

Medway School Committee  
Minutes  
Medway, MA  
Thursday, February 4, 2021, 6:00 p.m.

The School Committee of the Medway Public Schools held a meeting on Thursday, February 4, 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, 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 6:02 p.m.

B. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Warrant
- b. Donation:
  - i. Alliance Energy, LLC to Medway High School \$500.00
- c. Approval of Community Education Parent Handbook
- d. Approval of Community Education Day Care Tuition Increase
- e. Approval of updates to Travel Policy #EBC-T
- f. Approval of Mid Year salary increase for the Superintendent
- g. Minutes
  - i. January 21, 2021

The committee discussed the consent agenda and withdrew from the consent agenda the Community Education Day Care tuition increase and the Mid Year salary increase for the Superintendent. The Community Education Day Care tuition will be voted on under a separate vote and the Superintendent's increase will be discussed in the Executive Session.

**It was moved by Ms. Sullivan, seconded by Mr. Segarra that the school committee approve the amended consent agenda, as recommended by the Superintendent. Motion passed 5-0.**

The Community Education Day Care tuition was discussed at the last meeting and is recommended to increase \$3.00 per day for the 2021-2022 school year.

**It was moved by Ms. Sullivan, seconded by Mr. Segarra that the school committee approved the increase for Community Education Day Care tuition, as recommended by the Superintendent. Motion passed 5-0.**

## C. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

## D. PRESENTATIONS

### a. Wellness Programming Update

Ryan Sherman, Director of Wellness presented an update on the Wellness Programming. Included in the update was the shift in focus due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Dr. Sherman noted that he is working more closely with the school nurses, the facilities department and the Medway Public Health office. Dr. Sherman noted the coordinated effort to mitigate the risk of contracting and spreading the virus within the school. Dr. Sherman discussed his focus on the Social & Emotional climate and the partnerships with the JED Foundation and the initiation of the Wrap Around Services with Family Continuity. Dr. Sherman discussed the process of the JED Foundation working with colleges and that Medway would be the first HS they will work with. Dr. Sherman went on to highlight areas including Health and Physical Education, Nutrition Services and Employee Wellness. Dr. Sherman gave a brief overview of the grants and earmark funding since the inception of this Director of Wellness role. The total amount is more than 1.5 million dollars. Dr. Sherman reported on the planning for the upcoming year, including mitigation strategies and routine testing for COVID-19, as well as Social Emotional learning and behavioral health support. The committee was impressed with all the efforts of Dr. Sherman, and thanked him for the presentation.

### b. Update on Athletics 2020/2021 and FY 21/22 Athletic Budget Overview

Jeff Parcels, Athletic Director and Don Aicardi, Director of Finance and Operations presented to the committee the update on Athletics for the 2020-2021 year as well as the FY21 financial update. Mr. Parcels said that they had a successful winter season with minor bumps along the way in regards to COVID-19. The department has received positive feedback regarding the NFHS Network which allows community members to view events that take place across the league. Mr. Parcels gave an update on the Winter and Wedge Seasons. The Winter season is scheduled to wrap up on February 14 and the Wedge season will start on February 22. Wedge sports include Football, Volleyball, Indoor Track, Cheer and Swim. The Wedge season will follow the same regulations and protocols as the Fall and Winter season did. Mr. Parcels outlined the COVID protocols that will be followed in the event of a positive case among players or opponents. Dr. Pires stated that without Mr. Parcels and Athletic Trainer Sean Powers, these seasons would not take place.

Mr. Aicardi provided an overview of the FY21 Athletics which included the state of the Athletic Revolving fund and expenditures. Mr. Aicardi explained what expenses are paid from the operating budget and which are paid from the revolving fund. Mr. Parcels discussed the challenges of this year as there are no gate receipts which is the biggest contributor to the revolving fund. Another challenge is participation is down due to COVID restrictions and a declining enrollment. Also challenging is transportation during the pandemic is more costly due to restrictions. Mr. Parcels discussed the Athletic Fees for the 2021-2022 year and recommended no increase. Mr. Parcels discussed the declining

enrollment on the sports teams. Ms. Dietrich asked about a sport that may be eliminated, would there be an opportunity to co-op with another town? Mr. Parcels explained that the MIAA does not allow co-op for sub varsity sports.

