

MEDFIELD SCHOOL COMMITTEE
High School Library - 7:30 p.m.
Monday, January 9, 2017

PRESENT: Maryanne Sullivan, Chairperson
Anna Mae O'Shea Brooke, Vice Chairperson
Eileen DeSisto, Finance Secretary
Chris McGrory - Student Representative
Francine Kelly, Secretary

Jeffrey Marsden, Superintendent

ABSENT: Timothy Bonfatti, Recording Secretary
Christopher Morrison, School Committee Member

Executive Session: Yes, for the purpose of discussing collective bargaining agreements.

The regular meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m. by Ms. Sullivan welcoming everyone, reading over the agenda.

Public Input: NONE

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Ms. O'Shea Brooke to approve the School Committee minutes for December 19, 2016; first by Ms. DeSisto, second by Ms. Sullivan. **The vote was unanimous.**

New Business:

- Andy Waugh - Public Records Law - Superintendent Marsden welcomed Andy Waugh, Attorney for the Medfield School District, to brief the School Committee on the Public Records Law changes. Attorney Waugh thanked the School Committee for having him and reviewed the new provisions and changes to the Public Records Law. Attorney Waugh pointed out the new requirement in which a government agency and municipality must designate a Records Access Officer (RAO). He further addressed what this means, the format that is required, timelines for a response, reasonable fees, changes in the appeal process, and storage of the public records. Attorney Waugh suggested that effective July 1, 2017 the School Department should post commonly requested public record documents. Attorney Waugh also briefed the School Committee on the other important change in the Municipal Modernization Act which is a Special Education Reserve Account. He talked about what this means to out of district placements for Special Education, how these funds will be set up, appropriated, and distributed. There was a brief conversation around the funding of the account, transfer of monies if needed, and the voting of the appropriation of funds when needed. Attorney Waugh noted that there is still some work

that needs to be done and a few “kinks” to be worked out but this new reserve account could help with the shortfall of a Special Education Department with unexpected expenditures for out of placement costs.

- 2017-2018 School Calendar (II) - Superintendent Marsden talked briefly about the draft of the 2017-2018 School Calendar noting the start and the end of the school year saying that the calendar is still missing the professional development dates. Superintendent Marsden asked for School Committee feedback and suggested that this draft will now be reviewed with the leadership team and an updated draft presented at the next School Committee meeting. A brief discussion involved the end of school year date and when a vote might be taken.
- School Improvement Plans (MS & HS) - Mr. Robert Parga, Principal of the Medfield High School thanked the School Committee for having him and the Medfield High School Site Council for their support and assistance in creating this plan. Mr. Parga reviewed his 2016-2018 School Improvement Plan reviewing the core values that Medfield High School is committed to. Mr. Parga further reviewed the five goals and best practices that will be demonstrated, implemented, and continually improved upon within the Improvement Plan; Goal #1 - continuous improvement for staff and students, Goal #2 - supporting and developing health and social emotional well being of students and staff, Goal #3- development of the whole child, Goal #4 - fostering a collaborative, communicative, and consistent education for all students, and Goal #5 - Investments in facilities and equipment to optimize student learning. Mr. Parga pointed out the great improvements within the library space saying that it still is a work in progress but proud of the changes that have been made so far saying students seem to be enjoying the new space. There was a brief discussion on parent input for new courses that could be offered at the high school. Mr. Nat Vaughn, Principal of Blake Middle School. thanked the School Committee for having him and presented a powerpoint of the Blake Middle School Improvement Plan. Mr. Vaughn read the Blake Middle School Mission Statement and the continued guiding questions that are essential for Blake Middle School’s progression to cultivate and curate student learning and growth. Mr. Vaughn talked about the School’s Improvement Plan in which the Blake Middle School goals directly tie into to the goals for the Medfield Public Schools Strategic Plan 2016-2021. Mr. Vaughn reviewed; Goal #1 - design and implement curriculum for all student learning, Goal #2 - to curate teaching practices and professional growth, and Goal #3 - to enhance our climate and culture for optimal learning. Mr. Vaughn talked and outlined how these goals will be measured saying that the goals are meant to be continued for a long time not just time specific. Mr. Vaughn reviewed the many ideas and changes that are being considered for next year. There was a discussion about the changing/elimination of the “honor roll” as part of the grading process. Ms. Sullivan was concerned that by taking the honor roll away from those students that are academically driven, they should also still be recognized for those achievements. Ms. Sullivan posed the question that by taking this type of recognition away, what would it be replaced with to ensure recognition for those students. Mr. Vaughn assured the School Committee that conversations are ongoing and hoping to come to a meaningful change that reflects grades and efforts of all students.

