

***MENDON-UPTON REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT***

School Committee Meeting  
Superintendent's Conference Room ~ Miscoe Hill School  
Monday, November 18, 2019

Committee Present:

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

Committee Not Present:

Leigh Martin

Administration Present:

Joseph Maruszczak, Superintendent of Schools  
Maureen Cohen, Assistant Superintendent of Schools  
Jay Byer, Director of Business & Finance Operations  
Dennis Todd, Director of Student Support Services  
John Clements, Co-Principal, Nipmuc Regional High 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**

Approval of Agenda

MOTION: On a motion of Phil DeZutter, seconded by Dorothy Scally, to approve the agenda.

VOTED: Unanimously approved

Approval of Open Session Minutes of October 7, 2019

MOTION: On a motion of Phil DeZutter, seconded by Dorothy Scally, to approve the Open Session minutes of October 28, 2019

VOTED: Unanimously approved

**II. STUDENT'S COMMENTS – Owen Brigham**

- It has been a busy week Nipmuc hosting innovators and researchers relating to STEM, such as a retired NASA astronaut, scientists, etc.that was arranged by Mr. Gorman. Owen publicly thanked Mr. Gorman for bringing this great opportunity to the students.
- Wellness week was last week with daily sessions to focus on unwinding and a no-homework weekend.
- FAST is approaching as well as Inspired Learning Day (formerly 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning).
- The Nipmuc winter concert is scheduled for December 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm.

**III. COMMUNITY'S COMMENTS – N/A**

#### **IV. SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMENTS**

##### Kaleidoscope Collective for Learning Application

MURSD has submitted to be a part of the pilot cohort of 12-15 districts as part of DESE's *Kaleidoscope Collective for Learning*. The program, which will run from January 2020 to June 2021, has been created to nurture deeper learning in Massachusetts public schools. The pilot will give individual schools and entire districts the chance to rethink classroom instruction around deeper learning. The pilot group is the vision of Commissioner Jeff Riley, and he has promised that the selected schools/districts will be given some flexibility from the administration of the traditional MCAS. Initially, over 125 districts/schools filed a letter of intent to apply during the summer and we should know our status as a finalist by early December.

##### Jim Gorman – MAST Science Teacher of the Year Award

The Massachusetts Association of Science Teachers (MAST), has selected Nipmuc Science/Physics Teacher, Jim Gorman, as the 2019 recipient of the *Science Educator of the Year Award* for Worcester County. This award recognizes persons making outstanding contributions to science education in Worcester County. Jim will be recognized at MAST's annual banquet on Friday, December 6<sup>th</sup> with Nipmuc Administration and Dr. Maruszczak in attendance. This is a very well deserved recognition.

##### MURSD Logo Project

There has recently been discussion about the consistency and coherency of district logos and branding. In school committee members' packets is a proposal to develop prototypes for a district logo as well as each school's own logo. The intent is to develop three or four prototypes of logos that build upon existing logos and then to share these prototypes with a committee of students, teachers, parents, and community members and then the school committee for adoption. The design and our tagline (*We empower all learners to thrive*), should carry across all media and all marketing materials on all levels, including the MURSD website, email communication, publications, presentations, stationery, office supplies, merchandise and more. The committee will be kept updated.

##### Nuestro Mundo Charter School Proposal

Dr. Maruszczak reported that he has withdrawn the proposal for Nuestro Mundo Public Charter School from further consideration from the Rhode Island Department of Education. He thanked the committee for their support during this period of uncertainty. He continues to feel very fortunate to lead this district and looks forward to working with the committee- and all stakeholders- to continuously improve the district.

##### FY2020 Budget Update

The committee was provided with the year to date expenditure report prepared by Jay Byer. Jay reported the district remains to be challenged by maintenance issues (replacing boilers, fire panels, etc. of late). We are 'plugging along' in all other areas and he is thankful that there has been no need for snow and ice removal – so far.

#### **V. NEW BUSINESS**

##### Spring 2019 State Assessment/Accountability Results

The committee was given handouts of Dr. Maruszczak's presentation which detailed MURSD's latest MCAS results from last spring along with the state's accountability ratings for the district and each school. Drs. Maruszczak and Cohen presented the data and shared some insights on the results and areas where we need to improve.

##### Transfer of E & D Funds to Capital Stabilization Account

Jay Byer reported that the School Committee voted to appropriate E & D Funds to the Capital Stabilization Account in August 2018, but after discussion with the Department of Revenue (DOR), we needed some alterations to the process. This year, when filing for our E & D certification, the DOR informed us that the vote in August 2018 was invalid because they had not

yet certified E & D for FY2019. It was not certified until February 11, 2019. Therefore, we need to do this again now that E & D has been certified for FY2020.

MOTION: On a motion of Phil DeZutter, seconded by Dorothy Scally, to appropriate \$675,760 from E & D to the MURSD Capital Stabilization Account.

VOTED: Unanimously approved

## **VI. SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES**

### Superintendent's Evaluation Subcommittee: Superintendent's Annual Plan for 2019-20

Dr. Maruszczak provided the proposed Annual Plan and presentation for evaluation purposes for the current school year.

Vikki Ludwigson reported that the subcommittee met on November 4<sup>th</sup> where they discussed if they would use a new streamlined evaluation rubric pilot or go forth with how they have been doing the evaluation.

Dr. Maruszczak discussed his goals and implantation of the plan. He stated that the DESE Indicator Rubric for Superintendent Evaluation will be used. He and Sean are slated to go to a special PD workshop on this new rubric on November 25, and will report out during the meeting of December 2.

### Budget Subcommittee

Phil DeZutter reported that the athletic budget was reviewed at the last subcommittee meeting. Dr. Maruszczak provided a reminder that the next of a series of informational Budget Subcommittee meetings will be held this Thursday, 11/21 to do a deeper dive on the topic of technology in the MURSD. The meeting will be held at 7:00 pm in the Memorial ES Library.

## **VI. OLD BUSINESS - N/A**

## **VII. CORRESPONDENCE - N/A**

## **VIII. Other Matters Not Anticipated by The Committee Within 48 Hours of The Posted Meeting**

## **IX. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- ***MetroWest Adolescent Health Survey Results – December 2***
- ***Push Poll Surveying Update – December 2***

## **X. ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION: On motion of Phil DeZutter, seconded by Dorothy Scally to adjourn

VOTED: Unanimously approved

Meeting adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

Minutes by Lauren Sannicandro