#### E. ACTION ITEMS

a. **For Consideration: Approval of a Resolution in Support of Expedited COVID-19 Vaccinations for Educators.**

Ms. Dietrich shared some background on this resolution and explained that it will be shared with our representatives, the Department of Public Health and the State House.

**It was moved by Ms. Sullivan, seconded by Mr. Segarra that the school committee approve the Resolution in Support of Expedited COVID-19 Vaccinations for Educators, as reviewed earlier tonight by the full committee and to authorize the chair to sign on behalf of the committee as recommended by the Chair. Motion passed 5-0.**

b. 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: Athletic Fees

As discussed in the Athletic presentation earlier this evening, the recommendation is to not increase Athletic Fees for the 2021-2022 school year.

b. First Reading: Pre-School Tuition 2021-2022

Dr. Pires explained that the increase is approximately 2% which aligns with the cost of the program. This program is an important one for the district.

c. First Reading: School Choice Enrollment Capacity

Dr. Pires explained his methodology for the capacity for School Choice and how it relates to the current health pandemic.

d. First Reading: Foreign Exchange Capacity

Dr. Pires is recommending that the district does not accept any Foreign Exchange students at this time.

e. First Reading: 2021-2022 School Year Calendar

Ms. Dietrich asked the committee to review the proposed calendar and to reach out should they have any questions.

f. School Reopening Update and Next Steps/COVID-19 Testing Update

Dr. Pires reported that the recent round of staff testing was negative. Student testing begins next week with Middle and High school. The plan is for Memorial students to begin testing in early March. The McGovern student testing will be challenging. Student testing will continue until the end of the school year. Staff testing will continue with JCM Analytics. The leadership team has been working on the full reopening plan. In the Middle and High School levels, one of the barriers is space and less than 6 feet will create a close contact. Another barrier is transportation. A survey will be conducted with parents to determine the comfort level of less than 6 ft.

g. FY22 Budget Development Update

This item is held as the committee will attend a workshop in the following weeks.

- h. 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 discussed holding a workshop on February 11 if members are available. Ms. Dietrich will be attending a Roundtable meeting for School Committee chairs early next week and the primary focus will be reopening schools during the pandemic.
- Superintendent Update  
Dr. Pires discussed the RFP for Equity Consultant that will be reviewed at the proposed school committee workshop. Dr. Pires commented on the good updates from the athletic presentation earlier this evening and the great work of the HS Virtual Arts show. Dr. Pires also commented on the strong partnership with the Medway Federation of Teachers.
- Assistant Superintendent Update  
Ms. Abrams update included the PBL School leader Network. Dr. Murray sought consideration for Medway High School to participate in the first cohort of schools in the leader network.
- Committee Members' Update  
Ms. Nassiff noted that the final document in partnership with MASC and the Safer Schools Safer teachers is nearing completion. She will share with the committee before submission.

#### H. INFORMATION ITEMS AND COMMUNICATIONS

#### I. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- School Choice Enrollment Vote
- Foreign Exchange Enrollment Vote
- Charting the Course - District Improvement Update and Budget Overview and Context Presentation
- High School Program of Studies
- Integrated Preschool Tuition Rates for 2021-2022
- Approve 2021-2022 School Calendar
- FY22 Budget Presentation
- Middle School Program of Studies
- Public Hearing on FY22 Budget
- Discussion of Lunch Prices for 2021-2022

#### J. NEXT MEETINGS

- Regular Meeting, **February 25, 2021, 6:00 p.m.**, in the presentation room, Medway Middle School, 45 Holliston Street, Medway
- Public Forum on FY22 Budget, **March 4, 2021, 5:30 p.m.**, Webinar
- Regular Meeting, **March 4, 2021, 6:00 p.m.**, in the presentation room,

Medway Middle School, 45 Holliston Street, Medway

- 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

Ms. Dietrich explained that the need for Executive Session has changed from exemption 3 and 4 to 2 and 3. Ms. Nassiff will recuse herself when the committee discusses Unit A.

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, specifically the Superintendent,
- 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,

**It was moved by Ms. Sullivan, seconded by Mr. Segarra 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, specifically the Superintendent,**
- **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 was taken and voting in favor was Dr. Fagerson, Ms. Nassiff, Mr. Segarra, Ms. Sullivan and the Chair Ms. Dietrich.**

**The meeting was adjourned at 8:23 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted

*Ellen Quinn*

Ellen Quinn  
Secretary to the Medway School Committee

Approved: February 25, 2021