

MEDFIELD SCHOOL COMMITTEE

High School Library - 7:30 p.m.

Monday, March 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 and litigation, 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:

Resident Linda Salisbury of 57 Colonial Road read a statement of concern for the underfunding of the Theatre Program Director position. Ms. Salisbury talked about comparisons to other school districts, reviewed the hours of dedication to the program, as well as reasons and need to retain the current Theatre Director. Ms. Salisbury asked the School Committee to review the current stipend for the Theatre Director Position asking that this position be funded appropriately as in other school districts for this year as well as school years moving forward. There were many parent participants that voiced their accolades for the current Theatre Director noting that although all the productions of the past have been great, this years plays have been outstanding. Many parents voiced their concerns about the lack of funding, concern for funding in the future, the dedication of so many to the theatre program, and how many students have been inspired, felt connections, and support from our schools because of the theatre program. Superintendent Marsden thanked all the parents for their comments acknowledging the need for adjustments and corrections to the stipends in many areas including the stipend for the Theatre Director. Superintendent Marsden said the Sub Committee is working closely with the MTA to align stipends to where they should be. Superintendent Marsden said that in years past, the stipends have not been addressed during the collective bargaining process but it is his hope that there will be some much needed stipend corrections made as part of this years collective bargaining process. Each School Committee member thanked all that spoke congratulating all the hard work and dedication of everyone who participates in the theatre program and the production of such great plays.

Approval of Minutes:

- February 12, 2018 - Mr. Morrison made a motion to TABLE the February 12, 2018 minutes; second by Ms. O'Shea Brooke. **The vote was unanimous to TABLE the February 12, 2018 minutes.**

New Business:

- Appointment of Director of Student Services - Superintendent Marsden informed the School Committee that he, along with Maryanne Sullivan and Jessica Reilly spent two days with the finalists recommending the School Committee vote to approve Mary Bruhl as our next Director of Student Services. Superintendent Marsden noted the resume enclosed in the School Committee Packet saying he believes she will be a great fit and a nice addition to the team. Superintendent Marsden suggested with this vote to approve, it would allow him to put forth contract negotiations with Ms. Bruhl in hopes of having her start on July 1. Each School Committee member voiced their approval and thoughts. Mr. Morrison asked that she come to the next School Committee meeting for an introduction then made a motion to appoint Mary Bruhl as Director of Student Services; second by Ms. O'Shea Brooke and Ms. Sullivan. **The vote was unanimous.**
- Other items since posting on March 7, 2018 - NONE

Old Business:

- Access to Building Follow-up - Chief Meaney - Superintendent Marsden welcomed Chief Meaney. Chief Meaney thanked the School Committee for having him speak also introducing School Resource Officer Michelle Manganello and Deputy Chief John Wilhelmi. Chief Meaney gave an overview of the last few years safety procedures, updates, and ongoing training. Chief Meaney noted that security and safety is a real and ongoing issue within our schools and community. He talked in length about good communication, ongoing safety drills, lockdown drills, simulation training with Medfield police officers as well as with other police officers in surrounding towns. He spoke about the improvements that have been made and the ongoing steps in continued improvements such as having Officer Manganiello as a key element in being visible and working every day within our schools which has been a great source of added security and communication. Chief Meaney talked of the importance of ongoing training in targeting mental health issues saying this training is necessary to help shift our way of thinking and using better techniques in dealing with mental health issues. There was a general discussion between Chief Meaney and the School Committee on ways in which school safety can be improved on, different strategies that could be used, techniques that are now in place, and some of the safety measures that can be expanded upon when schools are open during the evening hours. Superintendent Marsden talked briefly about accessing our schools after regular school hours saying the doors are open for many different reasons with many different evening events. The schools are the hub of our community and our students, staff, and community should feel safe in our schools during the evening hours. Mr. Morrison thanked Chief Meaney addressing the recent alarm that went out

during the power outage at the high school. Superintendent Marsden said that although it was a false alarm in our high school and that the timing was not the greatest especially with the recent events that happened in Florida, it has afforded us the opportunity to learn what we need to do prepare everyone in our schools and to address some of the failed areas such as; where the alarm was not heard, work on updating our protocols, communication, emergency drills, as well as additional and ongoing training with our staff, students, and law enforcement. Superintendent Marsden noted that there were many things are students and staff did that were great and some that we can still improve on. Ms. O'Shea Brooke suggested additional training for part time positions like long term substitutes and regular weekly substitutes saying that she would like to see some sort of a webinar developed for school safety protocols. Mr. Bonfatti suggested that perhaps there could be an executive session discussion regarding safety issues and security. The School Committee thanked Chief Meaney for attending the School Committee meeting.

