

MENDON-UPTON REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

School Committee Meeting
Superintendent Office, Miscoe Hill Middle School
Monday, January 27, 2020

Committee Present:

Leigh Martin, Dorothy Scally, Sean Nicholson, Vikki Ludwigson, Phil DeZutter (by remote participation)

Administration Present:

Joseph Maruszczak, Superintendent of Schools
Maureen Cohen, Assistant Superintendent
Jay Byer, Business/Finance
Dennis Todd, Director of Student Support Services
David Quinn, Director of Technology Integration

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Sean Nicholson.
The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Sean Nicholson announced Phil DeZutter will be participating remotely due to geographic distance pursuant to 940 CMR 29.10(5) (e). Sean Nicholson briefly summarized the requirements of remote participation, including the requirement that all votes be taken by roll call.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA/MINUTES

Approval of Agenda

MOTION: On a motion of Vikki Ludwigson, seconded by Leigh Martin, to approve amended the agenda.

VOTED: Unanimously approved by roll call vote

Approval of Open Session Minutes of January 6, 2020

MOTION: On a motion of Leigh Martin, seconded by Vikki Ludwigson, to approve the Open Session minutes of January 6, 2020

VOTED: Unanimously approved by roll call vote

Approval of Executive Session Minutes of January 6, 2020

MOTION: On a motion of Leigh Martin, seconded by Dorothy Scally, to approve the Executive Session minutes of January 6, 2020

VOTED: Unanimously approved by roll call vote

II. STUDENT'S COMMENTS – NA

III. COMMUNITY'S COMMENTS –

Alicia from SEPAC asked where the additional budget reports are located and commented SEPAC is conducting survey and planning to share the results with Dennis

Todd and the School Committee. She is hopefully there can be a 'state of the of special ed' can become an annual event.

IV. SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMENTS

Harlem Wizards/MUEF Fundraiser

Dr. Maruszczak announced MUEF is having the Harlem Wizards coming to play a basketball game against a teachers team on Friday. This is a big fundraiser for the foundation where they are hopeful there will be over 1000 people coming to the event.

Kaleidoscope Collective Update

Dr. Maruszczak summarized the event for the Kaleidoscope Collective. There were over 250 parents who attended the celebration of learning. A website was created to show what was done such as 'Back in my day and 10 years from now' and 'Food for Thought' responses. All of the responses were used to create word clouds as well as the film about Nipmuc's journey.

DESE was impressed with the event and there was another school visit last week where additional positive feedback from DESE was received. There will be another meeting on March 10 and 11th regarding the project.

NESDEC Enrollment Projections

Dr. Maruszczak presented enrollment projections. The projections show the enrollment for the next 5 years and indicate an increase of 300 students in district in the next 10 school years. It was noted a majority of increase will be coming from Upton. Upton is expected to increase an additional 270 students where Mendon has an additional 34 students. Dr Maruszczak is doing additional research to determine trends. It was noted Memorial School will see the most impact from this projected increase. The School Committee also discussed the choice students' numbers.

FY2020 Budget Update

Jay Byer commented FY2020 budget is performing relatively well and there have been no major issues the last couple of weeks.

V. SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

Budget Subcommittee

Dr. Maruszczak informed the School Committee the FY2021 House 1 Budget figures were released last week. It is a very similar situation as FY2020. MURSD is one of the minimum aid districts. Thus, only modest increase of \$30 per student in Chapter 70. He noted this amount will not change however, there may be additional monies for regional transportation. The net amount of State aid is a reduction of \$70k due to offsets of charter school reimbursement. Dr. Maruszczak noted 85% of the new money the State approved is going to only 35 districts. The Budget Subcommittee meeting is Wednesday at 7 pm at Miscoe Hill and will focus of Middle and High School funding.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

MURSD and Project Lead the Way

Dr. Cohen and Dave Quinn presented a PowerPoint presentation about "Project Lead the Way." Highlights of the presentation follows:

- Pre-K – 12 applied learning for STEM curriculum by solving real world problems
- There are 3 phases Launch is Elementary where there are 10 hours modules for the students to become interested. Gateway - Middle school 45 days of curriculum and

High School is 4 or 6 courses to learn more about biomedical science, computer science and engineering fields

- The courses include activity, project and problem-based learning approach
- There is a growing network of districts in MA participating as well as many of our peer districts.
- Startup costs are grant eligible and a \$60K grant has been applied for with MASS Stem Hub
- Project Lead the Way has a proven positive impact on math and science achievement; positive influence of STEM careers; teachers are satisfied with the program; students value the courses
- This curriculum is a clear alignment with MURSD POL
- Starter implementation for 2019-2020 with some starter funds. Proposal is Year 1 will be 2020-2021 with one course for each grade 5-7 and year 2 in 2021-2022 with grades 3-4 Launch, and additional courses for grade 7 and grade 8. Outcome will be determined based on grant application and teachers.
- Description of each of the classes that would be held

It was noted this is a great program and Dr. Cohen and Mr. Quinn were thanked for their hard work.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

VIII. CORRESPONDENCE

Dr. Maruszczak informed the School Committee a waiver is needed from the Department of Ed to become part of the Kaleidoscope project. A letter to request the waiver for Innovative Assessment Demonstration Authority was composed and mailed. A copy of the letter was given to the members.

Also, Norfolk County Agricultural School sent a letter indicating the tuition increase for out of county students. The amount is \$23,634 per student. It was noted there are 4 graduating students but there are 7 students from MURSD applying or returning to the school. Also, for students on an IEP, there will be additional funding needed. It was discussed how State Regulations allow the school to charge significant additional funds for out-of-county students such as MURSD's.

Lastly, there was a letter from Debra Swain indicating her intentions to retire as principal of Memorial Elementary School on June 30, 2020. Dr. Maruszczak will be determining a timeline to find her replacement.

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
- Approval of 2020-21 MURSD Calendar – February 10

XI. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: On motion of Sean Nicholson, seconded by Leigh Martin 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