

MEDFIELD SCHOOL COMMITTEE

High School Library - 7:30 p.m.

Monday, March 13, 2017

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, 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.

**Public input:** None

**Approval of Minutes:**

- February 13, 2017 - tabled

**New Business:**

- **Digital Learning Day Recap (IV) (SP1)** - Superintendent Marsden asked Ms. Kim Cave, Director of Curriculum & Assessment to review Digital Learning Day that was held on Wednesday, March 8, 2017. Ms. Cave congratulated and thanked all of those who participated in the events from the planning, the volunteers, the presenters, the students, and the many behind the scene people that help made Digital Learning Day another great success. Ms. Cave recognized Mr. Neal Sonnenberg, Diane Horvath (absent), and Debby Froman for their incredible hard work in putting this day together. Ms. Cave reviewed the day's events with a slide presentation consisting of the many participants, classes, and overall enthusiasm of Digital Learning Day. Ms. Cave noted that there were over 500 attendees with 43 school districts that participated in the success of this program. Ms. Cave talked of the great participation and excitement from the students that not only volunteered to help with Digital Learning Day but were also presenters in some of the workshops. Mr. Sonnenberg presented the list of different workshops that were available further suggesting that some of the best presenters in the workshops were the students. Mr. Sonnenberg talked about the many outside district participants that are now not only participating in the workshops but running some of the workshops making this a continually growing and very successful Professional Development Day viewed by many surrounding school districts. Ms. Debbie Froman talked about the many areas that student volunteered their time outside the workshops such as; running a photo booth, running announcements, being ambassadors in the hallways, assisting participants in every workshop with questions, to

name a few. Superintendent Marsden commented on the success and enthusiasm of Digital Learning Day, commending Ms. Cave and her team for all their hard work and success going on to say that he has received many emails commending the program. Superintendent Marsden went on to say that Digital Learning Day has truly grown into something our district can be very proud of. Each of the School Committee members spoke of the importance of this Professional Development day and commended Ms. Cave and her group for a very successful and continued developing program for staff and students with Ms. DeSisto commenting that this seems to be the “show to go to” that everyone looks forward to participating in both inside and outside the district every year.

- RISE Presentation - Dr. David Worthley (III) (SP 2,3) - Superintendent Marsden introduced Dr. David Worthley. Dr. Worthley thanked the School Committee for having him present this evening, introducing Ms. Megan Danielski who is also part of the RISE Program. Dr. Worthley reviewed his transition to Medfield School District and how the program is developing. Dr. Worthley explained that the environment in which the RISE program creates should be a safe space in which students can build strength and receive necessary support and develop connections to school after the return from a medical illness and/or hospitalization. Ms. Danielski explained the communications between classroom teachers, guidance counselors, treatment providers, students, and families to facilitate the students return into the daily classroom environment. Dr. Worthley explained the referral process, student help with completing classroom assignments, tutoring, ongoing counseling and support, and guidance in assisting them back to regular classroom setting. Dr. Worthley shared some of the RISE program statistics since the opening of the program noting that the Medfield teachers have been outstanding and have adapted well to the new program. There was a short conversation and questions from the School Committee sharing comments and thoughts on the importance of a program like this in our school system. Ms. O’Shea Brooke thanking Superintendent Marsden for having the foresight to bring a program like this into our district further hoping that all our schools will have the benefit of this program as it is developed.
- Memorial School 2016-2018 School Improvement Plan (I) (SP2, 3) - Superintendent Marsden welcomed Missy Bilsborough, Principal of Memorial School. Ms. Bilsborough thanked the School Committee for allowing her the opportunity to share some of the highlights from the Memorial Schools 2016-2018 School Improvement Plan. Ms. Bilsborough commented on the plan as a collaborative effort created by many members of the site council as well as input from the Memorial School staff. Ms. Bilsborough reviewed: Goal #1 Collaborative Learning - which will focus on providing professional development and training opportunities in such areas as S/E learning, special education, math and reading while continuing to explore the transition of students from preschool to kindergarten through the alignment of curriculum materials. Goal #2 - Well Being - which will focus on student’s social emotional well being using positive behavior interventions and support programs to assist all students strengths and needs developing an approach to behavioral interventions that specifically meets those needs. Goal #3 - Whole Child - which will focus on the recognition of the contributions and needs of our students through the creation of a student recognition program. Goal #4 - Fostering communication with families and community by using parent surveys, the navigation of important information from links that are located all in one area making it easier for parents to locate school information, principal coffee, and recourse updates for families in the weekly Thursday notice. Goal # 5 - Facilities and Equipment - noting that they are adding a gazebo as an outdoor learning space, (thanks to the grant provided by the MCPE). Ms. Bilsborough went on to say this is