Old Business:

- Donations (III) (SP3) - Superintendent Marsden as the School Committee for a vote to approve the following donations:
 - Lifetouch commision check in the amount of \$1,488.00 to the Dale Street School
 - Lueders Environmental Inc. annual contribution of \$150.00 to the Medfield

Schools

Ms. Sullivan made a motion to approve; first by Ms. O'Shea Brooke, second by Ms. DeSisto.
The vote was unanimous.

- FY 18 Budget (II) (SP-5) - Superintendent Marsden reviewed the contents of the budget book proposal and the budget drivers that were handed out to the School Committee. Superintendent Marsden informed the School Committee of the teachers lane changes will be revised based on an updated response from teachers. Superintendent Marsden spoke briefly of the meeting with the bus company, and the supplies and material line item still being worked out but noted that the bulk of the FY 18 budget increase will still remain with staffing. Superintendent Marsden wanted it noted that a market correction is needed as towns are competing for good teachers. He talked briefly on some talking points for the next School Committee meeting which will be the Public Hearing Meeting on January 23rd. Superintendent Marsden reviewed the iPad expenditure with the School Committee. A discussion of technology fees be held for a future meeting. Ms. O'Shea Brooke commented her personal vote right now would be to continue on the good graces of the parents purchasing the iPads for those that can and are willing, and use the iPad budget item numbers elsewhere in the FY18 budget. Ms. Sullivan agreed with Ms. O'Shea Brooke saying that with the FY18 budget market correction for teacher salaries, this may not be the best time to add iPad purchases into this year's budget. Superintendent Marsden suggested that with the FY18 budget as it is, making adjustments could come down to materials vs. people with Ms. Sullivan commenting and Ms. O'Shea Brooke's agreeing, "I like people more than materials." Superintendent Marsden noted that he would adjust the iPad budget line item for the January 23rd meeting.

Superintendent's Report to the Committee:

- Director of Student Services Search - Superintendent Marsden submitted a draft of the timelines for hiring the new Director of Student Services noting that it was an aggressive timeline with the hopes of having a commitment for the School Committee in February. Superintendent Marsden reviewed the process of creating the screening committee for this search, with the understanding of the importance of having someone that is a good fit with the Medfield School District and Medfield Community. Superintendent Marsden continued to say that he would not settle just to have someone fill the position and if needed, would re-post the position, and continue the search for the best possible candidate.

- District Recognition (III) (SP3) - Superintendent Marsden read a letter from the Department of Education commending Dale Street School for high progress inviting them to the ceremony and presentation on February 1, 2017 in honor of their achievements along with 51 other schools. Superintendent Marsden congratulated Principal Stephen Grenham and all the staff for this award saying that this award validates all the efforts of good teaching and instruction. Superintendent Marsden commented how proud he is of the work at Dale Street. Superintendent Marsden said he will be in attendance along with Mr. Grenham, Ms. Sullivan, and some Dale Street School teachers to accept this award on February 1, 2017. Each School Committee member congratulated Dale Street School for a great recognition for all their hard work. Superintendent Marsden reviewed a letter sent to him from Paul Dewey, outlining this year's "Destination Imagination" team list and program of events. Superintendent Marsden briefly spoke of this great program commenting on how it has developed over the years with a lot of time and effort going into this project from lots of volunteers. There are 14 teams from our students in the Medfield School District.

Future Agenda Items:

Ms. Sullivan reviewed the Future Agenda Items and asked Chris McGrory, Student Representative for any additional input. Chris highlighted the results of the candy cane fundraiser and talked briefly of some of the upcoming events and fundraisers that they are working on. Ms. O'Shea Brooke congratulated Dale Street School for the award and for all their hard work and congratulated the Jazz Band.

Adjournment:

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

Meeting adjourned: 9:30 p.m.

Next Meeting: January 23, 2017 - High School Auditorium

Minutes approved by the School Committee: January 23, 2017

Respectfully Submitted:
Francine Kelly, Secretary

EXHIBITS AND DOCUMENTS:

- Agenda and Narrative for Monday, January 9, 2017
- Minutes for December 19, 2016
- Public Record Law outline from Andy Waugh
- Draft of 2017-2018 School Calendar
- School Improvement Plans from Blake Middle School and High School
- Donation letters (2)
- Outline of Director of Student Services Search
- Letter from Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

- Letter and outline from Paul Dewey regarding “Destination Imagination”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LKiIor7fY7w>