

Medway School Committee  
Minutes  
Medway, MA  
Thursday, September 24, 2020

The School Committee of the Medway Public Schools held a meeting on Thursday, September 24, 2020, at 6:00 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, Ms. Nassiff and Dr. Fagerson. Mr. Segarra was not present. 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 6:00 p.m., noting that four members were present, Mr. Segarra was not present.

B. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Warrant
- b. Minutes
  - i. September 10, 2020
- c. Grant
  - i. Green Community Grant, \$152,488

Stephanie Carlisle, Compliance Officer for the Town of Medway and Jim Kane, Director of Facilities discussed the Green Community Grant. Ms. Carlisle explained some of the improvements that will be made because of the grant which included LED bulbs in the Middle and High School. The process for applying for this grant aligns with the Capital Improvement Plan. Mr. Kane added that the new bulbs will help decrease energy consumption. Ms. Dietrich thanked both Ms. Carlisle and Mr. Kane for their creativity and partnership with this grant and for looking at the big picture.

**It was moved by Ms. Sullivan, seconded by Mr. Segarra that the School Committee approve the consent agenda, as recommended by the Superintendent. Motion passed 4-0.**

C. PUBLIC COMMENT

D. PRESENTATIONS

COVID-19 Surveillance Testing

Armand Pires, Superintendent and Ryan Sherman, Director of Wellness presented to the School Committee a proposal on COVID-19 Surveillance Testing. Dr. Pires

stated that he is pleased to present this path for faculty, staff and students. The testing will increase comfort level for the path to a full return to school. The focus is on risk mitigation. Massachusetts continues to have lower infection rates, the virus is still present and continues to be highly transmissible. Dr. Pires stated that adhering to physical distancing and other health protocols, both in and out of school will help support the reopening plan. Medway adopted a minimum of 6' of physical distancing across the district as well as requiring all staff and students to wear masks. Dr. Sherman reviewed other practices to support health and safety of staff and students. Some of these practices include enhanced cleaning of all buildings, HEPA filters in all teaching spaces and hands free water bottle filling stations. Dr. Pires stated there is a strong rationale for moving forward with the testing. Regular testing will allow the district to better understand the impact of COVID-19 within the school community. Regular testing may also provide a path toward increased in-person experiences for students. Dr. Sherman explained Pool Testing and the advantages for Medway. Pool testing allows for regular testing over the course of the school year. Samples are collected by staff and students at home and brought into school on the assigned day. All samples within each pool are combined and tested as one sample. If that sample is negative, then that pool is negative. If that sample is positive, then the individual samples are tested to see who was positive. Ms. Dietrich asked about the turnaround time for results, Dr. Pires responded 24-48 hours. Ms. Dietrich also asked if this testing would be mandated or optional. Dr. Pires responded that it cannot be mandatory. There has been some high enthusiasm and the district is hoping for a 90-95% participation rate. The committee had additional questions including how samples would be handled, HIPAA and positive test results. Regarding HIPAA, Dr. Pires responded that the district is working with the school physician to act as the gatekeeper for when a sample is positive to begin the contact tracing process. Dr. Pires discussed the testing protocols and costs for the program. Dr. Pires will hold a webinar for the community answering questions about the program and gauging support. The webinar will be recorded and posted on the website. Ms. Sullivan asked if any other districts are doing testing,, Dr. Pires responded that Medway was the only one doing this type of testing, other districts are doing other testing. Dr. Pires stated that there is some funding available for testing, the total cost exceeds budget capacity. The district is exploring potential partnerships to support this program.

## E. ACTION ITEMS

- a. **For Consideration: School Choice Enrollment Capacity for Second Round Selection** – Chapter 76, Section 12B (j), mandates a random selection process for school choice selection, “...one time prior to July first and one time prior to November first...” The suggested motion below is designed to keep the district in compliance with this statute. A School Choice Analysis is enclosed for committee review.

