

MEDFIELD SCHOOL COMMITTEE

High School Library - 7:30 p.m.

Monday, November 5, 2018

PRESENT: Anna Mae O'Shea Brooke -Chairperson
Jessica Reilly - Vice Chairperson, Legislative Liaison
Christopher Morrison - Recording Secretary
Leo Brehm - Finance Secretary
Meghan Glenn - School Committee Representative
Peter Barrette - High School Student Representative
Jeffrey Marsden -Superintendent

Francine Kelly -Secretary

ABSENT: Madison Reddy - High School Student Representative

Executive Session – Ms. O'Shea Brooke opened the meeting asking for a roll call to move into Executive Session M.G.L. c.30A, Sec.21A #3 - To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body. (Teacher Assistants).

Roll Call vote:

- Anna Mae O'Shea Brooke - yes
- Jessica Reilly - yes
- Leo Brehm - yes
- Meghan Glenn - yes
- Christopher Morrison - yes
- Jeffrey Marsden - yes

Ms. O'Shea Brooke suggested the Executive Session should last no more than 30 minutes.

Ms. O'Shea Brooke opened the regular meeting at 7:34 p.m. reading the agenda for the evening then asking for public input.

Public Input:

Ms. Sharon Tatro voiced her concern with a recommendation that the Cheering be considered a varsity sport and part of the Athletic Program instead of it being a club. Ms. Tatro pointed many reasons for her recommendation such as cost of uniforms, competition costs, banner costs, and transportation. Ms. Tatro briefly discussed her conversation with Eric Scott, the Athletic Director. There was a brief discussion on timeframe of when the Cheering Program went from

being a sport to a club. Mr. Morrison suggested with next year's budget topics that they look at the Cheering Program to be a provisional sport as part of the Athletic Program. There was a brief discussion on how many have been signing up for the Cheering program and whether it is open to male and female population.

Ms. Jennifer Hern spoke briefly of space issues with the rising numbers in students coming into the district in conjunction with the construction of Dale Street School. Superintendent Marsden suggested that is a concern with the MSBA as well and will be looking into a few different scenarios to work with the growing population. Superintendent Marsden gave a few suggestions of modular classrooms noting he was not in favor of this and only as a last resort, along with restructuring the elementary schools to accommodate students while the construction is going on. Ms. Hern also asked if the School Committee would consider a PreK-12 Curriculum Map so that parents would have the capability of assessing student curriculum in other grade levels easing transition for students when moving up. Superintendent Marsden said that was a great point noting that Dr. Martes, Interim Curriculum Director has been putting together a curriculum calendar for review. Superintendent Marsden also noted that teachers have been working really hard at the elementary level to have more consistent approaches with Math, Science, and Language Arts. Superintendent Marsden further noted it may not be a written document but communication and common planning time is happening every week where teachers are collaborating between buildings. He also mentioned that the high school is working with the NEASC process in getting a full curriculum piece for all subject areas.

Approval of Minutes:

Ms. O'Shea Brooke asked for a motion to approve the October 22, 2018 minutes. Mr. Morrison made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted; second by Mr. Brehm. **The vote was unanimous.**

New Business:

- High School Model U.N. Club Conference Trip - Superintendent Marsden reviewed the upcoming High School Model U. N. Club trip to Brown University scheduled for November 9-11, 2018. Peter Barrette, Student Class Advisor, briefed the School Committee on what conference would entail. Superintendent Marsden asked for a vote to approve the conference. First by Mr. Morrison, second by Ms. Reilly. **The vote was unanimous.**
- Research and Development Presentations - Pamela Forrester, Guidance Counselor/Wheelock School, Paula Grace and Sally DeGeorge, Elementary Teachers/Wheelock School presented their R&D summer project "Choose To Be Nice." Ms. Forrester reviewed the project and participants, presenting a powerpoint presentation

to the School Committee. Ms. Forrester said the focus of the R&D was on 9 different values that will be used each month of the school year that align with the concepts across the SEL curriculum. The values are Respect in September, Responsibility in October, Kindness in November, Acceptance in December, Courage in January, Friendship in February, Patience in March, Teamwork in April and Honesty in May. Ms. Forrester described how the “Choose to be Nice” project is incorporated into every day lessons noting that the students, faculty, and staff have integrated this theme in all content areas, become a whole school message, expanded into students families, and linked to the community which are messages that everyone can relate and teach on a daily basis. Ms. Forrester gave examples of how this project is incorporated through Open Circle each month without adding to an already busy teaching schedule. There was a short conversation on how it is incorporated into the classrooms without adding extra lessons planning. Also noting how this project will continue and how it has been linked in ways of adding it to our students families, staff, and community as part of good common daily language.

