MASCONOMET REGIONAL DISTRICT SCHOOL COMMITTEE

October 25, 2023

MEMBERS PRESENT: M. Ogden, Chair, Topsfield
T. Currier, Middleton
W. Hodges, Topsfield
J. Horrigan, Boxford (7:07)
K. Petrone, Middleton
J. McLean, Vice Chair, Boxford
M. Alexander, Middleton
Z. Bhuju, Topsfield (7:07)
C. Bolzan, Boxford (zoom)

MEMBERS ABSENT: D. Casamassima and E. Clements

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 October 11, 2023, to Order at 7:03pm, in the High School Library.

B. Executive Session - M. Ogden made a Motion to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing strategy for conducting collective bargaining with the Masconomet Teachers Association. The Chair has determined conducting this discussion in Open Session would be detrimental to the School Committee's bargaining position and will return to Open Session, it was seconded by J. McLean and unanimously approved by Roll Call vote:

M. Ogden – yes	K. Petrone – yes	T. Currier – yes
W. Hodges – yes	M. Alexander – yes	J. McLean – yes

C. **Remarks from the Chair** – M. Ogden acknowledged SC Member C. Bolzan would be attending the meeting via Zoom.

D. Comments from the Audience –

Bob Spillman, Boxford, asked to speak with the project team regarding the PFAs and would like to share his references.
Connie Glore, Boxford, asked the project team to consider organic turf because she is concerned the fields being unsafe.
Fred Glore, 285 Washington Street, Boxford, asked about the private fundraising and how the fields would be funded and asked that during the open meeting with the project team, both opinions on turf fields be heard.

E. **SAB Report** – Olivia Richards informed the SC that Student Council Representatives have been chosen and clubs have started to meet. The school store has reopened. Fundraising in all grades is occurring right now.

F. **Capital Plan Proposal** – M. Harvey reviewed the capital planning history from 2001-present, including the commissioning of the Habeeb & Associates to write a report in 2017. The latest item was the critical needs summary provided in March 2023 totaling

$6million. The Capital Plan development is ongoing with an electrification study by National Grid, and an Accessibility Study was done over the summer.
M. Ogden reviewed the Capital Plan proposal and the need to keep the plan moving forward. The goal is to have concrete plans in place in time for the Capital Articles to be on the 2024 Town Warrants to authorize the borrowing of money. Three Town Meeting Warrants will be proposed.
1. Funding for OPM and Design Work to replace/upgrade BMS and HVAC system and replace the roof at the cost of roughly $5million. (initial needs)
2. Funding for Turf Field Construction roughly $10million less any fundraising.
3. Funding for other "Agreed Priority" Capital Projects roughly $10million.

T. Currier stated that the SC had to express support for the Turf project at the last Town Meetings. W. Hodges agreed and he understood that the SC would not be going back to Town Meeting this year. He understood permitting and fundraising were to take place this year.
J. McLean added that the 3 proposed Warrant Articles are separate, but interconnected, and we need to look at them separately.
J. Sands stated that moving the BMS and HVAC forward this spring at Town Meeting is imperative. He reviewed the timeline of BMS, HVAC and roof, OPM and design and potential costs. W. Hodges added that $5million is a fiscally responsible way to move forward.
J. McLean has reviewed the Habeeb Report, and this Capital Plan includes most of the important points of that report. He also stated that long distance capital planning needs to happen. J. Sands stated that an architect will be procured to look at the strategic plan from an educational perspective.
Z. Bhuju asked about MSBA funds being used. J. Sands stated that MSBA is currently reopening applications next spring and will be reviewing past applications which have been paused.
J. Horrigan asked why the projects are being done piecemeal instead of all at once.
M. Ogden stated that once the FY23 rolled off it was expected that the Capital Plan would be ready and then COVID hit delaying the Capital Plan.

A straw poll was conducted for item 1, and all were in favor. Turf article was skipped. A straw poll was taken for item 3.

Z. Bhuju added that the SC needs a plan to present item 3 at Town Meeting.

A motion to authorize DCI to produce a priority list by December was made by Z. Bhuju, seconded by J. McLean and unanimously approved by Rollcall Vote:

M. Ogden – yes	K. Petrone – yes	T. Currier – yes
J. Horrigan – yes	Z. Bhuju – yes	W. Hodges - yes
J. McLean – yes	M. Alexander – yes	C. Bolzan- yes

G. **Change Orders for Turf Field Design Study** – J. Sands read the request letter to the SC. **A Motion to approve the change request for the Turf Field Design Study was made by T. Currier, it was seconded by M. Alexander**.
The JV baseball field is moving which will allow for a wider playing surface for the soccer field. The JV baseball field was never part of the initial scope. W. Hodges added that he would like a few experts to speak about the PFAs at the SC meeting. J. McLean would like there to be a Q&A for the audience.
Rollcall Vote:

M. Ogden – yes	K. Petrone – yes	T. Currier – yes
J. Horrigan – no	Z. Bhuju – yes	W. Hodges - yes
J. McLean – yes	M. Alexander – yes	C. Bolzan-yes

MOTION: Approve Change Request
VOTE: 8-1, Motion Carried

H. **First Reading of Select Policies from Section I** – Tabled.

I. Second Reading of Select Policies from Section I – A motion was made to approve Select Policies from Section I as presented by Z. Bhuju, it was seconded by T. Currier and unanimously approved by Rollcall Vote:

M. Ogden – yes	K. Petrone – yes	T. Currier – yes
J. Horrigan –yes	Z. Bhuju – yes	W. Hodges - yes
J. McLean – yes	M. Alexander – yes	C. Bolzan-yes

MOTION: Approve Select Policies from Section I
VOTE: 9-0, Motion Carried

J. **Superintendent's Report** – M. Harvey stated that monthly coffees with the Principal will be held October 27th from 8:30am-9:30am at the HS Library and on December 1st at the MS Library. November 8th the MS and HS Youth Risk Behavior Survey will be taken. It is totally anonymous.

K. **Sub-Committee Reports**
Community Relations – met Friday and discussed how to move forward and the best way to accomplish that.
DCI/Budget – met October 6th and reviewed 4 sections of the Capital Improvement in the Habeeb Report, then compared the current Capital Plan with the Habeeb Report.
Anti-Racism – rescheduling the meeting.
Policy – met Friday and working on Section I, the next meeting will be November 17th.
Liaison Updates – Z. Bhuju informed the SC that a listening session was held with only a few people attending. T. Currier informed the SC that a Special Town Meeting is being held where additional funds will be approved for the municipal project. Turf Up is hosting a block party this weekend.

L. <u>Consent Agenda</u>

1. Approval of Minutes of September 6, 2023, September 20, 2023, September 27, 2023, and October 11, 2023.
2. Warrants $2,282,855.99 signed since October 20, 2023.
3. Accept $250 gift from Boxford Historical Society.
4. Accept DECA Gift in the amount of $1000.

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

M. Ogden – yes	K. Petrone – yes	T. Currier – yes
J. Horrigan –yes	Z. Bhuju – yes	W. Hodges - yes
J. McLean – yes	M. Alexander – yes	C. Bolzan- yes

MOTION: Approve Consent Agenda
VOTE: 9-0, Motion Carried

The next meeting will be held November 15, 2023, at 7:00pm.
The Meeting was adjourned by M. Ogden at 9:23pm.

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. Superintendent Report
3. Capital Plan Proposal
4. Policy Section I select polices
5. Change Order for Turf Field Design Study
6. Consent Agenda