

Regular Meeting
February 6, 2017
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 6:04 p.m. Those present were Ms.Cugno, Ms. DiBenedetto, Ms. Kreatz, Ms. Mustone, Mr. Skerry, Ms. Van der Kloot, Mayor Burke and Superintendent Belson.

On the motion of Mr. Skerry seconded by Ms. Cugno that the minutes of January 23, 2017 be approved:

Vote:

Yes: 7
No: 0
Absent: 0

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

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

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. Cugno 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

Report of Secretary

Secretary Van der Kloot said that the MASC is running an important program on the impact of poverty on students across the Commonwealth. As secretary I am planning to attend on March 10, 2017. I am urging my colleagues to attend if at all possible. The cost is \$30 per attendee. This fee will be paid by the school department. More information is contained in the flyer that is included in the packet.

On the motion of Ms. DiBenedetto seconded by Mr.Skerry to accept the paper and place on file:

Vote:

Yes: 7
No: 0
Absent: 0

Committee of the Whole Minutes – January 25, 2017

Mayor Burke gave an overview of the meeting stating that it was very informative and educational. Mr. Skerry commented that it was informative and suggested meeting more often. He said that they work with us so we should work with them.

On the motion of Ms. DiBenedetto seconded by Mr. Skerry to accept the report was accepted and placed on file:

Vote:

Yes: 7
No: 0
Absent: 0

Report on Skills USA Leadership Program

Dr. Heidi Riccio introduced Advisor Larry Brown and the students. Dr. Riccio said that four students attended the SkillsUSA Fall State Leadership conference in November. This conference is held annually in Marlboro as a means to engage student leaders at the school level. There were 600 CTE students across the Commonwealth who came to this conference. Students spent the weekend developing key leadership skills including team building, communication skills, professionalism, and community service related functions. As a result, four students earned leadership pins which we will present to tonight.

Community Service Awards

Rosalee Howard, Marketing, Gold Medal

Valery Sajous, Construction & Craft Laborers, Silver Medal

Overall Team Awards

Rosalee Howard, Gold Medal

Valery Sajous, Silver Medal

Henry Howard, Electrical, Bronze Medal

Tess Maura, Carpentry, Fourth Place

Dr. Riccio and Mr. Brown presented the pins to the students.

Discussion:

Ms. Cugno asked what it means to each student. They replied with collaboration, friendship, leadership and team building. Ms. DiBenedetto congratulated the parents as well for their help and guidance.

On the motion of Ms. DiBenedetto seconded by Mr. Skerry to accept the report and place on file:

Vote:

Yes: 7
No: 0
Absent: 0

Report on Distributed Education Club of America National Competition

Dr. Riccio introduced teacher and advisor Frank D'Aloisio to present the information.

Mr. D'Aloisio stated that as we enter the 3rd year of the Business Technology / Marketing Program our focus is not only to provide a challenging, curriculum based program based on State Technical Frameworks, BUT, a curriculum that is driven by technology advances for subject matter content and alignment with University level education. Our

instructional areas are no longer classrooms, but “laboratories” for knowledge learning & application. DECA is a comprehensive learning program for business oriented students based on National Business Standards and application of 21st Century Learning Skills focusing on 4 major career pathways – Finance, Management, Marketing, and Hospitality. Last year, with the financial assistance of the Bloomberg Grant and Rich Trotter, the CCSR Program offered a Financial Literacy Based after school program utilizing the DECA on-line simulation software Stock Market Challenge Competition. The goal is to invest \$125K in stocks, bonds, and mutual funds for the 4Q of the fiscal year, and the prize is “the right to compete” at the International Career Development Conference in April for the top 25 teams on a regional basis. Competition includes not only the United States, but Germany, Canada, Australia, and China. Last year was the initial learning experience with our students placing in the top 50 teams in the Northeast Region, a notable achievement. This year, we had two sophomore business students (Hunter Tongnarelli & Michael Sanchez) taking the challenge, placing 16th in top 25 Northeast Region team and “earning the right to compete” in Anaheim, Ca which will now require an 11 page research paper on their investment strategy along with a 15 minute oral presentation to industry professionals. This achievement was based on a total population of over 1700 competing teams, and being only one of only 3 MA state high school teams qualifying. Even more astounding was the fact that MVTHS was the only technical high school in the state to qualify. The goal now is to become recognized as one top 5 high schools in the United States on a global platform. Hunter & Michael will also be recognized in March as official MA State DECA winners for this competitive event and International qualifiers at the MA State Career Development Conference.

