

MASCONOMET REGIONAL DISTRICT SCHOOL COMMITTEE

April 6, 2022

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

MEMBERS ABSENT

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. Bhuj, Chair, called the Regular Meeting of the School Committee of April 6, 2022, to Order at 7:03pm, at the High School Library.
- B. **Public Hearing on School Choice Participation for the 2022-2023 School Year** – M. Harvey explained that all schools are participating in School Choice unless they opt out. Currently there are 8 choice students in grade 9; 3 choice students in grade 10; and 1 choice student in grade 12. He reviewed the enrollment per grade and recommended grades 7 and 9 for school choice enrollment. He recommended 13 students for grade 7 and 10 students for grade 9. There was no one from the audience who wished to speak. Z. Bhuj closed the public hearing.
- C. **Remarks from the Chair** – None.
- D. **Comments from the Audience** – Julie Cave, NH, said she moved from Boxford to NH to give her children educational opportunities that she felt were lacking at Masco. She reported limited support at Masco for accessing financial aid, alternative pathways other than four year college, dual enrollment, or summer classes other than recovery credit. She thought course materials and curriculum should be made available to parents.
Laura Ileau, NH, a former Masco student, stated that she felt Masco HS is chaos. She found with 45 minute classes, students have to take home class work and homework, and felt grades were not posted promptly; she said Masco students are seen as “anxious, depressed, fake,” and thought it was a negative social environment where students are labeled.
Trevor Currier, Middleton, believes that adding art to graduation requirements will not benefit everyone, there are some students who are not artistic. Students should be able to take other classes geared toward their interests.
- E. **Vote to Approve Peter Delaney as the Boxford Representative to the Essex North Shore Agricultural and Technical School through December 31, 2024** – Peter Delaney introduced himself to the SC and reviewed Boards and Commissions he has served on.
A motion was made by C. Miller to appoint Peter Delaney as the Boxford Representative to the Essex North Shore Agricultural and Technical School through December 31, 2024; it was seconded by T. Teleen and approved by the Boxford Members unanimously.

MOTION: Appoint Peter Delaney
VOTE: 4-0, Motion passed.

- F. **Student Advisory Board Update** – Raquel Rave informed the SC that Student Council is working on fundraisers for Ukraine relief and have raised over \$1,000 so far. 2022-2023 elections are under way.
- G. **Vision 2025 Showcase-English Department** – M. Hildebrand reviewed the values and beliefs of the English department including interdisciplinary, rigorous and appropriately challenging learning and the belief that learning is personalized in order for each student to achieve his/her potential. She reviewed Interdisciplinary, Real World and Personal Connections used in classes, including claim-evidence reasoning; propaganda campaigns; French class PSAs; argument mapping; ekphrastic writing; morning update and chieftain chronicle. Learner focused learning was reviewed including scavenger hunts and escape rooms; artistic representations; letters and persuasive writing; Socratic seminars; portfolios; and choice. Collaboration and teamwork were reviewed, including map making; research/presentations; character analysis; annotating skills; chapter experts; ed. Café and sociograms. Teacher and student focused PD reviewed including argument mapping; Socratic seminars; Beth Hughes; and individual teachers choices. M. Hildebrand recognized Ava Beringer for her win in the Massachusetts Poetry Out Loud and will compete in the National Finals in May.
- H. **High School Principal Report** – M. Carabatsos recognized Ava Beringer as the state winner for the Poetry Out Loud competition and will compete in the National Finals in May. She also recognized Chengzheng Jiang who is a National Merit Scholarship Finalist; Emaline King who received a silver medal in the National Scholastic Arts and Writing Competition; James Gomatos who was Honorable Mention, Brooke Silverado who was Best of School Award and Eva Jeppesen who was Honorable Mention in the 6th Congressional District High School Visual Art Competition. Senior internships have started, course registration and placements have started, MCAS are under way, Beyond Masco Athlete Recognition for students who did not sign a NLOI but are playing a sport in college, AP exams and final exam schedules were reviewed and forward planning was reviewed for upcoming events.
- I. **Policy Revisions** – Policy IKF Graduation Requirements were discussed. Beginning with class of 2026 1 course visual or performing arts (2 semesters or 1 full year) will be required. K. Prentakis stated the students should be able to choose what they want to fill their schedule with. M. Carabatsos added that it will help the school ranking. There is no change in graduation requirements for current HS students. The goal is to create curriculum that includes arts in some form. C. Miller added that a study hall helps with the mental health of the student and WIN block will help with this. M. Carabatsos added that as the art programs are built, more options will be available for student electives. A motion to approve the changes to Policy IKF was made by T. Cooper, it was seconded by M. Ogden and approved with K. Prentakis opposed.