- FY19 Budget Update - Superintendent Marsden reviewed the four different proposals of the FY19 budget in the School Committee packet. After reviewing each proposal with the School Committee, Superintendent Marsden talked about the key points of each budget proposal and what cuts/additions would be made. Superintendent Marsden noted that last week the Warrant Committee unanimously voted a 4% increase for the School Department and it is his hope that with the different proposals suggested and feedback from the School Committee, there can be a decision made on for the FY19 School Budget. Mr. Morrison spoke saying that it has always been a point of pride that Medfield has outstanding schools while spending less per student than most surrounding towns. Although understanding there is no magic pool of money and with Medfield having very little commercial tax base, it is very difficult to ask for an override in order to raise taxes but continued in saying he personally feels that a 4% or even a 4.86% increase is not enough of an increase for the Medfield School Budget. Mr. Morrison went on to suggest that he and Ms. Reilly will meet with the representatives from the Medfield Board of Selectman to discuss the possibility of putting through an override on the special ballot in May which is something that has not been done in Medfield in 7 years. Mr. Morrison said, in his opinion with Mr. Bonfatti in agreement, that something needs to be done to clear up the operational deficit in this town and it is his hope that the School Committee makes a commitment to put forth the suggestion of an override to the Board of Selectmen. **Ms. Sullivan noted that no further action will be taken from the School Committee on a vote of the FY19 School Budget at this time.** Mr Jerry Potts spoke briefly commending Mr. Morrison for pointing out the need to increase the School Budget more than the Warrant Committee's recommendation and vote for a 4% increase.
- Donations - Superintendent Marsden asked for a vote to approve the following donations:

Blake Middle School

- \$500.00 from Grynn & Barrett
- \$725.00 from Blake PTO to the Blake Gift Account
- \$600.00 from Blake PTO to the Blake Gift Account

Mr. Morrison made a motion to approve the donations; second by Ms. Reilly.

The vote was unanimous.

Superintendent's Report to the Committee:

- Informational Items - Superintendent Marsden reviewed the March 2, 2018 storm report damage memorandum submitted by Jerry McCarty. Superintendent Marsden reviewed some of the correction actions taken by the Maintenance Department briefly commenting on what insurance coverage there may be for some of the damage done.
- District Recognition - Superintendent Marsden thanked everyone who participated in the Winter Carnival, congratulated the Theatre Society and everyone who participated in making the musical "Pippin" such a great success and congratulated all the fall sports teams. Superintendent Marsden reminded everyone of the upcoming Digital Learning Day saying there are over 30-40 districts that will have employees participating at this great event. Superintendent also thanked the staff, administration and all the students in doing a great job putting together and coordinating the Student Walk Out which is scheduled to be held on March 14. James Cawley reminded everyone of the fundraiser "Putting for Patients" being held on Sunday with all proceeds going to the Jimmy Fund. Also James mentioned the semi formal dance being held on Friday and congratulated the Medfield Student Council for winning the gold medal at the MESC Conference. Mr. Morrison thanked Mr. Parga's organization of the student protest walk out saying Mr. Parga did a nice job in sending out the message. Mr. Morrison wished Ms. Sullivan best of luck with the upcoming election saying she has been a true asset to the School Committee. Ms. Sullivan thanked all those who attended the meeting tonight giving special thanks to the attendees who came to support the Theatre Society.

Future Agenda Items: Ms. Sullivan read the Future Agenda Items, asking for a motion to adjourn the meeting; first by Mr. Morrison, second by Ms. Reilly. **The vote was unanimous**

Adjournment: 10:00 p.m.

Next Meeting - April 2, 2018

Minutes approved by the School Committee: April 30, 2018

Respectfully Submitted:

Francine Kelly, Secretary

EXHIBITS AND DOCUMENTS;

- Agenda and Narrative for Monday, March 12, 2018
- Regular Minutes and Executive Minutes for February 12, 2018
- Resume Packet for Director of Student Services
- Donations (3)
- FY19 Budget documents
- Memo from Jerry McCarty - Storm Damage information

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F15u_bKufUA&list=PLypOIJHc4M3fUC59QbdX628f7ZWBfg27