Discussion:

Mr. Skerry asked the students what’s in your portfolio. The students answered that they were gearing toward Black Friday so therefore they included Amazon, Best Buy and Walmart to name a few. Ms. Van der Kloot asked if the plan is to go to California. Mr. D’Aloisio answered that they need money. Ms. Van der Kloot asked how much is needed. Mr. D’Aloisio answered that approximately \$5,000.

On the motion of Ms. Van der Kloot seconded by Mr. Skerry that the Medford Public Schools fund the students to attend the international conference in California:

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. Cugno the report was accepted and placed on file:

Vote:

Yes: 7
No: 0
Absent: 0

Recommendation to Approve MSBA Statement of Interest

Superintendent Belson reported that the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) is now accepting “Statement of Interest” applications for possible building projects. The deadline for submittal is April 7, 2017. Since submission requires an

affirmative vote of the school committee and the city council it is prudent for us to begin the process now. Submittal of the “SOI” does not bind the city. Rather, it signals to the MSBA that we would like to explore major renovations, repairs, and/or new construction that address the emergent needs of our high school/vocational school facility and enhance our capacity to provide a 21st century education. We would be applying under the “CORE MSBA Program”. The MSBA grant program is not an entitlement but rather a competitive program. MSBA grants are based upon validated need and urgency as expressed by the district and confirmed by MSBA. The submission of an “SOI” is not an invitation into MSBA’s capital pipeline. It is the “first step” in the MSBA process. Moving forward will require further collaboration between the MSBA and the school district. The actual awarding of an MSBA grant could be two to three years down the road. The scope of the project will be subject to a feasibility study and prioritization of projects in the Commonwealth. However, it is essential that we open the door and actively explore financial and programmatic options. Any decision regarding the specific projects and the financial commitments would be developed over time and after multiple meetings within our city government and at the state level. As we begin capital planning in our city and for our schools it is essential that we open the door to possible financial assistance to offset local costs. While our future rate of reimbursement could change we anticipate it to be approximately 55% plus of allowable costs. We have worked well with MSBA before and expect that we could do so again. The Superintendent stated that he recommends that the Medford School Committee authorizes the Superintendent to submit an SOI to MSBA under the CORE Program.

Discussion:

Members expressed optimism for this endeavor and are looking toward the future in a positive way.

On the motion of Ms. Van der Kloot seconded by Mr. Skerry to authorize the Superintendent to submit the SOI to MSBA under CORE program:

Roll Call:

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

Report on Elementary Class Size

Superintendent Belson reported that when we prepare the budget for an upcoming school year we project class sizes at each school and grade level. Since budget is approved in June and school starts in late August, there can be variations on the actual numbers. In February we are six months into the year and the numbers will vary based upon multiple factors. This report provides a comparison chart between the projection of June 2016 and the actual numbers as of January 24, 2017. Overall, class sizes have remained very close to projection and are well within our contractual guidelines. They are also very good when compared to other area school systems.

The overall net increase of students since June 2016 is 46. The following is the breakout by school:

| | | | | | |
|----------|-----|----|---------|-----|-----|
| Brooks | 488 | +6 | McGlynn | 543 | +18 |
| Columbus | 419 | -6 | Roberts | 572 | +28 |

Some of the increases are absorbed in sub separate classrooms because of special education and ELL. None of our schools are at capacity. Each of the schools was built to

house 600+ students (2400 total). Our current total is 2022. Over time space allocations have been made to accommodate various functions and activities. If needed, some could be changed to create additional available space. Also we could shift some programs to lesser populated schools to accommodate larger enrollments in any specific schools. We could if necessary consider small school zone modifications to shift enrollment. We keep our eyes open on new developments in the city for their potential impact on enrollment.

Please find attached three pages of elementary enrollment data featuring class size averages by grade and school. The charts are as follows:

- June 2016 -2017 projections
- January 2017 actuals
- January – June comparisons

Principals have the authority to make some classes larger/smaller based upon their professional judgment. Some classes will also have paraprofessional aides when need is determined.

