

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**Fowler Library**  
**October 24, 2019 7:00 P.M.**

Present: Bethlyn Houlihan, Natasha Rivera, Mary Brannelly, Lydia Clancy, Maro Hogan  
Administrators Present: Mary Jane Rickson, Superintendent; Jennifer Gaudet, Assistant Superintendent; Michelle Resendes, Business Manager

Meeting Called to Order at 7:02

**Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Ms. Clancy motioned to accept and approve the minutes from June 6, 2019. Ms. Hogan 2nd the motion. Natasha Rivera abstained from voting. Motion passed 4-0.

**Chairperson's Report**

Monday's Special Town Meeting included a vote for a FY19 budget reduction. There would be a Tri-Board meeting (Board of Selectmen, Finance Committee, School Committee) at the Maynard Golf Course 11/12 at 6:30. Maynard High School National Honor Society induction ceremony was held on 10/22, several SC members attended. There was a workshop to work out the Superintendent candidate profile based on the focus groups and surveys that had gone out. There were 295 responses in total between the focus groups and surveys.

**Student Representative Report**

Yearbook photos for Maynard High School clubs, senior groups, superlatives, etc were taken today. Glee club had started; this week was STEM week; the MHS trivia team auditioned for HS quiz show last Sunday. The WAVM telethon was coming along. Homecoming was the Friday before Thanksgiving. The cross-country and field hockey teams had their Senior nights. The NHS induction went well, 5 new members were inducted this year. Early Action deadline for college applications was November 1st.

Ms. Brannelly noted that 14 students qualified for NHS this year but many of the students realized they were already overloaded or overcommitted, so only 5 went thru. She appreciated those who realized they couldn't do it because they had too much on their plate.

**Interim Superintendent Report**

Ms. Rickson noted that she attended a Superintendent Roundtable discussion with Governor Baker about school safety on 10/15. Maynard's School Safety team would be working to procure some grant money for the 2020-2021 school year which the Governor would be offering to districts. The EL committee would host a potluck dinner at MHS on 11/5. Navigating the Cyber World Community Forum was held on 11/23 by the Massachusetts Partnership for Youth

to discuss the challenges of using the internet, social media, and smart phones and importance for school staff and parents to be aware.

Boston vs. Bullies would be providing a 3-week anti-bullying workshop for all 6th grade students. This is grant-funded and free to the district. The first 45-minute session took place on Monday, 10/21, and the facilitator would return on 10/28 and 11/4.

The Fowler PTO kicked off its annual Cherrydale Fundraiser with an all-school assembly on Tuesday. Proceeds would benefit Fowler educators through the PTO Grant Program. Grants would be awarded in November.

The Board of Health met and discussed the Triple-E threat. They did not vote on restricting night activities, but they do encourage people to use their best judgment if they are outside, and to use repellent. Ms. Rickson stated that in a previous correspondence with the State Board of Health, they said there needed to be a hard frost at 28 degrees for four hours to eliminate the risk, the population was down but mosquitoes were still present. With that said, the schools have resumed evening sporting events and games per the Board of Health recommendations.

NHS students had volunteered to babysit at 10/28 Town Meeting.

The Technology Director Search Committee screened 38 applicants on Wednesday 10/23 and have selected 7 to interview on 10/30.

### **Citizens' Comments**

Ann Kelly accused Ms. Clancy of inappropriate and harassing Facebook posts towards her niece who was unable to attend the meeting. She handed a copy of the Facebook post to committee member Lydia Clancy who immediately turned it over to the Chair, Ms. Houlihan, a copy was also handed to Ms. Gaudet. She called for Ms. Clancy's resignation and stated that she was also looking into pursuing their other options.

Mr. Barth, Fowler Principal, invited everyone to first National Junior Honor Society induction on 11/19 at 6pm, inducting a group of 7th & 8th grade students. A team of teachers would be voting on the applicants who qualified.

### **MHS Out of State Field Trip Notification per Admin Reg 651-1**

Ms. Rickson had received a letter from the Disney 2021 Trip Committee requesting to take the MHS Band and Chorus to Orlando, FL during April 2021.

