

MINUTES
Maynard School Committee Meeting
Thursday, January 7, 2021, 7:00 pm
Remote Meeting

MGL 30A, Sec.20:(f) After notifying the chair of the public body, any person may make a video or audio recording of an open session of a meeting of a public body or may transmit the meeting through any medium, subject to reasonable requirements of the chair as to the number, placement, and operation of equipment used so as not to interfere with the conduct of the meeting. At the beginning of the meeting, the chair shall inform other attendees of any recordings.

Meeting Called to Order at 7:09 pm. An attendance roll call was taken

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

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

Approval of Minutes 11/5/20 workshop, 12/3/20, 12/9/20 workshop

Ms. Clancy asked that the 11/5 minutes under the Student Achievement Goal have “and it being outside the School Committee purview as written” added after the word pandemic.

Ms. Clancy asked that without objection, the minutes for 11/5/20 and 12/9/20 with edits be approved. There were no objections. **Minutes for 11/5/20 and 12/9/20 approved.**

Ms. Rivera asked for some grammatical corrections, as well as to add under Other Business, “that she expressed concern of expanded scope of using the Green Meadow field”; remove the statement “A School Committee vote was not required since the district was in a hybrid model. A vote was required in the fall since Maynard was in a remote only model” under Winter Athletics since jurisdiction on this matter was not resolved; under the Chair report add language indicating that the police did not stop everyone when it came to mask enforcement.

Ms. Clancy asked that without objection, the minutes for 12/3/20 with edits be approved. There were no objections. **Minutes for 12/3/20 approved.**

Acceptance of Warrants 21-032 (tabled from last mtg), 21-033, 21-034, 21-035

Ms. Clancy asked, without objection, that warrants 21-033, 21-034, 21-035 be accepted. There were no objections. **Warrants accepted.**

Further discussion on Warrant 21-032. This warrant indicated that approximately \$6,000 of a grant secured by Kate Hogan for \$60,000 was not used and returned to the State. There had been plans to spend this money, but was unable to the COVID Pandemic. It was suggested to have a system in place moving forward so these things don't fall through the cracks in the future.

Ms. Clancy asked, without objection, that warrants 21-032 be accepted. There were no objections. **Warrant accepted. Ms. Rivera abstained.**

Urgent Business - none

Citizens' Comments none

Superintendent's Report

COVID numbers are going up in town, but not in school. COVID-19 Dashboard on the School's website is updated weekly. State and DESE recently started to be less restrictive on quarantining. Flu vaccine requirement has been extended until 2/28. Guidance has been sending weekly emails to staff and families. Anticipating that MCAS will be modified this year and used more for diagnostic purposes. MARA is working with teachers to add diverse literature in classrooms.

Mr. Haas noted a couple of thank you letters have been sent out. One for donation of 100 pairs of bluetooth headphones, and another for a \$500 grant to support hybrid learning in gr 5.

Jenifer Gaudet shared a presentation about the student learning time regulation changes to hybrid or remote learning. DESE has adjusted the number of days and hours. She also showed the State Student Learning Time Dashboard which provided information on what all districts were doing for time on learning. The presentation will be posted on the website and a link to the dashboard with a video of how to navigate it. Districts are required to meet the new requirements by January 19th. Need to get more connection to students while being cognizant of not creating more challenges for families. These changes will not affect the MOA's in place for this year, but will need to have a conversation with the MEA about having live check-ins on remote days as well as to revisit Snow Days. Also do not expect any staffing increase at this time due to these changes.

Ms. Rivera noted that it would be helpful to know about any unforeseen cost attached to the impact of this change.

Chairperson's Report

Ms. Clancy attended the Select Board meeting Tuesday where there was an initial discussion about the Town's revision of the proposed budget for FY22. They received the School's requested budget and she believed they were going to ask the District to cut \$854,509 from that request.

Town Administrator Greg Johnson is working to create a Master Plan Implementation Committee which is an advisory body which monitors and supports Town departments and committees to carry out the tasks set forth in the Maynard Master Plan. The School District will need a representative, either a School Committee member or someone they chose to appoint. Mr. Haas will follow up with Mr. Johnson to get more information. School Committee is aware Maynard is in the red with COVID cases, but nothing will change at school at this time, the situation being closely monitored.

Other Business

Student Opportunity Act

Mr. Haas noted that due to the pandemic, there was no budget for it this year, but districts are still required to submit a plan. Money will return in the future and the plan will be put in place.

Ms. Gaudet explained the 4 commitments in the plan.

Commitment 1: Focusing on Student Subgroups - analyzed various data, will focus on Students with Disabilities, Economically Disadvantaged, and English Learners.

Commitment 2: Using Evidence-Based Programs to Close Gaps - the 2 areas staff and families supported were the implementation of researched based early literacy programs, and supporting staff to implement a high quality curriculum.

