

MEDFIELD SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Zoom Remote Meeting
December 17, 2020

PRESENT: Jessica Reilly - Chair
Leo Brehm - Vice Chair
Timothy Knight - Recording Secretary
Meghan Glenn - Financial Secretary
Anna Mae O'Shea Brooke - Member at Large

ALSO PRESENT: Jeffrey Marsden - Superintendent of Schools
Michael La Francesca - Director of Finance and Operations
Andrea Moores – Secretary
Andrew Barrette- Student Representative

The meeting began at 7:08 pm after an Executive Session to discuss issues related to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body. (Medfield Teachers' Association Unit A & B, AFL-CIO Custodians, Cafeteria Workers and Secretaries)

A Roll Call was taken to open the meeting:

- Leo Brehm- yes
- Timothy Knight- yes
- Meghan Glenn -yes
- Anna Mae O'Shea Brooke- yes
- Jessica Reilly- yes

PUBLIC INPUT

There was no public input at this time.

FY21 Budget Update – presented by Dr. Jeffrey Marsden

There were no new updates on the FY21 Budget since the last School Committee meeting. Mr. LaFrancesca is working with the town as the expenses with the CARES Act are reconciled.

School Learning Model Progress – presented by Dr. Jeffrey Marsden

Dr. Marsden shared the following updates with the committee:

- Students with academic IEP's in grades K-8 will be back to school four days a week starting on January 4th, 2021.
- Missy Bilsborough, Memorial School Principal, is beginning to reach out to Kindergarten parents to survey their interest in returning to school four days a week.
- Dr. Marsden is working toward bringing students back by each cohort on alternating Wednesday's with synchronous learning in January. Negotiations will begin with the Medfield Teachers' Association and Dr. Marsden is committed to providing synchronous learning on Wednesdays for the cohort that is not in-person.
- DESE has increased the amount of synchronous learning for students in both the fully remote and hybrid learning model. The regulations are geared to increase direct instruction for students who are learning remotely and begin on January 19, 2021.

Ms. Jessica Reilly opened up public comment on either the FY21 Budget Update or the School Learning Model Progress.

There was no public comment at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

Initial FY22 Budget Presentation – presented by Dr. Jeffrey Marsden

Dr. Marsden shared the initial FY22 Budget Presentation which highlighted the following:

- FY22 Budget Process
- FY22 Budget Implications
- Medfield 2021 Items with Direct FY22 Budget Implications
- FY22 Budget Assumptions
- FY22 Budget Drivers
- Factors of Initial FY22 Increase of 3.9%:
 - Maintain current staff and programs
 - Includes steps and lanes changes, longevity and increases to Units A and B
 - Funds all other Contract Bargaining Agreements (Secretaries, Custodians and Food Service)
 - Level funds non-personnel lines
 - Funds next strategic plan

Dr. Marsden explained that this is the first draft of the FY22 Budget and there are many budget meetings and discussions that will continue as this initial draft is fine tuned to the budget document that will be presented at the FY22 Budget Public Hearing in January. The Medfield Town Charter requires the school department to submit their budget to the town by the last day in January. The Annual Town Meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 3rd, 2021.

Ms. Anna Mae O’Shea Brooke asked Dr. Marsden what he would add to the budget if he could. Dr. Marsden replied that he would like to add a school adjustment counselor since the current secondary school adjustment counselor is shared between the middle and high school. Additional math and or language arts specialists to work with students at the elementary level would also be something to consider. He would also like additional teachers for some of the grades with larger class sizes but pointed out that even if funds were available there is not enough space to add more classrooms.

Ms. Meghan Glenn asked if potential COVID-19 relief/stimulus would benefit the budget in a positive way. Dr. Marsden explained that if the stimulus is directly allocated to the schools, Medfield will benefit and the district will be in good shape. If the stimulus allocation is based on a Title I formula then Medfield will receive the minimum fund allocation.

Ms. Jessica Reilly expressed interest to invite State Representative Denise Garlick to a future School Committee to discuss state education funding. Ms. Reilly also reminded the committee that due to the Town Charter Medfield is submitting their budget much earlier than most towns which limits the ability to be flexible and make necessary adjustment as new information presents itself.

Dr. Marsden expects to present the Student Opportunities Act for School Committee vote at the next meeting. This funding opportunity was originally slated for FY21 but was delayed due to the pandemic.

The School Committee was in agreement and asked Dr. Marsden to add a school adjustment counselor to the budget for the FY22 Budget Hearing.

Ms. Jessica Reilly also expressed the need for additional support at the Central Office and acknowledged that this is not something to be added at this time but should be considered for the future. Extra support will allow the administration to direct all of their efforts to student learning. Ms. Anna Mae O’Shea Brooke agreed with Ms. Reilly but stated that this is not the time to add something like this into the budget.

