

## **MEDFIELD SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

**High School Library - 7:30 pm**

**February 13, 2020**

**PRESENT:** Anna Mae O'Shea Brooke - Chairperson  
Jessica Reilly - Vice Chairperson  
Timothy Knight - Recording Secretary  
Meghan Glenn - Financial Secretary  
Leo Brehm - Legislative Secretary

**ALSO PRESENT:** Jeffrey Marsden - Superintendent of Schools  
Michael LaFrancesca - Director of Finance Operations  
Andrea Moores - Secretary

Meeting called to order by Anna Mae O'Shea Brooke at 7:33 pm

**PUBLIC INPUT - None**

### **OLD BUSINESS - (Out of Agenda Order)**

#### **MHS National Honor Society Presentation - presented by Ms. Gail Duffy and Ms. Bethan Sancher**

Ms. Sancher and Ms. Duffy shared their revised thinking on the National Honor Society GPA Criteria as a result of continued discussions with administration and reassessment of comparative data. The committee voted to re-propose a 3.6 weighted GPA instead of a 3.8 unweighted GPA. A 3.6 weighted GPA is a more reasonable reflection of the true academic excellence represented by Medfield High School's National Honor Society. It will also allow for students who take both Honors, C1, and C2 classes an opportunity to be considered eligible to apply to the National Honor Society. The School Committee thanked the presenters for taking prior feedback into consideration.

### **NEW BUSINESS - (Out of Agenda Order)**

#### **High School Advisory - presented by representatives, Elizabeth Panciocco (9th), Kerry White (10th) and Ella Kohler (12th)**

Elizabeth Panciocco reported that the Papa Gino's Fundraiser for the Freshman Class did not raise as much money as expected so the class is planning an additional fundraiser for the spring. Elizabeth made mention of the new biology teacher at the high school who is receiving positive feedback from students. She also shared that that students find the Math and Writing Labs very useful and would like to have a Science Lab as well. Biology is one of the most challenging courses for freshman and a Science Lab would provide additional support.

Kerry White informed the committee that Student Government will be partnering with the Bowl Boyz Food Truck for the Sophomore Class Fundraiser. The event is in the initial planning stages and the hope is to have it scheduled for the spring. This week Student Council sold wooden hearts for students to

write and send messages to their friends for Valentines Day. Winter sports are coming to a close but students are looking forward to the upcoming spring sport season. The class of 2022 is looking forward to February break.

Ella Kohler reported that Student Government will be renting out an ice rink for all Seniors as part of the Senior Gift. They will also continue to work on greening the cafeteria in conjunction with the High School Environmental Club. Many seniors have received college acceptances with more to come in March. Seniors are planning Senior Projects and are meeting with their teachers to present and finalize their ideas. Ella shared feedback with the committee regarding student/teacher feedback and suggested that a more consistent feedback method between student and teachers be established to improve student learning.

### **OLD BUSINESS - (Out of Agenda Order)**

#### **Dale Street Project Update - presented by Mr. Michael Quinlan**

Mike Quinlan was in attendance to discuss the grade configuration process with the committee. He stated that the School Building Committee will be looking to the School Committee and the District Office for their educational policy recommendations. Mr. Quinlan explained that this project will be the most expensive project the town has ever done regardless of the size and stressed the importance of unanimous support from key boards and committees in town. Mr. Quinlan proposed a joint meeting for the town boards and committees to be scheduled at the end of March. This meeting will be posted and include the Board of Selectmen, Warrant Committee, Dale Street School Building Committee, School Committee and the Community. The purpose of this meeting is for the boards to come together in one space to discuss the recommendation made by the School Committee and District Office. This will allow feedback and discussions to take place in an open environment where information can be disseminated and shared at the same time with all stakeholders. After that meeting each committee would meet on it's own and then vote to support or not support the recommendation. MSBA requires documentation and is very diligent to ensure that the community supports the decision. Mr. Quinlan also stated that the School Committee will be required to formally vote on the preferred solution which also has to be supported by the Educational Plan. MSBA provides this as a check and balance to ensure that decisions are backed up by proper utilization of the Educational Plan.