Commitment 3: Monitoring Success with Outcome Metrics and Targets - will continue using current ELA and Math achievement and the Data Equity Walk data.

Commitment 4: Engaging All Families - implement home visit programs, improve parent/ teacher conferences, regular scheduled meetings between school leadership and various school groups.

Ms. Gaudet noted that they want to move forward strategically to benefit all students and feel this was an important area for investment. Will be evaluating current K-5 program with staff to see what is working and what is lacking . Then will find programs that would be beneficial in rounding out the literacy program. Proposed hiring an early literacy director with a strong literacy background who would be good in diagnostics and not suggest one solution. Not committed to anything at this point and plan can be amended. Funds could also be used for certifications or professional development.

Ms. Clark made a motion to accept the Student Opportunity Plan for school years 2021-2023.
Ms. Brannelly 2nd the motion.

Ms. Gaudet noted that each year the funds would be increased incrementally over the 3 years. This plan only has funding for FY22.

Roll call Vote

Ms. Brannelly - Yae
Ms. Clark - Yae
Ms. Houlihan - Yae
Ms. Rivera - Yae
Ms. Clancy - Yae

Motion passed 5-0

Policies under Review

EBC - COVID-19 Travel Protocol - The previously approved policy stated time frames that have been changed. The revised policy does not state timeframes, instead refers to State links with the current information.

Ms. Brannelly made a motion to accept the updated policy EBC - COVID-19 Travel Protocol.
Ms. Clark 2nd the motion.

Ms. Brannelly noted this was made more generic, and won't need to come back for further revisions.

Roll call Vote

Ms. Brannelly - Yae
Ms. Clark - Yae
Ms. Houlihan - Yae
Ms. Rivera - Yae
Ms. Clancy - Yae

Motion passed 5-0

IJND/603 – Access to Digital Resources

Ms. Brannelly made a motion to approve policy IJND - Access to Digital Resources
Ms. Rivera 2nd the motion.

Ms. Clancy noted the addition of a cross reference of IJND-P.

Roll call Vote

Ms. Brannelly - Yae
Ms. Clark - Yae
Ms. Houlihan - Yae

Ms. Rivera - Yae

Ms. Clancy - Yae

Motion passed 5-0

IJNDB/603 – Empowered Digital Use Policy

Ms. Brannelly made a motion to approve policy IJNDB - Empowered Digital Use Policy.

Ms. Rivera 2nd the motion.

Roll call Vote

Ms. Brannelly - Yae

Ms. Clark - Yae

Ms. Houlihan - Yae

Ms. Rivera - Yae

Ms. Clancy - Yae

Motion passed 5-0

IJNDC/603 – Internet Publication

Ms. Rivera made a motion to approve policy IJNDC - Internet Publication.

Ms. Houlihan 2nd the motion,

Ms. Clancy noted that the 3rd paragraph about webpages was shortened per Adam Steiner's suggestion. Added "home addresses and email addresses" to section about identifying students, added cross reference to INJDD - social media

Roll call Vote

Ms. Brannelly - Yae

Ms. Clark - Yae

Ms. Houlihan - Yae

Ms. Rivera - Yae

Ms. Clancy - Yae

Motion passed 5-0

Ms. Clancy asked, without objection, to table the first reading of the remainder of the policies until the next meeting. There were no objections. The remaining policies will be postponed until the next meeting.

Members Reports & Comment

Ms. Brannelly recognized former Green Meadow Principal Frank Hill who past away in December.

Ms. Clark noted that the Strategic Planning Subcommittee was postponed to next Friday. SEPAC Collaboration meeting will be on January 19th.

Ms. Houlihan mentioned a study that came out that noted people who were asymptomatic accounted for over half of cases of transmission, stressed to continue vigilantly with masks and social distancing.

Ms. Rivera noted the Town Budget Subcommittee was on Dec. 21st. Mr. Haas had explained the budget request. There was interest in understanding Sped costs more since it impact the budget. The next meeting was scheduled for Wed. at 7pm. SC Budget Subcommittee on Wed. at 4pm.

It was noted that there was a policy which stated all donations to School need to be accepted by the School Committee

Ms. Rivera acknowledged the racial attack on 2 Acton/Boxborough School Committee members during their meeting in December and was thankful for the effort the School District was doing this year making anti-racism a goal.

Ms. Clancy called for a roll call vote to enter Executive Session under MGL Ch. 39, §23B, 2 to conduct a strategy session in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel since the Chair declares an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position. The School Committee will not return to open meeting.

Roll Call Vote

Mary Brannelly - Yae

Jessica Clark - Yae

Natasha Rivera - Yae

Lydia Clancy - Yae

Bethlyn Houlihan - Yae

The School Committee entered into Executive Session at 9:10 pm ending the public meeting.

Respectfully Submitted

Colleen Andrade

Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent of Schools

Approved 2/4/21