

Medway School Committee
Minutes
Medway, MA
Thursday, April 15, 2021, 6:00 p.m.

The School Committee of the Medway Public Schools held a meeting on Thursday, April 15, 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 6:03 p.m.

B. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Warrant
- b. Approval of Grants

FY21 Medway Public School Grants

Early Childhood Special Education Entitlement Grant	\$24,654
Early Childhood Targeted Sped Program Improvement Grant	\$1,649
IDEA Federal Special Education Entitlement Grant	\$587,131
IDEA Special Education Program Improvement Grant	\$15,857
Title I, Part A: Improving Basic Programs	\$83,534
Title II, Part A: Building Systems of Support for Excellent Teaching and Leading	\$32,119
Title IV, Part A: Student Support and Academic Enrichment	\$10,000

Subtotal Entitlement Grants **\$754,944**

Remote Learning Technology Essentials (RLTE)	\$24,059
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Coronavirus Relief Fund (CvRF)	\$487,125
Coronavirus Relief Fund (CvRF) for School Meal Programs	\$5,179
CARES	\$750,000
Elementary & Secondary Schools Emergency Relief (ESSER)	\$75,172
State Coronavirus Prevention Fund Program	\$74,600

Subtotal Coronavirus-related Grants **\$1,416,135**

Confucius Classroom - Bryant University	\$9,619
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c. Minutes

- i. March 4, 2021 Public Forum
- ii. March 18, 2021 Public Hearing
- iii. April 1, 2021 Regular Meeting

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

D. ACTION ITEMS

- a. **For Consideration: Approval of Policy Manual** sections G. Personnel, H. Negotiations, I. Instruction.

It was moved by Ms. Sullivan, seconded by Ms. Nassiff that the school committee approve, Policy Manual sections G. Personnel, H. Negotiations, I. Instruction, with the exception of IJ-R, IKC and IKF, to go into effect on July 1, 2021, as recommended by the Policy Subcommittee. Motion passed 4-0.

- b. **For Consideration: Approval of Athletic Handbook.** The Medway Public School Athletic Handbook was reviewed by the School Committee on April 1, 2021. It now comes to the school committee for a vote.

It was moved by Ms. Sullivan, seconded by Ms. Nassiff that the school committee approve the Athletic Handbook, as amended to include unlimited participants in Wrestling and limiting Alpine Ski to 30 participants, as recommended by the Superintendent. Motion passed 4-0.

- c. **For Consideration: Approval of Facilities Rental Rates.** The Facility Rental rates were reviewed at the April 1, 2021 meeting and now comes to the school committee for approval.

It was moved by Ms. Sullivan, seconded by Ms. Nassiff that the school committee approve the Facility Rental Rates, as amended to include the district to rescind rentals as warranted, specify rates are per hour and completion of the application, to take effect on July 1, 2021, as recommended by the superintendent. Motion passed 4-0.

- d. **For Consideration:** Approval of the Equity Assessment Scoring Rubric. The committee conducted a workshop to discuss the scoring rubric, it now comes for a vote.

It was noted that the rubric is two parts, the minimum criteria had minor changes as the result of the school committee workshop, and the scorecard had major changes also discussed at the workshop.

It was moved by Ms. Sullivan, seconded by Ms. Nassiff that the school committee approve the Equity Assessment Scoring Rubric, as recommended by the Superintendent. Motion passed 4-0.

- e. **For Consideration: Approval of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Medway School Committee and the Medway Federation of Teachers, Local 3645, AFT MA, AFL-CIO, Unit A,** for a successor agreement for the period of August 21, 2021 through and including August 20, 2022, and authorize the Chair to sign.

Dr. Pires noted that the Unit A contract expires this year. Dr. Pires has met with the union to propose a one year extension. This is advantageous to both parties. Due to the pandemic, long range forecast is difficult. The two major updates include the financial/salary portion and it also gives the district time to clean up language that is no longer relevant.

