

MEDFIELD SCHOOL COMMITTEE

High School Library - 7:30 p.m.

Monday, February 13, 2017

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

Jeffrey Marsden, Superintendent

ABSENT: Christopher Morrison, School Committee Member

**Executive Session:** Yes, for the purpose of discussing Contract Negotiations with AFL-CIO Council#9, Local #3901; Custodian/Maintenance Group, Cafeteria Group, and Secretarial Group.

The regular meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m. by Ms. Sullivan.

Ms. Sullivan read the following statement to the School Committee audience pertaining to misstatements from the MTA representative to our teachers union in the January 9, 2017 meeting minutes which were disseminated to all the teachers in the Medfield School District. Ms. Sullivan respectfully asked that the misstatements be corrected in the MTA minutes and redistributed to all the teachers.

The statement is as follows:

Good evening!

"On behalf of the School Committee, it came to our attention that there were certain misstatements on behalf of the MTA representative to our teachers union in the meeting minutes which were disseminated to all of the teachers in our district. Some of the misstatements, although I trust inadvertent, are so egregious that I feel they should be corrected publicly. We request that these statements be corrected in the minutes and redistributed to the teachers. As a School Committee we hold ourselves to the promulgation of facts with the utmost accuracy and integrity, and if we make a mistake, as we all do, it is corrected with transparency. We certainly expect the same of our constituents and representatives.

In the Jan. 9 minutes, it was written that I wanted conferences to be able to "question the teachers". I stated that I wanted to have discussions with the teachers. The most serious misstatement of the minutes was that I wanted market corrections for teacher salary to wait in this tight budget. In fact, I was speaking about keeping iPads out of the budget and to the contrary, never said that contractual teacher salary obligations should be kept out of the budget.

Although we assume the best of intentions and realize mistakes can and do happen, we also hold our students to high standards of notetaking and accuracy, we should expect nothing less of ourselves.”

Superintendent Marsden informed the School Committee of a public information request made by a Medfield parent to the Wrentham Public School district asking for salary information of two former Wrentham principal’s who now are principals with the Medfield School District; Mr. Stephen Grenham and Ms. Missy Bilsborough.

Ms. Sullivan welcomed everyone, reading over the agenda for the evening.

**Public Input:** NONE

**Approval of Minutes:**

A motion was made by Ms. O’Shea Brooke to approve the School Committee minutes for January 23, 2017; first by Ms. DeSisto, second by Ms. Sullivan. **The vote was unanimous.**

**New Business:**

- Elementary School Improvement Plans (1) (SP 3)- Superintendent Marsden informed the School Committee that the Memorial School Principal, Missy Bilsborough would not be presenting but instead be at our next School Committee meeting. Superintendent Marsden welcomed Ms. Donna Olson, Principal of Wheelock School. Ms. Olson thanked the School Committee and Superintendent Marsden for having her in attendance. Ms. Olson went on to thank the faculty, staff,administrative colleagues, Site Council, PTO and Medfield Coalition for all their support and collaboration. Ms. Olsen said that since the creation of the District Strategic Plan, it has allowed the opportunity to revise the format of the Wheelock School plan aligning it to the goals set forth in the District Plan. Ms. Olson went on to share some highlights from each goal area such as; Goal #1 Collaborative Learning: which includes continued work in the new math program, vertical learning walks, English Language Arts standards, the pilot of Foss Science kits and setting up a Word Study Committee with Mr. Grenham and Jamee Callahan. Goal #2 Well-Being: where new ideas are being addressed ensuring the emotional health of our students with such topics as homework, discipline, diversity, mindfulness, respect, responsibility and safety. Ms. Olson informed the School Committee of the new project, which she is most excited about, the collaboration which has led to the acquisition of a classroom service dog (Franklin) for the Wheelock School. Ms. Olson went on to explain how the program was put together and what this new program will entail moving forward. There was a short conversation with the School Committee on cost involved, care of the dog, where the dog will be in the school, and concerns such as allergies and fear of animals among students faculty and families. Goal #3 Whole Child: which includes addressing the needs of the whole child with art, music, wellness programs, good character programs, and library media specialists’ inclusion of the new maker space to provide students to explore more personalized learning options. Goal #4 Communication and Interactions: which includes our student working and interacting with the elderly population, Girls and Boy Scouts, as well as use of blogs, flash, twitter, daily emails, and other social media to encourage and involve our students with the community. Goal #5 Facilities and Equipment: which included the new boiler update, keeping a clean safe

environment within the school, some newly painted and decorated corridors and class rooms, new standing desks and new technology equipment. Mr. Grenham, Principal of Dale Street School, spoke thanking the School Committee and Superintendent Marsden for having him and went on to summarize the process of creating Dale Street School improvement Plan highlighting each goal. Goal #1 Collaborative Learning: which includes implementing a workshop model in math, reading and writing and the integration of the new library Media Specialist. Goal #2 Well-Being: supporting and developing the health and social emotional well-being of all which included the increase in staff of a school psychologist and guidance counselor both of which have included lesson to our students in mindfulness, empathy and sympathy through videos, role- playing and support of students positive behaviors through morning announcements and the weekly blogs. Goal #3 Whole Child: which includes creative scheduling that fits best with students and staff, weekly common planning time, and recognition of advanced math students. Goal #4 Communication and Interaction: to include establishing core values for our students and staff. Goal #5 Facilities and Equipment: with Mr. Grenham thanking his custodians and support from Mr. LaFrancesca and Dr. Marsden in monitoring and supporting the cleanliness and aesthetics at Dale Street School.

