

MENDON-UPTON REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

School Committee Meeting
Superintendent's Conference Room – Miscoe Hill Middle School
Monday, December 16, 2019

Committee Present:

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

Administration Present:

Joseph Maruszczak, Superintendent of Schools
Maureen Cohen, Assistant Superintendent
Jay Byer, Business/Finance
Dennis Todd, Director of Student Support Services
John Clements, Co-Principal, Nipmuc Regional High School
Mary Anne Moran, Co-Principal, Nipmuc Regional High School

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 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 November 18, 2019

MOTION: On a motion of Dorothy Scally, seconded by Vikki Ludwigson, to approve the Open Session minutes of November 18, 2019

VOTED: Unanimously approved

II. STUDENT'S COMMENTS – Owen Brigham

- Inspired learning day was postponed due to weather to January 8th. Whole District will be participating.
- Winter Concert – great show to showcase the talent at Nipmuc
- One Act plays took place – thank you to the judges who volunteered
- Students are looking forward to the Christmas break

III. COMMUNITY'S COMMENTS - NA

IV. SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMENTS

Kaleidoscope Collective for Learning Update

Dr. Maruszczak informed the School Committee that MURSD is one of 22 finalists for the Kaleidoscope for Collective for Learning, a pilot program from DESE aimed at involving more students and teachers in deeper learning rather than traditional testing. It is impressive that MURSDE is a finalist in this program. There were 500 schools interested and 300 applications for the program. Commissioner is championing this program to determine an alternative to MCAS test. DESE is offering

to the cohort participants is a waiver from participation in the grades 5, 8, and 9 Science/Bio MCAS this spring if we participate in an alternative performance-based task for students.

DESE is looking for the cohort's participants to develop a vision around *Portrait of a Learner* type competencies, work the district has done around our last strategic planning process. We have tentatively scheduled the community event for Thursday, January 16 at 7:00 pm in the Nipmuc Auditorium. This event will be open to the public but we will also invite some targeted, key stakeholders to participate. Because so important, particularly with a challenging budget cycle starting, it would be well-served to have this also as a SC meeting.

Nipmuc Blood Drive – December 17

It was announced a blood drive will be held at Nipmuc starting at 9 am. Kraft family blood center is hosting and will be coming to Nipmuc in the mobile van. There is a goal of 30 pints of blood to be collected.

Alternative Structured Learning (ASL) Days

Dr. Maruszczak informed the School Committee that DESE will no longer permit ASL days due to statewide concerns about equity to access. Last week, a general announcement about the program was sent to all families and staff about the district's ASL Program and Expectations. It was noted there has been 2 snow days and as of today, last day of school is June 17.

FY2020 Budget Update

YTD expenditure report was given to the School Committee. Jay Byer commented snow and ice is getting hit as well as maintenance issue. Also, a fire annunciation panel needs to be replaced. Fire suppression pump has developed additional issues so it will need to be replaced sooner. Jay also noted the bus bid is due tomorrow at 10 am and district will have a pricing for bus services.

V. ADMINISTRATOR'S COMMENTS

MUEF Learning Adventure Grant – John Clements & Mary Anne Moran

John and Mary Anne gave a presentation/update of the Adventure Grant. Highlights follows:

- Looking back on most powerful learning experience for adults will show it does not take place in the classroom
- Nipmuc is looking to create learning moments
- Teachers are looking to create a learning adventure that is part of the curriculum
- Include all students from all schools in district
- MUEF granted funds to implement.
- A lot of applicants from each of the school and a team was selected. 4 from each elementary school, 8 middle and 8 high school and teachers (9 grade levels worked together in this program)
- Adventure was held on November 22
- Each participant picked a song for a playlist to be played throughout the day
- Life Raft Survival Adventure, 6 groups working together to determine what is needed to survive in a life group and get innovated.
- Picture This – same team and same competencies visually represent POL competencies and a freeze family picture.
- Competencies seen as super powers that will propel the students to be successful especially for the elementary students. What are ways to practice the super powers.
- Lots of creative ideas exploring how to learn and used the ideas using “would you rather” to determine the ‘best’ 8-9 ideas.

- Next adventure time, in February, the 8-9 ideas will be further explored to see how they work with the competencies, budgets and what Learning Adventure will be explored in the Spring.

