

MASCONOMET REGIONAL DISTRICT SCHOOL COMMITTEE

**March 23, 2022**

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

MEMBERS ABSENT J. Ciampa, Middleton

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

- A. **Call to Order** – Z. Bhuju, Chair, called the Regular Meeting of the School Committee of March 23, 2022, to Order at 7:02pm, in the High School Library.
- B. **Remarks from the Chair** – Z. Bhuju advised the SC that the meeting scheduled for 5/18 will be rescheduled to 5/25. This is the 2-year mark of the pandemic and part of healing is remembering those who were lost due to COVID-19. A moment of silence was observed. The musical Grease had an unprecedented attendance for all of the shows. The All-Night Graduation party is being held following graduation for seniors and volunteers are needed.
- C. **Comments from the Audience** – None.
- D. **Student Advisory Board Update** – Olivia Richards informed the SC that elections for student council are ongoing. Ukraine flag pins are being sold in support of the Ukraine people. There was an assembly with Dr. Willard regarding mental health.
- E. **Presentation on FY23 State Budget by Legislators** – The legislators in attendance were J. Belsito, B. Jones, T. Nguyen, S. Kearns and B. Tarr.  
B. Jones stated the budget would be out the week of April 11<sup>th</sup> and then amendments are due the last full week in April. The Commonwealth is in better shape than anticipated. The pandemic brought to the forefront mental health issues and this needs to be a bigger part of the discussion.  
S. Kearns agreed that mental health is the focus right now. Budget season has begun with the meetings being more transparent than before. The Representatives are here to support the School Committee and she thanked them for their hard work recognizing these very challenging times.  
J. Belsito also thanked the SC for their work and volunteerism. She is working on funding for regional schools. She echoed the need for increased mental health resources and has a background in mental health policy. She recognized Z. Bhuju for her investment and commitment to mental health. February is black history month and offers the opportunity to recognize leaders in our community. She presented William Hodges with a citation recognizing his excellence in leadership.  
T. Nguyen stated that she has found the students at Masco very engaged recognizing community service is important to them. Mental health and healthy relationships are being discussed in terms of how to help the students recover and thrive.  
K. Prentakis asked that the minimum state aid be increased into the future because the towns are spending more for education and carrying the burden.  
T. Cooper asked where counselors and mental health workers will come from. The school districts need people, not money.

S. Kearns informed the SC that the legislature is working with community colleges. They understand the work force is a challenge. T. Nguyen added that developing a work force and assistance with student loans is an ongoing discussion. J. Belsito added that Salem State is working with MA Hires for tuition reimbursement for students majoring in Mental Health Services. P. Bullard added that the ratio of students to staff is staggering. Z. Bhujju added that people are opening up and sharing but the resources are not available for the next step. B. Tarr acknowledged the rising cost of education and the decrease in enrollment. Social Emotional learning needs to be more intense, and students needs are more complex. There are not enough providers; providers are over stressed; and there are not enough beds for young people. P. Bullard thanked the Legislators for making mental health a priority.

- F. **Middle School Principal's Report** – P. McManus provided an update to the SC. MCAS begin March 29<sup>th</sup> in person. Things are feeling “normal” in the building. Course selection is ongoing as well as planning for the end of year events and field trips. 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade transitions are ongoing with packets sent to families. 6<sup>th</sup> grade tour will be hosted in person. Dr. Willard spoke to the students about mindfulness.

- G. **Assistant Superintendent Appointment** – M. Harvey asked for approval of Lynn Bennett as the new Assistant Superintendent of Student Services. He reviewed her resume and visit to Masco. The Executive Leadership Team visited Arlington High School as part of the process as well. T. Cooper made a motion to approve Lynne Bennett as the Assistant Superintendent of Student Services, the motion was second by W. Hodges and unanimously approved.

MOTION: Approve Assistant Superintendent of Student Services

VOTE: 10-0 Motion Carried.

Lynn Bennett thanked the SC and stated that the search process was intentional and the work at Masco is elevated. She is looking forward to being part of the team here.

