

Regular Meeting  
March 28, 2016  
School Committee Meeting  
Council Chambers

The regular meeting of the Medford School Committee was called to order by Vice Chairperson DiBenedetto in the City Hall Council Chambers at 7:06 p.m. Those present were Ms. Cugno, Ms. DiBenedetto, Ms. Kreatz, Ms. Mustone, Mr. Skerry, Ms. Van der Kloot and Superintendent Belson. Mayor Burke was absent

On the motion of Mr. Skerry that the minutes of March 7, 2016 be approved:  
Vote:

Yes: 6  
No: 0  
Absent: 1

Mayor Burke arrived at 7:08 p.m.

On the motion of Mr. Skerry 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 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

On the motion of Mr. Skerry to waive the reading of the minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting – March 9, 2016

Yes: 7  
No: 0  
Absent: 0

On the motion of Mr. Skerry the minutes of March 9, 2016 were approved:

Yes: 7  
No: 0  
Absent: 0

Report on Eos Healthy Start Award

Assistant Superintendent Diane Caldwell presented the report. She stated that the Columbus Elementary School is the recipient of a \$500 2016 Healthy Start Award. This award is from the Eos Foundation; a private philanthropic foundation committed to

breaking the cycle of poverty by investing in children's futures. This grant recognizes Massachusetts school-based leaders who contribute to the educational success of the whole child by addressing their nutritional needs. Individual school communities that reach 80% plus school breakfast participation are eligible for the award and accompanying unrestricted grant. An award ceremony will be held on May 5, 2016 in Boston.

Discussion:

Members congratulated the Columbus School and Ms. DiBenedetto commented that it shows what teamwork does. This is a great success.

On the motion of Ms. DiBenedetto the report was accepted and placed on file.

Yes: 7

No: 0

Absent: 0

Report on PARCC/MCAS 2016 Schedule and Related Matters

Director of Curriculum Bernadette Ricciardelli presented the report. She stated that in recent weeks, there have been a small number of inquiries about "opting-out" of state assessments among parents of school aged children in the Massachusetts public school system. Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education Mitchell Chester has provided the following guidance to districts in response to parents who have inquired about "opting-out" their children from standardized testing: Massachusetts state law (G.L. c.69, s.1I) requires that all students who are educated with Massachusetts public funds participate in a statewide student assessment program under the direction of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education ("Board"). This requirement was first enacted as part of the landmark 1993 Massachusetts education reform law. The statute does not contain an "opt-out" provision for parents to remove their children from participating.

For the spring 2016 test administration, the Board has given districts the option to administer one of two tests: MCAS or PARCC. Both tests will be used to report student-level results and to evaluate school and district performance. Students are obligated to participate, whether the district has chosen MCAS or PARCC. Medford has selected to administer the PARCC test for grades 3-8 in ELA and mathematics. MCAS will be administered for Science in grades 5,8, and 9/10, and in ELA and mathematics in grade 10.

In some instances, a student may refuse to take a test, either of his/her own volition or at the direction of a parent. In these cases, we ask principals to encourage parents to rethink their refusal and remind them that the assessments are a valuable gauge of their student's and school's progress. We ask principals and test proctors to handle refusals with sensitivity. Students should not be pressured to take the test, nor should they be punished for not taking the test. They may sit quietly and read in the testing room, but if they are distracting others in the class who are taking the test, it would be appropriate to have them move to another location in the school with adult supervision. There is no requirement to provide formal or informal instruction to these students during the test period; having them do homework or read a book is sufficient, provided that the material is separate from the content being assessed in the testing room.

Additionally, schools where the student participation rate falls below an established benchmark may have their accountability data jeopardized should student participation not meet the benchmark criterion. It is critically important that all of our students participate in the spring 2016 state-wide assessment, for the data we receive is invaluable to us as a school district as we continue to evaluate where we are today, where we need and hope to be in the future, and how we can best prepare our students to meet their educational goals.