VI. SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

Superintendent's Evaluation Subcommittee

Dr. Maruszczak discussed a new, streamlined superintendent evaluation rubric. Designed around the 21 Indicators from the Standards of Effective Administrative Leadership, the Indicator Rubric includes descriptions of a superintendent's practice for each Indicator and articulates the specific responsibilities that a school committee may be expected to reasonably evaluate. This is a significant departure from the more detailed, element-level rubrics associated with other educator roles in the model system for educator evaluation.

Dr. Maruszczak informed the school committee which indicators should be prioritized: I-C: Assessment, I-E: Data-Informed Decision Making II-E. Fiscal Systems, III-A. Engagement, III-C. Communication, IV-C. Communications, IV-E. Shared Vision

Based on a workshop at the recent the District is on track and doing the right thing

Budget Subcommittee

Last week, there was a meeting on building and grounds. The next meeting is January 7 and the topic is elementary programs. This meeting may be combined with SC meeting on the 27th which the first pass of the budget will be presented.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

MetroWest Adolescent Health Survey Results

Dr. Maruszczak presented the results of the MetroWest Adolescent Health Surveys. Highlights of the presentations follows:

- District participates in the survey every 2 years
- Used to assess the social emotional needs of the students
- Covers substance use, violence bullying, unintentional injury, sexual behaviors, mental health, physical activity, nutrition and weight, risk behaviors and protective factors
- 90% response rate from students
- 58 middle and high schools participated
- Data by grade, sex, school vs region vs state vs national
- Overall positive trends over 6 years for substances, cigarette smoking is all time low but e-cigs high, bullying and cyber bullying decreased, student stress and lack of resources is a concern, sense of school belonging is mixed, student sleep and social media are risk factors
- Stats show current trends cigarettes at 1%, alcohol at 22% and marijuana 27% for HS, and for MS is less than 1%
- HS students show low % among prescription drugs, ecstasy
- Downward trend for alcohol use
- Vaping is high: 34% has used in the last 30 days however there is a high % of students who see harm in using vaping products
- Drinking and Vaping is showing higher use among females
- Downward trends of reports of bullying and cyber bullying at the HS but the trends are static at the MS
- Concern in the trend of distracted driving; 42% is high number
- Impaired driving (driving after smoking pot) is around 34%

- 40% students at HS feel very stressed about life. Data is consistent with Regional and State data. It is concerning students are feeling very stressed.
- Data shows females are more stressed than males which aligns with substance abuse
- School Attachment such as school is 'safe' shows 80% agree at Nipmuc. Miscoe shows lower percentages comparable to the region
- School adult support consistent over 6 years at Nipmuc and Miscoe
- Time utilization and social media data was tracked in this survey
- 8 hours of sleep only at 17% female and 25% males
- Community service is over 60%
- Miscoe student data more students getting sleep with good numbers for community service
- Attitude of social media 8% of females/3% males become restless when prohibited from using social media
- 40% females/26% males feel social media prevents them from doing more important things which is positive
- Overall staff does an outstanding job reviewing the data and responding to things that can be controlled: 4 years of wellness weeks; partnerships with Family Continuity and Riverside; Social thinking groups; Vaping programs; Signs of Suicide program; Review of health/wellness curriculum; Advisory program; Community resources are available on every student iPad; participation in the ExSel network; Development of SEL teams at each building; relationship mapping activity; Implementation of PBIS at Miscoe; Class meeting and implementation of Bridge program for at risk students; Screening of "If Only"; 21st learning conference program on addiction; CVS presentation of Once Choice Changes Everything on opioid use.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

IX. CORRESPONDENCE

Accreditation agency is considering a substantive change report that Nipmuc no longer had a full-time library media specialist. No action has been taken on the change report but NEASSC staff and committee member will be visiting to determine what action is being taken to restore this position. This is a real implication of inadequate resources of the school.

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

XI. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Push Pull Surveying Update – January 6
- New Civics Curriculum Update – January 6

XII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: On motion of Leigh Martin, seconded by Vikki Ludwigson to adjourn
VOTED: Unanimously approved

Open Session Meeting adjourned at 8:24 p.m.
 Minutes by Kelly McElreath