



## SCHOOL COMMITTEE

### BUSINESS MEETING OPEN SESSION MINUTES September 18, 2018

<b>Meeting:</b>	School Committee
<b>Date:</b>	September 18, 2018
<b>Location:</b>	MERMHS Learning Commons
<b>Attendees:</b>	Pamela Beaudoin, Superintendent Shannon Erdmann, Chairperson Julie Riordan Ann Cameron Sarah Wolf Caroline Weld Ken Warnock
<b>Absent:</b>	Avi Urbas Rachael Fitzgibbon
<b>Guests:</b>	John Willis, Principal Memorial Elementary
<b>Recorded by:</b>	Gail Hunter

**A. Call to Order** – Ms. Erdmann called the meeting to order in the Central Office Conference Room at 5:19 p.m.

**B. Executive Session** – *The School Committee moved into Executive Session with Ms. Erdmann, Ms. Cameron, Ms. Wolf, Mr. Warnock and Ms. Riordan approving by voice vote.*

*At 5:55 the Committee adjourned from Executive Session with Ms. Erdmann, Ms. Cameron, Ms. Wolf, Mr. Warnock and Ms. Riordan approving by voice vote.*

### **C. Business Meeting Open Session**

1) **Public Comment** –

Ms. Emily Allen, Essex spoke to the late bus issue for several Essex's parents. She stated it was difficult to understand why the District cannot take care of both Towns. Parents in Essex were feeling let down about the late bus issue and the fact that their children will not be able to participate in after school activities. As a single parent it is impossible for her to get from Saugus in time to pick up her child. She understands the late bus is not for athletic programs and there is no late bus for Manchester, but it is difficult given the distance between Essex and Manchester.

Ms. Erdmann thanked Ms. Allen for speaking up and gave an overview of the budget cuts driven by the budget shortfall due to the catastrophic increase in the District's Health Care Plan.

Superintendent Beaudoin explained the bus plan developed by Principal Maino to help solve some of the challenges presented: all MS clubs will be held on Friday with the Friday late bus departing at 4:30 p.m. Additional late buses will depart on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday at 3:30 p.m. for after school academic help. Principal Maino believes this will address most of the needs for Essex parents. The buses will drop the children as close to their homes as possible including a stop at Essex Elementary School.

Ms. Allen stated she would like to see things go smoothly and will share the information with the parents she is in touch with.

Ms. Nicole Delrosario is concerned with the PTO Booster Program currently running in the Memorial Elementary School. Ms. Delrosario had email exchanges with Superintendent Beaudoin and Principal Willis as far back as summer expressing her concerns about the current fundraising effort of the PTO and its imposition on the school day.

Fundraising in the classrooms and lunchroom was unacceptable to her and she expressed this concern. In response to her expressed concerns Principal Willis did not allow the Boosters in the classrooms, their activities were limited to the lunchroom where they were encouraged to make sure students were eating their lunch.

Additionally, Ms. Delrosario was concerned about the impact on children being encouraged to engage in fundraising activities. Principal Willis indicated the PTO fundraising activities generated between \$15K to \$20K annually and proceeds went into school enrichment programs and teacher mini-grants.

Additional concerns expressed by Ms. Delrosario were the challenges developed for the program. She asked what purpose it served for the Principal to be taped to a flag pole in a guerilla suit? Superintendent Beaudoin indicated it was not unusual for this to be part of the Principal's role in the fundraising effort.

Ms. Delrosario's concerns were about the specific Booster-Thon Program selected by the PTO for its 2018-2019 fundraiser. Other area schools had successfully used the program and had excellent fundraising results. It is a first-time effort, stated Principal Willis and may not be an ideal fit for Memorial School.

2) **Chairman's Report** – There was no special Chairmen's Report.

**3) Consent Agenda**

- Acceptance of Warrants
- Minutes 9/4

*Ms. Cameron moved to approve the Consent Agenda, Ms. Wolf seconded the motion. The motion passed with Ms. Riordan abstaining from approving the Minutes of 9/4/18, she was not in attendance at the meeting.*

**4) Sub-Committee Reports**

- Elementary Facilities/MSBC (Ms. Weld and Ms. Cameron)

Ms. Weld reported the Parent Groups are doing a great job on getting the word out in the communities. Events planned include an Open House and Tour of Memorial School, Rotary with Guest Lunch at 7 Central, Essex Open House, Essex Senior Center Meeting, Parent Group Meetings, Saturday Dump Information Tables, Ms. Cameron's office hours at Essex Town Hall. Pre-School Harvest Carnival, Signs in Town and 2 formal Community Meetings in Essex and Manchester on September 26<sup>th</sup> 9:00 a.m. meeting in Manchester and 7:00 p.m. meeting in Essex and October 10<sup>th</sup> 9:00 a.m. meeting in Essex and 7:00 p.m. meeting in Manchester (these Community Meetings have been posted in the *Cricket*.) Additionally, the Ipswich Y is providing free Child Care in Essex the evening of Town Meeting.

- Finance Committee (Ms. Cameron and Ms. Erdmann)

Collaboration meetings are being scheduled and will begin in the upcoming weeks.

- Policy Committee (Mr. Warnock and Ms. Fitzgibbon)

Policy Committee is meeting next Tuesday.

- Negotiation Team (Ms. Wolf and Ms. Riordan)

Ms. Wolf indicated they were looking forward to starting negotiations. Superintendent Beaudoin informed the Committee there had been 2 Health Care Sub-Committee meetings in the past weeks.

