

Regular Meeting  
December 19, 2016  
School Committee Meeting  
Council Chambers

The regular meeting of the Medford School Committee was called to order by Mayor Burke in the City Hall Council Chambers at 7:00 p.m. Those present were Ms. Cugno, Ms. DiBenedetto, Ms. Kreatz, Ms. Mustone, Mr. Skerry, Ms. Van der Kloot, Mayor Burke and Superintendent Belson.

Tony Szykniej and the Medford High School Orchestra played a selection of holiday music.

School Committee members thanked Mr. Szykniej, the students and the parents for their continued support.

On the motion of Mr. Skerry seconded by Ms. Van der Koot that the minutes of December 5, 2016 be approved:

Ms. DiBenedetto commented that Ms. Mustone had requested the Superintendent to draft a policy regarding teacher protocol last meeting.

On the motion of Ms. DiBenedetto that Superintendent Belson draft a policy and add to list of requested reports.

Vote:

Yes: 7

No: 0

Absent: 0

Vote to accept minutes:

Yes: 7

No: 0

Absent: 0

On the motion of Mr. Skerry seconded by Ms. DiBenedetto that the Bills/Transfer of Funds be approved:

Voted: That the Bills/Transfer of Funds be approved.

Ms. DiBenedetto questioned three entries and asked Ms. Patterson for an explanation.

Ms. Patterson said she would like to review the items before responding.

Roll Call:

Yea: 7 Cugno, DiBenedetto, Kreatz, Mustone, Skerry, Van der Kloot, Burke

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

On the motion of Mr. Skerry seconded by Ms. Van der Kloot that the Payrolls be approved:

Voted: That the Payrolls be approved

Roll Call:

Yea: 7 Cugno, DiBenedetto, Kreatz, Mustone, Skerry, Van der Kloot, Burke

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

Member Kreatz updated the committee on the crossing situation at the Fellsway. She said that the DCR has increased the time on the walk signals to 24 seconds. She said that she has tried it and there is ample time to cross safely. Mr. Skerry asked that the Superintendent send a thank you. Ms. Kreatz will forward the email with the contact information to the Superintendent.

Recommendation to Accept Gift from Edward Clark to Honor the Memory of Former Director of English Leah R. Caliri-Clark

Superintendent Belson reported that Medford resident Professor Emeritus H. Edward Clark and husband of the late Director of the Medford Public Schools English Department Leah R. Caliri-Clark requests that the Medford School Committee accept an endowed gift of \$25,000 in honor of his wife. The gift will be used to fund awards for exemplary English studies and given to Medford High School students on an annual basis. Leah R. Caliri-Clark was an outstanding educator in the Medford Public Schools. She served as Head of the English Department from 1975 - 1986. Leah was a thoughtful and caring individual who inspired her teachers and contributed to the success of our English studies in our schools. Her husband Edward Clark was a distinguished professor at Suffolk University. The bequest will fund awards to three Medford High School students each year for outstanding writing in categories that would include poetry, fiction, non-fiction, and memoir. The annual competition will be judged by a panel of Medford English teachers. Presentations will be made at the annual awards ceremony.

Superintendent Belson introduced Professor Clark and his attorney Paul Kelly. Mr. Clark gave a brief biography about his wife and her love for teaching.

Discussion:

Mr. Skerry thanked Professor Clark and made a motion to accept the gift. Ms. Van der Kloot thanked Professor Clark on behalf of the students for his generosity. Ms. Cugno and Ms. Kreatz also thanked him.

On the motion of Mr. Skerry seconded by Ms. DiBenedetto to accept the gift from Edward Clark in memory of Leah Caliri-Clark:

Roll Call:

Yea: 7 Cugno, DiBenedetto, Kreatz, Mustone, Skerry, Van der Kloot, Burke

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

Recommendation to Accept Donation to Columbus Elementary School to Honor the Memory of Margaret Weigel

Assistant Superintendent Diane Caldwell reported that the co-workers of Margaret Weigel made a donation to the Columbus School in her memory. It is their request that the monies be used in the Columbus library.

On the motion of Ms. Cugno, seconded by Ms. Van der Kloot to accept the donation in memory of Margaret Weigel.

