

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

School Committee Meeting  
Professional Development Center – Nipmuc High School  
Monday, January 6, 2020

Committee Present:

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

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  
Chris Schmidt, Athletic Director, 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 December 16, 2019

MOTION: On a motion of Leigh Martin, seconded by Dorothy Scally, to approve the Open Session minutes of December 16, 2019

VOTED: Unanimously approved

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

- Happy New Year to the School Committee
- Inspired Learning Day will be on January 8<sup>th</sup>. K-12 will be participating including Dr. Maruszczak will be teaching Chemistry at Clough
- Guidance is sponsoring a ‘Breakfast with a Counselor’ on January 14 from 8 am – 9 am

**III. COMMUNITY’S COMMENTS - NA**

**IV. SUPERINTENDENT’S COMMENTS**

*Kaleidoscope Collective Community Kick Off Event 1/16*

Community event to show how the Kaleidoscope Collective fits into MURSD vision. This is an opportunity to explain to the stakeholders (116 parents have rsvp’d) deeper learning and the district’s innovative practices. This will be an interactive evening and the opportunity to showcase the district. Also, Dr. Mazurczak stated more details of the wavier for MCAS for grade 5-8 science.

*Rescheduled Inspired Learning Day, 1/18*

Inspired learning day has been rescheduled to Jan 8. This is a district wide event where all 4 schools will be participating in the district. The School Committee is able to view the different classes at each of the schools on the website.

#### *MWAHS Facts Sheets and Follow Up*

At the last School Committee meeting, the Metrowest Adolescent health survey was presented. Info sheets are being developed with stats to assist and highlight the issues. The School Committee was shown some of the information sheets. MURSD is looking to determine the best way to disseminate this information. There is a follow up session with health foundation later this month to discuss the mental health data and what is available to address those issues.

### **V. SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES**

#### *Budget Subcommittee*

Phil DeZutter stated the calendar is available for the next 4 or 5 months. The next subcommittee meeting is at Clough Elementary on Tuesday Jan 7 at 7 pm to discuss Elementary School funding. There is also a discussion to plan a Multiboard meeting with the Towns to discuss funding for FY2021.

### **VI. NEW BUSINESS**

#### *Travel Requests: Nipmuc Baseball Team, April 202; Nipmuc Engineering Students, April 2020*

A request from the Nipmuc Baseball team to go to Cooperstown NY to play a game vs Oxford HS and visit the Baseball Hall of Fame. A field will be rented to play the game. This a common trip for many area districts and Oxford has participated in the past. The game will be played Friday/Saturday of April School Vacation and visit to the Hall of Fame will be the next day. Basic cost is \$65 per student for hotel and entrance and parents will be asked to volunteered to drive. If bus is needed, cost would increase

#### Approval of Nipmuc Baseball Team to Cooperstown NY

MOTION: On a motion of Leigh Martin, seconded by Dorothy Scally, to approve the baseball team trip to Cooperstown NY on April 23 to April 27.

VOTED: Unanimously approved

A request for the for the engineering students to go to the Kennedy Space Center in Merritt Island, FL to present projects for the annual ICED Epic Challenge Student Convention from April 23 – April 27 was discussed by the School Committee.

#### Approval of Engineering Students to travel to Kennedy Space for the ICED Epic Challenge

MOTION: On a motion of Vikki Ludwigson, seconded by Phil DeZutter, to approve amended the engineering students to travel to Kennedy Space for the ICED Epic Challenge.

VOTED: Unanimously approved

#### *Approval of Student Transportation Contract*

Dr. Maruszczak presented the results of the busing bids. The District went out to bid for a new contract for busing. As expected, only one bid was received from the district's existing contractor, Tellstone. The amount is for \$1,798,000. This represents a 6.61% increase from current year and a total, a 10% increase over the next 3 years. It was discussed this is a better option than to use the rollover clause from the existing contract since the cost would be \$9,000 more than the bid. Dr. Maruszczak explained that unfortunately there are not any other options at this time. However, the district

should explore options for in district transportation for some programs. It was noted this issue will need to be discussed at the Multiboard meeting.

#### Approval of Student Transportation Contract

MOTION: On a motion of Phil DeZutter, seconded by Vikki Ludwigson, the Student Transportation contract with Tellstone Bussing.

VOTED: Unanimously approved

#### *New MURSD Civics Curriculum Update*

Dr. Cohen, Andy King (Nipmuc Social Studies Department Chair), and Brendon Rosenau (Miscoc Hill Social Studies Department Chair) presented a PowerPoint presentation to the School Committee in regards to the Civics Curriculum. The highlights of the presentation follow:

- Social Studies curriculum review team was recognized.
- Full comprehensive review was completed last year
- Process included Self Study, Develop/Redesign, Implement/Monitor and Evaluate
- School Committee members received a copy of the Self Study
- Implementation and monitoring of curriculum is a 2-year program
- This process is to create a systematic process for ongoing evaluation of curriculum, instruction and assessment to maintain high academic standards for all students which are aligned to state standards and based on best instructional practices.
- Review Team was to develop the self-study guiding questions and develop and action plan.
- Meetings started on Oct 3 and had 3 all day meetings.
- Dr. Cohen thanked the Curriculum Review team stating all 4 schools were represented across all grades.
- New Social Studies frameworks were introduced from the State with a focus of education for civic life
- Past was focused on content focused, new standards added History and Social Studies practice and Literacy standards for History and Social Studies practice
- Each grade level has standards but highlights include Grade 5 Modern Civil Rights Movement highlighted; Grade 8 is US and Mass Government and Civic Life; Grade 3 Massachusetts, Home to many people. It is no longer about just learning dates.
- Grade 8 – Foundations of Government, Rights and Responsibilities, The Congress, The Executive Branch, the Judicial Branch, State and Local Government
- 8<sup>th</sup> grade need to complete a civic action project to promote some type of change. 4 classes with have 4 different projects. Allow to put ideas in action and promote change.
- High School Civic Knowledge, Civic Skills and Civic Dispositions; 11<sup>th</sup> grade student led project will meet these requirements.
- MCAS Assessment is on the horizon but it will be different. 1<sup>st</sup> assessment in 8<sup>th</sup> grade and focused on civic and will include performance tasks.
- Implementation timeline was discussed with phasing
- Geography is now implemented with Social Studies instead of a separate class
- Strengths/Opportunities for Growth:
  - Elementary – PK-2 has developed strong community partnerships; Grade 3 developed strong community partnerships with study of their own towns; Grade 4 developed cooperative project-based learning—Time constraints has limited the growth
  - Middle School – strength is the content knowledge and experience of teachers –opportunity is the need for common planning and expand knowledge of civics instruction and inclusion of civil rights. Professional development to develop new civics curriculum

- High School – strengths include alignment to PoL and teachers provide – opportunities include for student agency – opportunities is request for more common planning to share best practices

Next steps include grant submitted for funds for democracy lab training and Ed Tech; Teacher Civic Training for High School; Complete revisions of the curriculum; new primary resources for Elementary School, pilot of grades 5-7. Grade 8 Generation Citizen resources. High School is reviewing resources.

## **VII. OLD BUSINESS**

*January 16, 2020 School Committee Meeting*

It was discussed to have an additional School Committee meeting in conjunction with the Kaleidoscope kick off on January 16<sup>th</sup>.

Motioned and unanimously approved to amend school committee meeting calendar to include a school committee meeting on January 16.

## **VIII. CORRESPONDENCE**

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

### **X. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- MURSD FY2021 Budget: Initial Projections – February 10

### **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  
Vikki Ludwigson, yes

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