

**MAYNARD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
Fowler School Library
January 16, 2020, 7:00pm**

Present: Bethlyn Houlihan, Natasha Rivera, Mary Brannelly, Lydia Clancy, Maro Hogan
Administrators Present: Mary Jane Rickson, Interim Superintendent; Michelle Resendes,
Business Manager

The meeting was called to order at 7:04

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

Ms. Clancy motioned to approve the minutes from 9/12/19.

Ms. Hogan seconded the motion.

Ms. Brannelly noted some grammatical edits and handed a copy noting the corrections to Ms. Andrade.

Ms. Clancy motioned to amend the motion to approve the 9/12/19 minutes with edits per Ms. Brannelly.

Ms. Hogan seconded the motion.

Motion passed 5-0

There was discussion about the 1/15/20 minutes and 2 corrections were noted. Insert "finalists" before "Superintendent candidates" in the 3rd line. Add Ms. Brannelly's name to the roll call vote, her name was missing but was present and took part in the roll call vote.

Ms. Rivera Motioned to approve the minutes from 1/15/20 with the edits mentioned, to add "finalists" and add Mary Brannelly to the roll call vote.

Ms. Hogan seconded the motion.

Motion passed 5-0

Chairperson's Report

Some members attended 2 MMA meetings, one with parents to hear concerns, the other with parents and Administrators which talked about some short and long term considerations about the program. School Committee will need to consider procedures on how to approve subcommittee minutes. The School Committee voted at last night's meeting to move into negotiations with Biran Haas, Executive Director of the Abby Kelly Foster Charter School who is very excited to potentially be the next Superintendent of Maynard.

Student Report

Patrick O'Neil said the Senior Tri-M (National Music) Honor Society inducted 5 members on Jan 14th, and were expanding to a Jr. Tri-M which will include Gr. 8-10. First service project will be a dinner/movie night on the 24th, for chorus and band members. Mid-terms were about to start. Sr. Districts is this weekend, top musicians in the district, included several Maynard students. NHS completed their service project of adding a mural to and reorganizing the library. NHS individual service projects have started. Sr. Project research papers and presentations are due. Mock interviews were last week. Cocoa and Craming will be Jan 21 in the MHS cafe and library for all MHS students, teachers will be available to help students

study. Early action college decisions started coming out. Sports varsity jackets are provided by the Booster Club.

Interim Superintendent's Report (5 min; IO)

Green Meadow - Maynard Police and Fire Monthly "high five" Friday's will begin. Preschool Information Night will be Jan 23rd. Beacon Villager doing a story on the preschool program. Fowler has 2 teams of students, Gr. 5-6 and 7-8, competing in the National Math Olympiad. The Spelling Bee was Jan 9th, 78 students participated in grades 4-8. The 10 Spelling Bee finalists will compete on Jan 23 in the Fowler auditorium. The winner will go to the State Spelling Bee Competition in the Spring.

Maynard High School - The Worcester County Superintendents Association (WCSA) hosted a scholars luncheon on Jan 5th, top 2 students from each members' district were invited. MHS's Jinnie Mannion and Noah De Castro attended. Students participated in mock interviews this week, part of the College and Career Readiness platform. Students are rehearsing for their Musical, Dirty Rotten Scoundrels under director Ryan DeFoe.

Central Office - Made an offer to someone for the interim Business Manager position and meeting with the candidate Tuesday to discuss a contract. Received the Maynard Education Foundation's annual report who had awarded more than \$20,000 in grants to teachers and students last year.

Ms. Houlihan asked to take an agenda item out of order without objection noting that Kate Hogan had arrived..

Special Recognition for Service

Kate Hogan presented a citation to Michelle Resendes on behalf of the State House for her work and dedication to Maynard Public Schools.

Ms. Resendes thanked the community, School Committee and Administration.

Citizens' Comments

A group of 8th grade band students, and a parent spoke about their disappointment about the decreased band opportunities, early morning rehearsal was difficult to get to and lack of practice for concerts. There were no band electives at Fowler this year. As students move into HS, band will have less interest with less Fowler opportunity. They felt that band helped keep students in MHS and wanted to keep the band going strong.

Town Administrator Update - Greg Johnson, Town Administrator -

Facilities Director MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) update - Plan is to have a shared facilities director between the town (25%) and schools (75%) with the Superintendent's office doing the hiring. Legal Counsel for the Town and School Dept have been communicating.