MOTION: Approve changes to Policy IKF

VOTE: 10-1, Motion carried

Policies JB, JICFB, JLCD, and JLD need to be amended as the result of a civil rights audit. P. Bullard informed the SC that every 3 years DESE conducts a monitoring review of Special Education and Civil Rights standards. These policies need to be updated relating to anti-bullying, school counseling and medication administration. The Special Education Attorney has updated the policies according to DESE mandates and M.G.L. M. Ogden added that the policy sub-committee has not reviewed these policies yet but will review them at a later date. P. Bernhart asked if the SC can make further changes once approved. A motion to approve the changes to Policies JB, JICFB, JLCD and JLD was made by T. Cooper, seconded by M. Ogden. Discussion followed regarding further reading and changes to the anti-bullying policy and medication administration policy. T. Cooper withdrew her motion.

A Motion was made by T. Cooper to approve the changes to Policy JB, it was seconded by T. Teleen and unanimously approved.

MOTION: Approve changes to Policy JB

VOTE: 11-0, Motion carried

A Motion was made by T. Cooper to approve the changes to Policy JLD, it was seconded by T. Teleen and unanimously approved.

MOTION: Approve changes to Policy JLD

VOTE: 11-0, Motion carried

A Motion was made by T. Cooper to approve the changes to Policy JLCD, it was seconded by M. Ogden and unanimously approved.

MOTION: Approve changes to Policy JLCD

VOTE: 11-0, Motion carried

A Motion was made by T. Cooper to approve the changes to Policy JICFB, it was seconded by T. Teleen and unanimously approved.

MOTION: Approve changes to Policy JICFB

VOTE: 11-0, Motion carried

- J. **School Choice Discussion and Vote on Participation for the 2022-2023 School year.**— M. Harvey reviewed the enrollments for grades 7 through 12 both actual and projected. He recommended school choice only for grades 7 and 9 with up to 13 students in grade 7 and up to 10 in grade 9.

K. Prentakis stated that the 9th grade class is projected to be much larger than other classes so it may not be a good idea to add students, and adding students to 7th grade would eliminate the possibility of eliminating a MS team.

A Motion as made not to participate in School Choice for the 2022-2023 school year by K. Prentakis, it was seconded by C. Miller. T. Teleen asked if students already enrolled remain and this only applies to new students. M. Ogden asked if class size impacts core classes and faculty. J. Sands stated it would not impact class size. M. Ogden stated she is in favor of school choice for both grades. C. Miller does not want to add to grade 7 so it does not impact student learning and it keeps cost down. T. Cooper added that numbers have increased in the MS for incoming students. M. Ogden added that if there are open seats in the classroom, we should fill them with school choice students.

K. Prentakis withdrew his motion. A motion was made to participate only in grade 9 for up to 10 school choice students by C. Miller, it was seconded by T. Cooper and approved with K. Prentakis and M. Ogden opposed.

MOTION: To Approve School Choice for Grade 9 only up to 10 Students.

VOTE: 9-2, Motion Carried.

- K. **Superintendent's Update** – M. Harvey congratulated the success of the senior citizen concert where 50 senior citizens attended. He thanked the faculty and students. Staff Development training on student grading and assessments took place. A shared purpose statement is needed and the Department Heads spent time working on this.

- L. **Open Meeting Law Complaints Status Updates** – M. Harvey reviewed the complaints and responses, all complaints were closed without any violations found.

M. **Sub-Committee Reports**

Community Relations-T. Teleen informed the SC that they are meeting next week.

Budget – Nothing new.

Anti-Racism – W. Hodges informed the SC that they met last Monday and are reaching out to other organizations in the 3 towns to work together. This would be more successful with other participants engaging. The next meeting is in a month.

Policy – No update.

Negotiations – T. Cooper informed the SC that they are moving forward with the Professional Administrators Union Negotiations.

Liaison – K. Prentakis informed the SC that Middleton hosted an Open Meeting Law training and there are 2 new items. The AG is actively encouraging committees to provide new members with the past 5 years of OML violations, and a series of OML complaints against the same person goes to mediation. The Charter Review Committee is looking at amending the recall provision to include Middleton MASCO representatives. The Finance Committee votes on Town Meeting Articles coming up next week. C. Miller informed the SC that the Boxford Select Board are ok with the amendments to the District Agreement and would like capital planning to resume. M. Ogden informed the SC that the District Agreement amendments are part of the Consent Agenda at Town Meeting.

N. Consent Agenda

1. Approval of March 23, 2022 Meeting Minutes
2. Warrants of \$1,078,911.09 (6) signed since March 23, 2022.
3. Accept MEF Grants for DECA.
4. Accept Gift of \$1000 for Senior Class.
5. Accept Gift of \$600 for Senior Concert Lunches.

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

MOTION: Approve Consent Agenda

VOTE: 11-0, Motion Carried

- O. Z. Bhuju** 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. Bhuju – 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	J. Ciampa - yes	

Adjourned into Executive Session at 9:20pm.

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. Appointment from the Town of Boxford
3. English Department 2025 Vision Presentation
4. HS Principal Report
5. Policies IKF, JB, JICFB, JLCD, JLD
6. Policy JFBB, School Choice
7. Superintendent Update
8. Open Meeting Law Resolutions
9. Consent Agenda