

MEDFIELD SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Monday, September 19, 2016

High School - Library

7:30 PM

PRESENT: Maryanne Sullivan, Chairperson
Anna Mae O'Shea Brooke, Vice Chairperson
Timothy Bonfatti, Recording Secretary
Chris McGrory - Student Representative
Francine Kelly, Secretary

ABSENT: Eileen DeSisto, Finance Secretary
Christopher Morrison, School Committee Member

Jeffrey Marsden, Superintendent

Executive Session: Yes

The regular meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m. by Ms. Sullivan welcoming everyone, reading over the agenda, and reminding everyone that "Public Input" will now be first on the agenda for all School Committee meetings.

Public Input:

Ms. Chris Potts was recognized and addressed the School Committee. (see attached document)

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made to approve the School Committee minutes for June 20, 2016 and table the August 22, 2016 School Committee minutes; first by Ms. O'Shea Brooke, second by Tim Bonfatti. **The vote was unanimous.**

New Business:

- **Special Education Audit Report (I, IV)** - Dr. Marsden informed the School Committee that in May of 2016 the Medfield Public Schools engaged Dorsey Yearley and Robert Gas to review the district's special education program. Dr. Marsden thanked Mr. Gas and Ms. Yearley for their extensive program review saying that he got a lot of feedback and great information having this done. Dr. Marsden went on to summarize the basic reasons for this review in making sure that the special education programming is consistently and effectively implemented across the district and the extent to which parents have confidence in current practice. Dr. Marsden talked about the information-gathering phase and the qualitative analysis that resulted from this phase from interviews and visits with Medfield Administration and staff, SEPAC Board and parents, and review of data and documents. Dr. Marsden further detailed the comparable programmatic data of eligibility Rates, Placement Patterns, Achievement and Accountability Data, and overall Special

Education expense. Dr. Marsden noted that Medfield has the lowest percentage of students found eligible for special education, falling in the middle of the percentage having students with disabilities in full inclusion environments, and having an average percentage of out of district placements in comparison to other comparable communities. Dr. Marsden reviewed the performance of students with disabilities on the 2014 MCAS as compared to other comparable districts. Dr. Marsden talked about the budget for Special Education emphasizing that when compared to comparable communities, Medfield spends significantly less on special education programming further suggesting that given the portion of the budget spent on special education, Medfield has a staffing ratio of 1 special education teacher for every 19.7 students with disabilities inclusive of all within-district programming. Dr. Marsden highlighted the district's pupil expense in special education with that of the comparable communities noting that Medfield is within average of some of these communities, well below other comparable communities, and is below the state average. Dr. Marsden continued to summarize the report talking about the programming and service delivery and parental engagement noting the recent parent survey response that provided valuable data in the level of satisfaction and the consistency of the process. In closing, Dr. Marsden reviewed the commendations and recommendations emphasizing that there needs to be consistency in education. He noted from the report that "by creating an administrative structure within the Special Education Department with clear roles and responsibilities will support both more effective communication and efficient decision-making. Engaging all parents, including those who have had a negative experiences, will serve to create the support that the district needs to effect continued improvement of special education services." He further suggested that this report will be used in the development of strategic plan. Dr. Marsden introduced Kathy Gaudreau as the interim Student Services Director reviewing her role and goals in maintaining the Special Education Department during this interim period. A short conversation ensued with the audience addressing the staffing issues and students on 504 plans.

- Strategic Plan Presentation (I-IV) - Dr. Marsden informed the School Committee that the graphic design is underway showing a brief powerpoint, reviewing the goals, the process, and the timelines for completion including what the finished product will look like. Tim Bonfatti wanted it noted that the Strategic Plan is probably the most important document that the School Committee has developed in the last 5 years. There was a short conversation involving the audience and School Committee including Chris McGrory, Student Representative, on the Medfield Schools commitment to developing the whole child, and recognizing the contributions and needs of all students.
- Fiscal Year 2018 Timeline (II) - Dr. Marsden reviewed the Medfield Public Schools Budget Calendar for FY18 asking the School Committee to vote on the tentative calendar timeline. Ms. Sullivan made a motion to approve; first by Ms. O'Shea Brooke, second by Tim Bonfatti. **The vote was unanimous.**
- Appointment to the ACCEPT Board of Directors (II) - Dr. Marsden informed the School Committee that each year they have to appoint the Superintendent as the school representative to the ACCEPT Board of Directors. Ms. Sullivan made a motion to appoint Dr. Marsden; first by Mr. Bonfatti, second by Ms. O'Shea Brooke. **The vote was unanimous.**

