

MEDFIELD SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Monday, October 24, 2016
(postponed from October 17, 2016)
High School - Library
7:30 PM

PRESENT: Maryanne Sullivan, Chairperson
Anna Mae O'Shea Brooke, Vice Chairperson
Eileen DeSisto, Finance Secretary
Timothy Bonfatti, Recording Secretary
Christopher Morrison, School Committee Member
Chris McGrory - Student Representative
Francine Kelly, Secretary

Jeffrey Marsden, Superintendent

Executive Session: Yes

The regular meeting was called to order at 7:38 p.m. by Ms. Sullivan welcoming everyone, reading over the agenda.

Public Input: Ms. Sullivan recognized Marsha Robitaille who addressed the School Committee (see document).

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made to approve the School Committee minutes for August 22, 2016; first by Anna Mae O'Shea seconded by Eileen DeSisto. **The vote was unanimous.** A motion was made to approve the School Committee minutes for September 19, 2016; first by Mr. Bonfatti, second by Anna Mae O'Shea. **The vote was unanimous.**

New Business:

- **High School Student Advisory Council (IV)** - Freshman Representative, Campbell Ayer and Senior Representative Tom Cadman reviewed the startup of the school year for each grade and what they will be working during the school year such as the proms, class dues, spirit week, dances, and fundraising projects.
- **Principals' Opening of School Report (IV)** - Ms. Missy Bilsborough, Principal of the Memorial School, thanked the School Committee for having her reporting on the successful start of the 2016-2017 school year thanking the teachers, office staff, nurse, custodians, food service, and technology department for all their efforts. Ms. Bilsborough went over the enrollment figures and new staff with the range of class sizes for each grade. Ms. Bilsborough highlighted some of the great things happening in the school such as the Science and Benchmark Assessment System pilot programs, the principal coffee, the professional book group, and the new outdoor living space generously donated by an MCPE grant. Ms. Bilsborough outlined her goals for the year which include the continuation of refining and enhancing instruction and student learning with a focus on

social emotional strategies. Some conversation ensued around the additional time added to the school day and new student progress.

Ms. Donna Olson, Principal of the Wheelock School, was welcomed by the School Committee. Ms. Olson thanked everyone for having her, reviewed the opening of the 2016-2017 school year thanking the maintenance staff, secretaries, teachers, and technology department for working so hard to help prepare for the new year. Ms. Olson reviewed the enrollment figures, classroom size and new staff member and teachers that have been added to the Wheelock School family. Ms. Olson talked of the many projects underway, the field trips and traditional yearly events that will be happening during the school year. She thanked MCPE for the grant that provided a pilot program for standing desks as an alternative to traditional seating and the Fall Ball Grant which will provide a mural in the upstairs area. Also noting professional development in the Math Program, ELA standards, the implementation of Foundations and a pilot Science program. Ms. Olson went on to outline a discipline model that will be used to decrease negative consequences promoting positive interventions and support to students outlining how this program will work. There were some questions about the discipline model, the new standing desks, the new general building aide added to the staff this year, and the additional time added to the school day.

Mr. Stephen Grenham, Principal of Dale Street School, was welcomed by the School Committee. Mr. Grenham thanked everyone for the opportunity to speak about the 2016-2017 opening of Dale Street School, thanking the administrative assistants, school nurse, custodians, and technology department for the preparations in helping to make the opening a success. Mr. Grenham went over the enrollment figures, class size and new staffing added to Dale Street School. Mr. Grenham thanked Dr. Marsden and Mr. LaFrancesca and members of the School Committee for the addition of a guidance and School Psychologist saying it has allowed them to start to look at the new social/emotional programs that will be beneficial for his school. He went on to highlight the newly remodeled Library Media Center and the new makerspace designed in the library and what this is used for. Mr. Grenham talked about the extended time added to the school day and how it is used noting that the students enjoy the before school recess and teaches enjoying the extra face with their students. In closing, Mr. Grenham commended the six Dale Street staff members who recently presented at MassCUE talking of how proud he was of these individuals and the incredible things they are doing in the classrooms each day.

Mr. Nat Vaughn, Principal of Blake Middle School, thanked the School Committee for having him. Mr. Vaughn reviewed the opening of school, enrollment, and new staff members. Mr. Vaughn went over some of the goals for the 2016-2017 school year which include; curriculum that amplifies all student learning through innovation technology and skill building, ongoing professional development for teachers, and further enhancing the climate and culture of student reflection for optimal learning. Mr. Vaughn reviewed the initiatives and projects that will be ongoing throughout the year and encourages everyone including the School Committee to join in the #Medfield PS Twitter chats. Mr. Morrison thanked Mr. Vaughn for his Blake Middle School information that he sends out through social media. There was a small discussion around time management for homework and how much homework given at each grade level.

