

Medway School Committee  
Minutes  
Thursday, November 12, 2020, 6:00 p.m.  
Middle School Presentation Room  
45 Holliston Street

The School Committee of the Medway Public Schools held a meeting on Thursday, November 12, 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, 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 6:00 p.m.

B. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Warrant
- b. Minutes
  - i. October 22, 2020

**It was moved by Ms. Sullivan, seconded by Ms. Nassiff that the School Committee approve the consent agenda, as recommended by the Superintendent. Motion passed 5-0.**

C. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

D. STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

National School Development Council for Academic Growth and Student Leadership in Learning Award was awarded to Nicholas Tomasetti. Dr. Pires recognized Nicholas Tomasetti stating that Nick's academic skills are undeniable. He is currently in the running to be valedictorian for the Class of 2021. Not only has Nick sought to succeed at the greatest levels available to our student body, he brings out the same passion and motivation to those around him. He participates in Science Olympiad, the Varsity Golf team, the Math team, National Honor Society, and Tri M. Nick has always been dedicated to helping people. He serves as a tutor for the National Honor Society program and he also volunteers at the Medway Village Church Food Pantry on the weekends. Nick finished his scouting career achieving the rank of Eagle Scout. This

achievement took many years to complete as well as a lot of hard work and perseverance. For his Eagle Scout project, Nick planned and ran an instrument drive. The planning was especially difficult, as he had to manage his sponsor's expectations as well as his own while working within guidelines set by the school and the Medway Friends of Performing Arts (MFPA). Several times he was forced to adjust his plans as a result of newly identified or changed requirements, but doing so taught him about the importance of adaptability with this, or any project. In the end, the project was a success, garnering 53 instruments, more than twice his original goal. Between the final project and all of the required merit badges, Nick worked extremely hard to achieve this rank. Congratulations Nick!

## E. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Recognition of Retirees: Superintendent Armand Pires, Assistant Superintendent Gabby Abrams and Principal Amanda Luizzi will recognize this year's retirees.

Amanda Luizzi, Principal at the middle school recognized Bill Giordano and Lynne Peloquin. Ms. Luizzi read some comments from Bill's former students, which showed how well liked and respected Mr. G was among his students and peers. Lynne Peloquin was with the district for 20 in the student support role. Lynne was also respected and well liked by both students and peers.

Ms. Abrams recognized Christine Baldiga. Chris started with the district in 1998 as a grade 1 teacher. In 2009 she made the leap to Curriculum Coach at the McGovern School until she retired in 2020.

Congratulations to all the retirees.

## F. ACTION ITEMS

- a. **For Consideration: To Authorize the Superintendent to conduct contract negotiations and to execute a contract with JCM Analytics, Inc., to provide staff with regular COVID-19 testing.**

Dr. Pires explained that the district recently conducted an RFP, Request for Proposals, to identify a vendor to perform regular staff and student testing. Based on community interest at this time, student testing was not favorable. The district hopes to move forward with staff testing. Dr. Pires explained the bid process, identifying a vendor and gaining a high favorability participation rate among staff. Dr. Pires went on to explain the testing process and the pool testing that will be conducted. The testing is self administered and results will be available within 24/48 hours after the lab receives the sample. Dr. Pires explained the costs per sample and the testing would be done weekly. Dr. Pires stated that a community webinar will be held on Monday, November 30, at 6:00 p.m. and will include a panel from the vendor that was identified during the RFP process.

**It was moved by Ms. Sullivan, seconded by Dr. Fageron, that the school committee authorize the Superintendent to negotiate and execute a contract with JCM Analytics, Inc., to provide staff with regular COVID-19 testing. Motion passed 4-0-1 with Ms. Nassiff abstaining from the vote.**

