

MEDFIELD SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Zoom Remote Meeting
July 16, 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 and Operations
Andrea Moores - Secretary

Ms. Anna Mae O'Shea Brooke opened the meeting at 5:45 pm after the Executive Session that was held to discuss issues related to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body. (School Secretaries and Cafeteria Workers)

Ms. Anna Mae O'Shea Brooke explained that the agenda would be reorganized beginning with the School Reopening Update followed by the Reopening Public Forum/Listening Session. Ms. Brooke asked the public to utilize the chat window for comments, questions or a request to speak. She also reminded the public to identify themselves in the chat window by providing both first and last name.

PUBLIC INPUT

Ms. Anna Mae O'Shea Brooke opened the meeting to public input for items that are not related to School Reopening. Ms. Chris McCue Potts wrote in the chat window that the School Committee had agreed to take comments via video. Ms. Anna Mae O'Shea Brooke stated that those wishing to speak this evening will be brought over to video for during the Public Open Forum.

OLD BUSINESS (Agenda Out of Order)

School Reopening Update - presented by Dr. Jeffrey Marsden

Dr. Marsden presented the following information pertaining to school reopening:

- The Reopening Committee has been established and has held its first meeting.
- The district has received some of the reopening guidelines from the state.
- An initial staff survey was conducted to determine how staff felt about returning to in-person learning. 327 people responded to the survey which equates to 80% of staff. The result percentages for staff returning to an in-person model are:
 - 91.7% - yes to returning to work
 - 8% - unsure about returning to work
 - .3% - not to returning to work which equates to one staff member
- The first family survey has been conducted and more family surveys will be released over the summer. 1830 people responded which equates to 90% of families. The result percentages for students returning to an in-person model are:
 - 78% - yes to in person learning
 - 18.5% - unsure to in person learning
 - 3.5% - no to in person learning
- Dr. Marsden's recommendation to reopen school in-person will be determined by the guidance provided by science and medical professionals along with the current status of the virus in the community. All of these factors will be considered when making his recommendation to the School Committee in August.
- Dr. Marsden explained that the buildings have been assessed and measured. DESE provided the districts with a computer program to determine the number of students who could be in each room with the social distancing space requirements required. By using the program it was determined that the district would not

be able to go above a three foot physical distance in order to have all students at the same time in the buildings every day .

- The following PPE has been purchased or is on order for the district:
 - 840 gallons of hand sanitizer
 - automatic hand sanitizer dispensers
 - biohazard containers and batteries
 - crowd control wall barriers
 - plexiglass shields for office desks and reception areas
 - disposable masks for children and adults
 - isolation gowns
 - medical tents
 - cleaning supplies
 - desk dividers
 - hospital grade filters for HVAC systems
- Dr. Marsden explained that these purchases will be covered by the CARES Act and to date the district has spent \$84,000 in PPE supplies.
- Five school reopening committees, one for each building, and one district-wide committee has been established for a total of 80 people participating in these committees. The committees consist of staff, teachers, principals, central office staff, parents, students, Board of Health members and School Committee members.
- Building level committees are working to develop the three learning models for, remote, in-person and hybrid learning scenarios.
- The district will submit a quick overview of their reopening plan to the state at the end of July. The full report and School Reopening Plan is due to the state on August 10, 2020.

Dr. Marsden stated that students, staff and parents want in-person learning but reiterated that reopening decisions will be made in conjunction with the guidance from DESE and the Board of Health. Dr. Marsden asked the School Committee to add a School Committee meeting on August 6, 2020 in order to present the draft of the School Reopening plan to the committee before the DESE submission deadline of August 10, 2020.

Dr. Marsden reminded the committee that the majority of the plan will be mandated by DESE and the district is still waiting on additional guidance in many areas including transportation. Some of the initial information on transportation shows a reduced bus capacity requirement which will be challenging for scheduling. Parents have been initially surveyed and at this time 30% of parents indicated they want bus transportation. The district is also waiting for guidance on physical education, special education, wellness, extracurriculars, music, band, chorus and athletics as well as start and stop protocols. The start and stop protocols will guide the district's response when students are either showing symptoms or have tested positive for COVID-19.

