



SCHOOL COMMITTEE

BUSINESS MEETING OPEN SESSION MINUTES May 6, 2019

Meeting:	School Committee
Date:	May 6, 2019
Location:	Memorial School Conference Room
Attendees:	Pamela Beaudoin, Superintendent Avi Urbas, Director of Finance Shannon Erdmann, Chairperson Rachel Fitzgibbon, Co-Chairperson Ann Cameron Sarah Wolf Caroline Weld Julie Riordan
Absent:	Ken Warnock
Guests:	
Recorded by:	Gail Hunter

A. Call to Order – Ms. Erdmann called the School Committee Business meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

B. Business Meeting Open Session

1) **Public Comment** – There was no public comment this evening.

2) **Chairman’s Report** –

Ms. Erdmann thanked Ms. Riordan for her efforts on behalf of the District and School Committee specifically recognizing her work as a member of the Negotiating Team.

Ms. Erdmann stated she was unable to attend the MASC Late Start Conference, however believed the presentation may be streamed for interested Committee members to watch.]

3) Consent Agenda –

- Acceptance of Warrants
- Minutes 4/1/2019

Ms. Cameron moved to accept the Consent Agenda; Ms. Fitzgibbon seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4) Sub-Committee Reports

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

Ms. Weld reported the School Building Committee was in the process of gathering approvals from Manchester-by-the-Sea (MBTS) Planning Board and Conservation Commission and at this time everything is moving forward and on track. There is a meeting with the MBTS Planning Board later this evening and a joint meeting with the MBTS Conservation Commission and Planning Board scheduled for May 20, 2019.

Superintendent Beaudoin indicated the previously scheduled Parents and Abutters meeting had been rescheduled for June 5, 2019, Parents will meet from 6:00 p.m. to 7:15 p.m. and Abutters from 7:30 p.m. to 8:15 p.m. The change was due to an unexpected delay with W T Rich's final outline of their safety plan.

Superintendent Beaudoin was concerned about participation at the June 5th meeting indicating it was a week before the last of school. Ms. Weld pointed out the meetings were for Elementary School parents and abutters who were not all likely to have conflicts around the end of the school year.

Ms. Cameron stated current delays were not anticipated to delay the start of construction. She also informed the Committee 60% drawings of the new Memorial School were being forwarded to MSBA on May 7, 2019. There were no changes in what the Committee had previously reviewed the new drawings presented the building with a finer level of detail.

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

Ms. Cameron stated the Finance Committee has not met; however, they are planning to hold a meeting to review advertising planned with Boosters.

The Essex Annual Town Meeting is this evening. It is anticipated the MERSD Budget will pass at the Town Meeting.

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

Superintendent Beaudoin spoke to the First Reading of policies for Children of Military Families and Rights of Students in Foster Care. These policy updates came out of the Coordinated Program Review which cited the District did not have active policies for Military Families and Foster Care Transient Children. The Policy Amendments are updates to existing policies for Homeless Students and the Admission and Residency Policy.

Ms. Cameron asked what the implications were of implementing these policies? Superintendent Beaudoin indicated the District policies would be more clearly defined. There are currently no students from Military Families although the District does have students in Foster Care and works with the Department of Family and Children. Ms. Cameron asked if the policies were in line with McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, Superintendent Beaudoin indicated they were, however, the District had low incidents of Homeless Children. The policies are pro-active.

Ms. Cameron had a question regarding bullying outside of school and when an incident outside of school results in an action in school. Ms. Fitzgibbon indicated the policy was for incidents happening on school grounds and on school WIFI. Superintendent Beaudoin stated there are ramifications when incidents that start outside and are brought into the school and impact behavior in school.

Ms. Cameron indicated she had had a question and was not clear on how to respond. Superintendent Beaudoin thought this would be a good question for legal counsel and the Committee's retreat agenda indicating a School Committee member may never have enough information on the subject and questions were better handled by the Administration because they have complete information.

Ms. Weld introduced information about Essex County Asset Builders (ECAB) Network, and the program developed around 40 Developmental Assets Approach. *The focus of the program is on proactive measures to equip youth to make positive choices, rather than being reactive following an unfortunate event. Research has identified 40 developmental assets comprised of skills, relationships and behaviors that enable youth to be successful adults. While the assets build youth self-esteem and competence the framework also emphasizes the importance of building community supports to help youth thrive.*

Ms. Weld, Ms. Cameron and Superintendent Beaudoin met with the ECAB Network leaders, Ms. Weld and Ms. Cameron wrote a grant and on May 15, 2019 will meet to follow up on how best to implement the ECAB Network program in the communities of MBTS and Essex. Minding Your Minds, a program focusing on anxiety will be the first project. Interest was expressed in engaging the Boosters and other community resources to support the initiative.

d) Negotiation Team (Ms. Wolf and Ms. Riordan) The Negotiation Team is in recess.

5) Superintendent's Report

- U.S. News and World report ranked MERHS 10th in Massachusetts (when Charter and Application Schools are eliminated MERHS ranked 6th in Massachusetts.)

