

MASCONOMET REGIONAL DISTRICT SCHOOL COMMITTEE

March 9, 2022

MEMBERS PRESENT: Z. Bhuj, Chair, Topsfield T. Cooper, Vice Chair, Middleton
 T. Teleen, Boxford J. Ciampa, Middleton
 D. Casamassima, Middleton W. Hodges, Topsfield
 P. Bernhart, Boxford J. McLean, Boxford
 M. Ogden, Topsfield K. Prentakis, Middleton
 C. Miller, Boxford

MEMBERS ABSENT P. Bullard, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services
OTHERS PRESENT: M. Harvey, Superintendent
 J. Sands, Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations

- A. **Call to Order** – Z. Bhuj, Chair, called the regular meeting of the School Committee of March 9, 2022, to order at 7:03pm, in the High School Library.
- B. **Remarks from the Chair** – Z. Bhuj advised the SC that Middleton is hosting an Open Meeting Law Training class on March 31st at 7:00pm. Mental Health First Aide Training is 3/29 and 3/30. The musical Grease is next weekend.
- C. **Comments from the Audience** – Trevor Currier of Middleton informed the SC that the recall petition is in place if they have any questions.
- D. **Student Advisory Board Update** – Lindsey Byman informed the SC that most students have elected not to wear masks, but respect those who do choose to wear them. Prom tickets are on sale; Student Council is hosting a 3v3 basketball tournament; St. Patrick's Day baskets are being made for the senior citizens; and brainstorming for fundraising for the Ukraine is taking place.
- E. **Athletic Winter Season Recognition** – J. Daileanes thanked all of the athletes, families and supporters of the student athletes. He recognized the swimming and diving team which had the NEC Diver of the Year, Female Swimmer of the Year, recording breaking 200 freestyle and 100 breast stroke as well as All-stars and All-conference athletes and 2 Moynihan Student Athletes of the Month. The Wrestling Team had wrestlers who finished in the top 10 in Division 2 who were recognized. Girls Indoor Track was recognized for their 3rd place finish in the NEC. Boys Indoor Track was acknowledged for their 4x4 100 relay finish. Girls Hockey All-stars were recognized and the captains were recognized for leading such a young team. Boys Basketball All-stars and All-conference players were recognized. Girls Basketball All-stars and All-conference players were recognized. Girls Ski Team was undefeated in the North Shore Ski League. Boys Hockey is still competing in the state tournament and the All-stars and All-conference players were recognized. The Gymnastics Team are state champs again, also winning in 2019, and 2020, the All-stars were recognized.

F. **High School Principal's Report** – M. Carabatsos informed the SC that a few people are wearing masks and at-home tests are being handed out. School Community Work-SE learning is happening, as are extra-curricular activities, the up-coming school day events were reviewed. Academics – We are re-activating the mode of learning and senior internships are beginning. Vision 2025 goals were reviewed and what is being done to move towards that goal. Vision 2025 experiences are happening. Curriculum is being worked on as well as assessments and meeting the needs of all learners. W. Hodges asked if students are choosing classes for next year, will WIN Block be in place as parents are concerned with scheduling a study hall if necessary. WIN Block could be a study hall or an enrichment period so students should schedule classes in which they want further enrichment. P. Bernhart added that some students need a study hall for the quiet concentrated time if they have a lot of extra-curricular activities. Discussion followed regarding the possible WIN Block and study halls and signing up for classes.

G. **FY23 Budget Adoption** – J. Sands reviewed the budget process for the last five months. The recommended budget includes a 2.3% increase in Operating Expenses and a 2.5% increase in Operating Assessment. J. Sands reviewed the breakdown per Town. T. Cooper made a motion as follows: The Masconomet Regional School Committee approves the FY23 Total General Fund Expenditures Budget of \$38,367,132. This amount includes the General Fund Operating Expenses in the amount of \$37,574,382 and General Fund Debt Service Expenses of \$792,750; it was seconded by C. Miller and unanimously approved.

MOTION: Approve FY23 Total General Fund Expenditures Budget
VOTE: 11-0, Motion Carried.

C. Miller added that the Boxford members met with the FC regarding the budget. Strategic Planning, Vision 2025 and Capital Planning need to get done and they would support anything needed to free up the time.

T. Cooper made a motion as follows: The Masconomet Regional School Committee votes to assess the Towns of Boxford, Middleton and Topsfield a combined total of \$29,887,107 as the amount necessary to operate and maintain the District, as well as pay debt service, for FY23. The District's Assistant Superintendent has determined the amounts apportioned to each Town, and presented them herein on the slide titled "Assessment by Town". The District's Treasurer shall certify and transmit the budget and assessment to each member within 30 days of the School Committee approval; it was seconded by M. Ogden and unanimously approved.

MOTION: Approve FY23 Budget Assessment
VOTE: 11-0, Motion Carried.

H. **Approve 2022-2023 School Calendar** – M. Harvey reviewed the opening dates in August and new holidays and the restatement of SC policy on religious observances. M. Ogden asked if the start dates for sports could be added to the calendar for the benefit of parents. T. Cooper made a motion A motion was made to approve the 2022-2023 School Calendar by; it was seconded by T. Teleen and unanimously approved.

MOTION: Approve the 2022-2023 School Calendar
VOTE: 11-0 Motion Carried.

- I. **Superintendent's Update** – M. Harvey informed the SC that there have only been 2 cases of COVID since 2/28 and both were staff. The DESE at-home testing continues with 622 signed up and others can still opt in. The Assistant Superintendent of Student Services search is down to 2 finalists with the site visits occurring. The author of "On Your Mark" will be speaking regarding grading, etc. The agreement between the teachers and SC provides more flexibility of the daily schedule. A team is being assembled to reflect the changes in the new schedule. Discussion followed regarding new scheduling options.

J. Sub-Committee Reports

Community Relations-T. Teleen informed the SC that they met before the SC meeting. The Senior Concert is scheduled for March 29th. They would like to recognize the students in post-covid by planting a tree on campus. The next meeting is the second Wednesday of April.

Budget – nothing to report.

Anti-Racism – W. Hodges informed the SC that the last meeting was 2/28 and they discussed how to engage other community organizations as this is a community wide issue. The students are reporting an increase in racially charged comments recently.

Policy – M. Ogden informed the SC that the next meeting is 3/23 at 5:00pm.

Negotiations – T. Cooper informed the SC that the next contract meeting is 3/17 for the Professional Administrators Association.

Liaison – K. Prentakis informed the SC that Middleton appointed 3 members to the TTU regionalization committee.

K. Consent Agenda

1. Approval of February 16, 2022 and March 2, 2022 Meeting Minutes
2. Warrants of \$3,792,470.40 (19) signed since February 16, 2022.
3. Approve MEF Grant

C. Miller made a motion to approve the Warrants and MEF Grant by, seconded by T. Teleen and unanimously approved. There are minor edits to the minutes and they were tabled.

MOTION: Approve Warrants and Accept MEF Grant

VOTE: 11-0, Motion Carried

Z. Bhujju made a Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:42pm.

Submitted By: _____
Lynn Viselli, Recording Secretary

Approved _____
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. HS Principal Report
3. FY23 Budget Deliberation and Adoption Presentation
4. 2022-2023 School Calendar
5. Superintendent Update
6. Consent Agenda