

## SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

AUGUST 17, 2023

A meeting of the School Committee was held at 6:30 P.M. on Thursday, August 17, 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, Kathy Martin, Assistant Superintendent, and Leia Secor, Director of Finance.

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

**ACTION:** A motion was made by B. Pryor and seconded by M. Samborski to approve the minutes of July 20, 2023 and August 1, 2023, Warrant #2406 in the amount of \$260,784.79, Warrant #2404 in the amount of \$124,103.97, and Warrant #2403 in the amount of \$29,813.00. The motion was approved 5-0.

### B. Consideration for Items Withdrawn from Consensus

None

### C. Public Comment

None

### D. Budget Update

Leia Secor reported that the FY23 Budget closed out with a zero balance.

Superintendent Ljungberg reported:

- Capital Committee had \$780,000 total funds available and moved forward \$370,000 for the chillers.
- In line for grant to replace roof at Robin Hood. The grant process was started a month ago with assistance from Solect Energy.
- Purchase cost for modular classrooms would be \$540,622 – not including \$100,000 for set up. Will go with lease option and reallocate \$100,000 that was set aside for district offices.

### E. Human Resource Update – Ana Veras

Ana Veras reported on resignations, new hires and current vacancies.

Superintendent Ljungberg announced Danielle Tucker as the new Preschool Director. Her official start date is September 11<sup>th</sup>.

### F. Facilities Update – Brian McNeil

B. McNeil presented an update on the Facilities Department:

- Summer completed projects: restored the roof at Central Middle School, refinished gym floors at Central Middle School and the three elementary schools, cleaning and repairs.
- Major High School Roof Leak: repaired last week.
- High School Parking and Traffic Plan: main entrance opened back up today.
- Modular Classrooms: anticipate ready early October.
- Building Engineer for High School: will be advertising with a start date of January 2024.

A discussion followed regarding summer programs and getting the schools ready for the opening of school. The Committee also discussed the modular classrooms and the potential for redistricting the elementary lines within the next year or two.

Superintendent Ljungberg reported on the vandalism that took place two nights ago at the High School Project site.

#### **G. Special Education**

Superintendent Ljungberg recommended increasing the Special Education staff by adding an additional Coordinator to manage the 39+ out of district placements and assist with caseloads at the Central Middle School as well as a clerical position to support all of the Special Education Coordinators. These positions would be supported with Circuit Breaker funds.

**ACTION:** A motion was made by J. Wallace and seconded by M. Samborski to support the request to hire an additional coordinator and clerk. The motion was approved 5-0.

Superintendent Ljungberg also gave an update on the SHINE program and the partnering with WestEd that will conduct an in-depth study of special education PreK through SHINE.

#### **H. Affirmation of Policy 9-61.1 Athletic Concussion Policy**

Superintendent Ljungberg requested review and affirmation of Policy 9-61.1 Athletic Concussion Policy as required every two years by the Massachusetts Department of Health.

**ACTION:** A motion was made by J. Wallace and seconded by B. Pryor to affirm the policy and procedures governing the prevention, recognition and management of sports-related head injuries. The motion was approved 5-0.

#### **I. Enrollment**

Superintendent Ljungberg reported that enrollment numbers are increasing at all schools and he is looking to work with a professional demographer to complete population estimate forecasts and GEO code all students as of October 7 to produce live analysis maps to aid with redistricting. The cost would be between 12,000 and \$15,000 and he would propose using ESSER funds. The timeframe for completion of this study would be about eight weeks and would be available before budget season.

Superintendent Ljungberg stated that he will bring a full proposal to the September 7<sup>th</sup> meeting for the use of remaining ESSER funds.

#### **J. Updated School Committee Calendar Dates**

An updated school calendar was included in the packet that updated School Committee meeting dates as discussed at previous meetings.

**K. Annual October Special Town Meeting**

The annual October Special Town Meeting will take place October 23, 2023.

N. Nial excused herself from the meeting at 7:45 P.M.

**L. Committee Liaison/Subcommittee Reports**

B. Pryor reported that the Superintendent Evaluation template has been distributed to members. Please return to Nicole Nial by the end of September.

J. Wallace reported that the JLMC Committee has come to a tentative agreement on stipend amounts.

M. Fiore reported that the Policy Committee is scheduled to meet on August 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**M. School Building Committee**

Superintendent Ljungberg reported that the project completion timeline is about two weeks behind due to weather and wet conditions. Tours of the project are open – please sign up with Brian McNeil. The next Building Committee meeting is scheduled for August 21, 2023.

N. Nial returned to the meeting at 7:50 P.M.

**N. Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent Ljungberg reported on the following:

- Administrators' Retreat
- Letter of Select Board
- K-8 assessments in reading and math
- Grant Applications
- School Meals
- Safety Trainings/Updates
- New Teacher Orientation
- Opening Date for Staff
- Opening Date for Students
- Opening Date for Preschool
- Stoneham Rotary Books
- Fees Update – Reminder
- Transition Grades Reminder on Residency Checks
- Free/Reduced Lunch Application and Chapter 70 Letter
- Chromebook Insurance Reminder
- Capital Request: Robin Hood Chiller
- Governor Healey's Budget: Grant for Robin Hood Roof with Solect

**O. Discussion/Correspondence/New Items**

M. Samborski reported on the MAAD kickball tournament and the free lunch summer program that has been extended through August 25<sup>th</sup>.

**P. 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 8:01 P.M

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED  
DAVID LJUNGBERG, SUPERINTENDENT**