Dr. Marsden acknowledged the difficulty in planning while waiting on the guidance from DESE to be released. He commended all of the committee members for their commitment, hard work, and thoughtfulness in developing a plan that is best for students and staff in Medfield. Dr. Marsden is confident that a solid plan will be ready for the School Committee to view on August 6, 2020.

NEW BUSINESS (Agenda Out of Order)

Open Forum regarding the Reopening for Fall 2020 - Public Forum

Ms. Anna Mae O'Shea Brooke opened the meeting to public for the Open Forum:

NAME	QUESTION/COMMENT	ANSWER
Heidi Feldman	Any discussion on standardized testing requirements. Questions about room density and capacity. Questions about staff leave of absences/substitutes.	Dr. Marsden explained that the district would defer to the Medfield Board of Health in regards to testing and there is no testing program statewide for educators at this time. Dr. Marsden stated that the DESE guidance is not using the same guidance as the CDC in some instances which includes room capacity. The DESE guidelines are physical distancing three to six feet with no cap on capacity. Dr. Marsden stated that there is a provision in the CARES Act that is going to allow staff to take leave, additional sick time without penalty.
Renee Carlson	What conversations are we having with students regarding mental health? When will this end? What will the mask requirement be?	Dr. Marsden stated that Dr. Worthley, the district's Director of Social Emotional Learning, is a part of the reopening team and is having conversations with our guidance staff about our students' social emotional health. Dr. Marsden explained that the pediatricians who are working at the state level with DESE have seen an increase in depression and anxiety in children over the past three months and this is a driving force to get children back in school. In regards to when this may end, DESE has informed districts to be prepared to be in one of the three learning models for at least this school year and possibly into the following school year. Dr. Marsden explained that the DESE guidance on masks is for students in grades 2 and up but his recommendation to the school committee will be masks for all students grades Pre-K to 12. Students who cannot wear a mask due to health reasons would be addressed and accommodated as necessary.
Jessica Reilly	Asked there any specifics/guidelines on the types of masks students are required to wear.	Dr. Marsden stated yes and that there will be guidance on mask breaks so that students will get time to go outside and take their masks off.

Anonymous Attendee	Whatever option you implement, will it be optional? For example, if the school opens will you offer a 100% remote option if we don't feel comfortable with in person?	Dr. Marsden responded to this question by stating that parents will have a choice if you want to send your child in-person or remote. Parents also have the option to homeschool their children.
Tim Knight	Asked Dr. Marsden if masks will be required and if there are consequences in not wearing a mask.	Dr. Marsden stated that masks will be a requirement and there would be consequences for not wearing one and that policy will need to be established.
Jessica Reilly	Asked Dr. Marsden what the parameters would be for students who are unable to wear a mask due to special needs.	Dr. Marsden stated that the district is still waiting on the DESE guidance on Special Education to address this issue.
Kris DeVoe	<p>- I'm assuming there'd be increased cleaning protocols in every school. That said, how often would you be cleaning and will it be with chemical or organic solutions?</p> <p>- For the younger kids, have you considered bathroom protocols?</p>	Dr. Marsden stated that the district will be using the cleaning recommendations set by the CDC and are working on the protocols for the district. These protocols will include deep cleaning and cleaning the high touch surfaces throughout the day. The leadership team is working on the bathroom protocols especially for our younger students and teaching assistants will be utilized to help monitor the bathrooms. The custodians have received some initial training with more to follow. The district has purchased a three to four month supply of cleaning products and will order another supply soon.
Jessica Reilly	Ms. Reilly asked if there are any organic cleaning products that have been approved by the CDC and if the district has ordered additional electrostatic cleaning guns.	Mr. Michael LaFrancensa stated the CDC put a list of together of approved organic cleaning products and he is testing them to make sure they meet the needs of the schools. The district has put in an order for cleaning backpacks which is the same concept as the electrostatic gun.

