

Medway School Committee
Minutes
Medway, MA
Thursday, December 3, 2020, 6:00 p.m.

The School Committee of the Medway Public Schools held a meeting on Thursday, December 3, 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. 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 6:02 p.m.

B. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Warrant
- b. Donation:
 - i. International Thespian Society to High School Musical \$140.00
- c. Minutes
 - i. November 12, 2020

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. Spring/Fall 2020 Academic Assessment Update
Gabby Abrams, Assistant Superintendent presented to the committee the Spring/Fall 2020 Academic Assessment update. Ms. Abrams' goal for the presentation was to provide a data informed context for identified areas of focus to support both improved student learning and understanding of the pandemic learning gaps. Ms. Abrams reported that Spring 2020 MCAS testing did not take place and are planning for January 2021 MCAS. Ms. Abrams provided a year over year look at AP testing and provided highlights as well as the changes made due to the pandemic. AP Testing was not required and students could opt out. SAT Testing was not offered in the Spring or Fall of 2020, however school day testing

was offered to the class of 2021 in September and October of 2020. Ms. Abrams provided details regarding the number of Medway students who took the test and how their results compared to the state average. In both math and reading Medway either outperformed or was on par with the state average. Ms. Abrams then discussed the Fall 2020 Diagnostic Information which included iReady and IXL, and provided information comparing before the closure and after. Ms. Abrams reported on the progress of all grades using these tools and outlined focused improvement strategies.

Dr. Pires noted that grades K-3 are now back 4.5 days per week and will be back 5 full days starting next week. Ms. Dietrich thanked Ms. Abrams for compiling this data.

b. Athletic Update - Winter Season

Jeff Parcels, Athletic Director presented to the School Committee the Winter Athletics season update. Mr. Parcels reported that the fall season was a success and he is now planning for the winter season. Mr. Parcels explained the sports that will run during the winter season and the protocols in place including COVID-19 testing for all non-staff coaches. Mr. Parcels explained that the guidelines for the winter sports season will mirror that of the fall season. The TVL has yet to vote on spectators, however all home meets will be live streamed. Mr. Parcels explained the transportation process as the district will be providing transportation to all away events, carpooling is allowed with masks and windows opened. Ms. Dietrich asked if the players sanitize their own equipment and Mr. Parcels explained that they do and coaches are reminding families frequently. The committee discussed participation rates and Mr. Parcels explained that the fall season did see a decline in participation and he expects the winter season to also see a decline.

E. ACTION ITEMS

- a. **For Consideration: To authorize the Superintendent to conduct contract negotiations with the Medway Federation of Teachers, Local 3645, AFT-AFL-CIO, Unit A (MFT)**

Dr. Pires reminded the committee of a previous conversation regarding the 3 year contract that is set to expire in June of 2021. He is hoping to make the process as efficient as possible and will bring the agreement to the School Committee in the Executive Session.

It was moved by Ms. Sullivan, seconded by Mr. Segarra that the School Committee authorize the Superintendent to to engage in negotiations, subject to ratification and approval by the School Committee. Motion passed 5-0.

- b. **For Consideration: Approval of Medway High School Graduation Date for the 2020-2021 School Year** - The Superintendent is recommending that the School Committee vote to set Sunday, June 13, 2021, as the graduation date for Class of 2021 Medway High School seniors.

Ms. Dietrich explained that with the current situation, the best date for the 2021 graduation date is June 13, 2021.

It was moved by Ms. Sullivan, seconded by Mr. Segarra, that the School Committee set the graduation date for Medway High School Class of 2021 as Sunday, June 13, 2021, 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.*

F. DISCUSSION ITEMS AND REPORTS

- a. FY21 Budget Reconfiguration

Dr. Pires provided some context around the upcoming Budget Reconfiguration meeting. Annually the School Committee meets with members of the Board of Selectmen and the Finance Committee to present the reconfigured budget. This year the School Committee will need to take a vote to authorize Mr. Aicardi to make the recommended changes to the FY21 budget. Mr. Aicardi walked through the budget documents and provided background information on the budget process. Mr. Aicardi explained that funding to the budget which included funding from various sources, including \$750,000 from the CARES Act. Mr. Aicardi learned just recently that the Town of Medway had increased this amount from \$650,000. Mr. Aicardi highlighted expenses to be paid from this fund. The School Committee asked Mr. Aicardi for a summary of expenditures related to the health pandemic.

- b. School Reopening Update and Next Steps

Dr. Pires noted that due to the great work by the leadership team and teachers, grade three will return to full 5 day in person learning in mid December. Grades 4 and 5 will follow in January/February.

- c. Update on COVID-19 Testing

Staff testing for December will be held on December 8 and December 15 and then continue weekly in January. This type of testing can identify asymptomatic adults. This will help with the path to full return. The district hosted a webinar regarding student testing. The webinar was attended by approximately 400 participants. JCM, our partners in testing attended the webinar to provide technical support. Dr. Pires addressed some of the questions received during the webinar, including whether testing would be mandatory, he replied, it cannot.

Dr. Pires updated the committee on the synchronous learning expansion to begin in early January and thanked all for their support.

- 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

Ms. Dietrich's update included the recent webinar regarding changes in delivery of cannabis products in the Commonwealth and how this affects

Medway. Ms. Dietrich reported that the changes passed with a 3-1 vote. She will keep the committee updated.

- Superintendent Update
Dr. Pires reported that it was recently reported that 5 individuals tested positive, however they were not in school during the infectious period.
- Assistant Superintendent Update
Ms. Abrams' update included the recent arrival of Chromebooks and the plan to disburse them is underway. On December 10, Ms. Abrams will host a webinar to gauge the interest of Virtual families interested in returning to in person/hybrid learning.
- Committee Members' Update
Dr. Fagerson stated that the webinar held this past Monday relating to COVID testing went well.
Ms. Nassiff provided an update on the MEPTO fundraiser and the virtual Shamrock Shuffle.

H. INFORMATION ITEMS AND COMMUNICATIONS

I. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Day Care Handbook (1/21, 2/4)
- Set Rates for Tuitions and Fees: Early Childhood (Preschool and Community Education) (1/21)
- 2021 Graduation Date
- FY22 Budget Presentation
- 2021-2022 School Calendar
- Discussion of Lunch Prices for 2021-2022
- Wellness Programming Update
- FY22 Budget Priorities
- Athletic Budget Overview

J. NEXT MEETINGS

- 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
- Regular Meeting, February 4, 2021, 6:00 p.m., in the presentation room, Medway Middle School, 45 Holliston Street, Medway
- Regular Meeting, February 25, 2021, 6:00 p.m., in the presentation room, Medway Middle School, 45 Holliston Street, Medway

K. ADJOURN

At approximately 8:36 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: January 21, 2021