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

#### G. DISCUSSION ITEMS AND REPORTS

- a. Energy Contract Update  
Mr. Aicardi explained that he has been working with the Town of Medway to solicit quotes for an energy contract. Mr. Aicardi stated that the Town Manager will seek 5 year contracts as opposed to 3 year contracts.
- b. School Reopening Update and Next Steps  
Dr. Pires reported that grades Pk-2 have increased to 4.5 days per week and grade three will increase next week. Grades 6-12 Cohort C eligible students have been invited to attend in person 4 days per week. The increase necessitated a change in schedule at the middle school. The current schedule does not allow for students to see all their teachers during their 2 days in school, the change in schedule would allow for that. Dr. Pires discussed the barriers to a full return to school, which included being able to maintain the 6' physical distance, transportation and the current trajectory of the virus.
- c. Rearing Mustang Statue  
Ms. Dietrich provided some background information on this request. She stated that this request came in early this year and the committee held a hearing in February to gather interest in the project. This statue would be dedicated to a former teacher and Athletic Director. Ms. Dietrich explained that this donation would in fact involve two different School Committee policies, Donation Policy and Naming Policy. Ms. Dietrich will partner with another member of the committee to formulate a survey for high school students to add comments about this donation.
- d. Letter to the Cannabis Control Commission from Drug Free Community  
Dr. Sherman explained that the district has formed the committee, Drug Free Community, that when up and running will be able to apply for grants to prevent substance abuse in the schools and community. There is a proposal that would allow wholesale marijuana license holders to offer delivery of the finished product. When retail operations were proposed in Medway, it was not approved, however, this proposal would create a loophole allowing delivery of marijuana to homes within the town. The goal is to get support from the School Committee as well as the Board of Selectmen to write a letter to the Cannabis Control Commission to oppose this change in regulation. The committee will vote at the next meeting.
- e. Other- *This time is being reserved for topics that the chair did not reasonably anticipate would be discussed.*

## H. ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE

- Liaison Reports
- Chairperson Update  
Ms. Dietrich asked families to keep the focus, although school has been in session for 9 weeks it feels more like 9 months. She asked families to rely on the resources available and to reach out to schools.
- Superintendent Update  
Dr. Pires noted that the first grade class at the McGovern School was excited to attend school on Wednesdays. This week the High School hosted the John and Abigail Adams Scholarship recipient event. The event was split between Cohort A and B. On Tuesday, the Alumni Association honored Michael Bhatia, class of '95 as the 2020 inductee to the Medway High School Hall of Excellence. Also at the high school, two seniors signed the National Letter of Intent. Lauren Beach signed to play basketball at Fairfield University and Luke Fagerson signed to play soccer at University of New Hampshire. Congratulations to Lauren and Luke.
- Assistant Superintendent Update  
Ms. Abrams' update included the pilot program for synchronous learning time for students during their at-home learning days.
- Committee Members' Update  
Ms. Nassiff reported that she spoke to Glenn Koocher at MASC to inquire about additional funding for testing.

## I. INFORMATION ITEMS AND COMMUNICATIONS

## J. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Celebrate Retirees
- NESDEC Student Award of Excellence
- Return to School Survey
- Academic Assessments (ACT, AP, BAS, SAT, iReady, IXL)
- Budget Presentation
- Day Care Handbook
- Set Rates for Tuitions and Fees: Early Childhood (Preschool and Community Education)
- Discussion of Lunch Prices for 2021-2022
- 2021-2022 School Calendar - First Reading
- Wellness Programming Update

## K. NEXT MEETINGS

- Regular Meeting, November 19, 2020, 6:00 p.m., in the presentation room, Medway Middle School, 45 Holliston Street, Medway
- Regular Meeting, December 3, 2020, 6:00 p.m., in the presentation room, Medway Middle School, 45 Holliston Street, Medway
- Budget Reconfiguration Meeting, December 9, 2020, in the presentation room, Medway Middle School, 45 Holliston Street, Medway
- Regular Meeting, January 7, 2021, 6:00 p.m., in the presentation room,

Medway Middle School, 45 Holliston Street, Medway

- Regular Meeting, January 21, 2021, 6:00 p.m., in the presentation room, Medway Middle School, 45 Holliston Street, Medway

#### L. 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 2, to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel.
- exemption 3, to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining, specifically with the Medway Federation of Teachers, Local 3645, AFT-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. Dietrich stated that during the executive session, the committee would cover items relating to exemption 2 first and then allow Ms. Nassiff to excuse herself from the executive session so that the rest of the committee could discuss exemption 3.

**It was moved by Ms. Sullivan, seconded by Dr. Fagerson that the School Committee adjourn to executive session, in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 21,**

- **exemption 2, to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel.**
- **exemption 3, to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining, specifically with the Medway Federation of Teachers, Local 3645, AFT-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 is required.**

**A roll call vote was taken and voting in favor, Dr. Fagerson, Ms. Nassiff, Mr. Segarra, Ms. Sullivan and the Chair, Ms. Dietrich.**

At approximately 7:36 p.m., the meeting was adjourned to Executive Session.

Respectfully submitted,

*Ellen Quinn*

Ellen Quinn  
Secretary to the School Committee

Approved: December 3, 2020