

MASCONOMET REGIONAL DISTRICT SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Wednesday, June 29th, 2022 – 6:30-7:30 P.M. via Zoom
Community Relations Subcommittee School Committee Meeting
Meeting Minutes

Masconomet Vision 2025

Student learning is highly interdisciplinary and connects students to solving real-world problems.

Students feel safe, happy, emotionally secure, and physically well. They are builders of a culture of respect and kindness.

Curriculum and instruction is learner – centered: All students are achieving the same standards in multiple ways and can demonstrate their learning through a variety of different assessments.

Instruction is personalized to the individual learning styles and unique needs and interests of ALL students.

Our students are culturally sensitive, globally aware through their study and experiential learning, and they act confidently with an understanding of their impact on the world.

Community Relations Subcommittee Purpose: to unify the tri-town community through an ongoing dialogue with residents that broadens the community's knowledge of Masco, increases engagement, and enhances our understanding of the community's needs

Topic: Masco School Committee Community Relations Subcommittee meeting June 29, 2022

Time: June 29, 2022 6:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom:

Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3955661502?pwd=RHlkekdmQmVrWVA3SkN2RWgyU2pCZz09>

Meeting ID: 395 566 1502

Present: Patti Bernheart (Subcommittee Chair), Zillie Bhujy (Subcommittee Member), Kosta Prentakis (Subcommittee Member), Joe McLean (Subcommittee Member), Bill Hodges (School Committee Member), Domenic Casamassima (School Committee Member), Trevor Currier (School Committee Member), Tasha Cooper (School Committee Chair), and approximately 40+ members of community

A. Call to Order

B. Open Community Feedback/Discussion (approximately 30 minutes). We invite all members of the community to join us for this open discussion period. We welcome questions and comments about the School Committee's activities and district priorities, about relations between Masco and the community, and welcome your ideas and input.

1. Members of the school committee and the community held an open discussion for approximately 45 minutes on a couple of different topics.

Some community members (Kathleena Scarpato, Carroll Crispo, Ryan Hill) raised concerns relating to the 5/13 security breach at Masco. Some of the themes discussed/raised include: lack of communication by administration to the public, late response by School Committee once information about the incident surfaced; communication conveyed to public by admin/SC felt confusing, Dr. Harvey's leadership skills were in question, frustration raised by members of community that do not feel Dr. Harvey is responsive to their personal inquiries, emails, etc; questions raised about the who/what/when of the incident; who made the judgement call not to communicate the incident? Is that person(s) being held accountable for this judgement error? Members of the community conveyed they do not, in any way, condone threats as a means to an end and some are frustrated that someone resorted to this tactic – as it negatively impacted the community's ability to engage with the administration through regular SC mtgs as they normally would have done – due to the pause put in place as result of threat. Member of SC assured community members that the conversations with Dr. Harvey in executive sessions included questions

about accountability and communication. Member of SC raised question about the potential impact that the protocol for Boxford being the police dept responsible for filing the report, even if responding SRO on scene is Topsfield officer. Could that have impacted timely communication and moving forward expects the inter-dept. communication among police depts to improve.

A member of the community (Gretchen Fishman) also raised awareness/concern regarding the current state of literacy for Masco students. MCAS scores from last year were shared; 17% of students not meeting or partially meeting expectations last year in ELA. Among 7th graders, 42% of students did not meet or partially met expectations in ELA, and 57% of students did not meet or partially met expectations in Math last year. Students with disabilities – the numbers jumped to 83%. Member of community conveyed that Masco Special Education administration have listened and acknowledged this as an issue, but students still not getting ahead. Associated mental health concerns for students with literacy issues raised. Hope conveyed by SC members that new administration may provide opportunity of fresh look at this issue. SEPAC liaison roles to continue through Patti/Zillie.

A member of the community requested that the SC consider reinstituting the “listening sessions” that occurred during the pandemic, outside of and/or in addition to the CR subcommittee meetings open discussion period. SC member mentioned idea of drop in periods that other communities have offered, whereby 2 SC members at a time are available on rotating basis to meet with community members in person on a regular rotating basis.

SC member summarized emails received by community members relating to the May security incident. Emails conveyed a mix of expression of gratitude, sympathy and support, concern, confusion, discontent and lack of transparency and/or accountability, questions about review of safety & communication protocols, along with some suggestions for increased security measures. Request by member of community for public accounting of the who/what/when of the May security incident was made.

C. Subcommittee Activities Wrap Up 2021-2022

1. Status of Community Tree Planting on Masco campus – proposal of type of tree, location, etc.

Discussed/reviewed original thought behind the community tree and current status of where things are; a cherry tree will be planted on the Masco campus in the vicinity of the bus drop-off area on side of building (by small cafeteria) where picnic tables currently are located in the upcoming year. Plans for this planting will be coordinated between Patti Bernheart (Chair of CR subcommittee) and administration.

2. Small Town Hero Awards – update/reflection on event ceremony on 6/16

Members of subcommittee reflected upon the positive nature of this event. Looking forward to continuing this tradition next year and praise given to Student Council and Ben Hanchett for the wonderful job they did coordinating this event.

D. Discussion/Review of CR subcommittee communication protocols and CR schedule for 2022-2023 year

Members of the SC reviewed what communication routine has traditionally been (e.g. posting agenda 2 days prior to mtg on FB, CR chair writes SC mtg summaries, SC member posts these summaries, posts PSA's as needed, etc.)

Committee agreed to keep same routine this year; Zillie to keep role of posting information online for now until another member can be trained to help with doing so.

SC members conveyed purpose of CR subcommittee is also to engage the non-parent community, CR chair suggested subcommittee members take time between now and next mtg to assess their town and general list of places where it may be helpful to post and share information about Masco SC activities/info. SC member asked if we should consider posting on town websites, other media and/or magazines.

- E. Updates from School Community liaisons (e.g. SEPAC, Tri Town Union School Committees, Tri-town Council, Parent Advisory Council, local Councils on Aging)

Review liaison roles: Patti/SEPAC, Zille - TTC continues plan for community screening of Chasing Childhood and seeks partnership for this; Kathleena Scarpato is new PAC president and new members have joined. Assigning of liaison was discussed to the “umbrella mtgs”; Tasha to continue that role for now, until another SC volunteers to do so.

- F. [Approval of April 27th, 2022 Meeting Minutes](#)

- G. Adjournment

Upcoming Meetings: TBD

Please refer to the “[Public Meetings](#)” page on the Masconomet Website for a list of upcoming meetings and agendas.

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>