Doug Morrison	Hi- If the state mandates how every public school should be run why was there a big difference in the spring how each district operated i.e. amount of zoom calls, access to teachers on-line, etc. Is that a union issue?	Dr. Marsden explained that any change in working conditions has to be negotiated which is why there was a difference in each town.
Jennifer Hern	Will you turn away children under Grade 2 who will not wear a mask? Many young children have sensory issues that are not necessarily a “medical” diagnosis. Please elaborate... will that child not be allowed to attend school?	This question was previously answered
Jackie Corrigan	How can it be a requirement if the state doesn't mandate it? i don't think you have any basis to enforce this.	Dr. Marsden stated that he would not be surprised if the Governor mandates masks for everyone in the next few weeks.
Jennifer Hern	Thank you, Jess. Please keep in mind that most K don't have 504 or IEPs because they haven't been tracked yet...	Ms. Reilly stated that it is important to contact your school principal, school nurse or student services if this is a concern.
Jackie Corrigan	Sanitation products should be reviewed by parents - my child will not be surrounded by harmful chemicals. Over sanitization weakens our immune system and makes us more susceptible to illness.	

E. Bonnie Marsette	<p>Will there be any requirements around students keeping their video on during zoom sessions? I believe kids need to be on video and it should not be an option to turn it off for more than 5 mins per session. At the MS level it became “uncool” to be on video and there was peer pressure to turn off videos.</p>	<p>Dr. Marsden stated that there will be requirements pertaining to this issue.</p>
Nicole Crocker	<p>What are the options for recess? I have heard talk of no recess. I’m concerned about the kids not getting needed outdoor time. I understand recess will look different but really hope they are allowed to go outside each day. Thank you!</p>	<p>Dr. Marsden is still waiting on the guidance about recess but the district will make every effort to get students outside.</p>
J. Gunasti	<p>If the hybrid model is used. Will parents have input on what days their children can attend school?</p>	<p>Dr. Marsden stated that there are a few hybrid models that are being looked at this time and haven't decided yet but feels strongly that more contact in-person is best for students to learn.</p>
kristen patron	<p>I joined a little late, so apologies, but have we talked about moving classes outdoors as much as possible?</p>	<p>Question was previously answered</p>
Jennifer Hern	<p>They won’t allow any new 504/IEP cases to be considered until school reopens in person (says the IEP contacts at Dale and Memorial).... so there will be an exception regarding wearing masks? Sorry to harp on this.</p>	<p>Dr. Marsden could not address this question at this time. Ms. Reilly encouraged contacting the school principal for these types of individual concerns.</p>

Kelly Keene	Not sure if Medfield has electrostatic disinfecting machines? I am a school nurse in another district and we use these during heavy flu seasons, etc.	Dr. Marsden stated yes and the district one for each school and has had them for a few years now.
-------------	---	---

Ms. Anna Mae O'Shea Brooke closed the Public Open Forum on School Reopening.

Other Items Since Posting - Dr. Marsden asked the School Committee to add a meeting on August 6, 2020.

A motion was made by Mr. Timothy Knight, seconded by Ms. Jessica Reilly to schedule a School Committee Meeting for August 6, 2020.

A Roll Call Vote was taken to schedule a School Committee Meeting August 6, 2020.

- Jessica Reilly-yes
- Leo Brehm-yes
- Timothy Knight-yes
- Meghan Glenn- yes
- Anna Mae O'Shea Brooke-yes

The vote was unanimous.

