

November 4, 2020

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

The November 4, 2020 School Committee (SC) meeting was called to order by Lisa Brown at 7:01 PM. She reported that the meeting is being broadcast live and recorded for future rebroadcasting.

School Committee Members present: Lisa Brown (Chair), Kelli Grady (Vice Chair), Heather Morin (Secretary) Julie Moulder and Becky Charniak

School Committee Members Absent:

Non-Voting: Superintendent Paul Vieira, Business & Operations Manager Cortney Keegan

Pledge of Allegiance

Student Representative Report

Middle School Student Representatives Evan Pomfret and Angelina Macleod said that they are both running for Student Council this year. She told the School Committee that things are going really well at the Middle School this year despite only being in school 2 days a week. Evan said that their sports teams have been competing regularly and the Cross Country team has two more meets left this year and the Boys and Girls JV Soccer team is also wrapping up their season.

Public Comment & Communication

There was no public comment or communication

Old Business/New Business

There was no old or new business

Superintendent's Report

COVID-19 Update

Superintendent Vieira wanted to talk about the letter he sent out to the community on Monday, November 2nd. He said the reason for sending it out was to be proactive in informing people where we stand and where we could potentially be in the next 4-6 weeks. He said Governor Baker and Commissioner of the Department of Education said schools are not proven to be super spreaders at this time, but of course things can change. Superintendent Vieira said people have asked him what we are going to do and he said we are going to maintain our status, but if we continue to see a rise in cases we very well could be here having a discussion in the next 4-5 weeks about staying in the hybrid model or going fully remote. *There is then a brief discussion.*

Learning Models (In-Person, Hybrid, Remote)

Superintendent Vieira said he wanted to review the Learning Models. He said of course we would want to go to a full In-Person model and that's where we would all like to be. He said we've made a couple small changes to our current Hybrid Model, such as a few smaller groups and zooms for kids. He asked Principals to provide schedules on what going fully remote would look like. Superintendent Vieira said from grades K-8 things would look pretty much the same. He said at the High School Mr. Romano is looking into ideas to have full days of 7 periods per day or going back to the old schedule which is having 5 on and 2 off. He is also looking into having 90 min periods on day A and then on day B which is every other day. He is looking at these 3 models and he is going to get back to me on which one would work best.

Paraprofessionals Union

Superintendent Vieira said that he just wanted to inform the Committee that earlier this week he had received notification from the Department of Labor that the Douglas Paraprofessionals have decided to form a Union and to collaborate with the MTA. He said he will have to provide a list of Paraprofessionals in the district and then they will inform us on the next steps. He said I would imagine at some point this year we are going to have to sit down and look at creating a contract.

John and Abigail Adams Scholarships

Superintendent Vieira said we had 27 students of the Class of 2021 qualify for the John and Abigail Adams scholarships. What this scholarship will do is give these 27 students tuition credits to qualify for any college in the Commonwealth.

Travel Order

Superintendent Vieira said he had put this out in his newsletter but just wanted to bring it up again that he hopes people are following this travel order, which states if you are traveling and are going to be coming into Massachusetts from any one of the listed red states, that you need to provide a negative test after 72 hours or upon your arrival in Massachusetts you need to quarantine for 14 days.

School Committee & Sub-Committee Report

Accounts Payable Report

Ms. Charniak said that on October 29, 2020 she signed 12 batches totaling \$206,885.86.

Consent Agenda

Minutes October 21, 2020

-Ms. Grady made a motion to approve the School Committee minutes for October 21, 2020. Ms. Charniak seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Lisa Brown-Aye, Becky Charniak-Aye, Heather Morin-Aye, Julie Moulder-Aye, and Kelli Grady-Aye.

DHS – Class of 2022 Class Trip

Superintendent Vieira said that this topic is being tabled to an upcoming meeting. He would like Mr. Romano to find out more information on this. He said we saw what happened last year regarding refunds and he would just like to there to be a little information on this incase it happens again this year.

School Business and Operations Manager Report

Transfers and Reclassifications

There were no Transfers and Reclassifications

Ms. Keegan said that she was finally able to submit the 2020 End of Year Report and she is now able to move onto bringing the FY2021 budget up to date. She said there will be a lot of transfers and reclassifications in the near future. She also said she has sent out forms to all the administrators in preparation for the FY2022 budget and she will also be working on that in the coming weeks.

Other Topics

Superintendent Vieira said that he just received an email from the Athletic Director and the MIAA just voted to push back winter sports until December 15, 2020 for the official start date and the athletic Directors are still waiting on guidelines. He said it will be up to each sports community to set the modifications or adjustments.

Adjournment

-At 7:37 p.m. Ms. Charniak made a motion to adjourn the School Committee meeting. Seconded by Ms. Morin. Roll Call Vote: Lisa Brown-Aye, Becky Charniak-Aye, Heather Morin-Aye, Julie Moulder-Aye, and Kelli Grady-Aye.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lauren Tibbetts
Recording Secretary

APPROVED

November 4, 2020 School Committee Meeting