## **2016 PARCC/MCAS TESTING DATES**

### **Brooks Elementary School**

#### *English Language Arts*

Grade 3: April 26, 27, 28

Grade 4: May 3, 4, 5

Grade 5: April 26, 27, 28

#### *Mathematics*

Grade 3: May 10, 11, 12, 17

Grade 4: May 18, 19, 24, 25

Grade 5: May 10, 11, 12, 17

#### *Science*

Grade 5: May 20, 23

*Makeup Testing:* April 29; May 2, 6,  
9, 13, 16, 26

### **Columbus Elementary School**

#### *English Language Arts*

Grade 3: April 27; May 2, 4

Grade 4: April 26, 28, 29

Grade 5: April 26, 28, 29

#### *Mathematics*

Grade 3: May 10, 11, 16, 17

Grade 4: May 3, 5, 6, 9

Grade 5: May 3, 5, 6, 9

#### *Science*

Grade 5: May 12, 13

*Makeup Testing:* TBD

### **McGlynn Elementary School**

#### *English Language Arts*

Grade 3: April 27; May 4, 6

Grade 4: April 29; May 3, 5

Grade 5: April 26, 28; May 2

#### *Mathematics*

Grade 3: May 11, 19 (two sessions), 25

Grade 4: May 13, 16 (two sessions), 18

Grade 5: May 10, 12 (two sessions), 17

#### *Science*

Grade 5: May 20, 23

*Makeup Testing:* May 26, 27

**Roberts Elementary School**

*English Language Arts*

Grade 3: April 26; May 5, 10

Grade 4: April 27; May 3, 5

Grade 5: April 26, 29; May 2

*Mathematics*

Grade 3: May 12, 17, 19, 24

Grade 4: May 10, 16, 19, 23

Grade 5: May 6, 9, 13, 17

*Science*

Grade 5: May 20, 23

*Makeup Testing:* TBD

Discussion:

Ms. DiBenedetto commented that when we voted we opted for the pen and pencil test why is the Andrews doing computer testing? Superintendent Belson answered that the Andrews will try computer testing because Principal D’Alleva is very good with technology and it is good to have one school try it. Ms. DiBenedetto asked if the committee needed to vote to have one school use computers? Ms. Cugno said the discussion was if we had the capabilities to do online testing they should. The principal should be able to do so if they have the capabilities. Ms. Van der Kloot said that made sense.

On the motion of Ms. DiBenedetto to allow the Andrews to take PARCC test on computers:

Yes: 7

No: 0

Absent: 0

Ms. Van der Kloot asked if parents need to put into writing if they want to opt out? Ms. Ricciardelli answered she would assume that a document would be requested by the DESE. Ms. Van der Kloot stressed how important it is to take the test. She asked that the committee receive the number of opt outs each school receives.

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

Yes: 7

No: 0

Absent: 0

On the motion of Ms. DiBenedetto that requested items and tabled items be placed on the following agenda for tracking:

Yes: 7

No: 0

Absent: 0

Request to Complete Statement of Interest with MBSA

Superintendent Belson explained that a request to begin the Statement of Interest (SOI) process with the MSBA for renovation of the MVTHS was being considered at this time.

The SOI is the initial stage to be considered for MSBA funding. The process is one of many stages. The SOI begins the process. If the project moves through this stage of MSBA review, the district will then be directed to complete feasibility studies and cost analysis to continue. Director of the Vocational School Heidi Riccio continued. She explained that MVTHS is seeking School Committee approval to submit a statement of interest to the Massachusetts School Building Association for the renovation of existing space and the increase of lab space for the STEM related fields. Medford Public Schools opened the vocational school in 1970 after a major build that included the high school being on the same complex. Throughout the years, MVTHS has added new programs based on workforce demands. However, there was not a strategic plan created to develop and grow programs or logistically place programs with like clusters. MVTHS intends to implement a strategic plan that would reorganize the vocational campus to embrace the need to move programs in cluster or academy type model. The potential academies are: construction academy, design and visual academy, human services academy, service academy and STEM academy. The MTHS is planning to seek funding under priority number 7, which states, “replacement of or addition to obsolete buildings in order to provide a full range of programs consistent with the state and approved local requirements.