- Trip Approvals - Jazz Band, World Language, Student Council, and Girls Basketball (III) (SP4) Superintendent Marsden asked the School Committee to vote to approve the following trips: Jazz Band - Mr. Doug Olson, Department Head for Music, giving a brief outline of the Jazz Band trip. Ms. Sullivan made a motion to approve the Jazz Band Trip; first by Ms. DeSisto, second by Ms. O'Shea Brooke. **The vote was unanimous.** Girls Basketball Trip - Mr. Mark Nickerson and student Maggie McCarthy gave a brief outline of the girls basketball trip. Superintendent Marsden commended Mr. Nickerson as being recognized as a nationally recognized coach working very hard for our Girls Basketball team. Ms. Sullivan made a motion to approve the Girls Basketball trip; first by Ms. O'Shea Brooke, second by Ms. DeSisto. **The vote was unanimous.** Chris McGory outlined the Student Council trip. Ms. Sullivan made a motion to approve the Student Council trip; first by Ms. DeSisto, second by Ms. O'Shea Brooke. **The vote was unanimous.** Superintendent Marsden reviewed the trip to Italy and trip to China both scheduled for April of 2018. Ms. Sullivan made a motion to approve the trip to Italy and the trip to China, both scheduled for April 2018; first by Ms. O'Shea Brooke, second by Ms. DeSisto. **The vote was unanimous for both Italy and China trips in April of 2018.**
- Approval of Scholarships (III) (SP-4) - Superintendent Marsden presented the grades for last years scholarship recipients and asked the School Committee to vote to approve the release of funds.
  - Jeanne M. McCormick Memorial Music Scholarship for \$3,500 to Cole Foster
  - Madeline L. Grant Scholarship for \$3,000 each to Shannon Delaney and Matthew Johnson.

Ms. Sullivan made a motion to approve the release of funds for the Jeanne M. McCormick Memorial Scholarship; first by Ms. O'Shea Brooke, second by Ms. DeSisto. **The vote was unanimous.**

Ms. Sullivan made a motion to approve the release of funds for the Madeline L. Grant Scholarship; first by Ms. DeSisto, second by Ms. O'Shea Brooke. **The vote was unanimous.**

- Athletic Department Update (II) (SP1) - Superintendent Marsden asked Mr. Eric Scott, Athletic Director to update the school department. Mr. Scott reviewed each sport noting the boys hockey and boys lacrosse state championships. Mr. Scott commended all the athletes saying how proud he is of all their efforts, their presentation and sportsmanship. Mr. Scott

reviewed the new Alpine Skiing program saying that there are currently 7 students participating making this program a nice addition to the Athletic Program. Superintendent Marsden commented on how nice it is to see the community pride of so many parents still attending the school district many events even after their children have graduated.

### **Old Business:**

- Donations (III) (SP 3) - Superintendent Marsden asked the School Committee to vote to approve:
  - \$144.69 to the Wheelock Gift Account from a grant for a laptopMs. Sullivan made a motion to approve; first by Ms. Desisto, second by Ms. O'Shea Brooke.  
**The vote was unanimous.**
- FY18 Budget (II) (SP5)- Superintendent Marsden reviewed the breakdown of costs for the FY 18 budget associated with the goals/strategies listed in Medfield 2021 as requested by the Mr. Bonfatti and shared with the Warrant Committee. There was a short conversation around the costs association's, priorities, and commitments, between the FY18 budget and the Medfield 2021 Strategic plan. Superintendent Marsden noted at there is a group of teachers along with himself that meet once a month to review the extra curricular stipend portion of the contract, looking at what other districts are paying, and feeling that this will become a big part of the negotiations going forward ensuring that we are competitive with surrounding towns. Superintendent Marsden reviewed the meeting that was held with the Warrant Committee noting that more updates still to come at the next School Committee meeting but hopeful that we are getting closer to the Town's expected budget.

### **Superintendent's Report to the Committee:**

- Director of Student Services Search Update - Superintendent Marsden reviewed where the process is to date, noting the list of names on the search committee further saying there are some strong candidates, with the hopes that they can stay on schedule with recommendations to the School Committee. Superintendent asked for two members of the School Committee to be on the sub committee for the Director of Student Services Search. Ms. Sullivan and Ms. DeSisto agreed to be on the sub committee for the hiring of the Director of Student Services.
- District Recognition - Superintendent Marsden recognized the athletic state championships and the Jazz Band upcoming concerts.

### **Future Agenda Items:**

Ms. Sullivan reviewed the Future Agenda Items and opened up the meeting for comments from the School Committee. Chris McGrory noted the upcoming midterms, the Dana Farber fundraiser which is going very well, and the Student Council Trip. Superintendent Marsden commended Ms. Safer, Student Council Advisor, for all she her hard work with the students getting them engaged and putting in a lot of hours further noting what great work she does with the Student Council. Ms. DeSisto and Ms. O'Shea Brooke congratulated the students that participated in the Chorus Concert. Ms. O'Shea Brooke commended Corina Cristo, a freshman student, for the publication of her book "Loud Silence" and Tracy Allen for all her hard work with the Blake Middle School plays.

**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: 9:03 p.m.

Next Meeting: March 13, 2017

Minutes approved by the School Committee: April 4, 2017

Respectfully Submitted:  
Francine Kelly, Secretary

**EXHIBITS AND DOCUMENTS:**

- Agenda and Narrative for Monday, February 13, 2017
- Minutes for January 23, 2017
- School Improvement Plans from Memorial School and Dale Street School
- Trip approvals - Jazz Band, World Language, Student Council, and Girls Basketball (5)
- Approval of Scholarships (3)
- Donation letter (1)
- List of Director of Student Services Search Committee Members
- Memo to Medfield School Committee from Superintendent Marsden re; breakdown of Medfield 2021 and the FY18 Budget.
- Public information request correspondence
- Powerpoint presentation to the Warrant Committee on school budget questions

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dcE1hPBneeI>