

MENDON-UPTON REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

School Committee Meeting

Nipmuc High School, Professional Development Room

Monday, April 11, 2022

Committee Present:

Sean Nicholson, Dorothy Scally, Erick Brown, Dorothy Scally, Kerry Laurence, Phil DeZutter

Administration Present:

Maureen Cohen, Interim Superintendent of Schools

Cheryl Kirkpatrick, Interim Assistant Superintendent of Schools

Jay Byer, Business/Finance

Jennifer Mannion, Principal of Miscoe Hill Middle School

David Quinn, Director of Technology Integration

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Kerry Laurence.

Pledge of Alliance was recited

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Approval of the Agenda

MOTION: On a motion of Dorothy Scally, seconded by Sean Nicholson, to approve the agenda.

VOTED: Unanimously approved

Approval of the Open Session Minutes from March 28, 2022

MOTION: On a motion of Dorothy Scally, seconded by Vikki Ludwigson, to approve Open Session minutes from March 28, 2022

VOTED: Unanimously approved

II. CHAIRPERSON COMMENTS - NA

III. COMMUNITY COMMENTS - NA

IV. STUDENT'S COMMENTS

Nipmuc School Committee Student Representatives: Michel (Diya was not available) updated the School Committee on the following:

- Disney world trip students made it back last week. They experienced fun rides, and fun opportunities. Days started by waking up at 7 am – bus to parks by 8:30 and stayed until 7 pm at night and walked many miles over the 5 days. Thank you to Mr. Harding and Ms Simmons for the well-organized trip. Band and chorus participated in several workshops. Band played music from Lion King and they put it over the film. Students have a recording of it.
- Class of 2022 for dodgeball tournament was held last Friday. Shout out to the winners were given.
- This week at Nipmuc is wellness week to spread awareness of mental health and taking care of one self. Last weekend was homework free and each day has a theme. Students have ability to sign up for activities on Tuesdays and Thursdays.
- This Wed is the English Learners night

- The student representatives will visit Memorial School tomorrow. The plan is to visit the students during lunch and broaden their representation.

Miscoe Hill MS--financial literacy presentation:

Students from Mr. Labarre and Mrs. Kadra's 7th grade class presented their recent FutureSmart financial literacy projects. Highlights included the following:

- Future Smart – Share essentials of financial literacy
- Spent several weeks looking at financial modules
- 3 critical resources were used
- Students spent time in February and March learning the essentials of personal finance, including budgeting, saving, credit and interest, and the relationship between education and future earnings
- Showcase of the students' experience were presented
- School Committee members were provided with a link of the sample projects
- Students gave their name, what they learned and how to did it feel to present project to financial expert?
- What was learned included: finances are not that complicated; rainy day funds; importance of budget; assets and liabilities; important to save for the future
- Feedback received: different way to learn; learn to speak clearly; visuals are important for projects; showing what you have done; giving examples is a good way to help someone understand the topic

Principal Jen Mannion updated the School Committee on her Project Based Learning. She stated this learning is essential for real world learning. Students were engaged throughout the project and not just the end product. Her project consisted of looking at the traffic flow at Miscoe Hill. She noted the leadership network is great and she is hoping to get 50% of the staff trained in project-based learning. It was noted this is not an add on but will be integrated into the curriculum.

V. SUPERINTENDENT AND ADMINISTRATOR COMMENTS

Technology Integration Update: Dr. David Quinn, Director of Technology Integration

Dr. Quinn provided a Technology update to School Committee. Highlights include the following:

- Dr. Quinn expressed a thank you to Tech group for their hard work
- iPad refresh has been completed
- MCAS Support: support testing in all 4 buildings; set up testing sessions; set up additional devices for emergency situations; train teachers on the technical aspects of test proctoring; provide a visible, positive calming presence
- Inspired Innovation Center Workshops – these are selling out in a day. 4 so far this year include laser engraves sign design; graphic design for vinyl and t-shirt presses with vinyl. There will be a rocketry workshop in May
- PLTW Now includes automations & robotics; design and modeling; science of technology
- On the horizon includes \$25K PLTW Grant and \$5K BVEF innovation pathway grant
- PLTW Science of Technology include chemistry ice cream challenge, oil spill challenge, rollercoaster mania and Rube Goldberg machine. Computer science for innovator & makers, Energy and the Environment and Nipmuc Computer Science innovation pathways planning grants.
- It was noted investment in infrastructure has made MCAS seamless; There is a feeder program to help build the program and curriculum.