**5) Superintendent's Report**

- FY 19 Goals

Superintendent Beaudoin stated her goals for the coming year were similar to the previous year with a focus on META negotiations. Under Student Learning there are 3 third party professional organizations reviewing programs: NEASC – Year 2, High School Special Education Program and Coordinated Program Review. Also, under Student Learning Superintendent Beaudoin

highlighted – Reestablish the District Health and Wellness Committee which had due to retirements not been active the past year and Phase 2 Student Roll-Out RULER. Under District Improvement her energies will be focused on Passing the Memorial building project, Launching Clear Government transparency tool to make the budget more accessible and Working collaboratively with Town Partners to build understanding about the cost of 21<sup>st</sup> Century Education.

*Ms. Weld moved to approve Superintendent Beaudoin's FY 19 goals, Ms. Cameron seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.*

Superintendent Beaudoin indicated the Japanese educators would be visiting tomorrow. Ms. Erdmann plans to attend the lunch with the educators.

6) **New Business** – There was no new business this evening.

7) **Continued Business**

- Memorial Elementary School Improvement Plan

Principal Willis presented the Memorial School SIP Progress Report – Whole Child

FY 18 Accomplishments:

- **Acceptance** (Core Value) Understanding Our Differences was expanded from grade 3 to grade 4, Anti-bullying – MARC train the trainer Laura Carlson and Staff trained – Bullying and Cyberbullying – what to look for and how to respond
- **Reaching All Learners** – Social-emotional Learning (SEL) – RILER – RULER staff trained and implemented
- **Grade 3 Flexible Seating** Grant and Pilot – Success Expanded to grade 4/5 thanks to MMES Class of 2018 Class Gift
- **Mathematics Differentiation** – Sympathy Math Expansion – Grade 1 Success, All Grade 1 and 2 students, Mathematics Enrichment <https://rokenbokeducation.org> – SEF/ Private Donation – Reaching All Learners PD – 2018 Focus ASD – Staff Workshops/Training led by Sail Staff
- **Science Curriculum** – Lower grade expansion investigated – Result Explore K-8 options (Stem Scopes) – Writing Curriculum – ELA Curriculum Task Force Formed – 12 MMES teachers – MCAS 2.0 Administration – Successful Administration and Strong Performance
- **RESPECT** (Core Value) – School-wide expectations behavior: manners and respect – Expectations Set – consistency is a work in progress.
- **PTO ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS** – High level of collaboration between staff and PTO – Curriculum alignment and connections – “Human Game Show”
- **ACCEPTANCE AND APPRECIATION** (Core Values) – Accepting out Differences – Expanded to Grade 4

- CLIMATE AND CULTURE – Grade-level musical performances – whole school audience
- SCHOOL BUILDING PROJECT
- SACRED HEART CHURCH – evacuation point
- MBTS PARKS AND REC – strong partnership for before and after-school programming – new summer extended day program
- Facilities – MSBA Project – Design – Holding Pattern – Footbridge Repair, Roof Repairs and Grounds Maintenance Improvements all good.

### **Overarching Goals FY 19**

- Investigate Science programs for K-8 alignment – Stem Scopes
- Investigate and evaluate writing program options – ELA Committee
- Anti-bullying Curriculum – MARC Pilot
- Flexible Seating expanded to grades 4 and 5
- School Spirit Enrichment and Character Education – PTO Fun Run and “Hero Art”
- Increased Staff Collaboration – 1:1 Meetings with Principal to share ideas – additional early release days
- Re-kindling of Japanese Sister School Relationship
- Staff and Parent Survey – generate list of areas of strength and improvement
- RULER – implementation
- Continue Trajectory of Progress and Bend like a Willow

### **Areas of Concern**

- Traffic Light Repair – part of crosswalk plan – this year all crosswalks are much more visible
- Building State of Repair
- Additional Reading Specialist and Math Specialist

The Committee thanked Principal Willis for his presentation and Ms. Cameron asked him to speak to his areas of concern and needs. Principal Willis indicated the Reading Staff ran a tight ship but there was no wiggle room. He mentioned that if a child moved in in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade who was reading at a 1<sup>st</sup> grade level would present a challenge for the team because they are currently booked solid. The child’s needs would be addressed we would make it work but it is difficult with the current resources.

Ms. Erdmann indicated she was aware of the need for a math specialist for the Memorial School for a while.

Ms. Weld inquired how RULER would be implemented in the elementary class and was concerned that we may be going back to behavior charts. Principal Willis indicated that the classes approached RULER as a lesson in self awareness and a process of learning the language that identify their feelings.

Ms. Erdmann asked about Symphony Math. It is an on-line too; that helps students develop number sense it is a supplement to everyday math and works well for some students.

The Committee discussed the current fundraising program with Principal Willis he reiterated his discomfort with the “guerilla suit” and the expectation of the program that he step out of his comfort zone but was participating with the fundraising effort.

- School Committee Goals for 2018-2019 – Final Approved
  - Target resources to support the social/emotional needs of students across the District.
  - Develop and deliver a fiscally responsible budget that maintains educational quality, supports District goals and recognizes the confines of Proposition 2 ½.
  - Support programming that enhances our organization’s cultural proficiency and promotes respect and appreciation for individual and cultural differences.
  - Engage the member towns in the need to pass the debt exclusion for the rebuilding of Manchester Memorial School and communicate the capital plan to maintain Essex Elementary.
  - Successfully negotiate a contract with META using IBB.

*Ms. Weld moved to approve School Committee Goals for 2018-2019, Ms. Riordan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.*

- Meeting Schedule

Superintendent Beaudoin added one additional date to the School Committee Meeting Calendar – April 9, 2019 – approve META contract language.

## **8) School Committee Comment –**

## **9) Adjourn**

*Ms. Wolf moved to adjourn the School Committee Business meeting, Ms. Weld seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.*

## **MERSD Mission Statement**

Our Mission is to educate all students, to inspire passion, to instill a love of learning and to encourage both local and global citizenship.