Mrs. Anna Mae O'Shea Brooke agreed that it is prudent to have this meeting so that all voices can be heard at the same time to discuss pros and cons. The School Committee is supportive of the meeting and Mr. Quinlan will coordinate the meeting logistics with the goal of holding the meeting the third or fourth week of March.

Dr. Mardsen asked the School Committee what information would be helpful for them to have as they move forward to make the decision regarding grade configuration. Mr. Leo Brehm requested the pros and cons of each building as it relates to student transitions, resource allocations, day to day operations, student mindset and student programs like MAP. He also felt it would be helpful to understand the future of our buildings as a result of building a smaller or larger building. Ms. Jessica Reilly inquired about the tipping point of increased student enrollment to warrant building a larger building. She also

asked to take into consideration how to use the building if there was to be a decrease in population as it relates to our older schools, that will eventually need renovation as well.

Dr. Marsden shared with the committee the components included in the Educational Plan which are as follows:

- district background and vision
- school and grade configuration
- class size policies
- school scheduling methods
- teaching methodology and structure
- teacher planning and room assignment policies
- lunch program
- technology instruction policies and requirements
- media center, library,
- visual arts, music and performing arts programs
- physical education programs
- special education programs
- transportation
- student schedules
- functional spatial relationships
- security and visual access

Dr. Marsden and Mr. Steve Grenham have been developing the plan along with information and feedback received from department heads and visioning sessions. The School Committee will receive a draft of the Educational Plan at the February 27th School Committee Meeting.

### **NEW BUSINESS - (Out of Agenda Order)**

#### **Social Studies Frameworks - presented by Ms. Kathleen Emerson**

Ms. Emerson presented the changes to the Social Studies Curriculum Frameworks.

The highlights include:

- increased emphasis on Civics at all levels
- new 8th grade course - Civics
- increased focus on the diversity of people in the United States and world cultures
- standards for the practice of history
- inclusion of literacy standards
- new standards for financial and news/media literacy

Ms. Emerson explained the new standards for Grades K-12 and reviewed the course changes at the high school made to accommodate the new standards. Ms. Emerson also presented the High School Social Studies Electives and introduced the new one quarter classes that will be available to students next year.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by Mr. Leo Brehm, seconded by Ms. Jessica Reilly to approve the School Committee Minutes from 1/30/2020 and the Executive Session Draft Minutes from 1/30/2020. **The vote was unanimous.**

## **NEW BUSINESS - (Out of Agenda Order)**

### **Overnight Field Trip Requests - Dr. Jeffrey Marsden**

Dr. Marsden asked the School Committee to approve the following Overnight Field Trips:

- All-State Music Festival - Music Department
- MASS State DECA Competition - MHS DECA Club
- Annual Massachusetts Association of Student Council's Convention - MHS Student Council

A motion was made by Ms. Meghan Glenn, seconded by Mr. Timothy Knight to approve the Overnight Field Trip requests as presented. **The vote was unanimous.**

### **Kindergarten Space Discussion - Dr. Jeffrey Marsden**

Dr. Marsden reviewed the Kindergarten enrollment for next school year. As of February 12, 2020, 172 students have been registered for Kindergarten. The district has also been notified that there are 13 families that are planning to retain or "redshirt" their children next year. The NESDEC and MSBA projected enrollment for 2020-2021 is 223 students which accounts for 40 students that are not part of the census. Dr. Marsden will continue to watch the enrollment closely and will continue to update the committee regularly.

Other Items since posting on February 4, 2020 - **None**

## **OLD BUSINESS - (Out of Agenda Order)**

### **Donations - Dr. Jeffrey Marsden**

Dr. Marsden asked the School Committee to accept the following donations:

- The Wheelock School PTO has donated the following funds to the Wheelock School:
  - \$1325.00 to Bay Colony Educators for the Wheelock Student Assembly
  - \$995.00 to Mobile Ed Productions for the Earth Dome
- The Memorial School PTO has donated the following funds to the Memorial School:
  - \$4380.00 Bus Transportation for the kindergarten field trip to Southwick Zoo and the first grade field trip to Stony Brook Wildlife Sanctuary
  - \$707.00 for three Ladibug Doc Cameras
- The Blake Middle School PTO has donated the following funds to the Blake Middle School:
  - \$210.00 for World Language Display Shelves
  - \$200.00 for Advisory Team Building Games
  - \$1260.00 for the National Science Teachers Conference
- The Blake Middle School received the following funds to be deposited into the Blake Middle School
  - \$219.40 from Box Tops for Education
  - \$2838.92 commission from the photography company Grynn & Barrett

