

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

The School Committee of the Medway Public Schools held a meeting on Thursday, March 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, 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. High School Program of Studies
- c. JED Foundation Grant \$30,000.00
- d. Donation from class of 2020 to MHS for Face Masks- \$1,500.00

**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. Presentation of the FY 22 Budget  
Armand Pires, Superintendent and Don Aicardi, Director of Finance presented the FY22 Budget to the committee. Dr. Pires explained the overall goals for the presentation which included sharing the priorities, recommended efficiencies and recommended improvements. Dr. Pires stated that this budget was a two prong approach, and explained the level service budget with reductions and the supplemental short term funding. The budget development strategy included a more moderate use of Circuit Breaker, removing the use of School Choice as a funding source and increasing reserve funds to provide flexibility towards anticipated but unknown student needs related to the pandemic. Dr. Pires discussed the current enrollment trends which determines class size and FTE. He noted that there is a reduction of 2 FTE at the high school level and will not affect student experience.

Mr. Aicardi explained the funding sources to the budget and outlined the revenue sources. Mr. Aicardi explained that not all of the budget comes for the town of Medway, but other sources included ACCEPT, Circuit Breaker and School Choice all contribute to the budget. Mr. Aicardi explained that in FY20, expenses were lighter than protected due to COVID-19 shutdown. In FY21, Circuit Breaker and School choice balances from FY 20 were carried over showing an inflated balance. Mr. Aicardi went on to discuss the level service budget and how it is calculated. Consideration includes increases to salary costs, service contracts and utilities. Some efficiencies that will be realized in this budget include 2 FTEs that will not be filled, the Early Retirement Incentive program for up to 8 teachers and positions that will not be filled due to reorganization. Mr. Aicardi reviewed the Municipal support which includes multiple town employees that also support the school, such as Treasurer/Accountant, operations, and support for health insurance for school employees. These costs are not included within the School Operating budget. The total proposed budget for FY 22 is \$29,076,000 which is a 2.4% increase over FY21. Dr. Pires reviewed the budget development timeline and answered questions from the school committee. Ms. Dietrich commended the Dr. Pires and the Leadership Team on a tremendous job.

b. Middle School Program of Studies

Amanda Luizzi, Principal, Medway Middle School, presented the Middle School Program of Studies proposed updates. Ms. Luizzi noted that there are two recommendations, the first is to move from a Digital Citizenship to a Computer Science Discoveries course in Grade 5 and the second is to emphasize and ensure the inclusion of the Grade 8 Civics project. Ms. Luizzi discussed some of the reasons to move from Digital Citizenship to Computer Science include students in grade 5 currently have a strong working knowledge of google tools as well as their application of proper digital practices, remote learning and extensive use of google by lower grades and that grade 5 students will continue to receive direct instruction on appropriate and safe internet practices. The shift to Computer Science will begin with grade 5 and will allow grade 6 App Creator class to dive deeper into content. Ms. Luizzi discussed the inclusion of the grade 8 Civics project stating that next year will be year 3 of the new civics course. Inclusion of the Civics Project in the program of studies highlights this culminating experience for grade 8 students. Students will be doing the real work of engaged, informed participants of our democracy; they will identify issues and advocate for change in their communities. Ms. Dietrich asked if there was a plan to share the projects with the community. Ms. Luizzi responded that they will be working with surrounding communities and virtual sharing.

E. ACTION ITEMS

- a. **For Consideration: Approval of the Community Education Summer Day Care rate/hours increase.**

**It was moved by Ms. Sullivan, seconded by Ms. Nassiff that the school committee vote to approve the increase in rate/hours for the Community Education Summer Day Care program, as recommended by the Superintendent. Motion passed 4-0.**

- b. **For Consideration: Set Reduced Rate for Early Childhood Tuition** – per annual practice, each year the School Committee establishes reduced rates for early childhood tuition for students who are eligible for free or reduced lunch. The Superintendent is recommending a reduction of 80%, which is consistent with free and reduced lunch guidelines and past practice.

**It was moved by Ms. Sullivan, seconded by Ms. Nassiff that the school committee set the reduced rates for early childhood tuition for students who are eligible for free or reduced lunch at an 80% reduction from the full cost of these programs, for the 2021-2022 school year, as recommended by the Superintendent. Motion passed 4-0.**

- c. **For Consideration: Approval of Medway High School Graduation Date for 2021-2022 School Year** - According to the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education regulations, school districts can release and graduate seniors on the 168<sup>th</sup> day of school. Seniors may be provided with less than the full 990 hours if a district elects to schedule early release and/or graduation. Additionally, school districts are not required to delay the date of graduation once it has been set or to keep seniors past the date of graduation.

