

Medway School Committee
Minutes
Medway, MA
Thursday, May 20, 2021, 6:00 p.m.

The School Committee of the Medway Public Schools held a meeting on Thursday, May 20, 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, Dr. Fagerson and Ms. Greenfield. 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. Dr. Pires called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

B. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REORGANIZATION

Dr. Pires called for nominations for School Committee Chair. Ms. Sullivan nominated Ms. Dietrich, this nomination was seconded by Ms. Nassiff. Seeing no other nominations, Dr. Pires closed the nominations and asked for a motion.

It was moved by Ms. Sullivan, seconded by Ms. Nassiff that Ms. Dietrich was voted as School Committee Chair for the 2021-2022 School Year. Motion passed 5-0.

Ms. Dietrich called for nominations for School Committee Vice-Chair. Ms. Nassiff nominated Ms. Sullivan as Vice-Chair, this nomination was seconded by Dr. Fagerson. Seeing no other nominations, Ms. Dietrich closed the nominations and asked for a motion.

It was moved by Ms. Nassiff, seconded by Dr. Fagerson, that Ms. Sullivan was voted as School Committee Vice-Chair for the 2021-2022 School Year. Motion passed 5-0.

C. 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 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 contract negotiations with nonunion personnel, specifically the Superintendent, with the understanding that the School Committee will return to public session. A roll call vote was taken and voting in favor was Ms. Greenfield, Dr. Fagerson, Ms. Nassiff, Ms. Sullivan and the chair, Ms. Dietrich. Motion passed 5-0. At approximately 6:06 p.m. the committee adjourned to Executive Session.

The committee returned to open session at 6:13 p.m.

D. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Warrant
- b. Donations/Grants:
 - i. Norfolk District Attorney Chronic Absenteeism \$5,000
 - ii. CHNA-6 Elementary SEL Materials \$10,250
 - iii. Ohiopyle Prints- Spirit Wear Proceeds \$21.85
 - iv. MEPTO Shed Donation at McGovern \$1,200
- c. Minutes
 - i. May 6, 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. Motion passed 5-0.

E. PUBLIC COMMENT

F. PRESENTATIONS

ThoughtExchange Presentation Armand Pires, Superintendent and Gabby Abrams, Assistant Superintendent. Dr. Pires explained the background of the platform, ThoughtExchange. This platform will help us to conduct surveys and analyze the data in a way that is easy to understand and useful for the district. The first exchange will be what did we learn from the pandemic, what are the silver linings. Ms. Abrams gave an overview of ThoughtExchange and what the district hopes to discover. Ms. Abrams conducted an exchange with the School Committee. Dr. Pires explained the many uses of ThoughtExchange can offer the district and the variety of surveys that can be conducted. All surveys are one question each. The committee discussed security around this type of platform. Ms. Abrams shared the outcome of the exchange conducted with the School Committee. The Committee thanked Ms. Abrams and is looking forward to the first exchange.

G. ACTION ITEMS

- a. **For Consideration: To authorize the transfer funds** from the School Choice revolving fund to execute a contract with ThoughtExchange for a one year subscription in the amount of \$20,400.

It was moved by Ms. Sullivan, seconded by Ms. Nassiff, that the School Committee approve the transfer of funds from the School Choice revolving fund to execute a contract with ThoughtExchange for a one year subscription in the amount of \$20,400, as recommended by the Superintendent. Motion passed 5-0.

- b. **For Consideration: Annual Appointment of School Committee Secretary-** The Superintendent recommends that Ellen Quinn, be appointed to serve as the school committee secretary for the 2021-2022 school year.

It was moved by Ms. Sullivan, seconded by Ms. Nassiff, that the School Committee appoint Ellen Quinn as Medway School Committee secretary for the 2021-2022 school year, as recommended by the Superintendent. Motion passed 5-0.