Discussion:

Ms. DiBenedetto said that she would like to see the data on the new developments affecting the schools. She also could like to see the actual class size broken down by school and class for the next meeting.

On the motion of Ms. DiBenedetto seconded by Mr. Skerry to receive a report on actual class size by school and class for next meeting:

Vote:

Yes: 7
No: 0
Absent: 0

Ms. Van der Kloot said that the Roberts has approximately 150 students over the Columbus. This is significant and we need to pay attention to this. Superintendent Belson answered that each school has specialized classes and they are in the process of looking at this now. Geographic reality is part of it and we are looking at a re-distribution.

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

Update Report on Food Service Initiatives FY2017

Director of Finance and Administration Kirsteen Patterson presented the report. Ms. Patterson reported that the report identifies many programs focused on school nutrition and student awareness. The following is a summary of grants to date:

- \$2,000 – DESE Summer Food Service Program

- \$2,500 – Project Produce
- \$1,500 – Fuel Up to Play 60
- \$500 Eos Foundation
- \$20,000 DESE award for state of the art cook and hold ovens

In addition to grant funds many programs operate with in kind services and/or direct food service funding resources including: summer food service program, Harvest of the Month, Summer Garden Playgroup and TEC Collaborative. In an effort to continue find new initiatives the high school has been identified to participate as a pilot site for the InstaHealthy program which provides high quality fresh foods in a vending style unit that would operate after meal hours. Participation in this initiative would have many benefits including public relations splashes, high visibility as being proactive and progressive with an initiative focusing on healthy options in schools; greater access to food options after hours for students and staff; as well as being a revenue stream for future meal programs.

Discussion:

Ms. Cugno asked if the company would come into the district and service the machines. Ms. Patterson said it would be like any other vending machines. Ms. Cugno asked if they would include fresh fruit. Ms. Patterson said yes that they are working with local farms. Ms. Kreatz said sounds exciting for after school programs. Ms. Van der Kloot asked where they would be placed, how many and the cost. Ms. Patterson answered that they are starting with one machine in the athletic area and there is no cost it is profit sharing. Ms. DiBenedetto said that she would like to see two machines. One machine also be placed in the front lobby for students in that part of the building after school.

On the motion of Ms. DiBenedetto seconded by Ms. Van der Kloot to entertain placing two machines in the building:

Vote:

Yes: 7
 No: 0
 Absent: 0

Mr. Skerry would like to see pertinent signage in the gym area stating no food or drinks in the gymnasium.

On the motion of Mr. Skerry to put signage in and around pertinent areas regarding no food or drink in the gymnasium:

Roll Call:

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

On the motion of Ms. DiBenedetto seconded by Mr. Skerry to accept report and place on file:

Vote:

Yes: 7
 No: 0
 Absent: 0

New Business:

School Committee Resolution

Be it resolved that the Medford School Committee congratulate and extend gratitude and best wishes to Noah Evans, Rector of the Grace Episcopal Church. He has been an important leader in our community for many years and a champion of human rights. Reverend Evans just accepted a new post in Pittsburg, PA and is leaving in March. The School Committee extended best wishes to Reverend Evans.

School Committee Resolution

Be it resolved, that the Medford School Committee express its sincere condolences to the family of Regina Winn. Miss Winn was a former kindergarten teacher for many years.

School Committee Resolution

Be it resolved, that the Medford School Committee express its sincere condolences to the family of Beverly Rutstein. Mrs. Rutstein was the mother-in-law of former Medford Public Schools math teacher Barbara Rutstein.

School Committee Resolution

Be it resolved, that the Medford School Committee express its sincere condolences to the family of Lawrence Donato. Mr. Donato was the cousin of Representative Paul Donato. Mr. Donato was lovingly cared for by his neighbors The Bourne Family and the DiBenedetto Family.

A moment of silence was held.

On the motion of Ms. DiBenedetto seconded by Ms. Van der Kloot the meeting was adjourned at 7:06 p.m.

Roll Call:

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

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

Respectfully submitted:

Paulette Van der Kloot
Secretary

