

MEDFIELD SCHOOL COMMITTEE

High School Library - 7:30 p.m.

Monday, February 12, 2018

PRESENT: Maryanne Sullivan - Chairperson
Anna Mae O'Shea Brooke -Vice Chairperson
Jessica Reilly - Finance Secretary
Christopher Morrison - Recording Secretary
Timothy Bonfatti - Legislative Liaison
James Cawley - Student Representative
Jeffrey Marsden -Superintendent
Francine Kelly -Secretary

Executive Session: A roll call vote was made to move into Executive Session. **The vote was unanimous to move the meeting into Executive Session at 7:00 p.m** to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining, if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body.

Ms. Sullivan opened the regular meeting at 7:32 p.m. reading the agenda for the evening.

Public Input:

Ms. Renee Howley, Medfield resident, spoke to the School Committee urging them to keep in mind the importance of keeping our teachers and core classes when proposing the FY19 School Budget going forward.

Approval of Minutes:

- January 8, 2018 and January 29, 2018 minutes- Ms. Sullivan asked for a motion to approve the regular session minutes and executive session minutes. Mr. Morrison moved to accept and approve the minutes; second by Ms. O'Shea Brooke. **The vote was unanimous** to approve the regular session minutes and executive session minutes for January 8, 2018 and January 29, 2018.

New Business:

- Medfield High School Student Advisory Presentation - Eliza Vara; Freshman, Ayer Campbell Sophomore; Lily Bannister; Junior, and Jack Lane; Senior briefed the School Committee and audience on the ongoing fundraisers, college preparation and visits, upcoming prom and dance events.
- Dale Street SWAT Presentation - Superintendent Marsden introduced Stephen Grenham, Principal of Dale Street School and Kerry Cowell, Librarian Department Head. Mr. Grenham and Ms. Cowell introduced the Dale Street student members of the SWAT (Students Working to Advance Technology) Intramural Program and gave a brief overview. They explained how they wanted to offer students a totally hands-on student driven intramural program so students could share ideas, tips, and experiences with technology to

teachers and other students. Mr. Grenham and Ms. Cowell noted the program is funded through MCPE grants explaining how the students developed and decided their own individual passions and projects then sharing their projects with others. There was a slideshow presentation and a video on the first SWAT meeting capturing the students experience. Ms. Cowell and Mr. Grenham had each student member of SWAT present a brief synopsis of their idea and how it was shared with teachers and staff. Mr. Grenham thanked MCPE for their generosity as well as Mr. LaFrancesca and Mr. O'Corcora for their support in getting this program up and running. There was a brief enthusiastic question and answer segment in which the students had a chance to explain and highlight some of their projects and ideas with the School Committee and audience.

- MetroWest Adolescent Health Survey Presentation - Ms. Susan Cowell, Wellness Department Head presented the results of Medfield's 2016 MetroWest Adolescent Health Survey. She talked about the validity and reliability of the survey noting students reliability in responding truthfully preserving their anonymity. Ms. Cowell briefed some of the topics in the survey which focused on middle school and high school students such as; substance use, bullying and cyberbullying violence, behaviors related to unintentional injuries, mental health, dietary behaviors and physical activity, protective factors and sexual behaviors. Ms. Cowell briefly talked about and showed graphs of percentage results of the number of students with school attachments vs. non school attachments; stress trends; mental health and suicidality, alcohol use trends; electronic cigarette use and social media use. After the slideshow presentation Ms. Cowell talked about some action steps being taken at the Medfield Schools which included adding psychologists and guidance counselors leading class lessons surrounding social thinking skills and mindfulness, positive referral programs, anti-bullying education, formation of the SEL Task Force, transitioning of Wellness curriculum, homework free weekends, reduction of mid year exams, and the community INTERFACE program. In closing the presentation, Ms. Cowell opened up the presentation talking with the School Committee in how there can be continued efforts of support by our parents, schools, community and students in working together raising awareness to some of the concerning issues in the MetroWest Survey results. Mr. Morrison commented on the RISE program and how it really has become a valuable program in servicing our students with a wide range of needs making the transition into the classroom a more positive experience. Ms. Reilly commented on the need for ongoing conversations with our students on dating violence. It was noted that the MetroWest Survey will be available to read on the Medfield Website.
- Medfield High School France Trip Approval April, 2019 - Superintendent Marsden reviewed the the High School France Trip scheduled for April 2019 informing the School Committee that they are using a different vendor this year so that students can have a more "in home" experience. There was some discussion on the dates of the trip with Ms. O'Shea Brooke suggesting there be a conversation with the parents letting them know that the students will be travelling during Holy Week in France. Mr. Morrison moved to approve; second by Ms. O'Shea Brooke. **The vote was unanimous.**
- Dale Street Project Feasibility Study - Superintendent Marsden informed the School Committee that he had spoken with Mike Quinlan and Mike Sullivan with the suggestion that he recommend the School Committee vote to ask the Board of Selectman for a special election after the Annual Town Meeting for the purpose of a debt exclusion override vote. Motion made a motion to approve; second by Ms. O'Shea Brooke. **The vote was unanimous.**