- Coordinated Program Review - Ms. Mary Bruhl, Director of Student Services presented a powerpoint on the findings from the Coordinated Program Review. Ms. Bruhl gave an overview of the process, methods of information gathering, the on-site visits, and meeting with DESE. Ms. Bruhl and Superintendent Marsden briefed the School Committee on their meeting with Matthew Nixon from DESE saying Medfield had a great Coordinated Program Review appreciating the time with staff, students and parents as well as visits to various programs and spoke highly of all those involved in this process. Ms. Bruhl noted that Mr. Nixon was great to work with and felt that the process of the CPR review is now more of working together on corrective actions between DESE and the Medfield School District. Ms. Bruhl reviewed the findings of the CPR review and the corrective actions that need to be taken. There was a focus of conversation on the *Curriculum Review* portion of the CPR review and what changes have to be made saying this portion of the CPR review will take time with lots of changes that will needed. Ms. Bruhl noted that Mr. Nixon gave a tool kit to help with the implementation of changes needed for the *Curriculum Review* noting how this joint collaboration is a nice change from how DESE has done things in the past with Mr. Morrison agreeing. Ms. Bruhl reviewed the next steps including corrective actions and response dates saying that all corrective action is required to be completed by September, 2019. Superintendent Marsden commended Ms. Bruhl on all her work saying since her hire in July, she has hit the ground running doing a great job.
- MASC/MASS Joint Conference - Superintendent Marsden reviewed the School Committee members that will be in attendance; Anna Mae O’Shea Brooke, Jessica Reilly, Leo Brehm, as well as Superintendent Marsden. It was then noted that Meghan Glenn will be going instead of Leo Brehm due to a scheduling conflict.

- End Of The Year Report - Mr. Michael LaFrancesca reviewed the end of the year Annual Report submitted on September 20 saying this is a yearly requirement. Mr. LaFrancesca reviewed what schedules are submitted as part of this document noting Schedule 18 being a new report on all Unit A Contracts saying they now have to submit the last 3 years Unit A contracts so that the state can compare contracts with other school districts. Mr. LaFrancesca reviewed the Schedule 19 portion of the Annual School Budget Report. There was brief discussions on a line item 235 School Choice/Charter Schools, the agreement between the Town of Medfield and School Committee in allocation of sharing indirect costs such as accounting and DPW snow removal services and a brief discussion on the minimum contribution amount that each town must spend for education. There was also a question from Bonnie Marsette as to where this information would be available to view with Mr. LaFrancesca saying it will all be assessable on the DESE website after the audit is complete. Mr. Jerry Potts also asked for any documentations and presentations that is presented at School Committee be attached with the approved minutes suggesting this documentation is an intricate part of the minutes. Superintendent Marsden said this is not a requirement to have the documentation be a part of the approved minutes, suggesting only a listing of documents is required further noting that making the documentations and/or presentations part of the approved minutes is something the School Committee would have to discuss. Ms. O'Shea Brooke recommended this discussion to be on for the next agenda.
- Other Items since posting on November 1, 2018 - Superintendent Marsden noted a few informational items he would share later in the meeting.

Old Business:

- Dale Street Project - Superintendent Marsden noted at the last meeting, there was a discussion that another member of the School Committee would have to be nominated to be the School Committee representative for the Dale Street Project now that Mr. Bonfatti has resigned. Ms. Anna Mae O'Shea Brooke nominated Mr. Leo Brehm; second by Mr. Morrison. **The vote was unanimous.**
- Donations - NONE

Superintendents Report to the Committee:

- 2018 MCAS Presentation - Superintendent Marsden presented a powerpoint presentation on the 2018 MCAS results. Superintendent Marsden noted this is the 2nd year of the Next-Generation MCAS (originally called MCAS 2.0). This test was given to grades 3-8 which was designed to be a computer based test for all students. Superintendent Marsden stated that all Medfield students took the Next Generation MCAS on the computer which