Ms. Jessica Reilly opened up the meeting for public comment on the Initial FY22 Budget Presentation.

There was no public comment at this time.

MASC Resolution on MCAS– presented by Ms. Jessica Reilly

Medfield Public Schools Assessment Measures – presented by Ms. Christine Power.

Ms. Reilly explained that the Medfield Teachers' Association asked the School Committee to consider the MCAS Resolution put forward by the Massachusetts Association of School Committees. Ms. Christine Power was asked to present on the assessments that are done across the district outside of MCAS.

Ms. Christine Power presented on the following topics pertaining to the assessments used in the Medfield Public Schools:

- Review of Elementary Standardized Assessments
- Review of Secondary Standardized Assessments
- Curriculum Analysis
- Data Analysis

Ms. Jessica Reilly asked for insight on high stakes testing vs. assessment and the role of MCAS. Dr. Marsden explained that the most important data point of MCAS is student growth data. The student growth data gives the district a lot of information on student learning at a particular grade level. Dr. Marsden reminded the committee that MCAS is just one snapshot of assessment data. He also explained that if MCAS is held this year it will be for diagnostic purposes only and to give districts their accountability rating. In order for the state to use MCAS as a diagnostic test only, a waiver must be obtained from the federal government. Dr. Marsden predicts that Massachusetts will apply for a federal waiver for this year.

Mr. Brehm asked Ms. Power how assessment data is used for students who test above average. Ms. Power explained that the assessment data is analyzed for trends and then disseminated to teachers who work with the learning specialists to differentiate instruction and provide support and interventions to address learning gaps as well as providing extra opportunities for students performing above grade level.

Ms. Jessica Reilly asked the committee if they would like to vote on adopting the MASC Resolution on MCAS. The committee was in agreement to dismiss the resolution at this time.

Ms. Jessica Reilly opened up the meeting for public comment on Medfield Public Schools Assessment Measures

Chris McCue Potts, 7 Curve Street, asked Andrew Barrette if he had an opinion on a moratorium on MCAS with regard to the MASC resolution.

Ms. Jessica Reilly reminded Ms. Potts that this part of the meeting was for comment only not for a dialogue. She asked Ms. Potts if she had a specific comment to make.

Ms. Potts replied that she would like to hear what the student representative had to say about this topic on the agenda.

Andrew Barrett commented that he actually doesn't mind MCAS because it actually provides some down time in a normally rigorous schedule.

FY22 Transportation Bid – Vote – presented by Dr. Jeffrey Marsden

The FY22 Transportation included in the School Committee packet was received at the bid opening on Monday. As usual one company provided a bid and this year's increase was under \$700, compared to an increase of over \$100,000 last time a bid was presented. Mr. La Francesca added that this is a fair three year contract with an increase of \$90,000 over the three year period.

Ms. Anna Mae O’Shea Brooke inquired about the possibility of adding an afternoon bus for extra-curricular activities and what the cost would be. Mr. LaFrancesca explained that it would be an additional \$69,000 to add an afternoon late bus and a bus run can be added at any time. Dr. Marsden stated that additional funding/bus fees is received could help to implement an afternoon bus route. The School Committee would like to keep working to make this a reality.

A motion was made by Ms. Anna Mae O’Shea Brooke, seconded by Ms. Meghan Glenn to approve the FY22 Transportation Bid from Michael J Connolly for the period of July 1, 2021 through July 30, 2024 with the option to extend for FY25 and FY26 as presented by Dr. Jeffrey Marsden.

A Roll Call Vote was taken to approve the FY22 Transportation Bid to approve the FY22 Transportation Bid from Michael J Connolly for the period of July 1, 2021 through July 30, 2024 with the option to extend for FY25 and FY26, as presented by Dr. Jeffrey Marsden.

- Leo Brehm-yes
- Timothy Knight-yes
- Meghan Glenn-yes
- Anna Mae O’Shea Brooke-yes
- Jessica Reilly-yes

The motion passed unanimously.

Other items since posting on December 15, 2020 - None

OLD BUSINESS

Superintendent’s Mid-Cycle Formative Assessment –presented by Ms. Jessica Reilly and Dr. Jeffrey Marsden

Dr. Marsden presented his goals for 2019 -2020 and 2020 -2021 in the areas of student learning, professional practice and district performance. Dr. Marsden shared the progress and achievements for each goal.

Ms. Meghan Glenn inquired about adding the goals to future meeting agendas so that it would be easier to reference information for the summative part of the evaluation. Ms. Glenn asked if any of the goals are unrealistic due to the pandemic. Dr. Marsden that the Social Emotional Learning (SEL) goal to reduce the number of students self-reporting mental health issues may be more challenging as a result of the increased anxiety due to the pandemic. He explained that the Signs of Suicide (SOS) and Medfield Cares About Prevention (MCAP) surveys will be administered to students. The biennial administration of the MetroWest Adolescent Health Survey (MWAHS) will be postponed due to the pandemic.