Mr. Robert Parga, Principal of Medfield High School, was welcomed by the School Committee. Mr. Parga thanked the School Committee for having him recognizing that without his staff, especially the custodians, teachers, secretaries and technology

department who helped pull everything together to make for a smooth start to the new year. Mr. Parga reviewed the new programs highlighting the RISE transition program, the Robotics and Engineering classes, and the new transformation of the Library Media Center. Mr. Parga commented on the 2 National Merit semifinalists; Anna Pagliarula and Jan Pan who are both now finalists for the award. Mr. Parga noted the upcoming events including the fall play Alice in America-Land and the home playoff football game that Medfield will be hosting. Policy First Reading (II) - Superintendent Marsden reviewed the Teaching About Alcohol, Tobacco, and Drugs Policy that is required and was written by the MASC and our attorneys. Superintendent Marsden invited Susan Cowell, Department Head for Wellness and Physical Education and Kathleen Thompson, Head Nurse share some information on the teaching of our students on this important topic. Ms. Cowell presented a handout which is a snapshot showing content questions, skills students should acquire, and materials and technology used for these courses. Ms. Cowell reviewed the program and personal safety changes and curriculum in the Wellness Department. There was a brief discussion of some of the topics covered in the program and other topics that should be addressed. Ms. Thompson reviewed the exploration of an anonymous health assessment program that is under review. Ms. Thompson explained that this would be a pilot program that could start in the Spring further explaining how it would be used and what grades would be part of this pilot program. There was some discussion around confidentiality and mandating reporting obligations. Dr. Marsden noted that right now they are looking at a program called "Interface" which would be a collaboration with the town and the school so that resources would be available to anyone that needed assistance. Dr. Marsden pointed out that the Interface Program is different from the employee assistant program.

- Ballot Question Discussion (III) - Dr. Marsden asked Bonnie Wren-Burgess to speak on behalf of the Medfield Teachers Association. Ms. Wren-Burgess presented an overview on voting yes or no on question 2, explaining how she feels it would impact the Medfield Community and the Medfield School Department further urging the Medfield voters and the School Committee to vote NO on Question #2. Dr. Marsden then reviewed his perspective on needing to vote NO on question #2 which included; the financial piece summarizing surrounding towns that have lost money due to funding incoming Charter Schools, local control pointing out the lack of oversight and loss of control by the town when money is allocated to charter schools, and lastly suggesting that he feels education policies should not be made through a ballot box but left for legislators and school committees to make those decisions. In closing, Dr. Marsden said he joins Ms. Wren-Burgess in encouraging folks to vote NO on question #2 explaining that it is not a NO vote because he does not like charter schools because he feels charter schools do a lot of great things for children but rather it is a question of how to fund these charter schools without taking money away from the public school funds. There was a very lengthy discussion on the pros and cons of having the School Committee vote as a whole on question #2 with Ms. Sullivan saying that she strongly feels it is not the role of a School Committee to endorse or not endorse a political question and feels it is also not appropriate for the School Committee to encourage someone to vote a certain way on political questions, stating further that the School Committee would not be voting on question #2 as a group. Mr. Jerry Potts, a citizen of Medfield and Michael Mason, a teacher in Medfield both presented their views and concerns to the School Committee on question #2.. Each School Committee member gave a brief overview of their opinion on question #2. Superintendent Marsden, in closing, stated his opinion for question #4 giving a brief

overview of his concerns and the social impacts if this ballot question is passed further pointing out his opinion that increasing access to drugs for our kids is never a good thing. Superintendent Marsden thanked the School Committee for the opportunity to speak of his concerns to questions #2 and question #4.

- Superintendent's Evaluation (I) - Ms. Sullivan went over the process of determining the Superintendent's evaluation then proceeded to read the completed evaluation to the School Committee and audience (see attached). Superintendent Marsden thanked Ms. Sullivan for the feedback saying although his evaluation is always public it is a somewhat awkward, but has become used to this after his years as a Superintendent of Schools. He went on to say enjoys coming to work each day for a town that is wonderful to work with and is blessed to work with such great students, staff, teachers, town employees and community. Mr. Bonfatti noted that Superintendent Marsden came into the School Department as Superintendent when it was already a high performing district and has enjoyed the creativity and changes that Superintendent Marsden has made while still maintaining the essential qualities of the school district. Mr. Morrison spoke briefly saying that although he does not agree that the evaluation of a Superintendent of Schools be done publicly, he respects the process of the Open Meeting Law expressing his appreciation for the hard work Superintendent Marsden has done and continues to do. Mr. Bonfatti made a motion to accept the Superintendent evaluation; first by Mr. Morrison, second by Ms. Sullivan. **The vote was unanimous.**

Old Business:

- Fiscal Year 2016 Close (II) - Superintendent Marsden welcomed Mr. Michael LaFrancesca to review the end of the year report. Mr. LaFrancesca reviewed the reporting responsibilities ensuring that all reports and schedules are complete and comply with state and federal guidelines. He talked briefly of the purpose of the report, what is included in the report, and the deadline. Superintendent Marsden thanked Mr. LaFrancesca for all the work he puts into this report in such a timely manner suggesting to the School Committee that he will share the final report when it becomes available.
- Donations (II) - Superintendent Marsden asked the School Committee for a vote to approve the following donation:
 - \$800.00 from Carly and Michael Krolak to Memorial School to be used for the art Department.

