

Medway School Committee
Minutes
Medway, MA
Thursday, October 8, 2020

The School Committee of the Medway Public Schools held a meeting on Thursday, October 8, 2020, at 6:15 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. Fageron. 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 6:15 p.m.

B. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Warrant
- b. Minutes
 - i. September 24, 2020
- c. Donation
 - i. MEPTO Donation of 20 benches for Memorial and McGovern

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

None

D. PRESENTATIONS

- a. Teaching and Learning in the Hybrid Model
Gabby Abrams, Assistant Superintendent provided an overview of the rationale for bringing Blended Learning to Medway. Ms. Abrams noted that the transformation takes time. Ms. Abrams discussed the vision, which outlined the standards and expectations will be consistent, communicated and supported. Ms. Abrams explained that students will engage in both synchronous learning and asynchronous learning at home and at school. In the hybrid model, most grade 3-12 students are learning from home 60% of the time. Ms. Abrams outlined the process used to develop learning plans and how varying needs will be supported. Ms. Abrams noted that the district is encouraging families to reach out on what is working for their student and what is not.
Ms. Dietrich stated that she appreciates the honesty regarding not where we

need to be, but how hard the district is working. The committee had questions including assessing student progress and the district surveys. Ms. Abrams responded that there are terrific tech tools used to assess progress and that there will be three surveys sent out soon, teachers, students and families will each receive a survey.

E. ACTION ITEMS

- a. **For Consideration: Approval of Policy ECFA, Fuel Efficient Vehicle Policy.** In order for the district to align with the Green Community Program status, the district must adopt the updated Fuel Efficient Vehicle Policy. A notable change includes an increase to the minimum combined miles per gallon requirement.

RECOMMENDED MOTION

It was moved by Ms. Sullivan, seconded by Mr. Segarra that the School Committee approve Policy EFCA, Fuel Efficient Vehicle Policy, as recommended by the Policy Subcommittee. Motion carried 5-0.

- b. **For Consideration: Approval of the Payroll Assistant Job Description.** At the September 24, 2020 meeting the committee reviewed the Payroll Assistant Job Description. It now comes to the committee for approval.

It was moved by Ms. Sullivan, seconded by Mr. Segarra that the School Committee approve the Payroll Assistant Job Description, as recommended by the Superintendent. Motion carried 5-0.

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

F. DISCUSSION ITEMS AND REPORTS

- a. District Response to Positive COVID-19 Cases
Dr. Pires updated the committee on the latest positive case in school. The transmission was through social events and not school transmission. Had it been via school transmission, the district response would be different. Dr. Pires stated that in school buildings close contacts are not created as students maintain 6 feet of distance, except on the busses.
Dr. Sherman highlighted the dashboard the district created with the partnership of Boston University. The flowchart walks families through the process should they or their child be exposed to COVID-19. Dr. Pires stated that the process where staff/families notify principals will ensure contract

tracing will be started sooner. Dr. Fagerson asked about quarantining for 14 days, Dr. Sherman said that is required for close contacts. Dr. Sherman then walked through the dashboard and explained that when the state updates its numbers on Wednesday, this dashboard will also be updated.

b. COVID-19 Surveillance Testing Program Update

Dr. Pires noted that the recent webinar on surveillance testing was fairly well attended. He explained that they will continue to explore this option. The business office will put out an RFP to gauge actual costs of a program such as this and a survey will go out Friday to the community.

c. Capital Improvement Plan Update

Jim Kane, Director of Facilities presented the 5 year capital plan which included \$691,000 in request to be presented to the Town of Medway. Mr. Kane reviewed the individual requests which included paving, HVAC and exterior doors and various schools, as well as other improvements throughout the district.

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

G. ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE

- Liaison Reports

None

- Chairperson Update

None

- Superintendent Update

Dr. Pires noted that earlier tonight he attended the Memorial Plaque ceremony. There were three former teachers honored for their work and dedication to Medway. Between the three of them they have more than 100 years of teaching experience. Dr. Pires also stated that the district is looking at other ways to bring back more students with Education Plans. Dr. Pires noted that a second transportation survey will go out to families eligible for transportation which will require families to respond or will not have access to transportation.

- Assistant Superintendent Update

Ms. Abrams stated that it is a joy to visit classrooms and see students and teachers again.

- Committee Members' Update

Dr. Fagerson attended the Open Space meeting as well as the Athletic Advisory Committee meeting.

H. INFORMATION ITEMS AND COMMUNICATIONS

I. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Approval of Student Activities Account Policies and Procedures Manual
- Capital Improvement Plan Approval
- Capital Improvement Plan Requests from Technology Meeting the Needs of all Students: Culturally Responsive Teaching and Learning
- Celebrate Retirees

- Academic Assessments (MCAS, AP, SAT, BAS, iReady, IXL)
- Discussion of Lunch Prices for 2021-2022
- Superintendent's Award of Academic Excellence
- NESDEC Student Award of Excellence
- Set Rates for Tuitions and Fees: Early Childhood (Preschool and Community Education)

J. NEXT MEETINGS

- 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 8:38 p.m., it was moved by Mr. Segarra, seconded by Ms. Sullivan, to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Quinn

Ellen Quinn
Secretary to the School Committee

Approved: October 22, 2020