**It was moved by Ms. Sullivan, seconded by Ms. Nassiff that the School Committee establish its school choice capacity for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year as recommended by the Superintendent, and accept no additional students as indicated in the School Choice Analysis, dated September 24, 2020. Motion passed 4-0.**

- b. **For Consideration: Approval of the 2020-2021 Superintendent's Goals** – The committee reviewed the Superintendent's goals for the 2020-2021 school year at the September 10, 2020 meeting and now comes before the committee for a vote.

**It was moved by Ms. Sullivan, seconded by Ms. Nassiff that the School Committee approve the Superintendent's Goals for the 2020-2021 school year, as proposed by the Superintendent. Motion passed 4-0.**

- c. **For Consideration: Middle School Nature's Classroom Trip**, the School Committee to rescind the approval given on March 19, 2020 for the trip to Nature's Classroom Camp Cody, due to the current health crisis.

**It was moved by Ms. Sullivan, seconded by Ms. Nassiff that the School Committee rescind prior approval of the Nature's Classroom trip, scheduled for September 14-19 due to the current health crisis. Motion passed 4-0.**

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

#### F. DISCUSSION ITEMS AND REPORTS

- FY21 Budget Update  
No update
- School Reopening Update for Fall  
Schools opened on September 17 for the first inperson day. Dr. Pires stated it was amazing to see the students and teachers. Ms. Abrams talked about the challenges with bringing students back. Ms. Abrams discussed the Blending Learning program that was held this summer for teachers. Ms. Abrams stated that there is not much research to support this process.
- Memorandum of Agreement with Medway Federation of Teachers  
Dr. Pires stated that the district has a positive relationship with the MFT and have reached agreement on the MOU relating to school reopening.
- First Reading: Payroll Assistant Job Description  
The town payroll coordinator will now also do the school payroll. The Payroll Assistant will provide support to the coordinator with data entry and other payroll duties.
- ECFA - Fuel Efficient Vehicle: Annual Review
- Liaison Appointments
- Other- *This time is being reserved for topics that the chair did not reasonably anticipate would be discussed.*

#### G. ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE

- Liaison Reports
- Chairperson Update
 

Ms. Dietrich stated how impressed she was with the smooth opening of the schools last week.
- Superintendent Update
 

There will be a community flu shot clinic on Wednesday, October 7, from 2:00-6:00 p.m. at the High School. Dr. Pires noted that Mr. Aicardi did a great job with the transportation this year. He faced many challenges with the cohorts and limits on each bus.
- Assistant Superintendent Update
 

Ms. Abrams attended the MFE meeting this past Tuesday. The MFE honored Susan Olson who will be moving on after 17 years. Kevin Green, MFPA will also be moving on after many years. Ms. Abrams is thankful for their partnership over the years.
- Committee Members' Update

## H. INFORMATION ITEMS AND COMMUNICATIONS

### I. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Capital Improvement Plan Update
- District Approach to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
- Burke-Memorial Plaque Celebration
- Approval of Student Activities Account Policies and Procedures Manual
- Community Education Program Presentation
- Set High School Graduation date 2021
- Celebrate Retirees
- Capital Improvement Plan Requests from Technology

### J. NEXT MEETINGS

- Regular Meeting, October 8, 2020, 6:00 p.m., in the presentation room, Medway Middle School, 45 Holliston Street, Medway
- Regular Meeting, October 22, 2020, 6:00 p.m., in the presentation room, Medway Middle School, 45 Holliston Street, Medway
- Regular Meeting, November 12, 2020, 6:00 p.m., in the presentation room, Medway Middle School, 45 Holliston Street, Medway
- Regular Meeting, November 19, 2020, 6:00 p.m., in the presentation room, Medway Middle School, 45 Holliston Street, Medway

K. ADJOURN

At approximately 8:02 p.m., it was moved by Ms. Sullivan, seconded by Ms. Nassiff to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,

***Ellen Quinn***

Ellen Quinn  
Secretary to the School Committee

Approved: October 8, 2020