Old Business:

- Wheelock Boiler Project (II) - Dr. Marsden informed the School Committee that the Wheelock School boilers were tested and inspected today with a start up of next week. Dr. Marsden noted that this project went very well adding that the contractors working on this project have been so good to work with that the school department used them for other work that needed attention in our other buildings. Dr. Marsden said he would send out an email when the boilers will be starting up remarking that the first boilers were installed in 1968.
- Donations (II) - Dr. Marsden reviewed the following donations asking the School Committee for a vote to approve.

- \$2,900.00 for the Wheelock School Gift account from the Wheelock PTO to help fund the Grade 3 Plimouth Field Trip.

- \$2,737.75 for the Blake Middle School from the medfield PTO to purchase 25 trapezoidal desks.

Ms. Sullivan made a motion to approve the donations; first by Ms. O'Shea Brooke, second by Mr. Bonfatti. **The vote was unanimous.**

Superintendent's Report to the Committee:

- Elementary School Day Update (II) - Dr. Marsden reviewed the overall feedback from the new bus routes noting that there have been some challenges as we knew there would be, but also receiving some positive feedback. He went on to update the School Committee on the addition of 2 buses and the adjustments of a few bus stops suggesting that more adjustments may need to be made. Dr. Marsden thanked the parents for their patience and understanding during the new process.
- MCAS 2.0 Update (I) - Dr. Marsden informed the School Committee that Grades 4-8 will be required to take the MCAS electronically this year. Dr. Marsden reviewed the impact of this new requirement including; computers, untimed testing, timelines for students taking the test, and the review of it electronically to see what it looks like for the students. Dr. Marsden noted that this year will be a learning curve with more updates to come further suggesting that the 2019 test will be taken electronically by every grade.
- Turf Field Update (II) - Dr. Marsden informed the School Committee that the new track installation is starting tomorrow and should take about 2 ½ weeks to complete. Outstanding items - scoreboard, storage container, pads on poles and some netting. Dr. Marsden said all this should hopefully be completed by the ribbon cutting tentatively slated for October 7. Dr. Marsden went on to say that this was a really good process with great contractors to work with.

- District Recognition (III) - Dr. Marsden thanked MEMO for a great Medfield Day noting that it is a great celebration bringing everyone in the community together, commended the students who attended the senior cruise, and reminded everyone of the Fall Ball being held over the weekend. Dr. Marsden informed the School Committee that Medfield is hosting a lecture being held Thursday, September 29, 2016 from 2:30 to 4:30 by Lt. Colonel Dave Grossman, a leading expert on interpersonal violence and aggression, which is being held at the Medfield High School Auditorium and funded by Norfolk County District Attorney's Office . Superintendent Marsden extended an invitation to the School Committee saying all are welcome but asked that they let Chief Meaney know if they are planning to attend.

Future Agenda Items:

Ms. Sullivan reviewed the Future Agenda Items, opening up the meeting to School Committee members. Chris McGrory, Student Representative, reviewed the first couple of weeks of school, holding government elections, and upcoming Spirit Week being held the week of October 7 followed by the Spirit Dance which will be held immediately after the football game. Ms. O'Shea Brooke expressed her gratitude to the food service department with the samples of new foods being introduced this year. Ms. Sullivan congratulated everyone that participated and volunteered for another great Medfield Day event.

Adjournment:

Ms. Sullivan made a motion to adjourn the meeting; first by Ms. O'Shea Brooke, second by Mr. Bonfatti. **The vote was unanimous.**

Meeting Adjourned: 9:15 p.m.

Next Meeting: October 24, 2016

Minutes approved by the School Committee: October 24, 2016

Respectfully Submitted:
Francine Kelly, Secretary

EXHIBITS AND DOCUMENTS:

- Agenda and Narrative for Monday, September 19, 2016
- Copy of Chris McCue Potts input document to School Committee members
- Program Review of the Special Education Department document
- Donation letters
- Sample of format for the Strategic Planning document
- Draft of FY18 Medfield Public Schools Budget Calendar
- Public record request by Chris McCue Potts