

Medway School Committee
Minutes
Medway, MA
Thursday, July 16, 2020

The School Committee of the Medway Public Schools held a meeting on Thursday, July 16, 2020, at 5:00 p.m., in the Presentation Room at Medway Middle School, 45 Holliston Street, Medway, MA. School Committee members in attendance included Ms. Dietrich, Ms. Sullivan, Mr. Segarra, Ms. Nassiff and Dr. Fagerson. Also in attendance were Superintendent Armand Pires and Assistant Superintendent Gabrielle Abrams. The meeting was video-taped.

Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitations on the number of people that may gather in one place, no in-person attendance of members of the public will be permitted at this meeting. The opportunity for public participation is provided via email, equinn@medwayschools.org.

A. CALL TO ORDER

- a. Ms. Dietrich called the meeting to order at 5:22 p.m.

B. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Donations
 - i. Directed donation from MSPTO to Graduation Photos \$750.00
 - ii. Directed donation from Medway Lions to Graduation Photos \$3,750.00
- b. Minutes
 - i. June 4, 2020
 - ii. June 10, 2020
 - iii. June 18, 2020

It was moved by Ms. Sullivan, seconded by Mr. Segarra that the School Committee approve the consent agenda, as recommended by the Superintendent.

C. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were three public comments read into the record. All comments were on the topic of the recent webinar: A Community Conversation about Race for families, faculty and staff.

Mark Der Garabedian
Timothy Fagerson
Brianna Nichols

All emails are part of this record.

D. DISCUSSION ITEMS AND REPORTS (5:15 p.m.)

- Budget Update
Dr. Pires provided an update on the budget stating that they are in a holding pattern with regard to the FY21 funding. The Town committed to increase the school budget by \$710,000 over last year. The state is in a financially precarious position and the district may not be able to recoup those proceeds. Dr. Pires discussed the additional costs as a result of the current health pandemic.
- FY20 Budget Closeout
Don Aicardi gave an update on the FY20 budget which saw a surplus in some accounts. Mr. Aicardi explained that some of the surplus was the decrease in the need for substitute teachers, reduced costs for transportation and utilities.
Mr. Aicardi went on to discuss in detail the different revolving funds and that later in this meeting the committee will be asked to vote on various funding options for these revolving accounts.
- School Reopening Update for Fall
Dr. Pires explained that earlier this spring, the district used a phased approach to bring staff back into the buildings. The district formed a Reopening task force and from that created building based task forces to address each building's needs. Each district was asked to create and submit three plans to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education by early August. The three plans included, full in person, hybrid and full remote. Dr. Pires said that there is a strong possibility that we may use part of all three plans. Dr. Pires discussed the challenges around transportation. There is a webinar scheduled for Thursday, July 23 which will provide clarity. Following the webinar a survey will go out to all families and each building will hold office hours for building specific questions. The School Committee will be asked to vote on the return plan at the August 13, 2020 meeting. Following the vote, families will be asked to commit to their choice. The committee discussed many topics including secondary lunch locations, band/chorus and time on learning.
- End of Year Report Audit
Mr. Aicardi explained that the audit was completed in September as required by state law to check accuracy of accounting. Mr. Aicardi provided an overview of the findings.
- District Approach to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
Ms. Dietrich stated that she had asked for this topic to be added to the agenda so that the School Committee could start a conversation at a future meeting. The committee would like a better understanding of where the district is on topic and what Professional Development has taken place in the district. Dr. Pires agreed to give a presentation to the School Committee on this topic at a future date, and a target of the second meeting in September was set.
- First Reading: School Nurse Job Description
Dr. Pires explained that this job description was reviewed by the lead nurse and updated.

- First Reading: Student Handbooks
The committee was asked to review the handbooks and to submit any questions to the secretary before the next meeting.
- 2020-2021 School Year Calendar
Dr. Pires explained that DESE may reduce the number of school days required due to COVID-19 and the district may need to update the 2020-2021 School Year calendar.
- Liaison List
Ms. Dietrich asked the committee to submit to the secretary the committees/boards they would like to represent.
- Other- *This time is being reserved for topics that the chair did not reasonably anticipate would be discussed.*

Dr. Fagerson left the room at 7:35 p.m.

E. ACTION ITEMS

- a. **For Consideration: Approval of the reduction of the use of School Choice Funds as previously voted on March 14, 2019 to supplement the FY-20 School Department Budget.** Due to the recent school closure the need to supplement the operating budget has reduced from \$356,955 from the School Choice revolving fund to a lower amount.

It was moved by Ms. Sullivan, seconded by Mr. Segarra, that the School Committee reduce the previously approved use of School Choice Funds to support FY-20 School Department Budget from \$356,955 to a lower amount, as recommended by the Superintendent. Motion passed 4-0. Dr. Fagerson was out of the room.

Dr. Fagerson returned at 7:40 p.m.

- b. **For Consideration: Approval of the reduction of the use of Circuit Breaker Funds as previously voted on March 14, 2019 to supplement the FY-20 School Department Budget.** Due to the recent school closure the need to supplement the operating budget has reduced from \$583,279 from the Circuit Breaker revolving fund to \$238,131, a decrease of \$345,148.

It was moved by Ms. Sullivan, seconded by Mr. Segarra, that the School Committee reduce the previously approved use of Circuit Breaker Funds to support FY-20 School Department Budget from \$583,279 to \$238,131, a decrease of \$345,148, as recommended by the Superintendent. Motion passed 5-0.

