

MINUTES
Maynard School Committee Meeting
Thursday, December 17, 2020, 7:00 pm
Remote Meeting

Pursuant to Gov. Baker's Executive Order dated March 12, 2020, suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A sec. 20, the School Committee has modified meeting procedures to ensure the safety of all participants. The public was not allowed to physically access this School Committee meeting. This meeting was held virtually (internet) using Zoom Technology. All members of the public were invited to join the meeting virtually online or by phone. In addition, a recording of the meeting is posted on the WAVM YouTube page under Maynard School Committee Meetings. (<https://www.youtube.com/user/WAVMproductions/playlists>)

Meeting Called to Order at 7:13 pm. An attendance roll call was taken

Mary Brannelly - Present
Jessica Clark - Present
Natasha Rivera - Present
Bethlyn Houlihan - Present
Lydia Clancy - Present

Also present were Brian Haas, Superintendent; Jennifer Gaudet, Assistant Superintendent; Wayne White, Business Manager; Jeff Ferranti, Director of Student Services; Colleen Andrade, Administrative Assistant.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes for 12/3/20 will not be reviewed at this time.

Edits to minutes:

11/19 - grammatical edits, change approval of warrant to "acceptance".

12/9 - grammatical edits. Ms. Rivera asked to indicate at the end of the first paragraph on page 3, that the current process to engage the SRO does not require Superintendent approval. Also suggested adding "outlined in new policy" after at the end of the 2nd paragraph under IJNDC - Internet Publication.

Ms. Clancy asked that the School Committee approve without objection, the minutes of 11/19/20 and 12/9/20 with edits as indicated. There were no objections.

Minutes for 11/19/20 and 12/9/20 approved.

Acceptance of Warrant(s)

Ms. Clark asked to remove warrant 21-032 until further discussion can be had on it.

Ms. Clancy asked that the School Committee to accept without objection, warrant #'s 21-030 and 21-031. There were no objections.

Warrants 21-030 and 21-031 accepted.

Urgent Business - there was none.

Citizens' Comments - Ms. Clancy read the one citizen's comment received.

Liam Llewellyn - 2 brooks st Maynard email the following comment:

I find it strange that the school committee holds meetings virtually but is fine with sending students into school. I personally believe that the school system should reconsider moving forward on in-person learning. Covid is at an all time high in Maynard right now and it seems strange to continue moving forward with the Covid plan. In the grand scheme of things a single year of sub-par learning will not put the school district behind in the long run. This year has been especially hard for students, and the added stress of in-person school could possibly have unintended consequences.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Haas noted there was a virtual music concert last night and another would take place on 12/23. Today was the first remote snow day. DESE approved the use of remote learning in place of a traditional snow day for this year. They would assess how it went for staff and students.

Had recent PD with Leadership team about implicit bias and will be working with a consultant during the year.

Mr. Haas acknowledged the phenomenal job that the nurses have done this year with everything and the constantly changing information.

Chairperson's Report

Ms. Clancy stated that the School committee would like to acknowledge all staff who had retired in the past year going back to August 2019. Due to COVID, people were not formally or appropriately acknowledged at the end of last year. She extended congratulations and appreciation for the time they spent serving the district and helping students.

Colleen Moore - Admin Asst to Superintendent; Patricia Brennan - MHS teacher; Nance Messina, GM Teacher; Lorraine Silverman, Title I Paraprofessional; Donna Dankner, GM Principal; MaryBeth Wallace, GM Teacher; Nancy Griffin, FS Teacher; Patricia Demars, MHS Teacher; Vicki Brown, FS Paraprofessional; Joyce Filz, MHS WAVM Aide; Carol Gahan, Director of Student Services; Pamela Carter, MHS Secretary; Jeanne Ignachuck, Business Office Admin Asst; Lois Cohen, GM Excel Director; Sheila Hayward, Fowler Librarian

She also noted that Mike Guzzo, Town Accountant, would be retiring on Jan 8

Congratulations MHS students Elizabeth Freeman, Grace Charron and Morgan Booth received 2nd place in Mass STEM Week Challenge. They designed an APP, Corona Navigator, to help mitigate spread of COVID-19.

Resolution to reinforce what the MASC Board of Directors have resolved to ask Gov Baker, to not require the class of 2022 to take MCAS, as well as to ask for a moratorium on all high stakes testing for the 2020-2021 school year.

Ms. Rivera made a motion to accept MCAS and high stakes testing resolution as written with the authority to use our stamps as indicated for approval

Ms. Brannelly 2nd the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Mary Brannelly - Yae

Jessica Clark - Yae

Natasha Rivera - Yae

Lydia Clancy - Yae

Bethlyn Houlihan - Yae

Motion passed 5-0

Resolution - asking the state to guarantee full reimbursement to schools for COVID-19 expenses.

Ms. Rivera made a motion to accept the resolution from the Maynard School Committee, adding the word "Resolution" after the title COVID-19 State Funding.

