

Medway School Committee  
Minutes  
Medway, MA  
Thursday, November 19, 2020, 6:00 p.m.

The School Committee of the Medway Public Schools held a meeting on Thursday, November 19, 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 6:01 p.m.

B. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Warrant
- b. Donation:
  - i. MFE Diverse Books Initiative Grant \$3,806.00
  - ii. The College Board to offset AP exams \$ 250.00
  - iii. Ohiopyle Prints Spirit Wear proceeds \$ 43.32

Ms. Dietrich noted that one of the donations was from her son and wanted to remove that from the consent to be voted on separately.

Dr. Fagerson asked Ms. Abrams about the MFE Diverse Books Grant. Ms. Abrams responded that this grant followed the MFE grant process. This grant was to purchase two new text books. The purchase is reviewed by the principal then reviewed and approved by the grant board.

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

- iv. Nutrition Services- \$ 721.34  
Aidan Dietrich's Eagle Scout Project

Dr. Pires noted that Aidan Dietrich's Eagle Scout project was to build outdoor benches at the middle school. This project came in very handy given the circumstances we are currently facing. The outdoor benches worked well with our outdoor classes and mask breaks. The additional funds raised will be donated to the nutrition program to cover any student lunch debt.

**It was moved by Ms. Sullivan, seconded by Ms. Nassiff that the School Committee accept the donation to Nutrition Services from Aidan Dietrich, as recommended by the Superintendent. Motion passed 3-0-1 with Ms. Dietrich abstaining.**

C. PUBLIC COMMENT

D. STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

National School Development Council for Academic Growth and Student Leadership in Learning Award was awarded to Sreenidhi Ravipati. Sreenidhi ranks at the top 4% of her class. She handles AP and honors classes, has a strong commitment to exceeding graduation requirements and has a passion for math. Sreenidhi had planned to attend the Pre-Med Summer Program at Harvard this summer but was unable to attend due to COVID-19 restrictions. Sreenidhi presented herself as one of only a handful of student panelists at the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents' Summer Institute this past summer. This summer's conference theme was equity and racial justice and the student panel closed out day two of the conference by offering attendees an opportunity to hear the student perspective following the keynote. Sreenidhi was a star who eloquently and articulately provided participants with an understanding of the critical importance and urgency needed to deal with issues of equity and injustice. Her maturity around this topic was a model for our society.

E. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Recognition of Retirees: Principal John Murray will recognize this year's retirees.

Dr. Murray recognized Kristen Kirby, High School teacher for her years of service. Ms. Kirby is known to her colleagues as the kindest person in the world. Ms. Kirby has a passion for her students and colleagues alike. Kristen is a graduate of MHS and started at MHS as a paraprofessional before becoming a teacher. Ms. Kirby often stayed late to help students. Congratulations to Ms. Kirby.

F. PRESENTATIONS

a. Return to School Survey Results

Gabby Abrams, Assistant Superintendent presented the Return to School survey results. Ms. Abrams noted that the response rate was lower than she had hoped. Approximately 30% of families responded, 43% of students in grades 5-12 and 51% of staff. Ms. Abrams outlined the process of each of the three surveys. Ms. Abrams reported that 50% of the student respondents wished to spend more time in school, while 56% of staff wished to have more students in school and 61% of families wished to see their child spend more time in school. Ms. Abrams reviewed the action the district is taking including K-3 students attending school 5 days per week starting mid-December, planning for a 5 day return for grades 4 &

5 in January. The district's PILOT for synchronous engagement for at home learners is complete and they are exploring full implementation. The middle school will revamp the schedule to increase connection time with teachers. The district is also exploring COVID-19 testing for secondary students. Ms. Abrams discussed the Relative Strengths from the survey which included that between 76%-98% favorable response from teacher/staff respondents regarding COVID-19 measures and 93% of family respondents. The communication and tech needs were also rated favorably. The committee discussed the response rate for this survey and it was mentioned that perhaps the low response was because families are receiving many surveys from the district and it's one more thing for them to complete. The committee thanked Ms. Abrams.

## G. ACTION ITEMS

- a. **For Consideration: For the School Committee to support the Drug Free Community Steering Committee submission of a letter to the Massachusetts Cannabis Control Commission regarding concerns over the proposed changes to regulations regarding Wholesale Delivery License.**

Ms. Dietrich explained that should the proposed changes go forward, delivery of marijuana would be permitted in Medway, although there are no retail shops in town. This letter will be signed by the School Committee, the Drug Free Community and possibly the Board of Selectmen.

**It was moved by Ms. Sullivan, seconded by Ms. Nassiff that the School Committee approve the support of the Drug Free Community Steering Committee submission of a letter to the Massachusetts Cannabis Control Commission regarding concerns over the proposed changes to regulations regarding Wholesale Delivery License, and as recommended by the Superintendent.**

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

## H. DISCUSSION ITEMS AND REPORTS

- a. FY21 Budget Update

Mr. Aicardi gave a brief update on the FY21 budget. Mr. Aicardi stated that the budget was in good shape. Mr. Aicardi reported that earlier this week he learned that the district would receive \$750,000 in funding from the CARES Act which is an additional \$100,00 more than anticipated. Mr. Aicardi explained the COVID related expenses which include HEPA air filters for each teaching space, additional cleaning services and COVID testing for staff and possibly students. One additional expense is the expansion of the drop off lane at the Memorial School. Dr. Pires stated that this change at the Memorial School will alleviate traffic congestion at the school. With more parents driving their children to school, there is more car traffic creating a concerning

traffic pattern.

b. "Rearing" Mustang Statue

Ms. Dietrich explained that the proposed donation of this does cross two School Committee policies, Naming and Donations. Ms. Dietrich proposed partnering with another school committee member to create a survey with photos to distribute to high school students to get their input on this donation.

c. Class of 2021 Graduation Date

Dr. Pires explained that there is an obligation to have seniors attend school for 168 days instead of 180 days, however with this school year shortened to 170 days that would put the last day for seniors at June 14 and pushing graduation to after the district completes the school year. Dr. Pires may wait until further into the school year to make the decision.

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

## I. ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE

- Liaison Reports

None

- Chairperson Update

Ms. Dietrich's update included that the Policy Subcommittee is near completion of the Policy Manual review, also provided feedback that the high school parent/teacher meetings went extremely well, and educators were very well prepared. Ms. Dietrich noted that the launch of the "SUP Medway Coalition went well.

- Superintendent Update

Dr. Pires' update included that the first day of grade 3 full return was Monday and that PK-3 will move to 5 days a week starting December 15 and grades 4-5 will join them in January. Dr. Pires reported that so far the district has reported 15 positive COVID -19 cases. He stated that we will continue to see cases and the factors that drive decisions about school include school based transmission. Of the 15 reported cases, none of them were deemed school based transmission. District staff will begin weekly testing on December 8.

- Assistant Superintendent Update

None

- Committee Members' Update

None

## J. INFORMATION ITEMS AND COMMUNICATIONS

## K. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Academic Assessments
- FY21 Budget Update
- Day Care Handbook
- Set Rates for Tuitions and Fees: Early Childhood (Preschool and Community Education)
- FY22 Budget Presentation

- 2021-2022 School Calendar
- Discussion of Lunch Prices for 2021-2022
- Wellness Programming Update

L. NEXT MEETINGS

- 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, 6:00 p.m. 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
- Regular Meeting, February 4, 2021, 6:00 p.m., in the presentation room, Medway Middle School, 45 Holliston Street, Medway

M. ADJOURN

At approximately 7:40 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: January 21, 2021