Mr. Johnson said that some equipment was shared, the same Town employees would be mowing the fields. The person hired would need to take an inventory of school and town equipment to see what is needed. Ms. Resendes noted that the job description talks about delegating or doing some immediate work, but the school custodians didn't actually have that equipment anymore. School Custodians were worried that if those duties fell back on them, that they would not have access to equipment, so they would need a snowblower back, hedge clippers, etc. to complete the work.

Ms. Rivera asked that the negotiations committee be involved with the discussions.

Green Meadow Roof update - The Town has just received the results from the envelope study and the School Committee hasn't had the time to go through it. There are a series of recommendations and a range of work that could be done. School Committee will need to decide what recommendation works best for the vision of the building, then give their recommendation to the BOS, which will ultimately be voted on at Town meeting.

During discussion, it was noted that the Green Meadow Future Committee will review the envelope study and provide recommendations. The MSBA option may weigh in on what School Committee decides, as well as what the public interest would be. The short term goal would be to have the PK/K wing open in the fall. CBI was invited to speak about the study on the 30th. The expectation was for the roof construction to be completed over the summer.

Regarding the MSBA process, it was our obligation to maintain the building until ready to move forward with construction, they look favorably on us improving our buildings. The next step would be a vote at the May Town Meeting to approve funds for the feasibility study. This could be put off until the fall Special Town Meeting if necessary.

2020-2021 School Year Calendar

The Professional Development Committee determined what days would be used as PD during the year. A survey was sent to staff for input on when school started. Option 1 - Teachers 1st day would be Aug 27th; Option 2 - Teachers 1st day would be Aug 31st. Option 2 was the most favorable in the survey results.

The School Committee reviewed and discussed the 2 calendar scenarios. It was thought that the later start date may work better for GM roof construction.

Ms. Rivera motioned to accept calendar option 2 for the Maynard Public Schools calendar year 2020-21.

Ms. Hogan 2nd the motion.

Motion passed 5-0.

Policy review

Due to a miscommunication of the policies distributed, it was suggested to table this agenda item until SC could see the revised policies.

Online Fundraising and Solicitations – Crowdfunding
Social Networking Websites and Electronic Communication
Bullying Prevention and Intervention

Ms. Houlihan stated that without objection, current Policy numbers would be changed to reflect the MASC policy numbering system. There was no objection.

Superintendent Search Update

The Superintendent's draft contract was with the School Lawyers for review.

Citizens' Comments

Leslie Knight asked if the School Committee could adopt a religious observance policy, so that major events or testing would not fall on religious observances.

Members' Comments (includes Subcommittees Report Out)

Ms. Brannelly noted it was announced at the Finance Committee meeting that another \$150,000 had to be cut from the School's budget, this translated to further reductions. We have until Town Meeting to come up with the budget reductions. There had been a conversation about waiting to build a new Green Meadow for \$30-50 million since there was a question if the town would approve it since we also need a new Fire Station. If we just replaced the roof for 2 million, it could buy us 10 years helping us to wait longer for a new building.

Ms. Hogan thanked the people who emailed about the music program. She noted that there were 3 School Committee seats open in the next election and suggested holding public information sessions so people could learn more about what the School Committee did and what the time commitment was. Nomination papers were available at Town Hall. She agreed there should be a policy about eliminating homework over holidays and breaks. The next Communication Subcommittee meeting was on Wed.

Ms. Rivera noted they had a Strategic Planning & Curriculum Subcommittee meeting Jan 6th, looking at the music program, received feedback from the community. SEPAC social was on Jan. 14th. The next SEPAC collaboration meeting on Jan. 21

Ms. Houlihan said that Fowler was trying to get 6-7 graders out for a 10 min recess after lunch. There was a Principal search going on for Green Meadow and have talked about having the new Superintendent involved as things progress. Josh Morse suggested adding to the Principal's job description that we were in Phase 1 of the MSBA process.

It was noted that the new Student Opportunity Act plan needed to be approved in March to be sent to the State in April.

Ms. Houlihan motioned to enter into Executive Session MGL, CH30A;§21(2) to discuss contract negotiations with nonunion personnel, and not to reconvene in Open Session.

Roll Call vote:

Mary Brannelly - Yes
Lydia Clancy - Yes
Maro Hogan - Yes
Natasha Rivera - Yes
Bethlyn Houlihan - Yes

Motion passed 5-0

Open meeting adjourned at 9:13

Respectfully Submitted

Colleen Andrade

Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent of Schools