

Medway School Committee
Minutes
Medway, MA
Thursday, March 18, 2021, 6:00 p.m.

The School Committee of the Medway Public Schools held a meeting on Thursday, March 18, 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. 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 6:00 p.m.

B. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Warrant
- b. Middle School Program of Studies
- c. Middle School Time on Learning
- d. Grant: PBL Works
- e. Donation: NFHS Network Royalty \$375.61
- f. Minutes
 - i. February 25, 2021
 - ii. March 4, 2021

It was moved by Ms. Sullivan, seconded by Ms. Nassiff that the school committee approve the consent agenda, as recommended by the Superintendent.

C. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

D. ANNOUNCEMENT

Ms. Dietrich announced that nominations for the Memorial Plaque are now open; applications are on the website and in school offices. Nominations must be submitted to the Office of the Superintendent, Medway Public Schools, 45 Holliston Street, Medway, MA 02053, by May 31, 2021.

Candidates for inclusion on the Burke-Memorial School plaque must have made a significant or memorable contribution to the town and/or school community.

Through their behavior and character, the candidate can be shown to be/have been an excellent role model. This person, through service, volunteerism or dedication has made Medway school or town life better for those who follow.

Residents, past or present, who have sacrificed their lives or freedom in service to their country, either as members of the military or as civilians contributing to military or peace efforts, may also be nominated.

The superintendent's office shall send a letter to the candidate(s) or their families to advise them that a nomination has been made.

E. PRESENTATIONS

a. Special Education Program Overview

Kathleen Bernklow, Director of Student Services presented One Student at a Time: An Overview of the Student Services Program to the committee. Ms. Bernklow explained the percentage of students with IEP's and how that has changed over the past few years due to the decrease in enrollment. Ms. Bernklow provided an overview of both the in district and out of district disability types. Ms. Bernklow explained the challenges the department faced due to the pandemic, which included learning to deliver services in a virtual environment and how the department would track and monitor progress. The Special Education department was able to provide an in-person learning environment for some of the youngest learners. Ms. Bernklow went on to detail the Tiered Focused Monitoring and that Medway is in Tier 1, with approximately 10% of all districts. Ms. Bernklow noted that there will be an onsite review scheduled for next week. Ms. Dietrich noted that this has been a tremendous year and appreciates the work on this presentation.

b. Full Return to School

Armand Pires, Superintendent and Ryan Sherman, Director of Wellness presented the Return to School 6-12. Dr. Pires first thanked all for their help and support in making this return happen. Dr. Pires and Dr. Sherman presented the rationale, safeguards and the timeline for a full return of hybrid students to full in person in grades 6-12. Monday, April 12, all hybrid students in grades 6-12 will report for their first full in-person day. Dr. Pires stated that at this time COVID-19 cases continue to decline. Student testing is underway with approximately 50% of middle and high school students participating. Dr. Pires hopes that this will increase to 70% of students. Dr. Pires is hopeful that after the Spring vacation that testing will occur twice a week. Dr. Pires discussed the negative impact the pandemic has had on students while in alternative learning for a year. Dr. Sherman discussed the testing program and that so far the district has had one case of in-school transmission of the virus. Dr. Pires reported that middle and high school students will be less than 6 feet of distance but will be no less than 3 feet. There will be some schedule changes at both the middle and high school to accommodate spacing. Dr. Pires cautioned that the district does expect to see an increase in close contacts. The committee thanked Dr. Pires and Dr. Sherman and are excited for the full return of grades 6-12.

F. ACTION ITEMS

- a. **For Consideration: Approval of Proposed FY-22 School Department Budget**
This item comes before the School Committee for approval and submission to the town manager for inclusion in the annual town meeting warrant. If approved, the total of the proposed FY-22 School Department Budget will be \$29,076,000.

It was moved by Ms. Sullivan, seconded by Ms. Nassiff that the school committee approve the proposed FY-22 School Department Budget of \$29,076,000, as recommended by the Superintendent.