Mr. Timothy Knight mentioned that adjusting the goals due to the pandemic may be worth considering.

Ms. Anna Mae O’Shea Brooke stated that she understands the challenges of this current year and is appreciative of the focus on the SEL needs of students and families, and thanked Dr. Marsden for his continued focus in this area.

Mr. Leo Brehm also acknowledged the challenges of the year and thanked Dr. Marsden for his dedication to the Medfield school community.

Ms. Jessica Reilly thanked Dr. Marsden for his commitment to getting students back to school when many districts in the state are still fully remote, and his continued efforts to get students in school while keeping the student learning needs and the health and safety for the students in Medfield at the forefront.

Dr. Marsden thanked the School Committee for their positive feedback and acknowledged the hard work of everyone in the district to do what's best for the students of Medfield.

Ms. Jessica Reilly opened up the meeting for public comment on the Superintendent's Mid-Cycle Formative Assessment.

There was no public comment at that time.

Mascot Task Force—presented by Jessica Reilly (full update tabled for a future meeting)

Ms. Reilly gave a quick update that an application for volunteers to sit on the Mascot Task Force will be released soon along with the School Committee's role in changing the logo. Ms. Reilly will provide a more detailed update at a future meeting.

Ms. Jessica Reilly opened up the meeting for Public Comment on the Mascot Task Force.

There was no public comment at that time.

Dale Street School Project Update – presented by Dr. Jeffrey Marsden

The submission of the Preferred Schematic Review (PSR) was scheduled to take place by December 18, 2020 but the date has moved because there were a few clerical errors in minutes/documents that need to be corrected and then approved. There will be an additional School Building Committee (SBC) meeting scheduled to address these and then the PSR can be submitted to the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA). The PSR needs to be submitted by January 28, 2021.

The Communications and Sustainability subcommittees of the SBC met today today. Ms. Anna Mae O'Shea Brooke announced that the Wheelock Neighborhood Questionnaire has been released and posted on the school website, and will be posted to the Patch and Hometown Weekly as well. The committee will participate in a training with the Office of Campaign and Political Finance on January 12, 2021 at 10:00 am.

Ms. Jessica Reilly opened up the meeting for Public Comment on the Dale Street School Project Update.

There was no public comment at that time.

Donations – presented by Dr. Jeffrey Marsden

Dr. Marsden asked the School Committee to accept the following donations:

- o \$100.00 Amazon Gift Card from the Teany Family to the Blake Theatre Department
- o \$50.00 from the LaRowe Family to the Blake Theatre Department
- o \$100.00 Anonymous donation to the Blake Theatre Department
- o \$225.00 from the Blake PTO Pathfinders Grant to the Blake Gift Account
- o \$528.59 from the Memorial PTO to the Memorial Gift Account for Recess Equipment Bags.

A motion was made by Mr. Leo Brehm and seconded by Ms. Anna Mae O'Shea Brooke to accept the donations as presented by Dr. Marsden.

A Roll Call Vote was taken to accept the donations as presented by Dr. Marsden.

- Leo Brehm-yes
- Timothy Knight-yes
- Meghan Glenn-yes
- Anna Mae O'Shea Brooke-yes
- Jessica Reilly-yes

The motion passed unanimously.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Dr. Marsden shared a letter he received from the Massachusetts Historical Commission regarding the project notification form submitted by Arrowstreet. The letter implies that an archaeological survey/dig may need to be conducted in the spring on the building site.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Student Feedback
- Social Emotional Learning

Next Meeting – January 7, 2021

A motion was made by Mr. Leo Brehm and seconded by Ms. Anna Mae O'Shea Brooke/Ms. Meghan Glenn to adjourn the meeting.

A Roll Call Vote was taken to adjourn the meeting.

- Leo Brehm-yes
- Timothy Knight-yes
- Meghan Glenn-yes
- Anna Mae O'Shea Brooke-yes
- Jessica Reilly-yes

The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 pm

Minutes Approved by School Committee: March 11, 2021

EXHIBITS AND DOCUMENTS

- SC Narrative 12-17-2020
- Initial FY22 Budget Presentation
- MPS Assessment Update Presentation 12-17-2020
- MASC Resolution on MCAS
- FY22 Transportation Bid
- Superintendent's Mid-Cycle Update on 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 Goals
- MASC_Superintendent-Evaluation_2020
- Donations 12/17/2020
- Meeting Video:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9B4Z6JnuVA4&list=PLypOllJHc4M11uhMSb4wb8Z1bf_hWzEwR&index=5&t=3868s

Respectfully Submitted,
Andrea Moores
Secretary