

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

SEPTEMBER 21, 2023

A meeting of the School Committee was held at 6:30 P.M. on Thursday, September 21, 2023 at the Central Middle School Media Center with the following members present: Melanie Fiore, Chair, Betty Pryor, Vice Chair, Jaime Wallace, Nicole Nial and Megan Samborski. Also present was David Ljungberg, Superintendent and Kathy Martin, Assistant Superintendent.

Chair M. Fiore called the meeting of the School Committee to order at 6:30 P.M. and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

A. Approval of Items by Consensus

Chair M. Fiore withdrew the minutes of August 17, 2023 from consensus.

ACTION: A motion was made by B. Pryor and seconded by M. Samborski to approve the minutes of September 7, 2023 and September 15, 2023; and Warrant #2410 in the amount of \$299,743.35. The motion was approved 5-0.

B. Consideration for Items Withdrawn from Consensus

Chair Fiore corrected the minutes to reflect that Superintendent Ljungberg presented the Special Education update, not the Directors of Special Education.

ACTION: A motion was made by J. Wallace and seconded by B. Pryor to approve the minutes of August 17, 2023 as revised. The motion was approved 5-0.

C. Public Comment

None

D. Student Representatives

Maddie DiLeo introduced Danny Mirick as the junior Student Representative. The Committee welcomed Danny and welcomed back Maddie.

Maddie reported that guidance counselors were available in Flex block to review the college application process – early applications are due November 1st. The seniors are looking forward to senior privilege; many clubs and sports teams are preparing for Town Day; activities and clubs set up tables in the cafeteria during Flex to give students an opportunity to see what is available and to join activities that interest them.

Danny reported on fall sports and the Drama Club beginning rehearsals for their November 8 production of *The Revolting Teens of Sherwood*; the high temperatures brought two unexpected half days for the High School last week.

E. October Town Meeting – Warrant Articles

This item was tabled to the October 12th meeting as the warrant articles have not yet been published.

F. JLMC MOU - Ratification

This item was tabled to the October 12th meeting.

G. District Offices

N. Nial reported that the School Committee has nominated her to represent them on the Arnold House Advisory Committee, a subcommittee of the Select Board. The main purpose of the advisory committee will be to determine the best use of the Arnold House if the purchase is approved at Town Meeting.

The RFP for 105 Central Street has been extended until October 24 – the day after Town Meeting. This location was the top selection and the most affordable at just over \$200,000 a year.

H. Governor’s Declaration of State of Emergency, Migrant Families

Superintendent Ljungberg reported on the Governor’s declaration of State of Emergency and the humanitarian crisis. At present, 6400 families statewide are being placed with assistance from the state. The state is also providing \$1,000 to each student for personal emergency necessities as well as the cost of hiring additional staff and teachers; however, the issue is getting the staff and structures in place. Woburn has received 150 families, including 70 students, since August. The state may be looking at the most effected towns and potentially asking surrounding towns to take on some of the burden.

I. Title Grant Updates

Superintendent Ljungberg explained that eligibility for these grants is based on schools being categorized at or below the federal government’s definition of low income. This year, South School, Central Middle School and the High School qualified. Robin Hood, who has qualified the past ten years, did not qualify so the interventionists will need to be funded through the budget or through another grant.

The Title Grants are a group of ESSA federal grants known as entitlements and based on tax returns, which can change year to year.

- Title I: used for interventions and support of student learning
- Title II: used for school improvement and can be used for professional development and hiring of coaches (i.e. UDL)
- Title III: used for ELL allocation – this year it was \$18,000 and we partnered with SEEM Collaboration
- Title IV: used for school safety, physical safety and social emotional learning – this is a small \$10,000 grant.

Assistant Superintendent K. Martin explained that the IDEA Grant is used to fund out of district tuitions and has been about \$740,000 in the past.

J. Committee Liaison/Subcommittee Reports

J. Wallace reported that SEPAC held their first meeting this week. The next meeting is scheduled for October 16th.

B. Pryor reminded members to submit their superintendent evaluations to Nicole Nial before the deadline next Friday. The evaluation will be presented at the October meeting.

N. Nial reported on the South School playground and traffic flow. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 26 and will be virtual.

M. Fiore reported that the Policy Subcommittee met last week and the three-year project is on track. The next meeting is scheduled for October 16th.

K. School Building Committee

N. Nial reported that the first branding meeting was held last Friday, September 15, in the High School library. The emphasis was on feelings when walking into the building, culture, wow factor, color schemes and graphics. The next meeting is scheduled for October 13th.

N. Nial also reported that Consigli is still 12 days behind schedule but is still hoping to make this up. They want to button up the building before winter hits. The Building Committee will have a table at Town Day and will be attending all back to school nights. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 16th.

Assistant Superintendent K. Martin added that the FFE process continues and they are finalizing items. October 31 is the deadline to have everything inventoried.

L. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Ljungberg reported on the following:

- Colonial Park modular classrooms update – An RFP went out asking for interested parties to complete the set-up, five parties attended the mandatory walk through of the site. We are now waiting for proposals to be submitted and then deciding who we will go with. Still cautiously optimistic for November.
- MCAS results were lifted at noon today. Will be reviewing the data and anticipated presenting the results at the next meeting. The High School was listed as a school of distinction. Anticipate mailing results to families the first week in October.
- The State Board of Education has approved and adopted the new health and physical education guidelines. We will be looking at the frameworks and adopt into the curriculum with the goal being to implement in the fall.
- Proof of residency update: Making progress, reminders have been sent out – it is taking time but a good process is in place.
- Enrollment update: Grade 3 enrollment at Robin Hood is closed due to class sizes being 26, 25 and 25. New registrations should come through the Assistant Superintendent's office.
- Report on current vacancies.
- There is a safety concern at the Central Middle School regarding the speed coming through the driveway, we are looking at putting in temporary speed bumps and an A-frame gate to avoid collisions with people not following the one-way signs.
- There is also a trash issue in the back lot at Central Middle School – a group of folks are hanging out at the end of the driveway and a lot of trash is being left behind. We are looking at cameras and more "no loitering" signage.
- Still working on the FAQ document regarding district offices.

Assistant Superintendent K. Martin reported on the following:

- School are participating in the Sandy Hook Challenge – an opportunity for students to have a sense of belonging among youth and increase inclusivity.
- Back to School Safety Night – save the date – November 15th.

M. Discussion/Correspondence/New Items

- M. Samborski: Town Day this Saturday from 11:00 to 4:00 P.M.; Recovery Fest will be held on Saturday, September 30 on the Town Common for substance abuse disorder.
- B. Pryor: The Stoneham CDC will have their annual dunk tank at Town Day and still have openings for volunteers.
- J. Wallace: At back-to-school night at the High School it was reported that one of the classrooms was missing a flag during the pledge. Can we check all classrooms?

N. EXECUTIVE SESSION

ACTION: A motion was made by J. Wallace and seconded by N. Nial to enter into Executive Session per MGL Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)(2) and (3): To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining with STA Bargaining Unit, to discuss pending litigation and to discuss strategy in preparation for negotiation with non-union personnel – 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 7:35 P.M.

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED
DAVID LJUNGBERG, SUPERINTENDENT**