

Medway School Committee
Minutes
Medway, MA
Thursday, August 13, 2020

The School Committee of the Medway Public Schools held a meeting on Thursday, August 13, 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, limited attendance of members of the public will be permitted at this meeting.

A. CALL TO ORDER

- a. Ms. Dietrich called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m., noting all members present.

B. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Warrant

It was moved by Ms. Sullivan, seconded by Mr. Segarra, that the School Committee approve the consent agenda. **Motion passed 4-0-1**, with Dr. Fagerson abstained as he had not yet reviewed the warrant.

C. PUBLIC COMMENT

David Tarkowski addressed the committee regarding his concerns on the reopening of schools.

Ms. Dietrich thanked Mr. Tarkowski and all those that submitted comments via email, noting they have been shared with the full committee and will be part of the record.

D. PRESENTATIONS

Fall School Reopening Plan

Armand Pires, Superintendent and Gabby Abrams, Assistant Superintendent presented the Fall 2020 School Return Framework. Dr. Pires first stated how much the students and families are missed by the district. Dr. Pires noted that this

framework has been endorsed by the Town Administrator and the Medway Board of Health. This plan has been a collaboration of the administrative team. This framework is the beginning of the process not the end. The plan presented tonight will provide a choice to families. Dr. Pires explained the timeline for creating this plan and the guidance received from the State. Dr. Pires discussed the results of the surveys sent to faculty, parents as well as the transportation survey sent out to those eligible for transportation. Dr. Pires explained that with transportation in the past, Medway had been able to pick up students who did not initially request transportation, however, going forward, students will have assigned seats on the bus.

Dr. Pires discussed the health and safety requirements, noting that they meet or exceed those put forward by DESE. Students will maintain a six (6) foot distance and masks will be required for all staff and students. There will be a reduced number of daily periods to reduce the number of transitions in hallways. Each class will be equipped with sanitizer, soap and water.

Dr. Sherman has reached out to the Department of Public Health regarding a decision tree should Medway experience a positive test. The facilities department is working on purchasing hepa filters for classrooms that will clean the air when windows cannot be open. The district is looking to hire additional staff for building cleaning.

Dr. Pires stated that throughout the planning process they were always focused on the core values.

Ms. Abrams discussed the student learning models and that the district will need to be nimble and to be able to move between each model. The recommendation for the Fall of 2020 is the hybrid model. Ms. Abrams provided details relating to the cohorts and explained that this year will be different than it was in the spring including a return to more typical grading and attendance.

Ms. Bernklow discussed the special education program and how students with Education Plans will receive education. Most students on IEPs will be included in Cohort C. Ms. Abrams went on to discuss how they will be supporting technology and exploring a safe return to Zoom.

Ms. McDonald and Mr. Kelley discussed what student learning will look like this fall. Ms. McDonald discussed in school learning for PK-2 will be four days, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday with Wednesday remote for all. There will be staggered arrival and dismissal and will follow the typical student schedule. Mr. Kelley explained that grades 3 & 4 will be on the same schedule as the other schools, with 2 days in person and 3 remote. They will follow a similar schedule and will have lunch in the cafeteria and the Burke gym, to maintain distance. Ms. Luizzi and Dr. Murray explained that google classroom will be the hub for student information, for both in person and remote learning at the middle and high school levels. There will be 4 longer instructional blocks to reduce the number of transitions in the hallways. Ms. Abrams provided details for the Virtual School which included that this cohort would have a different group of educators. The expectations of students will be in line with the hybrid learning model. Ms. Abrams discussed the calendar adjustments to allow for ten days of staff training. Ms. Abrams provided a list of the upcoming events and surveys that are being prepared to go to families including a Webinar on remote learning for families that plan on choosing that option.

Ms. Dietrich asked the committee if they had questions. Ms. Sullivan had a question about safety protocols. Dr. Pires responded that the district is in the process of hiring additional nursing staff. There was discussion around providing testing. Dr. Pires responding that HR is researching labs for this purpose. Other questions by

the committee include travel restrictions, quarantine and after school activities.

E. ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE

- Chairperson Update
Ms. Dietrich stated that the process was complex and included not only academics but nutrition and social emotional support as well. This plan is balanced and is supported by the Medway Federation of Teachers, as well as the Medway Board of Health. The plan presented provides families with a choice of full remote or hybrid. Ms. Dietrich supports and endorses this plan.
- Committee Members' Updates
Mr. Segarra agrees with Ms. Dietrich and also supports the plan. Ms. Nassiff appreciates the communication and transparency. Dr. Fagerson supports the plan and thanked everyone for their work. Ms. Sullivan thanked all for their work.

F. ACTION ITEMS

- a. **For Consideration: Approval of the 2020-2021 Fall Reopening Plan.** The Superintendent presented the 2020-2021 Fall Reopening Plan to the committee. The proposed plan allows for grades Pre-K-2 to attend four (4) days each week and students in grades 3-12 to attend two (2) days each week, in person, with the remaining days being remote learning days. In addition, families who opt their children out of hybrid learning will engage in a full remote learning model.

It was moved by Ms. Sullivan, seconded by Mr. Segarra, that the School Committee approve the 2020-2021 Fall Reopening Plan, as recommended by the Superintendent, with an understanding that, if required by the latest health data, we may move to another model of instruction for the fall, as recommended by the Superintendent. Motion passed 5-0.

- b. **For Consideration: Approval of the REVISED 2020-2021 School Year Calendar**
The 2020-2021 school year calendar was approved by the committee at the December 12, 2019 meeting. The revised 2020-2021 calendar now comes before the committee for approval.

It was moved by Ms. Sullivan, seconded by Mr. Segarra, that the School Committee approve the revised 2020-2021 school year calendar, as recommended by the Superintendent. Motion passed 5-0.

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

G. DISCUSSION ITEMS AND REPORTS

- First Reading: Face Covering Policy EBCFA
The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education requires that students in grades 2-12 wear masks in school. Medway is requiring that all students and staff wear masks. Medway is also prohibiting some masks that are not as protective and is outlined in the policy.
- Other- *This time is being reserved for topics that the chair did not reasonably anticipate would be discussed.*

H. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Capital Improvement Plan Update
- Celebrate Retirees
- MASC Anti-Racism Resolution
- School Committee Goal Setting
- Superintendent's Goals Presentation
- Set High School Graduation date 2022
- Emergency Plan Policy Review #EBC 3 year cycle
- Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion (DE&I) Presentation

I. NEXT MEETINGS

- Regular Meeting, August 20, 2020, 5:00 p.m., in the presentation room, Medway Middle School, 45 Holliston Street, Medway
- Regular Meeting, September 10, 2020, 5:00 p.m., in the presentation room, Medway Middle School, 45 Holliston Street, Medway
- Regular Meeting, September 24, 2020, 5:00 p.m., in the presentation room, Medway Middle School, 45 Holliston Street, Medway

J. ADJOURN

At approximately 8:41 p.m. it was moved by Ms. Sullivan, seconded by Mr. Segarra to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Quinn

Ellen Quinn
Secretary to the School Committee

Approved: September 10, 2020