Roll Call:

Yea: 7 Cugno, DiBenedetto, Kreatz, Mustone, Skerry, Van der Kloot, Burke  
Nay: 0  
Absent: 0

Report on the Columbus School Celebration of Cultures Night

Assistant Superintendent Diane Caldwell introduced Principal Kathy Kay to present the report. Ms. Kay said that on November 17<sup>th</sup> the Columbus School hosted their 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Celebration of Cultures night. All families were invited to share and celebrate the diverse backgrounds that make the Columbus School such a special place. Dinner was provided by local restaurants: Edible Arrangements, Harrow Chicken Pies, Raso's, Flatbread Company, Istanbul'u, Oasis, May's Café, Bocelli's, LaCascia's, Salvatores, Boston Chai Party and Kelly's Roast Beef. A great night was had by all in attendance.

On the motion of Ms. DiBenedetto seconded by Ms Van der Kloot the report was accepted and placed on file.

Vote:

Yes: 7  
No: 0  
Absent: 0

Report on Columbus School Little Free Library

Ms. Caldwell presented the report. She reported that Mr. Eric Handler, the husband of one of the Columbus School's special education teachers, Ms. Shannon Handler enlisted the help of Ms. Kara Rossi and a few of her fifth grade students in working together on a project that will air on PBS in the near future. This project is a "Little Free Library." Mr. Handler and his Design Squad Kids worked with the Columbus School to install their handiwork. The full video production will be completed in about two months. Ms. Rossi is very excited to be the steward for the Columbus Free Library. Our Little Free Library is officially registered and has a beautiful plaque with our registered Charter Number.

On the motion of Mr. Skerry seconded by Ms Van der Kloot the report was accepted and placed on file.

Vote:

Yes: 7  
No: 0  
Absent: 0

Ms. Rossi informed the committee about the project the fifth grade students participated in. She said that before school they would congregate to make no-sew fleece blankets. The blankets are being donated to the Home for Little Wanderers. The students all told why they enjoyed working on the project.

### Report on Global Scholars Program at the Museum of Science

Director of Curriculum Bernadette Ricciardelli presented the report. Ms. Ricciardelli reported that Global Cities, Inc. hosted an expenses paid educational program to the Museum of Science for all grade 7 students on Wednesday, December 14<sup>th</sup>. The Global Scholars team lead by Marjorie Bloomberg Tiven welcomed the group in the Lightning Presentation and provided an overview of the connections between the specific exhibits at the museum and the Digital Cities curriculum. Over 350 individuals from Medford attended the event. The district would like to acknowledge the work of four of our grade 7 teachers who have taken a very active role in the program Ryan McCarthy, Kathleen O'Donoghue, Brian Villard and Francis Zizzo.

#### Discussion:

Ms. Kreatz thanked all involved and said she enjoyed the day.

On the motion of Ms. Kreatz seconded by Mr. Skerry the report was accepted and placed on file.

#### Vote:

Yes: 7  
No: 0  
Absent: 0

#### New Business:

##### School Committee Resolution

Be it resolved, that the Medford School Committee express its sincere condolences to the family of Marvin Brown. Mr. Brown was the husband of former science teacher Althea Brown.

##### School Committee Resolution

Be it resolved, that the Medford School Committee express its sincere condolences to the family of Cleveland "Red" Honeycutt. Mr. Honeycutt was the father of Bill Honeycutt a generous supporter of the Medford Public Schools

##### School Committee Resolution

Be it resolved, that the Medford School Committee express its sincere condolences to the family of Mary Alice Leach. Ms. Leach was the sister of retired Medford Police Officer William Fargo.

##### School Committee Resolutions:

Be it resolved, that the Medford School Committee express its sincere condolences to the family of Jean Barry-Sutherland. Jean was a long time Medford resident. She was a teacher and administrator for the Medford Public Schools for over forty years.

A moment of silence was held.

On the motion of Mr. Skerry the meeting was dedicated to Jean Barry-Sutherland.

#### Vote:

Yes: 7

No: 0  
Absent: 0

Recommendation to Accept CASIT Grant of \$50,000 for Italian Language Program  
Superintendent Belson stated that he received \$50,000 from Maria Gioconda Motta,  
President and Founder of CASIT toward the continued growth of the Italian language  
program.

On the motion of Ms. Cugno seconded by Ms. Kreatz to accept the \$50,000 gift from  
CASIT:

Roll Call:

Yea: 7 Cugno, DiBenedetto, Kreatz, Mustone, Skerry, Van der Kloot, Burke  
Nay: 0  
Absent: 0

On the motion of Ms. Van der Kloot seconded by Mr. Skerry the meeting was adjourned  
at 7:49 p.m.

Roll Call:

Yea: 7 Cugno, DiBenedetto, Kreatz, Mustone, Skerry, Van der Kloot, Burke  
Nay: 0  
Absent: 0

Respectfully submitted:

Robert E. Skerry Jr.  
Secretary

