy Section C** – A motion was made to approve Policy C as presented by Z. Bhuj, seconded by D. Casamassima.
T. Currier reviewed the changes and clarified the notes in the margins made by Dorothy Presser of MASC and the pronouns were changed as discussed at the last meeting.

MOTION: Approve Policy C as discussed

VOTE: 10-0, Motion Carried

- E. **Second Reading of Policy EEAG: Transportation of Students in Private Vehicles** – A motion to accept Policy EEAG as presented was made by W. Hodges, seconded by Z. Bhuj.
T. Currier asked who reviewed the CORI checks. M. Harvey reviews them and they only go back to age 18 in MA.

D. Casamassima asked how the procedure would be implemented. Parents will sign up in advance, complete the paperwork and have the CORI check done. J. Sands has prepared the application and the family allowing their student to ride with another adult has to also fill out a certification form and choose a driver. This application and CORI check will have to be done every year. K. Petrone asked if there would be a waiver of liability for the passenger to sign to indemnify the driver. Our application will indemnify the District, but not the driver. M. Ogden added that our policy protects the District and this policy allows students to participate in activities when the buses are not available. Z. Bhujju added that if the policy is too restrictive to implement, will the Administration come back to the School Committee for changes. She asked if parents had to name a specific driver or can they choose any approved volunteer driver. She clarified that this policy does not apply to carpools arranged between families for regular dismissal, and that the district is not responsible for any arrangements made among families outside of this policy. J. Sands will change the application to allow parents to either choose a driver or any approved driver.

MOTION: Approve Policy EEAG as discussed
VOTE: 8-2, Motion Carried

F. **Finalize School Committee Goals for 2023-2024** – M. Ogden put the goals discussed at the retreat into three categories, as follows:

- Improve School Committee meeting process
- Work with Masconomet Teacher's Association to build a relationship of trust and respect;
- Support Administration goals relative to strategic and capital plan through budget, policy and community engagement.

M. Ogden reviewed the components of each goal.

A Motion to approve the School Committee goals as presented was made by Z. Bhujju, seconded by D. Casamassima and unanimously approved.

MOTION: Approve School Committee Goals as discussed
VOTE: 10-0, Motion Carried

G. **Update Subcommittee Membership** – The Community Relations Subcommittee will have E. Clements as a new member and Z. Bhujju as Chair.

A Motion was made to appoint Z. Bhujju as Chair and E. Clements as a member of the Community Relations Subcommittee by J. McLean, seconded by D. Casamassima and unanimously approved.

MOTION: Approve Community Relations Subcommittee discussed
VOTE: 10-0, Motion Carried

H. **Superintendent's Report** – M. Harvey stated that the school year opened August 28th with an All-District meeting. M. Harvey reviewed the Keynote Speaker and his speech led to the discussion of the Masco Portrait of a Learner. Identifying the knowledge, skills and dispositions that our students will need to be successful in the future. Professional

development will follow up this discussion. The rest of the day was filled with compliance training, classroom preparations and department head meetings. Seventh grade and ninth grade orientation were held August 29th with scavenger hunts and team building. All 7-12 grade students reported on August 30th for a shortened day and teachers participated in ALICE training in the afternoon. August 31st was a regular full day of school following a Monday schedule on Thursday due to the number of Monday holidays. New faculty members were acknowledged for both MS and HS. Two openings remain, an English teacher and a Special Education teacher. There are 5 Paraprofessional openings remaining. SEPAC will hold a meeting on September 13th at 6:30pm in the MS library. The Blackboard issues are being worked on by IT.

I. Sub-Committee Reports

Community Relations – no meeting scheduled.

DCI/Budget – meeting Thursday next week.

Anti-Racism – 3 events were held with the Tri-Town Council, one in each town where community members watched a Ted Talk and discussion followed regarding how to have difficult conversations.

Policy – has met twice and will meet next Friday to begin Policy Section I. A draft of a recall provision was passed in the subcommittee. The next meeting is scheduled for September 15th at 10:30am.

Liaison Updates – J. McLean stated there has been nothing new since the last meeting.

Z. Bhujju informed the School Committee that listening sessions will be resuming the 3rd Saturday of every month at 10:00am in the Topsfield Library.

D. Casamassima met with Kosta, and he will be attending the next Select Board meeting on September 19th.

Turf Up – setting up their next meeting date.

T. Currier suggested adding the Building Committee as an update.

J. Sands updated the School Committee on the soccer field renovations. Fields 8 and 9 will start and be completed the week of September 18th, weather permitting and came in under budget.

J. Consent Agenda

1. Approval of Minutes of August 9 and August 23, 2023, Meeting Minutes.
2. Warrants \$1,410,940.08 (12) Warrants signed since August 9, 2023.

A Motion was made by Z. Bhujju to approve the Consent Agenda as presented, it was seconded by T. Currier and unanimously approved.

MOTION: Approve Consent Agenda

VOTE: 10-0, Motion Carried

The next meeting will be held September 20, 2023, at 7: 00pm. The Meeting was adjourned by M. Ogden at 8:08pm.

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. Policy Section C
3. Policy EEAG
4. School Committee Goals
5. Superintendent Report
6. Consent Agenda
7. FY23 End of Year Forecast