Ms. Brannelly motioned to accept the request. Ms. Clancy 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

### **School Council's Budget Priorities and Report Out Timeline**

School Committee members wanted School Councils to have input to the budget and asked principals to talk budget with them. GM & FS will talk about budget priorities with school council on 11/12, MHS on 11/21. Ms. Resendes noted that although the Town requested the School budget in October, we were not responsible to give our budget until Jan 1<sup>st</sup>. She had all

department requests in as well as the majority of capital requests in. All principals would report on School Council budget priorities at the 11/21 School Committee meeting.

Ms. Rivera suggested that the Financing Your Future be held yearly with School Councils to help with budget discussions. Ms. Gaudet noted School Councils were included this year, to discuss how to best align our resources and then discussed what that looked like operationally down to the building level.

### **NESDEC Community Presentation**

Arthur Bettencourt, Executive Director of NESDEC, provided a timeline of the Superintendent search, as well as copy of the letter that went out to thousands of individuals nationwide. Out of all the data that was collected, the committee came up with a 3-4 page candidate profile document. The final document will be made available to the public. The screening committee will do preliminary screening of all qualified applicants which is not open to the public. Then they will recommend candidates for further review by the School Committee, and those candidates will be public. Each finalist will be introduced to public, interview and deliberation will be done publicly. A new Superintendent should be decided on February/March. The job opening is posted by NESDEC nationwide on various Superintendent and HR organizations as well as online at Education Week. Any candidates who come from out of state must cover their first trip to Maynard if interviewed, and the cost of any additional interviews may be covered at least in part by the district. A typical search lasts 4 months. It was noted that salary offers for out of MA candidates could be more cost effective. NESDEC suggested that the salary range not be posted, rather to say it's competitive.

### **Quarterly Budget Report Out, with Forecast, to School Committee**

Ms. Resendes reported that the budget was trending on target with 13% of the budget spent as of 9/30 and a budget freeze went into effect on Oct 1<sup>st</sup>. A strict PO policy went into effect this year, all Schools and staff are required to request a PO for budget money to be encumbered through to the end of the year. No purchases would be allowed without an approved PO before an order is placed. She noted that anticipated purchases for Graduation already had approved PO's in the system. This helped cut down on unexpected bills at the end of the year. With all the PO's for the year entered at this time, there was 4% left in the budget. She noted that Preschool was not self-sustaining as it was supposed to be. We couldn't pay all the teachers through that revolving account which meant it had to come from other budget sources. She had asked other districts what they did, some budget for the additional needed, and Maynard has talked about enlarging the program to increase revenue and help with the cost. She was waiting to receive this year's state Circuit Breaker money to help with Special Ed Tuitions. Because of the rapid increase of tuitions, last year's funds had been used. Principals now managed their own budgets, when a budget line had no more funds, principals could request a transfer between budget lines.

Ms. Brannelly asked about the foreign travel scholarship fund. Ms. Resendes stated that was a result from a large influx of foreign exchange students tuitioned-in over past years and this fund was set up for Maynard students to travel to other countries.

Regarding the budget reductions being voted on during Town Meeting, our School Choice sending out numbers hit the Town unexpectedly heavy and the Town asked for the School Dept. to split the cost. Maynard was responsible for the costs of students who choiced out of Maynard who then needed to receive out of district services. The reductions would have the least impact on students and teachers, with a \$20,000 reduction in instructional supplies and Professional Development. We would not outsource our PD this year, but would use in-district providers. We would also not offer the summer institute for curriculum in late June.

### **Superintendent Screening Committee Members**

The School Committee had met with Mr. Bettencourt prior to this meeting to go over surveys and focus group data in order to come up with a good profile for candidate. Once voted on, Mr. Bettencourt would make final adjustments, then it would become a final document.

Ms. Brannelly motioned to accept the workshop edited version of the candidate profile. Ms. Hogan 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Motioned passed 5-0

Ms. Clancy read the list of names from groups who only had 1 person or had chosen someone from their group to be appointed to the Superintendent Search Committee. The following would be on the committee.

Jennifer Gaudet, Assistant Superintendent

Mike Barth, Principal

Mike Waldron, MHS Teacher

John [Skogstrom](#), SEPAC and Out of District

Mary Brannelly, School Committee

Michelle Resendes, Business Manager

Chris DaSilva – Town Representative

Denise Hatch, FS Teacher

Matt Briggs - MHS parent

Lydia Clancy, School Committee

There was no GM teacher volunteer, the 2 possible candidates had conflicts.

There were no volunteers for the Support Staff and EL groups.