is one year earlier than required. Superintendent Marsden noted there were certainly some learning curves in having all students using computers instead of paper and pencil as it's still done with the Legacy MCAS. Superintendent Marsden reviewed what the Next-Generation MCAS focuses on; critical thinking abilities, application of knowledge and the ability to make connections between reading and writing, designed to give a clearer signal of readiness for the next grade level or college. Superintendent Marsden suggested an important piece to note is educators should be cautious about comparing 2017 and 2018 test results but with that said, Superintendent Marsden suggests it is an important piece that you look at both years tests for comparisons in the calculation of student growth which, Superintendent Marsden feels, is a huge indicator of where our students are in terms of their learning. Superintendent Marsden reviewed the achievement levels between the Legacy test and the Next-Generation test. Superintendent Marsden reviewed Grades 3,4, and 5 ELA and Math Tests results suggesting this area has been a work in progress for a few years and now starting to see the benefits from all the hard work and instruction. In reviewing grade 4 and 5 scores, Superintendent Marsden reminded the School Committee of the award that Dale Street School was recognized for at the State House for the improvement of MCAS scores. Superintendent Marsden reviewed Grade 5 and Grade 8 STE (Science, Technology and Engineering) scores. Superintendent Marsden noted this area of concern feeling that Medfield students are not where they need to be and should be well above the state average. Superintendent Marsden reviewed middle school grades 6th - 8th noting that there is a genuine concern that the middle school students overall did not do as well as expected on the Next Generation MCAS test. Superintendent Marsden said to remember that this is just a snapshot of scores with very little practice tests done before the Next Generation MCAS test was taken. Superintendent Marsden expressed his concern over how much testing goes on especially in the middle school grade levels and reminded the School Committee of his conversation with the Commissioner suggesting them to consider using the older model of testing for grades 4,8, and 10 or 3,4,8,and 10. Superintendent Marsden expressed the importance of this type of data testing for our kids but in the middle school grade levels, there is a lot of testing that goes on all year making it even harder when adding MCAS to the mix. Superintendent Marsden noted that he has met with Nat Vaughn, Blake Middle School Principal and some Department Heads to make sure our curriculum and focus is in line with where we need to be. In reviewing the Grade 10 MCAS scores, Superintendent Marsden noted the higher tests scores but informed the School Committee that although the Science tests scores were above state average, the test was just done on Biology and not the entire Science curriculum which is something that needs reminding when looking at the middle school science score results.

There was some conversation the percentage of tests taken on the computer vs. paper and pencil, indicating a lower swing in scores when using the computers for the first time

especially in the lower grades. Mr. Brehm suggested that these testing results are a small sliver of our students taking the test and not a measure of our whole student population. In conclusion, Superintendent Marsden reviewed his thoughts on what needs to be looked at in each grade level for next year noting Department Heads have received the MCAS assessment and already looking at department goals and looking at curriculum adjustments for next year further saying by this type of testing, it gives us an idea of what we are doing well as well as what improvements we need to make. Ms. O'Shea Brooke asked that this information be shared with the public. Mr. Morrison expressed his concern in the Science portion of the MCAS testing saying that he feels there needs to be a better investment in the Science curriculum at the middle school level and perhaps at Dale Street School as well and look at modeling what was done with ELA and Math programs. Mr. Morrison suggested that more consistently, he is hearing these concerns from the parents and although we have come a long way, we should be looking at this area during the budget times to perhaps incorporate some additional spending for the Science program and also see some sort of coordinated plan for improving the Science program at the middle school level. Ms. Reilly suggested that when the budget was passed last year there was talk of the need to pursue a more robust Science curriculum within that budget increase. Mr. Brehm suggested that we have a really good opportunity in the upcoming year with bringing in a Director of Teaching and Learning, reviewing curriculum in the Science area, and a cry out from parents all of which gives us key pieces of the process that will help implement changes in the Science curriculum. Mr. Brehm agreed with Superintendent Marsden saying none of this will happen overnight and does take a great amount of time but with an organized system in place where you have benchmark scores in the district, will help prepare you for what your MCAS scores will look like down the road. There were some questions and comments from the audience that included what can be done with a student struggling in the Math area, who reviews our student growth in the district level when students have consistently been struggling with lower growth on the MCAS scores, looking at students who are graduating and what major they are pursuing, and working on continuity and consistency of teaching our students in middle school then transitioning to high school making for a smoother transition.

- NESDEC Enrollment Projections - Superintendent Marsden reviewed the latest projections from NESDEC noting the similar results projected by MSBA. Superintendent Marsden compared the NESDEC enrollment projections of 2017 and 2018 commenting on the increase of student population that NESDEC is projecting from last year to this year. Superintendent Marsden pointed out this is a big jump in numbers from last year and this increase in future student population projections does not take into consideration any future development.