Ms. Houlihan 2nd the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Mary Brannelly - Yae
Jessica Clark - Yae
Natasha Rivera - Yae
Lydia Clancy - Yae
Bethlyn Houlihan - Yae

Motion passed 5-0

The Select Board approved the MSBA enrollment certification on Monday.

Other Business:

MPS Nurses' COVID Presentation: Sarah Bernardi, Jessica Giberson, and Janet Lamy
Concerns & Challenges: student/family/staff mental health and well being and how they can be supported; loss of community; workload of teachers and staff in a new world of remote and in-person learning and need for safety precautions. Staff and students reporting feelings of isolation, anxiety, depression, insomnia.

Developing and education staff and students, has created a 0 transmission rate inside the schools. Nurses have participated in many meetings and discussions, had to look at age groups and what was needed for each level to reopen each school. School Nurses have a great relationship with the DPH nurse Kathy Castle. They were very appreciative for all the support they have been receiving.

A COVID dashboard has been created for the website which replaces the need for general letters regarding positive cases. The dashboard does not differentiate between staff or students due to confidentiality. Parents will still be notified if needed to as part of contact tracing. Mr. Haas reports positive student and staff cases to the State.

It was noted that a permanent floater nurse was needed to cover nurse absences, and to help with paperwork and other compliance tasks.

FY22 Draft Budget Presentation: Brian Haas and Wayne White presenting. Presentation can be found on the Maynard District website under Departments then Business and Finance.

Town recommended a School Budget of \$20,828,433, School Dept budget request is \$21,829,456. The majority of the budget request comes from contractual obligations. Also included some Special Ed expenses, restoration of funds cut last year in the fall of 2019, and \$395,000 in restoration and additional positions to address programming and revenue deficits.

Ms. Rivera noted that Level Service would not stop students from leaving the district since it would not allow for program improvements or expansions.

Asking for a 2nd GM administrator with a focus in early literacy would provide coaching for staff, evaluate program resources, and identify areas where we are able to provide additional support for students.

The Special Ed increases were due to both tuition and transportation. Circuit Breaker is used to offset those costs, but if used now would go into next year at a deficit. Expecting a significant increase in tuition next year.

Ms. Rivera made a motion to accept the recommended budget request for \$21,829,453 to be presented to the Town Administrator.

Ms. Rivera withdrew the motion, the previous motion stated an incorrect budget amount.

Ms. Rivera made a new motion to accept the Superintendent's recommended FY22 budget request to be presented to the Town Administrator on behalf of the School department for \$21,829,456.

Ms. Brannelly 2nd the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Mary Brannelly - Yae

Jessica Clark - Yae

Natasha Rivera - Yae

Lydia Clancy - Yae

Bethlyn Houlihan - Yae

Motion passed 5-0

Strategic Planning & Curriculum Subcommittee: Bethlyn Houlihan, Jessica Clark presenting.

The Subcommittee suggested having monthly presentations about curricular initiatives that were teacher-led that tied back into the Strategic Plan. This would be a fluid list depending on what is happening at the time. Also have quarterly Administrator presentations which would remain the same year to year.

Suggestions:

Add a Wellness presentation to May/June in addition to Jan/Feb.

Hear about Spanish Immersion, WAVM, general pathways, engineering, etc and how they were developing and evolving.

Note yearly presentations on the general calendar as a placeholder.

Ms. Gaudet noted that she would like the presentation on assessment in Jan/Feb to be based on more than MCAS, showing analysis on a more complete measure.

The Subcommittee would hold themselves accountable and follow up that presentations are being shared to others, posted on websites and social media.

Members Reports & Comment

Ms. Brannelly said the next Policy meeting was on Jan 7th. She felt the MHS presentation showing what they had to offer was great and was now on the website.

Ms. Rivera said the next Town Budget Subcommittee meeting was on Monday.

Fincom meeting shared a document which showed the department increases and drew eyes to the School's budget request.

Negotiation Subcommittee and SEPAC Collaboration meetings would be meeting soon.

Ms. Houlihan asked about the next Triboard meeting to talk about "stuff".

Ms. Clancy noted they had a recent meeting with Justine St. John and Greg Johnson and they were going to clarify if they wanted to do it this year, or during a regular year where it could be in person.

Ms. Houlihan noted that even with vaccination, it would be a slow ease back to normalcy with safety precautions still in place for a while to come. She said that would be an upcoming Maynard Film Festival, deadline Dec 31st.

Ms. Rivera made a motion to adjourn.
Ms. Houlihan 2nd the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Mary Brannelly - Yae
Jessica Clark - Yae
Natasha Rivera - Yae
Lydia Clancy - Yae
Bethlyn Houlihan - Yae

Motion passed 5-0

Meeting adjourned at 9:38 pm.

Respectfully Submitted
Colleen Andrade
Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent of Schools
Approved 1/21/21