

Medway School Committee  
Minutes  
Medway, MA  
Thursday, January 21, 2021, 6:00 p.m.

The School Committee of the Medway Public Schools held a meeting on Thursday, January 21, 2021, 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 6:08 p.m.

B. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Warrant
- b. Donation:
  - i. In Memory of Frank Bagley from M/M Greenhalgh \$50.00
  - ii. Lueders Environmental, Inc. \$75.00
- c. Minutes
  - i. November 19, 2020 - Regular Meeting
  - ii. December 3, 2020 - Regular Meeting
  - iii. December 9, 2020 - Tri-Board Meeting
  - iv. January 7, 2021- Workshop

**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 4-0.**

C. PUBLIC COMMENT

D. PRESENTATIONS

- a. Community Education Budget Presentation  
Karen Niemczyk, Director of Community Education and Don Aicardi, Director of Finance and Operations presented the Community Education FY22 Budget. Mr. Aicardi gave an overview of the Community Education program stating that it is a self-funded program. Community Education still follows all the financial processes where all funds are deposited with the Business Office. Mr. Aicardi explained that Community Education supports the operating budget by paying for utilities, cleaning and trash/recycling as well as being charged by the Business

Office for support. Mr. Aicardi explained that this year Community Education had to issue a number of refunds due to COVID-19. Mr. Aicardi went on to discuss the cuts made in FY20 to help with the expected increase costs due to the pandemic. Ms. Niemczyk explained to the committee the challenges her department is facing, although it is not all bad news. Ms. Niemczyk discussed the programs that ran this past year including the Summer Adventures program which had over 500 participants. As Mr. Aicardi mentioned there were quite a few refunds this year, and for the first time in a while they did not print the brochure, but relied heavily on social media. Ms. Niemczyk went on to discuss the plan for their FY22 programs. The Summer Adventures program will begin taking applications on February 1 and the plan is to follow the in person program they followed last year. The committee discussed the positions within Community Education that were either cut or not filled and Ms. Niemczyk's opinion on those positions. The committee also discussed the available spots within day care. The committee thanked Ms. Niemczyk and Mr. Aicardi for their presentation.

#### E. ACTION ITEMS

- a. **For Consideration: To Authorize the fundraising for the "Rearing Mustang Statue" for the Medway High School lobby as presented to the Medway School Committee on February 27, 2020, and acceptance of future donation.**

Ms. Dietrich explained that this request came before the School Committee in February of 2020. The request was reviewed by the Policy Subcommittee. As this request involves two policies, Donations and Naming, it required review to ensure it was in line with the district policy. Ms. Dietrich explained that the group who proposed this statue wanted to have the name of William Phipps on the item. Ms. Dietrich along with Ms. Sullivan worked together to provide a compromise that would still be in line with district policy. The committee will accept the statue as a future donation provided that any plaque commemorating the statue states or reads "Donated by Friends of William Phipps".

**It was moved by Ms. Sullivan, seconded by Ms. Nassiff that the School Committee authorize the fundraising for the "Rearing Mustang Statue" for the Medway High School lobby as presented to the Medway School Committee on February 27, 2020, with the intent to accept it as a future donation provided that any plaque commemorating the statue states or reads "Donated by Friends of William Phipps", as recommended by the Policy Subcommittee. Motion passed 4-0.**

- b. **For Consideration: Approval of Special Projects Coordinator Job Description.** The Special Projects Coordinator will work with the Director of Wellness to manage COVID testing.

Dr. Pires explained that this position will primarily support the student and staff testing as well as notifications to individuals/families. It is a full time salaried position and will include some weekend work. The funding will be partially through the COVID relief as well as the savings from the staff and student testing expected expense.

**It was moved by Ms. Sullivan, seconded by Ms. Nassiff that the School Committee approve the Special Projects Coordinator Job Description, as recommended by the Superintendent. Motion passed 4-0.**