Ms. Sullivan made a motion to approve; first by Mr Morrison, second by Ms. DeSisto.

The vote was unanimous.

Superintendent's Report to the Committee:

- PARCC/MCAS Results (I) - Superintendent Marsden shared his feelings of the results of the testing done saying that he feels the students did really well in the PARCC Testing. Superintendent Marsden went on to say that they calculated the results with a methodology of using past years results to come up with the statistics for our schools and district. Superintendent Marsden hopes that everyone will be pleased with the results saying that it is a direct result of the growth in our student learning and the good things happening in our classrooms with our teachers. Superintendent Marsden went on to share the rankings of our schools as well as the district saying that although there is

plenty of room for improvement, overall, very pleased. He noted that a full presentation of the results will be made at the November meeting.

- FY18 Budget (II) - Superintendent Marsden informed the School Committee of the letter sent by Mr. Michael Sullivan of the first meeting with the town for FY18 budget that will be held on November 1, 2016 at 7:30 p.m. in which they will outline the numbers for the upcoming budget season. Superintendent Marsden noted that he will give an update of the School Department's potential budget numbers at the next meeting reviewing the process of meeting with all the principals, department heads, and various others together with Michael LaFrancesca to determine the School Department's needs.
- District Recognition (III) - Superintendent Marsden commented on the MCPE fall ball being such a great event raising over \$70,000 and thanking Wendy Ayer and Kim Price for organizing the event as well as the Board of Selectmen and the Town of Medfield for allowing it to be held on the Medfield State Hospital grounds. Superintendent Marsden reviewed the success of the ribbon cutting ceremony for the new field saying that that was a great night with many in attendance, thanking the Jazz Band, many local officials and business representatives as well as thanking Mr. LaFrancesca for organizing the refreshments from the Medfield School Food Service Department. Superintendent Marsden reminded the School Committee of the Michael Thompson presentation Wednesday at 7p.m., thanked all the teachers that presented at MASCUE, reminded everyone of the play Alice in America-Land on Friday and Saturday night in the Auditorium, and the football game that will be held this Saturday night hosted by Medfield at 7 p.m. In closing, Superintendent Marsden wanted to thank all the principals for being here tonite to make their presentations saying they are doing a great job and especially pleased with how the elementary principals are aligning together and collaborating to get in sync with each building and thanking the secondary level principals for all their hard work as well. Chris McGrory, Student Representative, reviewed the current and future projects the Student Council is working on. Mr. Morrison encouraged everyone to vote, briefly spoke of his opinion that voting and elections matter, and commended Superintendent Marsden for the great job he does for Medfield Schools saying that in his opinion, Medfield is extremely lucky to have him as the Superintendent of Medfield Schools. Ms. DeSisto, for the record, wanted to extend her opinion on the discussion of Question #2 suggesting what her vote would be but stating that in on her opinion, this is an individual's right to vote and should not be something that the School Committee should be voting on as a group. Ms. Sullivan thanked everyone for coming this evening saying that it was a healthy debate with some great conversation which is always good to have and supports this type of ongoing communication. Superintendent Marsden handed out an article for the School Committee to read called "Musical Chairs."

Future Agenda Items:

Ms. Sullivan reviewed the Future Agenda Items.

Adjournment:

Ms. Sullivan made a motion to adjourn the meeting; first by Mr. Morrison, second by Mr. Bonfatti.
The vote was unanimous.

Meeting adjourned: 10:26 p.m.

Next Meeting: November 14, 2016 (rescheduled to November 21, 2016)

Minutes approved by the School Committee: 11/21/16

Respectfully Submitted:
Francine Kelly, Secretary

EXHIBITS AND DOCUMENTS:

- Agenda and Narrative for Monday, October 24, 2016
- Document read by Marsha Robitaille
- Minutes for August 22, 2016 and September 19, 2016
- First Reading Policy on Teaching About Alcohol, Tobacco, and Drugs
- Superintendent's Evaluation
- Donation letter from Carly and Michael Krolak to Memorial
- Notice of FY18 budget meeting from Michael Sullivan
- Article on "Musical Chairs"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6tTgejMo-P8>