just a snapshot of what she hopes provides a general idea of a few of the great initiatives happening at the Memorial School. There was a short conversation with regard to the science pilot program.

- Dale Street - Statement of Interest Vote (II) (SP5) - Superintendent Marsden informed the School Committee the need to vote for the Dale Street Statement of Interest that will be submitted to the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA). Superintendent Marsden informed the School Committee that the Dale Street School S.O.I. is on the Selectmen's agenda for their next meeting. Superintendent Marsden outlined the timelines saying that although it will take a few years for this to be approved, it is important that the paperwork be submitted every year. Mr. Morrison commented that although it seems like a lot of effort to do this every year, it would be reckless of the School Committee not to participate in this type of state reimbursement for our schools. Ms. Sullivan read the Dale Street School Statement of Interest that will be submitted to the MSBA.

**Resolved: Having convened in an open meeting on March 21, 2017, prior to the closing date, the Board of Selectmen of Medfield, in accordance with its charter, by-laws, and ordinances, has voted to authorize the Superintendent to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority the Statement of Interest Form dated April 7, 2017 for the Dale Street School located at 45 Adams Street which describes and explains the following deficiencies and the priority category(s) for which an application may be submitted to the Massachusetts School Building Authority in the future priority:**

**- Replacement, renovation or modernization of school facility systems, such as roofs, windows, boilers, heating and ventilation systems, to increase energy conservation and decrease energy related costs in a school facility.**

**-Replacement of or addition to obsolete buildings in order to provide for a full range of programs consistent with state and approved local requirements and hereby further specifically acknowledges that by submitting this Statement of Interest form, the Massachusetts School Building Authority in no way guarantees the acceptance or the approval of an application, the awarding of a grant or any other funding commitment from the Massachusetts School Building Authority, or commits the City/Town/Regional School District to filing an application for funding with the Massachusetts School Building Authority.**

Ms. Sullivan made a motion to approve the Dale Street School Statement of Interest; first by Mr. Morrison, second by Ms. DeSisto. **The vote was unanimous.**

### **Old Business:**

- Donations (III) (SP-3) - Superintendent Marsden asked for a motion to approve the following donations:
  - \$1,331.02 - Wheelock Gift Account from Wheelock PTO for playground repairs. Ms. Sullivan made a motion to approve; Chris Morrison, second by Eileen DeSisto. **The vote was unanimous.**
  - \$2,937.00 - Memorial PTO for field trip transportation. Ms. Sullivan made a motion to approve; first by Chris Morrison, second by Eileen DeSisto. **The vote was unanimous.**
  - \$ 700.00 - Dale Street PTO for graphic novels and duct tape for the library. Ms. Sullivan made a motion to approve; first by Chris Morrison, second by Eileen DeSisto. **The vote was unanimous.**
  - \$2,000.00 - Surplus - Ms. Sullivan made a motion to approve; first by Chris Morrison, second by Eileen DeSisto. **The vote was unanimous.**