Since June 1, 2022 is the 168<sup>th</sup> day of school for the 2021-2022 school year, the superintendent is recommending that the school committee vote to set Sunday, June 5, 2022, as the graduation date for Medway High School seniors.

**It was moved by Ms. Sullivan, seconded by Ms. Nassiff that the school committee set the graduation date for Medway High School seniors as Sunday, June 5, 2022, as recommended by the Superintendent. Motion passed 4-0.**

- d. **For Consideration: Approval of Expanded Kindergarten and Grade One Transportation**- In accordance with the Student Transportation Policy, (Policy #EEA (24)), this action item is a yearly vote. Mr. Aicardi is requesting that consideration be given to virtually all grade one students, as well.

**It was moved by Ms. Sullivan, seconded by Ms. Nassiff that the school committee authorize the expansion of busing for virtually all kindergarten and grade one students for the 2021-2022 school year only, as recommended by the superintendent, with the understanding that there will be no extra cost to the district and that continuation will be voted on each year. Motion passed 4-0.**

- e. 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: Middle School Time on Learning  
The middle school, based on hours of instruction, will again be designated as an elementary facility when reporting compliance with Time and Learning regulations for the 2021-2022 school year.
- b. Facility Project List  
Mr. Kane stated that he is working closely with the town on this list of priority projects. He reviewed the priority list that he will be sharing with the town.
- c. School Reopening Update  
Dr. Pires provided an update on the reopening process. On Wednesday of this week, Dr. Pires hosted a webinar for staff in grades 6-12 to discuss the full return of students, on Tuesday, March 9, the district will host a webinar for parents of students in grades 6-12 to discuss the full return of students. The webinars will discuss issues relating to transportation and physical space. In grades 6-12 it is not possible to maintain the 6 ft of distance between students. Students will return the week of April 12 for 4 days, Wednesday being remote then after the April vacation week, students will attend 5 days per week. Dr. Pires discussed the change in guidance regarding transportation and how it can create additional close contacts. Student testing is currently at 55% and the goal is to get 70% better understand the prevalence of the virus in the schools.
- d. Other- *This time is being reserved for topics that the chair did not reasonably anticipate would be discussed.*

## G. ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE

- Liaison Reports
- Chairperson Update  
Ms. Dietrich's update included the School Committee Chair Roundtable discussion, and what other districts are doing to get students back in school. In regards to the school committee vacancy, Melissa Greenfield has pulled papers for the seat left vacant by Mr. Segarra. The term for this seat would be two year to complete the term of Mr. Segarra.
- Superintendent Update  
Dr. Pires' update included staff and student testing for this week resulted in all negative results. The 'SUP Medway Coalition met for a planning retreat last Friday. Attendees in addition to the committee members included representatives from the faith community, municipal government, local businesses, and healthcare workers. The focus of the retreat was to solidify the community's commitment to forming a coalition to prevent youth substance use in preparation for a grant application.
- Assistant Superintendent Update  
Ms. Abrams' update included the new choral guidance received from DESE. The district will partner with Hill for Literacy for the grade K-5 Literacy Audit which will begin in a few weeks.
- Committee Members' Update  
Ms. Nassiff noted that she is continuing her work with Safer Teachers Safer Students.

## H. INFORMATION ITEMS AND COMMUNICATIONS

### I. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Middle School Program of Studies Vote
- Middle School Time on Learning Vote
- Public Hearing on FY22 Budget and Vote
- Announcement of Memorial Plaque
- Special Education Program Overview
- RFP for Equity Assessment
- Discussion of Lunch Prices for 2021-2022
- Review of Responsible Use Policy
- Student Activity Audit
- Athletic Handbook Approval

### J. NEXT MEETINGS

- 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
- Regular Meeting, **April 1, 2021, 6:00 p.m.**, in the presentation room, Medway Middle School, 45 Holliston Street, Medway
- Regular Meeting, **April 15, 2021, 6:00 p.m.**, in the presentation room, Medway Middle School, 45 Holliston Street, Medway
- Regular Meeting, **May 6, 2021, 2021, 6:00 p.m.**, in the presentation room, Medway Middle School, 45 Holliston Street, Medway
- Town Meeting, **May 10, 2021, 7:00 p.m.**, 88 Summer Street, Medway High School
- Town Elections, **May 18, 2021**, Medway Middle School, 45 Holliston Street
- Regular Meeting, **May 20, 2021, 6:00 p.m.**, in the presentation room, Medway Middle School, 45 Holliston Street, Medway
- Regular Meeting, **June 3, 2021, 6:00 p.m.**, in the presentation room, Medway Middle School, 45 Holliston Street, Medway
- Regular Meeting, **June 17, 2021, 6:00 p.m.**, in the presentation room, Medway Middle School, 45 Holliston Street, Medway

K. ADJOURN

At approximately 8:30 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: March 18, 2021