- b. **For Consideration: Approve and distribute the RFP for an Equity Assessment for the Medway Public Schools.** At a recent school committee workshop, the committee met with Teachers 21 to discuss the proposed RFP.

Dr. Pires stated that once the RFP is approved, it will be distributed out on the state's website and to organizations. Bids will be due back by April 26 and the district will hold a bid opening. The committee discussed separating the RFP and the scoring rubric and voting on the RFP tonight and the rubric at a later date. Dr. Fagerson would like to hold both the RFP and the rubric until he has the opportunity to review further. He would like to make some changes to the RFP.

It was moved by Ms. Sullivan, seconded by Ms. Nassiff that the school committee vote to approve and distribute the RFP for an Equity Assessment for the Medway Public Schools, and to hold the scoring rubric until a later date, as recommended by the Superintendent. 3-1-0 with Dr. Fagerson opposing.

- c. **For Consideration: Support the Superintendent's plan for the reopening of Medway Schools, grades 6-12 to begin on April 12, 2021.** All students in grades 6-12, with the exception of full remote students, will return to in-person instruction.

It was moved by Ms. Sullivan, seconded by Ms. Nassiff that the school committee support the Superintendent's plan for the reopening of Medway Schools grades, 6-12, to begin on April 12, 2021.

- d. **For Consideration: To appoint Susan Dietrich, to serve as the school committee representative to the Medway Master Plan Committee.**

It was moved by Ms. Sullivan, seconded by Ms. Nassiff that the school committee appoint Ms. Dietrich, to serve as the school committee representative to the Medway Master Plan Committee.

- e. Other- *This time is being reserved for topics that the chair did not reasonably*

anticipate would be discussed.

G. DISCUSSION ITEMS AND REPORTS

- a. Natural Gas Contract
Mr. Aicardi stated that the natural gas contract is up in December and they have been able to extend the contract for 5 years at a consistent price.
- b. Scholarship Accounts
Mr. Aicardi reported that in the school committee's packet is the list of all scholarships and the recipients from last year.
- c. First Reading: Policy Manual sections A-F
Ms. Dietrich asked the committee to review the policies in their packet and to send any questions they may have. This group of policies will be voted on next meeting.
- d. Senator Spilka's event-Supporting Our Students Through COVID-19 and Beyond. Ms. Nassiff will be attending this event and will report to the committee at the next meeting.
- e. Other- *This time is being reserved for topics that the chair did not reasonably anticipate would be discussed.*

H. ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE

- Liaison Reports - None
- Chairperson Update - None
- Superintendent Update
Dr. Pires' update included that our COVID testing partner has developed an electronic consent form which makes it easier for parents to register for the testing program. Dr. Pires noted that due to a recent incident, Google Hangouts was disengaged as it was determined that its use has not added meaningful educational value in light of other, more closely monitored communication tools.
- Assistant Superintendent Update
Ms. Abrams' update included her visit with the Willows. Ms. Abrams and Dr. Sherman met with Nancy Andrie, Community Sales Director at the Willows to discuss the potential role that the schools could play to support a Dementia Friendly Community designation in Medway. March 24 will be a half day for all grades. This date was moved from March 10.
- Committee Members' Update
Dr. Fagerson indicated that he attended the Open Space Committee meeting. Ms. Nassiff provided updates from MEPTO and MSPTO including the Shamrock Shuffle.

I. INFORMATION ITEMS AND COMMUNICATIONS

J. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Facilities Rental Rates
- Community Education Program Overview

- Athletic Handbook Updates
- Review of Responsible Use Policy
- Standard Based Report Card - McGovern Elementary School
- Annual Appointment Superintendent to ACCEPT/TEC Board of Directors
- Appoint School Committee Secretary
- Annual Appointment of Central Office Staff Member to Receive Copies of All School Committee Emails
- School Committee Leadership Discussion
- Student Activity Audit
- Discussion of Lunch Prices for 2021-2022
- Athletic Handbook Approval

K. NEXT MEETINGS

- 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

L. ADJOURN

At approximately 8:48 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: April 1, 2021