- 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. First Reading: Day Care Handbook  
Ms. Dietrich asked the committee to review the Day Care Handbook and to reach out if they had any questions.
- b. First Reading: Rates for Tuitions and Fees for Early Childhood-Community Education. Ms. Dietrich noted that until about 3 years ago the rates for Community Education Early Childhood had not been increased. Year over year, the costs of staff and other items have increased. Ms. Dietrich asked the committee to review the proposed increases and to reach out with any questions.
- c. School Reopening Update and Next Steps and COVID-19 Testing  
Dr. Pires reported that he had anticipated the student testing program would be up and running after the winter break but found out the state has proposed a project that would cover the costs for the first six weeks of the program. The state has engaged with 3 vendors for districts to then contract with saving the district approximately \$300,000. Dr. Pires expects to get the final details soon and will share as soon as he has them. Dr. Pires stated that he is hosting a Community Webinar on Wednesday, January 27 to discuss the student testing. Dr. Pires explained that unlike the staff testing we are currently engaged in, if there is a positive pool, the state does not do reflex testing, however, he is researching whether the district can use the BinaxNow test. Our school nurses have already received training on BinaxNow and the product is on site. Dr. Pires also reported that he is working with the Town of Medway to conduct a vaccine clinic for the community. Dr. Pires said that optimally with hard work, he hopes to have a full return of all students by the end of March or early April. Grade 5 started back this week.  
Ms. Dietrich commented on the great forward progression and appreciates all the work to bring the students back to school in the middle of a pandemic.
- d. Superintendent's 2020/2021 Goals - Mid Year Update  
Dr. Pires gave a brief overview of his mid year goals. The goals included positive learning culture and fiscal management systems, along with Social and Emotional Wellness. Dr. Pires provided some highlights including steps taken to bring staff and students back to school. Dr. Pires stated that he is glad to share this work publicly and address any questions. He also noted the changed structure of the document. Ms. Sullivan commented on the outstanding work and liked the new structure. Ms. Nassiff shares the thought and the formation is exceptional. Ms. Nassiff stated that she is grateful for all the hard work to bring students back and noted that Medway is the envy of our neighbors. Dr. Fagerson thanked Dr. Pires for all the hard work and communication. Dr. Pires stated that he has an exceptional Leadership team and a great relationship with the MFT.
- e. 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 stated that she was recently contacted by a Hopkinton School Committee member to invite her to participate in a School Committee Chairperson Roundtable. Ms. Dietrich will share her experience with the committee after the meeting.
- Superintendent Update  
Dr. Pires mentioned that on Tuesday he sent out the most recent COVID-19 data table which showed a spike in close contacts. According to MIAA guidelines, if a member of a sports team tests positive for the virus and the infectious period includes a game day, then all members of each town must be considered close contacts. Dr. Pires also mentioned that there will be a shift in the type of communication to the community where each principal will send out COVID-19 notices to their community. Dr. Pires will continue to send the bi-weekly COVID chart updating the number of cases. Dr. Pires reported that the Leadership Team met with Kris Taylor of Teachers21. The district is looking to put out an RFP for the position of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and Dr. Taylor will offer input on that.
- Assistant Superintendent Update  
Ms. Abrams updated included the THRIVE event that is scheduled for Tuesday.
- Committee Members' Update  
Ms Nassiff provided an update on the MFPA and their fundraising efforts and the Medfield SEPAC meeting. Ms. Nassiff has been in contact with other School Committees to collaborate on testing practices.

## H. INFORMATION ITEMS AND COMMUNICATIONS

## I. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Vote Rates for Tuitions and Fees for Early Childhood Community Education
- Wellness Programming Update
- Athletic Budget Overview and Fee Discussion
- School Choice Enrollment
- Charting the Course - District Improvement Update and Budget Overview and Context Presentation
- High School Program of Studies
- Integrated Preschool Tuition Rates for 2021-2022
- FY22 Budget Presentation
- Public Hearing on Budget
- Middle School Program of Studies
- 2021-2022 School Calendar
- Discussion of Lunch Prices for 2021-2022

## J. NEXT MEETINGS

- Community Webinar, **January 27, 2021, 6:00 p.m.**, Student COVID-19 Testing
- 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
  - Regular Meeting, **March 4, 2021, 6:00 p.m.**, in the presentation room, Medway Middle School, 45 Holliston Street, Medway
  - Public Forum on FY22 Budget, **March 11, 2021, 6:00 p.m.**, Webinar
  - Public Hearing on FY22 Budget, **March 18, 2021, 5:30 p.m.**, in the presentation room, Medway Middle School, 45 Holliston Street, Medway
  - Regular Meeting, **March 18, 2021, 6:00 p.m.**, in the presentation room, Medway Middle School, 45 Holliston Street, Medway

K. 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.

**RECOMMENDED MOTION**

**It was moved by Ms. Sullivan, seconded by Ms. Nassiff 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 with the understanding that the school committee will not return to public session. A roll call vote was taken and voting in favor was Dr. Fagerson, Ms. Nassiff, Ms. Sullivan and the Chair Ms. Dietrich.**

**The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted

*Ellen Quinn*

Ellen Quinn  
Secretary to the Medway School Committee

Approved: February 4, 2021