

Medway School Committee  
Minutes  
Medway, MA  
Thursday, April 1, 2021, 6:00 p.m.

The School Committee of the Medway Public Schools held a meeting on Thursday, April 1, 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. Minutes
  - i. March 18, 2021

**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

None

D. PRESENTATIONS

- a. Community Education Program Overview  
Karen Niemczyk, Director of Community Education, presented the program overview. Ms. Niemczyk stated that Community Education provides year round learning opportunities. They offer enrichment programs for residents and neighboring communities. Ms. Niemczyk explained the effects the pandemic has had on programming, noting that support programs were impacted the most. Summer Adventures 2020, the summer day camp program ran at just about full capacity with 80-90 campers. The Winter School programs were run largely by Medway Staff with 38 total programs and 16 run by staff, Winter Support programs had 110 students in 12 programs and 11 run by Medway staff. Ms. Niemczyk provided an overview of the 21/22 planning including Spring and Summer offerings. She noted the Summer Adventures 2021 program is almost at

capacity. Ms. Neimczyk thanked the committee for their support. The committee thanked Ms. Neimczyk for her thoughtful presentation.

#### E. ACTION ITEMS

- a. **For Consideration: Approval of Policy Manual** sections A. Foundations and Basic Commitments, B. Board Governance and Operations, C. General School Administration, D. Fiscal Management, E. Support Services, and F. Facilities Development.

**It was moved by Ms. Sullivan, seconded by Ms. Nassiff that the school committee approve, Policy Manual sections A. Foundations and Basic Commitments, B. Board Governance and Operations, C. General School Administration, D. Fiscal Management, E. Support Services, and F. Facilities Development, to go into effect on July 1, 2021, as recommended by the Policy Subcommittee. Motion passed 4-0.**

- b. **For Consideration: Superintendent's Appointment to ACCEPT Collaborative Board of Directors for the 2021-2022 School Year** - In accordance with Chapter 43 of the Acts of 2012, the Medway school committee must vote to appoint the Superintendent as the district's representative to the ACCEPT Board of Directors on an annual basis.

**It was moved by Ms. Sullivan, seconded by Ms. Nassiff that the school committee, in accordance with Chapter 43 of the Acts of 2012, appoint Dr. Armand Pires, Superintendent, as the Medway Public Schools representative to the ACCEPT Board of Directors for the 2021-2022 school year, as recommended by the superintendent. Motion passed 4-0.**

- c. **For Consideration: Superintendent's Appointment to The Education Collaborative(TEC) Board of Directors for the 2021-2022 School Year** - In accordance with Chapter 43 of the Acts of 2012, the Medway School Committee must vote to appoint the Superintendent as the district's representative to the TEC Board of Directors on an annual basis.

Dr. Pires noted that the partnership has been beneficial to the district.

**It was moved by Ms. Sullivan, seconded by Ms. Nassiff that the school committee, in accordance with Chapter 43 of the Acts of 2012, appoint Dr. Armand Pires, Superintendent, as the Medway Public Schools representative to the TEC Board of Directors for the 2021-2022 school year, as recommended by the superintendent. Motion passed 4-0.**

- d. Other- *This time is being reserved for topics that the chair did not reasonably anticipate would be discussed.*

## F. DISCUSSION ITEMS AND REPORTS

- a. Senator Spilka's MetroWest Kids Initiative 2021 Update  
Ms. Nassiff provided an overview of the forum hosted by Senator Spilka was informative, noting that some of the supports are already in place in Medway.
- b. First Reading: Policy Manual sections G-I  
Ms. Dietrich asked the committee to review policy sections G-I and to reach out should they have any questions.
- c. First Reading: Facilities Rental Rates  
Dr. Pires provided an overview of the rates that are being increased. The district will charge for cleaning the facility after each rental, which could be the equivalent of one hour rental. The district will ask renters to follow state guidelines, including mask wearing and capacity limits.
- d. First Reading: Athletic Handbook  
Mr. Parcels, Athletic Director noted that last year the handbook was updated allowing for just minor adjustments this year.
- e. Equity Assessment: Scoring Rubric  
Ms. Dietrich asked the committee if a workshop would be in order to allow for more time to discuss the rubric. The committee agreed to a workshop before the next meeting. Dr. Pires noted that the rubric was reviewed by the Investigator General's office which found some errors. The document was sent to the district attorney for review.
- f. School Reopening Update  
Dr. Pires noted that on April 12, grades 6-12 will be returning to 4 days a week for that week, then after vacation to 5 full in person days. Dr. Pires reported that at the first June meeting the committee will be asked to review a proposal on how to fund anticipated but unknown student needs. April 12 will be another first day of school and the district will celebrate. Dr. Pires went on to discuss staff and student testing. Student testing was extended until the end of the school year. The staff testing is still using our partner vendor JCM who has applied to be a state vendor. This should decrease the cost of testing if approved. The district had invited families to sign up for bus transportation beginning with the reopening on April 12. Dr. Pires noted that with increased capacity on busses, we will most likely see an increase in close contacts.  
*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 stated that the district should plan to track the takeaway from COVID, that the district doesn't want to lose sight of the student perspective

or the faculty/staff perspective.

- Superintendent Update  
Dr. Pires noted that he recently had the opportunity to visit the McGovern school and connect with students. During the visit, a number of staff expressed their appreciation to the leadership team and the school committee for their transparency with the reopening. Dr. Pires noted that he had the opportunity to attend the PLTW Capstone program with guest speaker Sharin Shin, Head of Autonomous Driving Operations for Toyota Research Institute, noting the students had great questions for Ms Shin.
- Assistant Superintendent Update  
Ms. Abrams' update included that Caroline Williams will be speaking to the 8th grade class about her work passing legislation. Also noted that as part of our Curriculum Review Cycle, the Medway Public Schools have partnered with Hill for Literacy to conduct an audit of our K-5 literacy curriculum. This process will extend throughout the remainder of this school year and will involve a review of our curriculum (resources, assessments, and instructional approaches) as well as our approach to supporting learners who have not met specific areas of proficiency yet. Ms. Abrams noted that this process will result in the development of a literacy plan that will set the stage for future improvement efforts in service to the literacy learning of our youngest students.
- Committee Members' Update  
Ms. Nassiff will share with the committee the response she received from Russell Johnson.

## H. INFORMATION ITEMS AND COMMUNICATIONS

### I. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Review of Responsible Use Policy
- Athletic Handbook Vote
- Travel Policy EBS-T
- Approval of Grants
- District Improvement Plan
- Standard Based Report Card - McGovern Elementary School
- Elementary School Improvement Plan
- School Committee Leadership Discussion
- Middle School Improvement Plan
- High School Improvement Plan
- Appoint School Committee Secretary
- Appoint Central Office Staff Member to Receive Copies of All School Committee Emails
- Student Activity Audit
- Discussion of Lunch Prices for 2021-2022

### J. NEXT MEETINGS

- 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 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 or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel, specifically Administrative staff including 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.

#### **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 or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel, specifically Administrative staff including 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, voting in favor were Dr. Fagerson, Ms. Nassiff, Ms. Sullivan and the chair, Ms. Dietrich.**

**The meeting was adjourned at 7:47 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

***Ellen Quinn***

Ellen Quinn  
Secretary to the School Committee

Approved: April 15, 2021