

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

OCTOBER 12, 2023

A meeting of the School Committee was held at 6:30 P.M. on Thursday, October 12, 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.

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 J. Wallace and seconded by M. Samborski to approve the minutes of September 21, 2023 and Warrant #2414 in the amount of \$319,716.24. The motion was approved 5-0.

B. Consideration for Items Withdrawn from Consensus

None

C. Public Comment

None

D. Student Representatives

Maddy DiLeo reported on the Interact Club, Language Club and that the Student Council met last week to plan and discuss upcoming events.

Danny Mirick reported on fall sports, the trip to Italy in the spring, Halloween class themes, and that the High School band will have its first performance at the football game on Saturday.

E. Senior Privilege Presentation

Officers of the Student Government Class of 2024 represented the Senior Class and requested approval for Senior Privilege to leave the building at the beginning of Flex. The students showed a Power Point presentation that covered the following topics: Construction, after school traffic, athletics, work schedules and the benefits of granting this privilege.

The Committee discussed their concerns that included safety of the students and knowing who is in the building at all times. The Committee felt that following MIAA standards for participation at no more than one "F" was too low and settled on D or better in all subjects in order to participate.

ACTION: A motion was made by J. Wallace and seconded by M. Samborski to support the senior privilege with the stipulation that students must have a D grade or better in all classes in order to participate and that grades be checked on a quarterly basis. It was also noted that accommodations can be made in certain situations. The motion was approved 5-0.

Mr. Lombardi asked if this was something that has to be approved every year or could it be part of the schedule. Chair Fiore replied that in order to do that, the School Committee would need to put a policy in place and suggested that Mr. Lombardi report back with an update half way through the year and at that time the Committee can decide whether to move forward and make it a policy.

A. High School Early Release

Superintendent Ljungberg requested approval for a change in the calendar to add an additional ½ day on October 20th for the High School only. Staff are only allowed to bring curriculum materials when they transition into the new school and this time would be used to purge as much as possible. The deadline for purging is October 31, at which time we will need to go out for bid and will be charged by weight to clean the building out.

The Committee discussed whether this would be a burden on families and if it was fair to elementary teachers who often have to move their classrooms. Superintendent Ljungberg said that this is large scale and strongly felt it was necessary and essential since we will have to pay to move everything that is left in the building.

The Committee also wanted to make sure that all staff stayed and if they did not have a classroom or materials to purge, that they would be assigned to a department or classroom. Superintendent Ljungberg replied that it would be a professional obligation and a full work day and that everyone would stay.

ACTION: A motion was made by N. Nial to approve the half day for students with the assurance that the time would run the best way it can and that everyone would chip in. The motion was approved 4-1-0 with J. Wallace opposed.

B. Financial Report

Leia Secor reported that the Munis system will be upgraded next week and the upgrade will encumber payroll and utilities.

Superintendent Ljungberg reported that they analyze the budget on a weekly basis and have made the decision to freeze the budget effective October 16th. There are many facility expenses that need to be accounted for.

Leia Secor presented a spreadsheet that showed all High School student activity accounts that have not had any activity within the past three years and requested that these accounts, totaling \$16,733.38 be transferred to an active account.

ACTION: A motion was made by J. Wallace and seconded by B. Pryor to approve the transfer of \$16,733.38 to an active student activity account. The motion was approved 5-0.

C. YRBS (Youth Risk Behavior Survey) Report – Anthony Chui, Director of Health & Human Services at Melrose, Wakefield and Stoneham

This item was tabled to the November 2, 2023 meeting.

D. Student Supports

This item was tabled to the November 2, 2023 meeting.

E. Residency Update

Superintendent Ljungberg gave an update on the implementation of residency checks for Grade 5 and Grade 9 students. To date, 18 families from Grade 5 and 35 families from Grade 9 have not completed the residency checks. Certified letters will be sent to all families who have not responded; followed by a non-residency letter if they do not respond.

F. District Offices - Update

Superintendent Ljungberg gave an update on the search for district offices. Members on the Arnold House Advisory Committee would like for the property to be mixed use and something positive for the community. We are waiting for the architect to report whether the second floor is suitable for offices and how we could fit into that space. We are continuing to vet ideas but need to decide soon.

G. Colonial Park Modular Classrooms – Update

Superintendent Ljungberg reported that, although six vendors came out to look at the site for the modular classrooms, only one RFP was received. It will be unsealed tomorrow.

H. October Town Meeting – Warrant Articles

The Committee reviewed the following Town Meeting warrant articles:

Article 6: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, or borrow a sum of money for capital projects, or do anything in relation thereto.

ACTION: A motion was made by J. Wallace and seconded by B. Pryor to support Article 6 that included replacement of the chiller at Robin Hood School. The motion was approved 5-0.

Article 3: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Superintendent of Schools, with approval of the School Committee, to lease for a term of years a portion of the premises known at Robin Hood Elementary School and located at 70 Oak Street, Stoneham, Massachusetts, including but not limited to a portion of the roof area, in compliance with Mass. Gen. L. c. 30B, for a roof-mounted solar photovoltaic facility, and to execute such other and further documents as may be necessary to effectuate the terms hereof, or do anything in relation thereto.

ACTION: A motion was made by B. Pryor and seconded by J. Wallace to support Article 3. The motion was approved 5-0.

I. Nomination of Delegate and Alternate to MASS/MASC Joint Conference

ACTION: A motion was made by J. Wallace and seconded by N. Nial to appoint B. Pryor as the delegate and M. Samborski as the alternate to the MASC annual meeting to be held on November 8, 2023 at the MASS/MASC Joint Conference. The motion was approved 5-0.

J. Superintendent Evaluation

This item was tabled to the November 2, 2023 meeting.

K. Committee Liaison/Subcommittee Reports

N. Nial reported on the status of the South School playground area. Principal Jones' priority is the play area; they are hoping for more ideas from Stantec.

M. Fiore reported on the Stoneham Substance Abuse Coalition. The 2nd annual Recovery Fest was held on the Common on September 30th. M. Samborski added that on October 17th the Stoneham Board of Health will be holding a Public Hearing on a proposed Nicotine Free Generation policy governing the sale of tobacco products.

M. Samborski reported that October is National Domestic Violence Awareness month. *Step-Up: Men Against Violence*, a new men's working group, will hold its first meeting October 17th in Wakefield and Domestic Violence 101 training will take place on October 23rd at the Wakefield Memorial Library.

L. School Building Committee

The next meeting of the School Building Committee will take place on Monday, October 16th. The next Branding Committee meeting is scheduled for tomorrow and the Time Capsule Committee met today and will meet again October 26th.

M. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Ljungberg reported on the following:

- A meeting is scheduled for tomorrow with Gerrior Masonry to look at the chimneys at the old Central School. We need to figure out what our next steps will be.
- A Tri-Chair meeting was held last week to put together dates for the budget calendar.
- Attended a very informative safety training last week at Endicott College that covered SWAT calls, bomb threats and school shootings. Monthly safety meetings are being scheduled with myself, Kathy Martin, Chief O'Connor, Chief Grafton, SRO Colotti and Lt. Thistle.
- Voiced concern with events overseas and the probability that social media accounts may be hit with very graphic pictures.
- Will be away from the office October 21 through October 28 and will appoint Kathy Martin as acting superintendent.
- The High School received a recognition award from College Board for AP honor roll for the 22-23 school year.

N. Discussion/Correspondence/New Items

None

O. 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) 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 8:05 P.M.

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED
DAVID LJUNGBERG, SUPERINTENDENT**