A motion was made by Mr. Leo Brehm, seconded by Mrs. Jessica Reilly to approve the donations as presented by Dr. Marsden. **The vote was unanimous.**

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT TO THE COMMITTEE**

### **FY21 Budget**

Ms. Meghan Glenn and Ms. Jessica Reilly did attend the Warrant Committee meeting on February 10, 2020 and gave an update. Ms. Reilly shared that the town is trying to look at different scenarios on how to manage continuing capital costs. The Warrant Committee looked at the School Budget as well as other Town Budgets to come up with a possible scenario to do a zero percent increase which would include making changes to the school budget. Ms. Reilly does have concerns about the Warrant Committee's assumptions and lack of understanding on how a school finance works. Ms. Glenn stated that the Warrant Committee had originally asked the School Department to work within a 4% increase which was done. Another meeting with the Warrant Committee and School Budget Sub Committee is scheduled for March 16, 2020 to continue the budget conversation.

### **Informational Items - Challenge Success**

Dr. Jeffrey Marsden wanted to celebrate the work that is being done with Challenge Success and shared a document from Medfield High School that outlines the changes/improvements that have been made using the Challenge Success SPACE Framework. Ms. Anna Mae O'Shea Brooke requested to have a Challenge Success Check-In/Update at a future School Committee Meeting.

### **Future Agenda Items:**

- FY 21 Budget Update
- Dale Street Project
- Kindergarten Space Discussion
- Challenge Success

## **CLOSING REMARKS**

Student Representative Campbell Ayer: Campbell reported that the Student Council has been selling wooden hearts for Dana Farber and Valentine's Day this week. This is an annual fundraiser and are using the website this year to collect donations. Campbell also reminded the committee of the upcoming "Putting for Patients" Fundraiser for the Jimmy Fund. This is the biggest fundraiser of the year for the High School which is also a great event for families with young children. The event will be held in the HS Gymnasium on March 22, 2020 from 12:00 pm to 3:00 pm.

Mr. Leo Brehm appreciated the Social Studies Presentation and excited about the addition of one quarter classes.

Ms. Megan Glenn acknowledged and congratulated Dr. Jeffrey Marsden on his Administrator Advocate Award from the Massachusetts School Library Association. This award recognizes an administrator who promotes and supports school library programs.

Mr. Timothy Knight stated that he was enthusiastic about the new Social Studies Frameworks and also congratulated Dr. Marsden on his award.

Ms. Anna Mae O'Shea Brooke attended the Medfield Talks Presentation and found the information valuable. Ms. O'Shea Brooke also congratulated Dr. Marsden on his award and acknowledged the work that went into his nomination by Ms. Kerry Cowell. Ms. Anna Mae O'Shea Brooke was very impressed by Ella Khoeler's observations on student/teacher feedback and the suggestion of a Science Lab.

Ms. Jessica Reilly thanked Campbell Ayer for his feedback from the first National Honor Society Presentation and stated that his feedback impacted changes that were made to the GPA requirement.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Mr. Leo Brehm, seconded by Ms. Jessica Reilly to adjourn the meeting. **The vote was unanimous. Adjournment: 9:36 pm**

**Meeting Minutes Approved by School Committee:** March 12, 2020

**Next Meeting:** February 27, 2020 at the Dale Street School

### **EXHIBITS AND DOCUMENTS**

- Draft Executive Session Minutes 1/30/2020
- Draft School Committee Meeting Minutes 1/30/2020
- Overnight Field Trip Requests
- Social Studies Frameworks Presentation
- Kindergarten Enrollment Memo
- MHS National Honor Society Presentation
- Donations
- Challenge Success SPACE Framework Document
- School Committee Meeting Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZX6vvEY4QvQ>

Respectively Submitted,  
Andrea Moores  
Secretary