

**MAYNARD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
MINUTES OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
FOWLER SCHOOL LIBRARY
DECEMBER 15, 2016**

Present: Dawn Capello, Justin Hemm, Jamal De Vita (Absent), Mary Mertsch, Bethlyn Houlihan (7:05).

Administrators: Robert J. Gerardi, Jr., Superintendent; Michelle Resendes, Business Advisor, Jennifer Gaudet, Assistant Superintendent

Minutes

A motion was made by Ms. Mertsch to accept the minutes of 12/01/16 as written. 2nd by Ms. Capello. The motion passed 3-0.

Chairman's Report

Ms. Capello attended the recent Finance Committee Meeting with the discussion around the Green Meadow Playground funding.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Gerardi reported to the School Committee the recent NESDEC enrollment projections along with the report on Maynard students that attend other districts.

Mc. Capello would like to talk at a spring meeting on student choices to other districts.

Aaron Miklosko reported on the Green Meadow roof repairs. He is looking into the Mass School Building Authority accelerated repair program for the Green Meadow. He also stated that the estimate on the flat roof is \$1.5M and the MSBA would pay 40% of the cost. The work would start in 2018 if the application is accepted.

He stated that we already meet the criteria and we can send a letter of intent.

Ms. Mertsch asked when the work would start. The work would start in the summer of 2018.

Mr. Hemm asked about solar panels. Mr. Miklosko said he is talking with vendors about solar panels at Maynard High School.

Citizens Comments

A citizen asked about the charging stations at the Town Hall. Mr. Miklosko said the Town has an electric vehicle (Ford Focus) parked at the Town Hall.

Student Representative Report

None

Global Competency Task Force Update

Ms. Gaudet updated the School Committee on this task force. She established a school/community task force to address critical issues in the school system. The initiatives were:

- Social Emotional Learning- Superior Academic Experience

(Explore a variety of social-emotional curricula and educational strategies to establish an implementation plan for Maynard.

- Communications Committee

(Develop a comprehensive communication plan to improve family and school partnerships).

- STEAM

(Develop a Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math (STEAM) pathway by investing STEM integration PK-12).

- Global Competency

(Make recommendations to the School Committee about World Language programming PK-12).

- Career Pathways

(Establish a communications pathway that meets DESE Ch74 Vocational Career and Technical education requirements that will allow us to seek state approval for the program.

Comments

Ms. Mertsch - Curious about the choice of French and Spanish in grade 7. Are we worried about the French program? Should we just have Latin or just Spanish and implement Spanish later?

Ms. Gaudet - Multiple access points were discussed by the committee. Talked about what can we do efficiently. Can we move Latin back to 5th grade? We have a significant amount invested in Spanish. 75% of students at MHS take Spanish. Looking at wanting to provide multiple languages. We need continuity of languages.

Dr. Gerardi – Any thought on Latin as an elective?

Ms. Gaudet – We did discuss. Teacher groups expressed that what Monica is doing now would look different as an elective.

Policies 2nd Reading

#642 Drug-Free Workplace

#643 Alcohol, Tobacco & Drug use by Students Prohibited

#644 Teaching About Alcohol, Tobacco & Drugs

A motion was made by Ms. Capello to approve the policies with pending edits. 2nd by Mr. Hemm. The motion passed 5-0.

FY18 Budget

Ms. Capello - Budget - 6.25% is needed to be status quo. What should be sent to the town administrator? Dr. Gerardi will write the letter to the Town Administrator.

Ms. Capello – Time deadline to ask the town for a certain amount. We have 3 union contracts this year.

Need to decide what we can ask for.

Ms. Resendes - still stand by that number of 6.25%.

Ms. Capello what we see the most is special education costs. Also, transportation costs for special ed.

Ms. Mertsch – I believe we should ask for what we need. The more we can present with a narrative at the meeting, the more prepared we are. We need to be as transparent as we can be.

Mr. Hemm – Suggests we break from historical practice. We always gave two numbers. This year, we should just present a number and not deviate from it.

Ms. Capello – I agree we should give one number to backup.

Ms. Mertsch – We need to have a good narrative.

Ms. Capello can work with Dr. Gerardi on the letter, one number, narrative plus examples. Also, a table on fixed increases.

A motion was made by Mr. Hemm to approve a letter to Town Administrator Kevin Sweet with the school department budget number of 6.25%. The motion passed 4-0.

Ms. Gaudet - The Principals are working on narratives and will have them by early January. We can take the narrative and make a slide show for the February budget meeting focusing on what the 6.25% covers.

Dawn will send last years' presentation to the committee for review.

Michelle – In the past I have presented a budget book that explains all the financials with a narrative explaining what the numbers mean. Maybe a small budget book to go along with the letter to Kevin Sweet.

Ms. Mertsch - When is the February budget meeting? It is 2/11/17. Could we ask WAVM to tape?

Custodian Contract Approval

Article 13 and Article 14 have amendments in the custodian's contract. Need signature tonight

Ms. Capello made a motion to approve the updated contract as constituted. 2nd by Ms. Mertsch. The motion passed 4-0.

Citizen's Comments

Ms. Messina - Approves of strings in the classroom program. Music at a young age is as effective as a language.

Ms. Gaudet will bring that to the Curriculum Committee.

Ms. Mertsch - There is also a lot of research on the link between music and math also.

Member's Questions/Comments

MS. Mertsch - Do we have policies on sending students out for recess or walking home in the cold. Also, What does MASC recommend on recess for students acting out.

Mr. Hemm - There are policies that need to be updated.

Ms. Houlihan - Just a reminder that we haven't talked about Mary Mertsch's International Trip. She needs to do a presentation.

Ms. Gaudet - We would like to have a presentation for parents and tape it on WAVM. Make it part of a community conversation.

Mr. Hemm - The High School had a successful Beacon Santa Telethon. It was a wonderful community event and we thank everyone involved.

A motion was made by Mr. Hemm to adjourn the meeting by roll call vote at 8:20 p.m. without the intent to return to open session. Second by Ms. Houlihan. The motion passed 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Colleen Moore

Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent