

**Minutes**  
**Maynard School Committee**  
**Public Budget Hearing and Regular Business Meeting**  
**Thursday, April 15, 2021, 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 7:12 pm. An attendance roll call was taken.

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

In Lydia Clancy's absence, Natasha Rivera chaired the meeting.

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

Anticipated Speakers: Adam Fowler, Student Representative; Jen Piccorelli, Sesquicentennial Committee

**Public Hearing on the proposed FY22 Budget, in accordance with MGL Ch 71, Sec. 38N.**

Mr. Haas presented the school district's budget.

The Literacy specialist noted in the proposed budget may be a consultant, would be for GM and would help MPS look at what literacy programs are working and working well, and what pilot programs to move forward with. Once committed to a program the district would work towards purchasing a program.

The Intervention team would be grant funded, and would be temporary, potentially a couple of years. Team of teachers including a counselor that could be in the building, mostly GM. Would work with teachers with push in model in classrooms, modeling and supporting teachers. If we find there is no need for intervention, the funds would be reallocated.

Ms. Rivera stated that the School Committee would vote on the proposed budget at the May 6th meeting.

Citizens Comments for Budget Hearing

Lynda Thayer, Chandler St, asked about the increase in the transportation line.

Kim Baldasaro, Concord St, asked why there was an increase in the PreK classrooms. Ms. Rivera noted that the PreK program was being increased from 4 to 5 days a week.

Ms. Houlihan made a motion to adjourn the public hearing  
Houlihan

Roll Call Vote:

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

**Motion passed 4-0**

## **SCHOOL COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING**

The Regular School Committee Business Meeting was Called to Order

Roll Call Vote:

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

**Motion passed 4-0**

### **Approval of Minutes**

Ms. Rivera asked that without objection to table the minutes until the next meeting when Ms. Clancy was available.

### **Acceptance of Warrants**

Ms. Rivera asked the School Committee to accept without objection, warrant #'s 21-053, 054, 055. There were no objections.  
Warrants 21-053, 054, 055 accepted.

**Urgent Business (If necessary)** - There was none

### **Student Representative's Report – Haven Estabrook, MHS Junior**

Spring athletics would start after vacation.

MHS had March Madness this past week.

They were doing a lot of mental health check ins and surveys this year with students.

Prom would be held on May 7th. A drive in movie would be held in the spring.

More activities are being planned for when all students return to school.

Students were looking towards next year, everyone is excited to get back to normal, but if needed to go back to remote, they were comfortable with that as well.

### **Citizens' Comments**

Ms. Rivera read the emailed comments.

## **Superintendent's Report - Brian Haas**

Excel was not able to run this year since their employees have found other jobs and there was not enough staffing to proceed. The District would be submitting a request for services to find a before/after school program to run next year. Mr. Haas recognized there was a need.

Reopening Plan for April - Grades K-5 came back full time and it has gone well. 70% of students have returned. Safety protocols are in place.

Foreign language week is after vacation. Councilors are starting the post secondary planning process with Juniors. Mr. Haas noted that Maynard High School was featured on the Channel 5 News wake up call. MHS students Amani and Diego were the grand prize winners in the 2021 MIAA Sportsmanship PSA. Senior student Sam Teague won this year's Massachusetts Anti Drug Video PSA Competition with his video No Excuse for Drug Abuse.

Dyslexia - MA DESE has put out guidance on dyslexia, an 80 page guide. Mr. Rouleau did a bulleted list of points of the guide which will be on the website.

Wellnes Committee had a Senior present her Sr. Project on the stigma around digestive issues which was very well done. Explained what they are, how they impact students, identified the issues, and talked about what the schools can do to help students.

MSBA Building Committee and the School Committee voted to approve the RFS which is the next step in the process for Green Meadow.

Food service, since November, had served 20024 breakfasts and 22358 lunches.

There are mixed opinions on holding end of year celebrations. Consulted with the Dept of Health and school staff. As long as COVID numbers stay where they are, we will have a safe prom, there will be rules that will need to be followed. Fowler will also be holding an 8th grade dance outside, with rules and safety protocols. If we are able to come back to school full day, including athletics, we can do this too. They are optional, students do not need to attend if they don't feel comfortable.

Ms. Clark noted that the Dyslexia Guidelines was really meant to screen for any type of neurological language learning based difference, all students, not just special education students. The dyslexia law passed in 2019 states that schools must screen students who have difficulty in reading and then put a 3-tiered system to help support those children having trouble. She asked what screening was being done now, and in the fall, what the 3-tiered system would look like, what programming would be in place, and the number of licensed reading specialists that were at each school.

Mr. Haas said he would have more information at a following meeting.

Ms. Brannelly noted that MEF funded a GM teacher to get Wilson Professional Development. She thanked Weston for taking on the senior lacrosse players since we were unable to.

Ms. Rivera asked if there was anything that a parent at home could use for information. She also mentioned trying to find a literacy interventionist who spoke spanish.

## **Chair's Report**

Revision to 2021-2022 Holiday Calendar for 12-month employees. A previously approved holiday date had been changed to be a day of school for students, therefore the holiday needed to be changed and was proposed for Friday July 2nd.

Ms. Rivera Motion to accept the recommendation of the revised holiday calendar as proposed for 2021-2022 amending July 2nd instead of September 3rd.

Ms. Houlihan 2nd the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

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

**Motion passed 4-0**

Sesquicentennial Events - Jen Picorelli was not able to attend. Ms. Rivera asked that without objection that this agenda item be tabled to a future meeting.

## **Subcommittee Reports & Members' Comments**

Mary Brannelly said they had a Budget Subcommittee meeting last Wednesday and a Tri-Board budget meeting last night. Hot issue is the solar panel project. Will need to figure out when to discuss that and how to move forward.

Bethlyn Houlihan let School Committee members know about several articles she would be sending them

Natasha Rivera recognized that Paraprofessional Appreciation day was last week and Next week was Administrative Assistants days. The Town Budget Subcommittee meeting last night was looking for direction about the Solar project. Since the full School Committee had not met to discuss, the SC Budget Subcommittee could not respond. It was also noted that the Town was receiving additional COVID grants.

Ms. Houlihan made a motion to adjourn.

Ms. Brannelly 2nd the motion

Roll Call Vote:

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

**Motion passed 4-0**

Meeting adjourned at 8:54pm.

*Respectfully Submitted*  
*Colleen Andrade*  
*Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent of Schools*  
*Approved 6/3/21*

**Citizens Comments received by email**

Hello Members of the School Committee,

I am writing to ask how the schools plan on addressing before and after school needs at the Maynard Schools. As a working parent in Maynard, it is absolutely imperative that our schools provide some kind of before or after school programming for our kids. We depend on this in order to keep our children safe and attended to during business hours.

I understand from the superintendent that there are no plans to bring back EXCEL in the near future. Not having an after school program is detrimental to the kids and future children who attend the Maynard Public Schools. This is something that many parents rely on and if there is no after school program at school, it forces parents to seek out and pay for other alternatives. The Boys and Girls Club is not a feasible option for all the kids who used to attend EXCEL. Maynard needs to do better for its working parents. Please consider bringing back EXCEL or giving parents and kids another option so we can continue to send our kids to Maynard schools and keep our full-time jobs.

Sincerely,  
Jackie Agnew  
167 Summer Street  
Maynard, MA 01754