- Communication - Superintendent Marsden reviewed his work with Apptegy and the necessary steps they will be making to have this app available on the Apple Store. Superintendent Marsden noted Mr. O'Corcora has also been working closely with the Apptegy group and been doing a great job in helping put this together suggesting there should be another update for the School Committee in the next couple of weeks. Mr. Jerry Potts came forward saying he is a big believer in technology and Medfield should be very proud of there in investment in technology and digital learning. Mr. Potts expressed some concerns with privacy issues in particular addressing the Mass. Privacy Alliance group, where surrounding towns have a standard contract they are using with all the digital providers lays out very clearly what students rights of privacy are. Mr. Potts asked that we consider joining this type of privacy group or at least coming up with policies about information sharing and students rights of privacy. Superintendent Marsden noted that we are already a member of the Mass. Privacy Alliance. Superintendent Marsden also noted that as being part of the TEC Collaborative, there is a whole website dedicated to student privacy that Medfield is also a part of and explained briefly how this works and what steps are taken through TEC Collaborative in reviewing privacy issues with our technology programs. Mr. Brehm noted there is nothing that is going to replace classroom awareness and although it is really great to have these types of privacy programs in place, it is not going to shield us from all of where our data is going and who is using this information. Superintendent Marsden briefly talked about the ongoing monthly meetings that are held with our Administrative Tech Team just to review information and all of the different apps that are out there and being used. Mr. Morrison and Mr. Brehm expressed their enthusiasm of having the Apptegy app, where all kinds of information and happenings in our schools will be formulated on one app for folks to navigate through more easily. Superintendent Marsden reviewed the meeting he had that included Mr. O'Corcora with Apptegy suggesting that Mr. O'Corcora was asking them many concrete questions about how they handle privacy issues. There was a question from Robert Herbstzuber, questioning the cost suggesting that he heard the cost of this app was \$30,000. Superintendent Marsden reviewed the exact costs to the Medfield School District. Superintendent Marsden explained in detail; \$13,000 cost up front with a one time \$9,000 set up fee (which is included in the \$13,000) for the app. Then yearly, as an opt in app, we pay per student which comes out to about \$4,000 per year.
- Information Items - Superintendent Marsden reviewed the final MSBA completion audit information on the Ralph Wheelock Boiler System Project which is now complete noting that the town will be given a total reimbursement of \$159,832 with the last payment of \$46,402 going into the general fund and will be released on Thursday, November 8. The total cost of the eligible project costs were \$401,184 which is now considered completed.

Superintendent Marsden also informed the School Committee that the Title One funding was cut this year by the Federal Government to \$0. There was some conversation of it not being the first time that this has happened to our School Department. Superintendent Marsden went on to discuss the conversation he had with them suggesting with the data they are using which is at least 3 years old, the Town of Medfield “at risk/poverty line” is below 2% in the Town and dropping below 2%, you do not get Title One funding. Superintendent Marsden suggested to the School Committee this does not mean there will not be monies again at some time in the future but we do not have it for this current fiscal year.

Future Agenda Items:

Ms. O’Shea Brooke read the future agenda items.

Ms. O’Shea Brooke opened the meeting for School Committee comments. Peter Barrette reminded everyone of the ongoing fundraisers, Meghan Glenn gave a shout out to the MCPE for the Fall Ball raising close to \$50,000 with one of grants from this money to be used to bring in a little more Science to our schools. Mr. Morrison and Mr. Brehm also thanking MCPE saying it was a great event Saturday night. Ms. Reilly briefed her day being with 1st graders. Ms. O’Shea Brooke noted Tracy Buckley will be doing Yoga classes for the teachers starting on Tuesday, November 6 thanking Superintendent Marsden for encouraging the start of this program and congratulated those students who participated in Boys State and Girls State.

Adjournment:

Mr. Morrison made a motion to adjourn the meeting, second by Mr. Brehm. **The vote was unanimous.** Meeting adjourned at 10:12 p.m.

Next Meeting: December 3, 2018

Minutes approved by the School Committee: Monday, December 17, 2018

Respectfully Submitted
Francine Kelly, Secretary

EXHIBITS AND DOCUMENTS:

- Agenda and Narrative for Monday, November 5, 2018
- Regular Minutes October 22, 2018
- High School Model U.N. Club conference trip information
- Teacher Powerpoint Presentation of R&D summer project
- Coordinated Program Review Presentation
- End of the Year Report
- 2018 MCAS Presentation
- NESDEC enrollment figures 2017/2018
- Final Grant Letter from MSBA for Ralph Wheelock Elementary School Project

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aScX70Bet7I>