- School Committee Office Hours - Ms. O'Shea Brooke spoke of having School Committee office hours once a per month at various locations so that members of the community could come and speak to School Committee members in a more private forum. There was a general discussion among the School Committee members if this should be an ongoing monthly forum, where the office hours will be held, what should be discussed, and who will be in attendance from the School Committee. Mr. Morrison expressed serious concerns noting the School Committee is made up of volunteers that volunteer their time and commitment to be members of the School Committee but that some members do not have enough time to add additional hours on to their day which for some, include long commutes to and from work. Mr. Morrison also expressed his core concern that School Committee are elected officials and feels it is not appropriate of a School Committee member to hear personal complaints about teachers, administrators, or students. Ms. Reilly, Ms. O'Shea Brooke and Ms. Sullivan each suggesting their points of view suggesting there are people in the community who have reached out feeling that office hours would be helpful for those not comfortable with an open meeting forum and would prefer to talk in a smaller setting. Ms. Sullivan noted that there will be different locations with at least two School Committee members present for the office hours. Ms. Sullivan said a notice will be put on the Medfield website with dates, times, and locations of the School Committee office hours once determined.
- Other Items since posting on January 24, 2018 - NONE

Old Business:

- FY19 Budget Update - Superintendent Marsden reviewed the updated FY19 budget proposal including some areas where reductions can be made reducing the original FY19 Budget Proposal from 5.92% as voted and approved from the School Committee to 4.87% as requested from the Warrant Committee. Superintendent Marsden's reviewed the budget drivers, budget assumptions, per pupil expenditure and projected class sizes, along with an updated recommended proposal of reductions. Included in this new FY19 budget proposal, Superintendent Marsden proposed, in part, to hold off hiring a Director of Curriculum for one year which is the position that Kim Cave has held but is retiring. Superintendent Marsden suggested although this position is a critical piece of student learning and teacher professional development, it could be done for one year so that teachers would be spared any reduction in force. With the proposed reductions, Superintendent Marsden outlined on his powerpoint, the new FY19 budget proposal of 4.86% explaining that although it is not totally what the Warrant Committee is looking for but it is close. Mr. Morrison and other members of the School Committee expressed their concerns in the reductions particularly the elimination of the Director of Curriculum. Expressing in part, that although the suggestion is made to not hire this position for one year, there is no guarantees we would get this position back into the budget for next year. Mr. Morrison noted that this position took a long time be a part of the school budget and fears it will be a step backwards not forwards in all the work that has been done across the district with curriculum. Ms. O'Shea Brooke and Ms. Reilly expressed their concerns suggesting there is no clear good answer recognizing this is not a long term sustainable solution but that hard core decisions need to be made. Superintendent Marsden said the goal of these staff reductions is with the understanding that these are things we can live without for a year and be part of the budget for next year. Superintendent Marsden gave an overview of what the 4.86% increase

represents. There was a brief conversation about teacher pay scales, class sizes for next year, and looking into the possibility of asking for an override.

- 2018-2019 Calendar - Superintendent Marsden reviewed the updated draft of the 2018-2019 school calendar noting the Wednesday/Friday early release professional development days. Mr. Morrison made a motion to approve the 2018-2019 school calendar; second by Ms. Reilly and Ms. Sullivan. **The vote was unanimous.**

- Donations - Superintendent Marsden asked for a vote to approve the following donations:

Wheelock School - \$108.00 from the Wheelock PTO Angel Fund for 3
Wheelock

Students to participate in the Plimoth Field Trip and Rocky Woods field
trip

- \$411.53 from the Wheelock Student Activity account to
the

Wheelock School Gift Account.

Mr. Morrison made a motion to approve the donations; second by Ms. O'Shea Brooke.

The vote was unanimous.

Superintendent's Report to the Committee:

- Director of Student Services Update - Superintendent Marsden updated the School Committee on the Director of Student Services search noting the final two candidates resumes in the School Committee packet. Superintendent Marsden briefed the School Committee on the final two candidates meet and greet within the school system with the hope to have a final candidate recommendation at the next School Committee meeting.
- Informational Items - Superintendent Marsden reviewed the informational items in the School Committee packet concerning the 40B - 71 North Street project. Superintendent Marsden also briefed the School Committee on three of our teachers; Julie Lowerre, Marjorie Heim, and Kerry Lynch who are now Fuse Fellows through the Highlander Institute which is fully funded by TEC. Superintendent Marsden noted the huge commitment by the teachers to be part of this ongoing professional development project emphasizing the wealth of information and knowledge that is gained from this type of collaboration between school districts.
- District Recognition - Superintendent Marsden thanked Eric Scott for organizing the Boston ECG Project for our schools over the past weekend. Superintendent Marsden said there were a lot of our students as well as students from other towns that participated in this event which is a scan of your heart for any detection of defects. Ms. Sullivan thanked Dr. Cadigan for his participation and commitment to the project and sharing his expertise with