It was moved by Ms. Sullivan, seconded by Dr. Fageron that the school committee, approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the Medway School Committee and the Medway Federation of Teachers, Local 3645, AFT MA, AFL-CIO, Unit A, for a successor agreement for the period of August 21, 2021 through and including August 20, 2022, and authorize the Chair to sign, as recommended by the Superintendent. Motion passed 3-0-1, with Ms. Nassiff abstaining.

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

E. DISCUSSION ITEMS AND REPORTS

- a. First Reading: Responsible Use Policy
The Responsible Use Policy is reviewed annually by the school committee. It was noted that there were no changes to this policy.
- b. First Reading: Policy Manual sections J-L
Ms. Dietrich asked the committee to review these policy sections to be voted on at the next meeting. Ms. Sullivan noted a few holds that the Policy Subcommittee will be reviewing prior to the next meeting.
- c. Travel Policy Update
Dr. Pires noted that this policy was amended to align with the governor's travel advisory.
Ms. Dietrich called for a motion.
It was moved by Ms. Sullivan, seconded by Ms. Nassiff that the school committee approve changes to the COVID Travel policy as recommended by the Superintendent. Motion passed 4-0.
- d. School Reopening Update
Dr. Pires stated that he is excited to have all students in grades 6-12 back in person, although he knew the change would result in additional close contacts. There were three positive cases at the high school resulting in more than 40 close contacts. Dr. Pires noted that DPH should change the guidance on close contacts. Dr. Pires explained that the staff and student testing program is important to the district and that if staff or students are not feeling well they should stay home. Dr. Pires reported that an option when students are considered close contacts is to use the BinaxNow for rapid testing.
- e. Other- *This time is being reserved for topics that the chair did not reasonably anticipate would be discussed.*

F. ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE

- Liaison Reports - None
- Chairperson Update
Ms. Dietrich asked the committee if there was any opposition to changing the June 17 meeting to June 24. This change will also allow for the committee to invite this year's retirees. All committee members agreed to the change. Efforts will be made to update all locations where the schedule is listed.
- Superintendent Update
Dr. Pires' update included the current administrative openings which include Assistant Principals at the High School, Middle School and the Burke-Memorial Elementary School. Dr. Pires explained that the High School Assistant Principal was a vacant position, the current Middle School Assistant Principal has resigned as of the end of the year and the Burke-Memorial Assistant Principal will not be returning. Dr. Pires noted that with the return of grades 6-12 the district held an "opening day" and provided all faculty and

staff with tee shirts to celebrate “Opening Day”. Dr. Pires highlighted other staff changes including the Program Coordinator that was cut at the end of 2020 and not filled this current year, the district is in the process of filling the position with the hopes of having that position start at the end of May.

- Assistant Superintendent Update

Ms. Abrams thanked Dr. Sherman for his work with the recent THRIVE Event highlighting the effects on students' use of screens during the pandemic. This year's permanent Art Gallery will be a recording of all the artists and their work. Ms. Abrams has partnered with a High Student to interview and record the artist and will share when complete.

- Committee Members' Update

Ms. Nassiff thanked the organizers for the Middle School Trivia Night to benefit the production of Into the Woods.

G. INFORMATION ITEMS AND COMMUNICATIONS

H. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Standard Based Report Card -Allied Arts Elementary School
- School Committee Leadership Discussion
- Appoint School Committee Secretary
- Appoint Central Office Staff Member to Receive Copies of All School Committee Emails
- Handbook Policies
- Handbooks
- District Improvement Plan
- Elementary School Improvement Plan
- Middle School Improvement Plan
- High School Improvement Plan
- Student Activity Audit
- Discussion of Lunch Prices for 2021-2022

I. NEXT MEETINGS

- 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

J. 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 the Superintendent.

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 the Superintendent, with the understanding that the School Committee will not return to public session. A roll call vote was taken and voting in the affirmative was Dr. Fagerson, Ms. Nassiff, Ms. Sullivan and the Chair, Ms. Dietrich. Motion passed 4-0.

The meeting adjourned at 7:28 p.m., to Executive Session.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Quinn

Ellen Quinn
Secretary to the School Committee

Approved: May 6, 2021