

MENDON-UPTON REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

School Committee Meeting
Professional Development Room, Nipmuc Regional High School
Monday, October 28, 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

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

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 October 7, 2019

MOTION: On a motion of Dorothy Scally, seconded by Leigh Martin, to approve the Open Session minutes of October 7, 2019

VOTED: Unanimously approved

Approval of Executive Session Minutes of October 7, 2019

MOTION: On a motion of Dorothy Scally, seconded by Leigh Martin, to approve the Executive Session minutes of October 7, 2019

VOTED: Unanimously approved

II. STUDENT'S COMMENTS –

- Production of *Our Town* over this past weekend. Great event by the Drama Club
- Unified Team Basketball team – great team for Nipmuc
- Food for Thought lunch – tomorrow, October 29, invitation by email – unique opportunity where students go to gathering room to converse with administration to make changes for a better learning experience for the students. This has resulted in positive change for the students.
- District wide Inspired Learning Day in December

III. COMMUNITY'S COMMENTS – NA

IV. SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMENTS

Nipmuc Unified Basketball

Dr. Maruszczak introduced the Unified Basketball team to the School Committee. The team, coached by Miscoe's Britany Kahler and Casey Rhodes, features 12 student athletes that pairs students with intellectual disabilities with peer athletes. They will be playing 4 games with surround towns who also have Unified Teams.

Supplemental FY2019 State Budget – Update

Dr. Maruszczak informed the School Committee that there is a \$1B surplus in the State and the House and Senate have finalized the debate. Regional Transportation where the House added 2.571m and the Senate added 5.187. However, the Senate asked for the funds to be split between FY19 and FY20. This could represent \$100,000 in additional funding for MURSD. Conference committee has been selected and negotiations are ongoing to determine the final amount.

Home School Report

Dr. Maruszczak presented the Home Instruction report per the district's policy. There is a total of 19 students, 17 from Upton and 2 from Mendon. Home Instruction program plan have been submitted. It was noted there are 3 fewer than last year and all students have the instruction plan.

V. ADMINISTRATOR'S COMMENTS

MURSD SEPAC Update- Dennis Todd, Director of Student Support Services

Dennis Todd presented an update to the School Committee:

- First meeting was Oct 21
- Dennis welcomed the Co-chair who likes to go to School Committee meetings
- New group is being re-energized
- Budget subcommittee presentation on Special Ed funding was presented at the meeting
- Also, the 2020 Action Plan was also reviewed and the pressing needs
- Presentation will be added to CEPAC Facebook page
- Next meeting will be Nov 21 – cohosting basic right eligibility – Mass Law, evaluation and referrals, IEPs, and more will be discussed. Other CEPAC committees from other Towns are invited to attend.
- Committee are using grass roots efforts to publicize their efforts and would like the School Committee assistance when possible

VI. SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

Superintendent's Evaluation Subcommittee

Kerry Laurence presented the Superintendent's evaluation. A copy of the Evaluation is attached.

Budget Subcommittee

There is another meeting tomorrow night and the athletic budget will be presented. There is a total of 9 informational meetings. These meetings are being compiled and added to a new website: MURSDBudget.org. Website is still under construction but all the presentations given to date have been uploaded. There is also a series of informational videos being produced.

Extra effort is being made this year in order to be transparent to the Towns since there were cuts made for FY2020. Challenging year for FY2021 budget and there may need to be a prop 2 1/2 override needed. Unfortunately, there has been little attendance at these meetings and about 1/3 of the budget has been reviewed.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

MURSD Student Transportation Contract & Bidding Process

School Committee discussed the MURSD Student Transportation Contract & Bidding Process:

- This is the 4th busing contract for Dr. Maruszczak
- Last bid sheet was submitted to the School Committee
- Prices have gone up for each year of the 3-year contract
- With the renewal upcoming, increase of \$131,000 for year 4 and \$93,000 increase for year 5
- District has put out a bid package in the past and 3 or 4 companies have expressed interested but only one company, Tellstone has ever submitted a bid.
- There is concern if we go out to bid, we wouldn't receive other bids and Tellstone would only increase their prices. Local vendors do not bid against each other. Creating competition would involve a national company and the bus 'office' could be in KY.
- Looking for feedback from the School Committee members
- Increases are 7% each year on average
- Currently paying \$430 each day when years ago it was \$250 each day
- District can go out to bid but reject them if year 4 and year 5 are lower.
- Based on past data, district is paying in the top 3rd.

It was determined to go out to bid to see what happens. Document what happens and we can go to our representatives to 'show' there is a 'monopoly' for busing companies.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

IX. CORRESPONDENCE

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

XI. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- State Assessment/Accountability Results – November 18

XII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: On motion of Leigh Martin, seconded by Dorothy Scally to adjourn

VOTED: Unanimously approved

Open Session Meeting adjourned at 7:43 p.m.
Minutes by Kelly McElreath