- c. **For Consideration: Annual Appointment of Central Office Staff Member for Receipt of All School Committee Electronic Correspondence** - The School Committee Operating Procedures, **Use of Electronic Messaging** section, paragraph 3, third sentence reads: *“Therefore, in order to ensure compliance, the school committee chairperson, in consultation with the superintendent of schools, shall annually designate a member of the central office staff who shall be copied on all electronic correspondence between and among members of the school committee.”* A staff member needs to be designated.

It was moved by Ms. Sullivan, seconded by Ms. Nassiff that the School Committee appoint Ellen Quinn, Secretary to the Medway School Committee, as the designated central office staff member for receipt of all school committee electronic correspondence for the 2021-2022 school year, as recommended by the Superintendent. Motion passed 5-0.

- d. **For Consideration: Approval of the Memorandum of Agreement between the Medway School Committee and the Medway Federation of Teachers, Local 3645, AFT MA, AFL-CIO, Paraprofessionals Unit**, for a successor agreement for the period of July 1, 2021 through and including June 30, 2022, and authorize the Chair to sign.

It was moved by Ms. Sullivan, seconded by Ms. Nassiff that the School Committee, approve the Memorandum of Agreement between the Medway School Committee and the Medway Federation of Teachers, Local 3645, AFT MA, AFL-CIO, Paraprofessionals Unit, for a successor agreement for the period of July 1, 2021 through and including June 30, 2022, and to authorize the Chair to sign, as recommended by the Superintendent. Motion passed 5-0.

- e. **For Consideration: Approval of the Memorandum of Agreement between the Medway School Committee and the Medway Federation of Teachers, Secretaries Unit**, for a successor agreement for the period of July 1, 2021 through and including June 30, 2022, and authorize the Chair to sign.

It was moved by Ms. Sullivan, seconded by Ms. Nassiff that the School Committee, approve the Memorandum of Agreement between the Medway School Committee and the Medway Federation of Teachers, Secretaries Unit, for a successor agreement for the period of July 1, 2021 through and including June 30, 2022, and to authorize the Chair to sign, as recommended by the Superintendent. Motion passed 5-0.

- f. **For Consideration: Approval of the Curriculum Instructional Leader/Department Head Job Description.** The Curriculum Instructional Leader/Department Head Job Description was reviewed by the committee at a previous meeting and now comes for approval.

It was moved by Ms. Sullivan, seconded by Ms. Nassiff, that the School Committee approve the Curriculum Instructional Leader/Department Head Job Description, as recommended by the Superintendent. Motion passed 5-0.

- g. **For Consideration: Approval of Policies JIC, Student Discipline Policy and IJ-R, Reconsideration of Instructional Resources Policy.**

It was moved by Ms. Sullivan, seconded by Ms. Nassiff that the School Committee approve Policies JIC, Student Discipline Policy and IJ-R, Reconsideration of Instructional Resources Policy, as recommended by the Policy Subcommittee. Motion passed 5-0.

- h. **For Consideration: Approval of the Superintendent's revised contract** for the period of FY22 to FY27. The contract was discussed in Executive Session and now comes before the committee for approval.

It was moved by Ms. Sullivan, seconded by Ms. Nassiff that the School Committee approve the superintendent's revised contract for the period of FY22 to FY27, as recommended by the chair. Motion passed 5-0.

