

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

JANUARY 4, 2023

VIRTUAL MEETING

A virtual meeting of the School Committee was held at 5:30 P.M. on Thursday, January 4, 2024 with the following members present: Melanie Fiore, Chair, Betty Pryor, Vice Chair, Nicole Nial, Jaime Wallace and Megan Samborski. Also present was David Ljungberg, Superintendent.

Chair M. Fiore called the meeting of the School Committee to order at 5:30 P.M.

A. HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM OF STUDIES 2024-2025

The Committee discussed the Program of Studies for 2024-2025 and unanimously agreed that they would like to bring back Community Service as a graduation requirement.

Principal Lombardi had concerns with the timing but thought that it could be implemented next year, at least at a base level, and then tweak it for the following year.

Superintendent Ljungberg said that he has had ongoing conversations with the High School team and community service has always been a goal and there has always been a want and interest to do this. The concern is timing and resources to get it off the ground. Some communities have it as a graduation requirement, is this something we want to have in place? Suggested putting a plan in place and maybe phase it in over time. Recommended approving the Program of Studies for 2024-2025 and will come back to the Committee with an outline of what the community service will look like.

ACTION: A motion was made by J. Wallace and seconded by M. Samborski to approve the Program of Studies as written with the stipulation that a community service plan will be presented to the Committee by April 1, 2024. The motion was approved unanimously by roll call.

B. FEASIBILITY STUDY – DISTRICT OFFICES

M. Samborski disclosed that she is an employee of the Boys and Girls Club.

Superintendent Ljungberg updated the Committee on the space for District Offices. Currently, there is no other option but to lease space, which would cost about \$200,000 a year. This is over two million dollars in ten years so we need to look for a more permanent solution. We have been in discussions with Adam Rodgers of the Boys and Girls Club. They are currently fundraising money for design and development of the property that they own on Dale Court. Their plan is to build 20,000 square feet of space that would include four preschool spaces and their hope is to break ground in the summer of 2025 with a move in date in September of 2026. There is a possibility of adding an additional space for district offices – something that we could buy into or rent or rent to own. We could do a feasibility study to be part of their design phase for an additional 5500 square feet. The cost of this is about \$29,200 and would take about five months to complete.

Superintendent Ljungberg asked for authorization to join into the feasibility study. The funding source would come from the \$500,000 that we received from the state and was earmarked to help us in construction, design or purchase of new district offices. Representative Day confirmed that this would qualify.

The Committee agreed that this is a great opportunity and partnership and that the location is centrally located and would be ideal.

ACTION: A motion was made by N. Nial and seconded by J. Wallace to approve moving forward with a feasibility study. The motion was approved by roll call 4-0-1 with M. Samboski abstaining.

C. EXECUTIVE SESSION

ACTION: A motion was made by J. Wallace and seconded by M. Samborski to enter into Executive Session per MGL Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)(2): To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining and the chair so declares that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body. The motion was approved unanimously by roll call at 5:56 P.M., not to return to public session.

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED
DAVID LJUNGBERG, SUPERINTENDENT**