

MENDON-UPTON REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

School Committee Meeting
Superintendent's Conference Room, Miscoe Hill Middle School
Monday, October 7, 2019

Committee Present:

Leigh Martin, Dorothy Scally, Sean Nicholson, Vikki Ludwigson, Kerry Laurence, Phil DeZutter

Administration Present:

Joseph Maruszczak, Superintendent of Schools
Maureen Cohen, Assistant Superintendent
Jay Byer, Business/Finance
Dennis Todd, Director of Student Support Services
Janice Gallagher, Principal, Clough Elementary School
Debra Swain, Principal, Memorial Elementary School

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Sean Nicholson.
The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA/MINUTES

Amend the Agenda

MOTION: On a motion of Leigh Martin, seconded by Dorothy Scally, to amend the agenda by changing the reason for the executive session from #2 not #3 as indicated.

VOTED: Unanimously approved

Approval of Agenda

MOTION: On a motion of Leigh Martin, seconded by Dorothy Scally, to approve amended the agenda.

VOTED: Unanimously approved

Approval of Open Session Minutes of September 23, 2019

MOTION: On a motion of Vikki Ludwigson, seconded by Leigh Martin, to approve the Open Session minutes of September 23, 2019

VOTED: Unanimously approved

Approval of Open Session Minutes of October 3, 2019

MOTION: On a motion of Dorothy Scally, seconded by Kerry Laurence, to approve the Open Session minutes of October 3, 2019

VOTED: Unanimously approved

II. STUDENT'S COMMENTS – NA

III. COMMUNITY'S COMMENTS – NA

IV. SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMENTS

Governor's Supplemental FY19 Budget Bill

Dr. Maruszczak discussed the FY19 Supplemental Budget the Governor has submitted. There is a \$1B surplus and Governor Baker submitted a supplemental budget where

the extra funds are going to tax reduction and stabilization. Also, there is an inclusion of an appropriation of one-time money for grants for school security infrastructure. The district plans to apply for this grant and install security at Clough. Thus, if the grant is received, all 4 schools will have up to date digitalized systems.

MASS/MASC Joint Annual Conference

Dr. Maruszczak reminded the School Committee of the MASS/MASC Joint Conference. This is a great learning opportunity for School Committee members. He asked for members to contact Joe or Lauren to sign up.

Fy2019 Year End Report

Jay Byer presented a detailed report of all FY2019 dollars spent in the district to the School Committee. This report was submitted to Department of Education on September 20. This combined balance sheet is needed to submit for E&D certification. Jay is hopeful the final E&D certification will be received soon. He is anticipating the E&D will be \$577,842, which is a drop from \$1,093,182 from FY2018. When certified, State will subtract monies representing July health insurance payment and accounts that are in deficit. Thus, with the funds allocated to pay for the FY20 budget, the final anticipated certified amount of \$310,000.

Fy2020 Budget Update

FY2020 year to date report was distributed. Again, maintenance issues have been occurring such as Nipmuc boiler over the summer. Jay Byer stated that as in years past, he is concerned about maintenance issues for FY2020.

V. SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

Superintendent's Evaluation Subcommittee

The subcommittee met last week and Dr. Maruszczak presented his end of cycle status and self-assessment. Contributions from individual School Committee members are due by October 24. The comments will be compiled for a presentation during the October 28 School Committee meeting.

Budget Subcommittee

Budget Subcommittee's next meeting is Tuesday, Oct 8 at Clough at 7 pm. The main subject is to about student transportation. It was noted, Clough PTO will be meeting a 6 so it is hopeful members will stay. These are important meetings to learn how school funds are being spent.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

Presentation of 2019-20 Memorial and Clough Improvement Plans

Janice Gallagher and Debra Swain presented the Memorial and Clough Improvement Plans to the School Committee. Highlights from the presentation follows:

- Align goals for each of elementary schools in the District

Goal #1 is expanding the RISE/SOAR programs at each school. This program has been well received by staff and parents

- Administrations are exploring next level for the programs by attending conferences with teachers and asking the outgoing 4th graders about the program. Administrations worked over the summer to improve the program
- RISE/SOAR will be introduced to pre-K and K for this school year.
- All staff will be trained and the kick off assemblies have occurred already
- Continual training will include book study and conversations among staff
- Administration are developing strategies to assist the children and parents are reinforcing RISE/SOAR it at home
- Teachers' websites also contain information about RISE/SOAR programs

- There have been less referrals to the 'principal office'

Goal #2 increase capacity of modern and project-based learning

- Give the teachers student and professional develop goals
- Reinforcing PBL, more familiar project-based learning and portrait of a learner and how teachers can redesign units to assist; students more involved with social emotional learning; there will be PBL one on one ambassadors so it is not just doing a project but doing project-based teaching; higher level learning, student agency and using technology for the students

Goal #3 incorporate POL for all learners in the schools

- Introducing to the staff with sample goals
- Different elements of the 6 competencies and how are we incorporating it into the teaching and not have to do something more
- Students will understand the language such as collaboration
- Each teacher has the information in each classroom so student and parents will understand
- Participating in the Inspired Learning Days and getting ideas from students and staff for those days

Goal #4 meet needs of all students with technology and co-teaching

- Different teams so there will be ongoing PD to learn. Experienced teachers will be encouraged to attend other schools to see different aspects
- Alternatives programming for additional resources for reading and math
- Grow universal screening and different assessments to the students
- Using data blocks to review assessments and data; and what will the teachers do with the data collected to develop plans

VII. OLD BUSINESS

VIII. CORRESPONDENCE

- Thank you letter from Mens Club for help with Fireworks festival
- Custodian notification to begin contract negotiations.

IX. Other Matters Not Anticipated by The Committee Within 48 Hours of The Posted Meeting

X. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Superintendent's Annual Evaluation – October 28

XI. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: On motion of Leigh Martin, seconded by Phil DeZutter to go into executive session and not return to open session per MGL Chapter 30A, section 21(a), exemption #2: to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel. The Committee will not return to open session.

VOTED:

Phil DeZutter, yes
 Sean Nicholson, yes
 Dorothy Scally, yes
 Leigh Martin, yes
 Kerry Laurence, yes
 Vikki Ludwigson, yes

Open Session Meeting adjourned at 8:23 p.m.
Minutes by Kelly McElreath