- c. **For Consideration: Authorize the Director of Finance to redirect funds from the General Fund to the Community Education Revolving Fund.**

It was moved by Ms. Sullivan, seconded by Mr. Segarra, that the School Committee approve the transfer of expenses from the Community Education Revolving Account of an amount not to exceed \$220,000 to the FY20 School Department budget, as recommended by the Superintendent. Motion passed 5-0.

- d. **For Consideration: Authorize the Director of Finance to redirect funds from the General Fund to the School Lunch Account.**

It was moved by Ms. Sullivan, seconded by Mr. Segarra, that the School Committee approve the transfer of expenses from the School Lunch Revolving Account of an amount not to exceed \$115,000 to the FY20 School Department budget, as recommended by the Superintendent. Motion passed 5-0.

- e. **For Consideration: Authorize the Director of Finance to redirect funds from the General Fund to the Athletic Revolving Account.**

It was moved by Ms. Sullivan, seconded by Mr. Segarra, that the School Committee approve the transfer of expenses from the Athletic Revolving Account of \$42,046 to the FY20 School Department budget, as recommended by the Superintendent. Motion passed 5-0.

- f. **For Consideration: Special Education Program Plan Statement (SEPPS) Approval - The federal special education law, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA-2004),** Congress reauthorized the IDEA in 2004 and most recently amended the IDEA through Public Law 114-95, the Every Student Succeeds Act, in December 2015 and continues to emphasize the need to provide appropriate educational services to students with disabilities in order to improve educational results for these students. Every Local Educational Agency (LEA) must maintain the documentation named in each element of the *Special Education Program Plan Statement (SEPPS)* to demonstrate compliance with IDEA-2004 at the local level. Massachusetts has aligned the submission of the Special Education Program Plan Statement to the cohort model associated with the data collection activities for the State Performance Plans indicators. Districts assigned to Cohort 2 must complete and submit their *SEPPS* to the Special Education Planning and Policy Development Office of the ESE by Thursday, October 1, 2020.

It was moved by Ms. Sullivan, seconded by Mr. Segarra, that the School Committee approve the *Special Education Program Plan Statement (SEPPS)*

to demonstrate compliance with IDEA-2004 at the local level and in alignment with assignment to Cohort 2 data collection activities due by

October 1, 2020 and authorize the chairperson to sign the statement, as recommended by the Superintendent. Motion passed 5-0.

- g. **For Consideration: Approval of Names to be Placed on the Burke-Memorial School Plaque-** School Committee members reviewed the nominations at a previous meeting and the nominations now come to the committee for a vote.

It was moved by Ms. Sullivan, seconded by Mr. Segarra, that the School Committee approve three names to be placed on the Burke-Memorial Plaque, as recommended by the Superintendent. Motion passed 5-0.

- h. **For Consideration: Approve the amended contract for the District Physician.** On February 27, 2020 the School Committee approved a three year contract with Dr. Andreea Cazacu as District Physician. The contract has an adjustment to the stipend to increase the annual stipend from \$3,000 to \$4,000.

It was moved by Ms. Sullivan, seconded by Mr. Segarra, that the School Committee approve the amended contract for the District Physician, as recommended by the Superintendent. Motion passed 5-0.

- i. Other- *This time is being reserved for topics that the chair did not reasonably anticipate would be discussed.*

F. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- Public Comments-none
- Liaison Reports -None

G. ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE

- Chairperson Update
Ms. Dietrich's noted that at an earlier School Committee meeting there was a public hearing on a donation of a Mustang Statue. Shortly after the public hearing, the district shut down due to COVID-19. Ms Dietrich would like to get feedback from the community as well as students. This cannot happen until we are past the point of reopening the schools.
- Superintendent Update
Dr. Pires' update included the newly purchased mini vans that will be used for specialized transportation. There are two staff members who are in the process of being licensed to drive these vans. Two Medway students will receive the Seal of Biliteracy.

- Assistant Superintendent Update
Ms. Abrams' update included the Professional Development planning including the blended learning course the district is offering. Ms. Abrams, Ms. Bernklow and Superintendent Pires attended the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents virtual Summer Institute. Ms. Abrams noted that a rising senior at Medway High School served as one of 5 students from across the Commonwealth to participate on the student panel.
- Committee Members' Update

H. INFORMATION ITEMS AND COMMUNICATIONS

I. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Capital Improvement Plan Update
- Celebrate Retirees
- School Committee Goal Setting
- Superintendent's Goals Presentation
- Set High School Graduation date 2022
- Emergency Plan Policy Review #EBC 3 year cycle

J. NEXT MEETINGS

- Regular Meeting, August 13, 2020, 5:00 p.m., in the presentation room, Medway Middle School, 45 Holliston Street, Medway
- Regular Meeting, August 20, 2020, 5:00 p.m., in the presentation room, Medway Middle School, 45 Holliston Street, Medway

K. ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

There is a need for the School Committee to adjourn to executive session in accordance with M.G.L., Chapter 30A, Section 21, exemption 3, to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining, specifically with the Medway Federation of Teachers, Local 3645, FFT-AFL-CIO, Unit A (MFT), if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining of the public body and the chair so declares.

Ms. Nassiff recused herself from participating in the Executive Session.

It was moved by Ms. Sullivan, seconded by Mr. Segarra that the School Committee adjourn to executive session, in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 21, exemption 3 to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining, specifically with the Medway Federation of Teachers, Local 3645, FFT-AFL-CIO, Unit A ,MFT, if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining of the public body, with the understanding that the school committee will not return to public session. A roll call vote was taken, and voting in favor, Ms. Sullivan, Mr. Segarra, Dr. Fagerson and the Chair, Ms. Dietrich.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Ellen Quinn

Ellen Quinn
Secretary to the School Committee

Approved: August 27, 2020