- On Friday, April 26, 2019 leaders of the MERSD RULER Team presented at the North Shore Superintendent's meeting the 2-year journey of bringing RULER into the District. The Superintendents present were impressed by the success and impact of the program over 2-years.
- Green Team will be recognized at the State House for their work, achievements and the success of the Green Team projects. Two of the students being recognized are SWING students and their achievement is a credit to the program. Ms. Cameron stated she was not initially supportive of the program but now believes students engaged are learning 21st Century Skills and is impressed with the management and success of the program.
- Arts Programs: High School Musical, High School Concert, Acapella Group, Middle School Musical and Middle School Concert are all a credit to a thriving music program succeeding in the midst of financial problems. Previously the District produced a high-level Drama Program but has come a long way from one successful program with the support of the Y and commitment of the Music Department.
- Academics: the Literacy Project is identifying a means to move to a research-based approach and work around the Dyslexia Law. After 2 years the ELA project is at a midpoint working with 2 elementary schools with differing perspectives and building a case for change.

Ms. Cameron had two questions. She understands the focus on literacy concerns but wonders about math and if math support was under consideration? Superintendent Beaudoin assured Ms. Cameron that Dr. Riley was aware and was addressing the need.

Ms. Cameron's second question was regarding Social Emotional Health and was Massachusetts behind in this area? Superintendent Beaudoin stated Massachusetts' DOE likes to test and has considered ways to access Social Emotional Health of students through some form of testing. Connecticut adopted RULER state wide and MERSD is the first District in Massachusetts to implement RULER. Superintendent Beaudoin believes the District is doing well supporting the Social Emotional Health of students in an authentic way.

6) New Business

There was no new business to discuss this evening.

7) Continued Business

- Building Project Update – discussed under sub-committees.
- Renewal of Food Service Contract

Mr. Urbas supports renewing the contract with Chartwell stating the yearly trends were favorable. The Committee agreed and took a voice vote to renew the Chartwell contract.

- End of Year Calendar – as discussed

8) Public Comment

Christine Delisio, 6 Lincoln Ave. was at the meeting to discuss Fundraising for the Booster. She stated the Booster sold ads in the Booklet and would like to add large easily removable stickers for the gym walls and banners for the athletic fields to their fundraising efforts.

Superintendent Beaudoin indicated there was a Finance Sub-Committee meeting scheduled for May 8, 2019 and the Sub-Committee would be reviewing the policy to understand if there needed to be changes around the issues of size and permanency. The School Committee will then need to approve changes, establish fee schedules and consider where revenue from advertising would be allocated. Superintendent Beaudoin indicated that Principal Puglisi was aware of the Boosters concerns and interest additional fundraising and would present their interests at the meeting.

Ms. Cameron indicated the sense of the Committee was it was a great idea and recognized the need for additional funding.

9) School Committee Comment

Ms. Reardon asked about School Choice. Superintendent Beaudoin stated 10 students had been notified and were placed in K, grades 2, 3 and 5. Parents with wait listed children were also notified. If there was a family who had not notified it is unlikely, they will be pulled.

Superintended Beaudoin stated there had been some parental concern expressed about the 4th grade sections at Memorial. There are 2 sections of 4th graders proposed for 2019-2020 the same as this year with an enrollment of 21-22 students in each section. Once parents were aware it was the same as this past year they appeared to understand. She wanted the School Committee to be aware there had been calls.

Ms. Weld wanted to discuss Late Start in light of the budget challenges anticipated for FY 21. She stated it is going to take a significant amount of time and planning to get the budget passed and wondered if this was the time to consider Late Start given parents were not asking for the change and there will be costs associated with implementing a Late Start Program. Ms. Erdmann agreed the budget process for next fiscal year will be really difficult.

Ms. Cameron stated she felt the priority should be education and programming resources needed to support the curriculum. Superintendent Beaudoin stated she thought the District was getting to the point of structural problems and anticipated there may be enrollment issues resulting in a need to add back staff along with math and literacy coaches. Creating additional budget challenges.

Ms. Erdmann agreed it was a conversation worth having and would like to have that conversation when Mr. Warnock is available. It was agreed to place Late Start on the agenda for

the upcoming meeting. May 21, 2019 agenda includes: Late Start, Merrowvista Report, MRHS Special Ed Review. Second Read of Policy changes and ASR Reception.

10) Adjourn

Ms. Cameron moved to adjourn the meeting; Ms. Wolf seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

School Committee Future Meetings:

- On May 21, 2019 the School Committee Meeting will start at 5:00 p.m. with participation at the ASR Reception.
- Auditor's presentation has been moved to June 4, 2019
- School Committee may schedule a meeting on June 11, 2019 (if necessary)
- School Committee will not meet in July 2019
- Retreat is scheduled for August 6, 2019
- First Business Meeting of 2019-2020 is scheduled for August 20, 2019
- School Committee Meeting agendas will focus on School oriented teacher driven presentation: focusing on Diversity, Technology and Curriculum
- Additional area for 2019-2020 School Committee meetings will be budget focusing on program cuts and reorganization
- ELA Task Force Presentation will take place during the School Committee summer retreat
- School Building questions and school building fatigue when construction is no longer new and becomes a distraction will be discussed throughout 2019 – 2020.

11) Public Comment –

12) School Committee Comment – There was no additional School Committee comment this evening.

13) Adjourn

Ms. Cameron moved to adjourn the School Committee Business Meeting, Ms. Fitzgibbon seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

14) Attendance at Essex Annual Town Meeting

7:30 PM