- H. **Superintendent's Evaluation Timeline Update** – Z. Bhujju reviewed the timeline for the Superintendent's Evaluation. October: Improvement goals 2021-2022 are approved with agreed upon Standards and Focus Indicators from the DESE Model Rubric for Administrators. October through May: Superintendent demonstrates progress toward intended outcomes throughout the year during meeting presentations. June: Superintendent shares a summative self-assessment that includes evidence to support the work done to achieve the goals and meet the agreed upon standards. Early July: School committee members submit individual evaluations. Late July: Evaluations are compiled into a summative assessment to be presented at a public hearing. August-September: New goals are developed. Z. Bhujju reviewed the procedure through Google Survey and new goals will be set over the summer. It was agreed that J. Ciampa, who is not seeking re-election, can contribute to the survey. Due to COVID-19 pandemic, goals will be revised into multi-year goals. T. Cooper added that some goals were discussed as multi-year goals. Discussion followed to re-order the sections of the goals. C. Miller stated that the goals revised were SC goals, not Superintendent's goals, and goals should not be changed at the end of the year.
- I. **Superintendent's Update** – M. Harvey congratulated the cast and crew of Grease for their performances. The budget was delivered on March 14<sup>th</sup> to the 3 town treasurers, the information for the budget can be found on the website. St. Patrick's Day concert will be March 29<sup>th</sup> with the band and chorus performing and lunch for the seniors. Joe Ciampa donated the lunches. T. Cooper thanked staff for the work during the budget process and the low increase per town.

**J. Sub-Committee Reports**

Community Relations – T. Teleen informed the SC that they have reached out to the Environmental Club regarding the planting of trees and have reached out to vendors for pricing. The next meeting will be 4/13.

Budget – T. Cooper asked for the Minutes of 1/26 and 2/9 be approved.

**A Motion was made by K. Prentakis to approve the minutes of 1/26 and 2/9, it was seconded by M. Ogden and unanimously approved by the Budget Sub-committee members.**

Anti-Racism – W. Hodges informed the SC that the next meeting is scheduled for 4/4.

Policy – M. Ogden informed the SC that they met earlier tonight. They will be restarting the policy updates from MASC and will come to a future meeting with the changes and other future changes.

C. Miller asked if the warrant article wording had been sent to the 3 towns.

Negotiations – T. Cooper informed the SC that they met Monday with the Dept. of Administrative Assistants and agreed on the ground rules. They will meet again in 2 weeks.

Liaisons – K. Prentakis informed the SC that groundbreaking for new Middleton Municipal Offices will be this fall with occupancy slated for 2025.

**K. Consent Agenda**

1. Approval of February 16, 2022, and March 2, 2022, March 7, 2022, and March 9, 2022 Meeting Minutes
2. Warrants of \$2,809,532.36 (10) signed since March 9, 2022.
3. Approve Booster Baseball Donation for \$22,000

A motion was made to approve the consent agenda by T. Cooper, seconded by C. Miller and unanimously approved.

MOTION: Approve Consent Agenda

VOTE: 10-0, Motion Carried

- L.** Z. Bhujji made a Motion to Adjourn into Executive Session for the purpose of strategy relative to collective bargaining with the Masconomet Association of Professional School Administrators (Executive Session Purpose #3). The Chair has determined that holding this discussion in Open Session may have a detrimental impact on the District's Bargaining Position. The Committee will not return to Open Session after the conclusion of the Executive Session.

**Rollcall Vote:**

|                      |                   |                 |
|----------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Z. Bhujji – yes      | T. Cooper – yes   | C. Miller – yes |
| K. Prentakis – yes   | T. Teleen – yes   | M. Ogden – yes  |
| W. Hodges – yes      | P. Bernhart – yes | J. McLean – yes |
| D. Casamassima – yes |                   |                 |

Adjourned into Executive Session at 8:53pm.

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. Agenda Guide
3. Consent Agenda
4. MS Principal's Report