District Updates/Announcements: Dr. Maureen Cohen

Dr. Cohen updated the School Committee on the following:

- District co-hosted the job fair last week. Assisted by staff members and estimate about 100 educators were spoken to about opportunities in the district. This is a possibility there may be another fair soon
- COVID is still has low numbers. It is being monitored daily and reported weekly to State and dashboard is updated. Miscoe Hill had some higher numbers across all the grades but did not see any connections. Warm weather will be helpful to have windows open and being outside
- District events include International Night on May 12 at 5:30 at Nipmuc HS. Sponsored by the immersion program and will have performances by the students.
- April is Autism Acceptance Month and the district has been supportive.
- Hosting learning walks with 2/3-year teachers. This is in connection to mentoring program. Teachers will be able to meet with other teachers and network
- Adjustments to data systems to enable more accurate and rapid translations in school/district messages and report cards for our ELL students and families. These behind-the-scenes adjustments to our systems make a huge difference in our communications with families whose first language is not English.
- Dr. Cohen commented it is going to be a fun spring and will be good to highlight.

Finance and Operations Update: Mr. Jay Byer, Director of Finance and Operations
Jay Byer presented an updated to the School Committee. It was noted the YTD report was distributed to School Committee members. Jay presented the following historical data:

FY2019 - FY2022 Historical % Budget used as of 4/1 of each Fiscal Year				
	FY2019	FY2020	FY2021	FY2022
Budget	\$35,352,268	\$36,414,931	\$37,501,581	\$39,090,339
YTD 4/1	\$25,307,989	\$25,973,224	\$24,465,671	\$25,061,807
% Used	71.59%	71.33%	65.24%	64.11%

Jay noted some line items to be concerned about include heating of buildings, general building. However, snow removal, health insurance, SpEd contracted services, and out of district transportation is good.

Other efficiencies include

- Working with national grid to reduce capacity tag which will pay the district money based on reductions
- Working with Overview Consulting to realize savings for purchases. Savings are close to \$100k annually. 1st 3 months is free
- Working with Mendon Green Community to access grants for upgraded computer management systems for Miscoe and Clough
- Revising Human Resources policies to better serve employees
- Upgrading budget software for better employee access to personal records

Jay feels the end of the year will end under budget. However, still waiting for costs for water treatment needed at Miscoe and Clough. It was noted there is a solar

system is available to the district and he is currently exploring options of the roof over Nipmuc gym to put it.

VI. SCHOOL COMMITTEE SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

Vikki Ludwigson commented the Policy Subcommittee met at 6 pm this evening and discussed the policies noted below. It was noted the first reading policies will be distributed to School Committee members and the rest will be discuss at the next policy committee meeting.

- JEB-Entrance to School (Revised--First Reading)
- Continue review cycle of policies in Section B-Board governance and operations.
 - BB-School Committee Status (Reviewed)
 - BBA-School Committee Powers and Duties (Revised--First Reading)
 - BBAA-School Committee Member Authority (Revised--First Reading)
 - BBBA/BBBB-School Committee Member Qualifications/Oath of Office (To be reviewed next policy subcommittee meeting)
 - BBBC-School Committee Member Resignation (To be reviewed next policy subcommittee meeting)

VII. NEW BUSINESS

Golden Apple Award-Discussion of Timeline for nominations and award

The School Committee discussed the Golden Apple Awards timeline and when to do the awards. It was noted this subcommittee was established last May and there are now 3 awards presented at the end of the school year. Thus, nominations and determination of the winners needs to be accomplished by June.

Dr. Cohen will create the google form with the questions and send it out to everyone. Family members and students will receive the notifications of the awards. Committee members recommended to have stories and examples to assists with the applications. Kerry Laurence noted nominations from students are powerful to the Committee.

Timeline finalized to send out the nominations applications no later May 1st and have a meeting on May 23rd at 5:30 pm to determine the winners. School Committee members committed to having their 3 top candidates ready at the meeting.

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

IX. CORRESPONDENCE

X. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Audit Presentation-May 9
- School Choice for 2022-2023 school year
- District Action Plan update

XI. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: On motion of Kerry Laurence, seconded by Sean Nicholson to adjourn to Executive Session pursuant to MGL Chapter 30A, section 21(a), exemption #2. to conduct contract negotiations with nonunion personnel (The Committee will not return to open session.)

VOTED:

Sean Nicholson, yes

Erick Martin, yes

Vikki Ludwigson, yes

Kerry Laurence, yes

Phil DeZutter, yes

Dorothy Scally, yes

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