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

- FY18 Budget Reduction Recommendations and Vote (II) - Superintendent Marsden reviewed the current FY18 budget with the additional \$100K in cuts as requested by the Warrant Committee. In his powerpoint presentation, Superintendent Marsden reviewed the initial approved budget of \$33,707,535.00 or an increase of 6.32% with reductions made of \$727,268.00 that reduced the budget to \$33,080,266.52 or an increase of 4.76%. Superintendent Marsden informed the School Committee of the additional \$100K reduction in the budget that the Warrant Committee is requesting that would reduce the budget to \$33,035,766.52 or 4.62%. Superintendent Marsden reviewed the areas in which they made adjustments to meet the Warrant Committee's request, reviewed what the new budget increase of 4.62% would accomplish for the district, and areas that could generate future revenue for the school district. There was a discussion and frustration shown from all the School Committee members on the impact of this reduction with Mr. Bonfatti commending Superintendent Marsden in being able to meet the request of the Warrant Committee's request to reduce the budget amount by almost 1/3 of the School Committee's original proposed budget amount. Mr. Morrison commented that by reducing the budget each year from what is proposed continues to impact and delay what our school district needs. Mr. Morrison expressed his frustrations with comments made about the School District rising costs each year. Mr. Morrison noted many of the changes, upgrades, and cost factors that go into improving our schools despite changes in enrollment figures. Mr. Morrison went on to point out that it is because of the way we teach today that is so different from how things were taught years ago that drives our budget, further suggesting that to have a good education for our kids in the community and how we teach our kids in this community today costs more money.  
Ms. Sullivan made a motion to support the reductions presented. The new FY18 budget number is \$33,035,766.52 or a 4.62% increase to FY17; first by Mr. Morrison, second by Ms. O'Shea Brooke. **The vote was unanimous.**

- Director of Student Services Update (II) (SP 5) - Superintendent Marsden informed the School Committee that they are in a holding pattern right now explaining that the person that has been recommended for the position having some second thoughts about changing school districts. There was a brief discussion on what would take place going forward if the proposed candidate decided not to take the position. Superintendent Marsden hopes to hear something by the end of the week.
- District Recognition (III) (SP-3) - Superintendent Marsden congratulated and thanked Mary Ann Hatem for another terrific play “Wizard of Oz” commenting on her retiring this year from the Medfield Schools. Superintendent Marsden spoke of her dedication and hard work every year and that she will surely be missed. Superintendent Marsden recognized Eileen DeSisto, School Committee member, for all of her dedication working on the School Committee for the last 6 years. Each of the School Committee members took turns thanking Ms. DeSisto for all her years of service saying she has made some very important decisions and changes while being on the School Committee.

### **Future Agenda Items:**

Ms. Sullivan reviewed the Future Agenda Items and opened up the meeting for comments from the School Committee. Chris McGrory reviewed upcoming senior events and fundraisers Mr. Morrison thanked everyone for the support and best wishes to his family over the last few months. Ms. DeSisto thanked everyone on the School Committee for being such a great group of people to work with commenting on how much she has learned by being a School Committee member for the last 6 years and is grateful to have had this opportunity.

Superintendent Marsden reminded the School Committee that the Budget Mailer is being prepared asking the School Committee for their thoughts on how they would like the mailer to be presented to the Medfield families. Superintendent Marsden made a suggestion of sending a postcard to every household describing where the budget information would be posted instead of the budget mailer form of years past noting that this would save a great deal of money. There was a short discussion on the concerns of this change suggesting it be discussed further at the next meeting.

### **Adjournment:**

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

Meeting adjourned: 9:42 p.m.

Next Meeting: April 3, 2017

Minutes approved by the School Committee: May 15, 2017

Respectfully Submitted:  
Francine Kelly, Secretary

EXHIBITS AND DOCUMENTS:

- Agenda and Narrative for Monday, April 3, 2017
- Minutes for February 13, 2017
- Link to DLD presentation <https://spark.adobe.com/page/WlAc5kiG0hsxw/>
- Rise Program presentation
- Memorial School Improvement Plan presentation
- Statement of Interest form used for Dale Street SOL.
- Donation documents (4)
- Superintendent Marsden FY18 Budget Reduction Recommendation presentation

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=moIq9qasYdk&list=PLypOllJHc4M3mkgPYRqVtwMog4c-DMN>