OLD BUSINESS

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion - Mascot Discussion/Engagement Plan - Ms. Anna Mae O'Shea Brooke

Ms. O'Shea Brooke noted that the Public Forum on the use of the Medfield Mascot would be held on July 30, 2020. In preparation for the forum, Ms. O'Shea Brooke and Ms. Jessica Reilly met with members of the Walpole School Committee who recently had their own Public Forum on the same topic to gain insight on how their public forum was managed. The Walpole School Committee surveyed the public prior to their forum to solicit feedback, questions and to pre-register community members who wanted to speak publicly at the meeting. Ms. O'Shea Brooke stated that the Medfield School Committee would like to use the same format for their upcoming forum scheduled on July 30, 2020. A survey will be shared with the community prior to the meeting on July 30, 2020 and it will require those who would like to publicly speak at the forum to pre-register. Ms. O'Shea Brooke expressed the importance of having a clear process for the Medfield Mascot Public Forum. Ms. Jessica Reilly reminded the committee that the Public Forum scheduled for July 30, 2020 will be strictly on the use of the mascot/logo and that the use of the Warrior name would be a future and continued discussion. Ms. O'Shea Brooke agreed with Ms. Reilly and stated that the vote on the use of the mascot/logo would take place on August 13, 2020. She also reminded the public that Grade Configuration Public Forum for the Dale Street School would be held on August 13, 2020 and the vote on Grade Configuration would be held at the August 27, 2020 School Committee Meeting.

Dale Street Project Timeline - Dr. Jeffrey Marsden

Dr. Marsden informed the committee that the Dale Street Working Group meeting took place on July 13, 2020 and the focus to solidify the project timeline in order to meet the October MSBA submission deadline. Dr. Marsden stated that the Grade Configuration Vote scheduled for August 27, 2020 will allow the design team to focus on the schemes and designs for the approved grade configurations. The Site Selection vote in September will be taken by the Dale Street School Building Committee. This vote will allow the design team to trim down the schemes and scenarios even further. MSBA will review the district's submission, vote and meet with the district in December.

FY21 Budget - Dr. Jeffrey Marsden

Dr. Marsden informed the committee that the Governor will be allocating CARES Act Money to school districts to help with reopening costs and he anticipates that Medfield will receive approximately a half million dollars. He also

informed the committee that a grant will be available for districts for reopening costs related to COVID-19. The grant parameters should be released soon and the district will apply for the grant once the submission window is open. Dr. Marsden informed the committee he has heard some initial whispers of a fourth Federal Stimulus Plan that may be released at the end of August. This would be very helpful to municipalities and school districts and hopes this comes to fruition. Dr. Marsden explained to the committee that the state budget will most likely be released late September or early October and will coincide with the district's Chapter 70 allocation amount.

Next Meeting - July 30, 2020 - Medfield Mascot Public Forum

Student Representative- Andrew Barrett

Andrew stated he is hopeful that school will return to in-person learning. Andrew shared his summer academic workload at the request of Ms. Jessica Reilly. He explained that the amount of summer work is different depending on what class a student is taking. He also informed the committee that the summer SAT dates keep getting canceled and rescheduled due to the COVID outbreaks throughout different states.

CLOSING REMARKS

Dr. Jeffrey Marsden is looking forward to the upcoming High School graduation on Saturday, August 25th. He is happy that the seniors will have a live in-person graduation. He stated that he is proud of the Seniors and how they handled themselves in these unprecedented times.

Ms. Anna Mae O'Shea Brooke asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

A motion was made by Ms. Jessica Reilly, seconded by Mr. Timothy Knight to adjourn the meeting.

Ms. Anna Mae O'Shea Brooke thanked everyone for their participation in this meeting.

A Roll Call Vote was taken to adjourn the meeting

- Jessica Reilly-yes
- Leo Brehm-yes
- Timothy Knight-yes
- Meghan Glenn- yes
- Anna Mae O'Shea Brooke-yes

The vote was unanimous.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:11 pm.

Minutes Approved by School Committee: October 8, 2020

EXHIBITS AND DOCUMENTS

- School Committee Meeting Video:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cOAi7ZXrp7E&list=PLypOllJHc4M1DBVklwGLKZaP4IFF66DzV&index=6>

Respectfully submitted,
Andrea Moores
Secretary