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

H. DISCUSSION ITEMS AND REPORTS

- a. First Reading: Student Handbooks
Ms. Dietrich asked committee members to review the handbooks and the cover sheets outlining the substantive changes.
- b. The Education Cooperative (TEC) FY22 Budget and ACCEPT Collaborative FY22 Budget.
Dr. Pires explained that as he is on the board for both collaboratives and while TEC requires school committee review of the budget before they vote, ACCEPT does not follow that same rule. Dr. Pires explained some of the benefits of the collaboratives noting that partnerships assist students with exceptional needs and member districts get a break on tuition when attending the collaborative.
- c. School Committee Liaisons
Ms Dietrich asked the committee members to review the list of liaisons and to prioritize their selections 1-7 and add to the chart. Ms. Dietrich noted that there are a few new liaisons listed including the Tri County Reg. Vocational High School. This position will not replace the current Tri County representative but will be helpful for a School Committee member to watch meetings and review the minutes for information pertaining to Medway students.
- d. COVID-19 Updates
Dr. Pires noted that earlier this week, Gov. Baker announced changes to mask wearing for students when outside, sharing materials and changes to gatherings. Dr. Pires stated that the district is awaiting guidance from DESE regarding additional COVID restrictions. He feels it makes sense to finish the school year with the current COVID related policies in place. At the next meeting he will bring forward policies for the committee to review and rescind. Dr. Pires updated the committee on the ongoing COVID testing for staff and students, noting that this past week all samples were negative. The last week of testing will be the week of June 7.
- e. Other: *This time is being reserved for topics that the chair did not reasonably anticipate would be discussed.*

I. ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE

- Liaison Reports
None
- Chairperson Update
Ms. Dietrich's update included the recent Master Plan Community Forum that was held on Monday. Ms. Dietrich provided an update on the Rearing Mustang Statue including a brief history of the process the school committee followed including the revote on the plaque to focus on Medway Pride and not one particular name or person based on how the fundraising campaign was conducted, and suggested that the person be honored on the Memorial Plaque. The statue found a new home in front of the Fire Station. Dr. Fagerson asked if there was any change to get the statue back at the high school, and perhaps with the plaque in small print. Ms. Dietrich noted that the committee voted to not have the name on the plaque.
- Superintendent Update

Dr. Pires' update included recent administration searches for three Assistant Principals. He noted that the finalists are all strong candidates. They are working on finalizing a candidate for the current opening for the Evaluation Team Supervisor and are working on recruiting teachers. Dr. Pires gave an update on the current negotiations which includes the Food Service Workers and the Custodians. Dr. Pires reported that the district has received only 2.5 proposals for the recent RFP for Equity Assessment and will share with the committee at the upcoming workshop. Dr. Fagerson stated that perhaps we are more specific in what we are requesting.

- Assistant Superintendent Update
Ms. Abrams noted that 30 students will be participating in the second year of the Seal of Biliteracy Assessment. The district Literacy Leadership Team supporting the K-5 Literacy Audit met to review findings and recommendations from the Hill for Literacy and engaged in training and development for the Literacy action plan.
- Committee Members' Update

J. INFORMATION ITEMS AND COMMUNICATIONS

K. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- District Improvement Plan
- Elementary School Improvement Plan
- Memorial Plaque Nominations
- Liaison Appointments
- Equity RFP Discussion and Award
- Pandemic Related Expenses
- Superintendent Evaluation
- Middle School Improvement Plan
- High School Improvement Plan
- Transportation Contract
- Cleaning Services Contract
- Recognition of Retirees
- Student Activity Audit
- Approval of MFE Grants Proposals
- Overnight Trip- Boys Hockey Annual Tournament -Auburn, Maine

L. NEXT MEETINGS

- Regular Meeting, **June 3, 2021, 6:00 p.m.**, in the presentation room, Medway Middle School, 45 Holliston Street, Medway
- Workshop, **June 10, 2021, 5:30 p.m.**, in the presentation room, Medway Middle School, 45 Holliston Street, Medway
- **Regular Meeting, June 10, 2021, 7:00 p.m.**, in the presentation room, Medway Middle School, 45 Holliston Street, Medway
- Regular Meeting, **June 24, 2021, 6:00 p.m.**, in the presentation room, Medway Middle School, 45 Holliston Street, Medway

M. ADJOURN

At approximately 8:37 p.m., it was moved by Ms. Sullivan, seconded by Ms. Nassiff to adjourn the meeting. **Motion passed 5-0.**

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Quinn

Ellen Quinn
Secretary to the School Committee

Approved: June 3, 2021