The School committee would need to vote on a person for groups with multiple volunteers. After discussion it was decided to appoint 2 student representatives to the search committee to ensure the committee had an odd number of members for voting purposes. All profiles were anonymous with no names attached. The person attached to the approved profile would be revealed after the vote..

The 2 senior citizen candidate profiles were discussed.

Ms. Brannelly motioned to approve candidate #2, based on their FS and MHS council experience, 32 years experience in higher education, and having lived in Maynard most of their life. Ms. Rivera 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Motion passed 5-0. Ellen Duggan is candidate #2.

The parent candidate profiles were discussed. There were 3 candidates for GM, 2 for FS.

Ms. Clancy motioned to appoint candidate #3 as the Fowler School parent representative to screening committee. Ms. Rivera 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Motion passed 5-0. The candidate is Jennifer Scott **Kraynak**.

Ms. Brannelly motioned to appoint Green Meadow parent #2. Ms. Clancy 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Motion passed 5-0. The candidate is James Marcotte.

The student candidates were discussed. There were 4 seniors and 2 sophomores.

Ms. Brannelly motioned to accept student candidate #2. Ms. Hogan 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Motion passed 5-0. Candidate is senior Emily Tumino.

Ms. Rivera motioned to appoint student candidate #1. Ms. Hogan 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Motion passed 5-0. Candidate is sophomore Grace Charon.

Ms. Clancy motioned to approve the list and appoint the following to the Superintendent Search Committee.

Jennifer Gaudet, Assistant Superintendent

Mary Brannelly, School Committee

Barth, Principal

Mike Waldron, MHS Teacher

Chris DaSilva – Town Representative

Emily Tumino, MHS Student

Marcotte, GM Parent

Matt Briggs - MHS parent

Michelle Resendes, Business Manager

Lydia Clancy, School Committee

Mike John Skogstrom, SEPAC and Out of District

Denise Hatch, FS Teacher

Ellen Duggan, Senior Citizen

Grace Charon, MHS Student

James Jennifer Scott Kraynak, FS Parent

Natasha 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

### **Celebrate Maynard -Open House for 8th graders & families- Presented by Olga Doktorov**

Ms. Doktorov was the class advisor for the class of 2018 from grade 8-12 and has been very involved in staff leadership and committees. Her goal was to help the 8<sup>th</sup> grade transition to MHS and help retain more students. Last year's program was attended by approximately 20 families. This years event was planned with more FS and MHS staff involvement. They held

focus groups, which suggested packets with key information, a shorter video presentation, have it more upbeat with additional events. They did more advertising this year via PTO, Facebook, email, flyers, emails and it was held before the Assabet field trip. She felt they should start targeting students earlier, before 8th grade, AMSA started in grade 6. She noted that MHS should show students what it had to offer similar to how Assabet showed students their different shops. One suggestion was to show the Senior Project program to Fowler students.

### **Citizens' Comments**

It was suggested that WAVM was a huge selling point of MHS, and more students should be brought over to show the Telethon to them. It was also noted that students as early as grade 6 can be involved with WAVM.

Ms. Duddy suggested we could improve our STEM programs since that is what students going to AMSA was looking for.

Ms. Gaudet noted that there were no students taking MHS shop classes, so they brought it back to FS, and now we had a pathway for computer science and engineering, and would be bringing that back to MHS. Although that would be 2 additional teachers in a time we were talking about reductions. They were looking at other ways to incorporate those programs with possible online or dual enrollment classes.

### **Members Comments (includes Subcommittees Report Out)**

Ms. Brannelly asked if they could have a presentation about the MHS Turn-Around Plan at a future meeting. Ms. Gaudet noted that MHS had been identified based on MCAS scores in certain sub groups, but that had changed and was no longer identified as a turnaround school.

Ms. Rivera noted that the Assabet School Committee representative would be at the next SC meeting. There was a Sepac Sub Committee meeting about the survey this past week.

Ms. Houlihan said that Ms. Rickson would be presenting her entry plan at the 11/21 meeting. There would be a Communication Sub Committee meeting next week.

Ms. Brannelly stated that this year's NHS Speaker Bret Murphy did an incredible job.

Ms. Rivera motioned to adjourn the meeting. 2nd by Ms. Hogan. Motion passed 5-1. Meeting adjourned at 9:46

*Respectfully Submitted  
Colleen Andrade  
Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent of Schools*