Discussion:

Ms. Cugno said this is amazing and she is thrilled with the news. Ms. Riccio said that this is only the initial stage, the proposal. Ms. Cugno commented that everything should match the science labs. Ms. Riccio said that there is a color scheme presently and everything is coordinated. Ms. Van der Kloot asked when the deadline is to file the SOI? Ms. Riccio answered April 10<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Van der Kloot commented that there is no dollar amount and asked if this is the next step? Ms. Riccio said that it is the next step which will need a school committee vote in 2017. Superintendent Belson commented that this phase is only a statement of interest where it is determined if we are eligible. If we make it to the next round then we must submit a design and have the city council’s approval. Ms. Mustone said that Mr. Cormio could not be in attendance but emailed the committee in support of the project.

On the motion of Ms. Van der Kloot, seconded by Ms. Cugno to approve the submission of the SOI:

Roll Call:

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

Report on the Construction Status of the Multi-Media Community Access Channel

Ms. Riccio reported that MVTHS is excited to report that construction will begin on the new access television studio in April. During April school vacation, the studio will receive abatement of asbestos. Timing was determined for April break as to minimize disruption in programming. Plans are in the final stages of development and the bulk of the work will be done during the summer months with the studio opening in September 2016. In 2014, MVTHS applied for program approval through the MA DESE Chapter 74 process. This approval was put on hold until there was progress with the TV studio

renovation due to classroom space. While the high school currently has strong media courses, the intention is to work collaboratively with them to increase the availability of courses and offer students a program where students can get certified in various software platforms. MVTHS will also be working closely with the local access TV to bring educational programs to the community when it is fully operational. The current plan is to have day access for students and evening access for local access so there is no scheduling conflicts. Since the renovation project has a timeline of completion for September 2016, MVTHS has posted for a teacher position that is dual licensed in TV Production but also Design and Visual Communications. We will be having an advisory board meeting for this program on April 26th in conjunction with the annual spring advisory board meetings for other programs. The intent of this meeting is to receive final guidance as we move toward this program approval. Once the licensed teacher is hired and the studio is near completion, MA DESE will be scheduled to come in for a site inspection. It is during this site inspection that MA DESE reviews the facility, curriculum and instruction, and support of the community for the program.

Discussion:

Ms. Cugno asked if this program would be open to both high school and vocational students? Ms. Riccio answered yes. Ms. DiBenedetto asked if there are any cost projections and how it will be funded? Mayor Burke replied that there are sufficient funds in the account. Ms. DiBenedetto commented this is a great program with wonderful educational values including great technical skills. It will be good for both the school and community. We will need to work with the council going forward. Joe Viglione, 52 Garfield Avenue was given permission to speak. Mr. Viglione said that he has been fighting for this for a long time but is shocked that it will take until September. We need a public access station now. He suggested getting a van with camera in the mean time. He projected the cost to be \$60,000 - \$70,000. He asked the School Committee to consider this. Ms. Van der Kloot thanked Mr. Viglione for the update but she said this is out of the realm of the school committee.

On the motion of Mr. Skerry the report was accepted and placed on file.

Yes: 7  
No: 0  
Absent: 0

Report on New Opioid Bill H4056 and Medford Implementation

On March 14, 2016 Governor Baker signed H4056 entitled “An Act Relative to Substance Use, Treatment, Education, and Prevention.” This legislation passed both the House and Senate unanimously. The act is more popularly known as the “Opioid Bill.” It is formally listed as Chapter 52 of the Acts of 2016. With a few exceptions that act became effective immediately. This report will identify the specific elements that affect public schools and provide you with a status update where we stand as a school district. Please note the following:

- Schools are required to notify parents/guardians of all attending students regarding our substance abuse policy. This policy must also be posted on our website. This policy must then be filed with DESE. Currently, we have a substance abuse policy in place. It is included in the handbooks distributed to students and families. It is also contained within our

online policy manual. We will highlight the policy to make it more prominent and visible to students and parents.

- DESE in consultation with DPH is instructed to provide guidance and recommendations to assist schools with the development of effective school policies and practices regarding substance abuse prevention and education. We have and will continue to work cooperatively with DESE and DPH as we go forward. Undoubtedly both DESE and DPH will ramp up requirements on schools and we will participate in multiple planning sessions as new and additional guidance is provided.

Currently we have taken the following steps with DPH:

1. All nurses are now trained to administer Narcan (naloxone) Narcan supplies are available in each of our schools. Training was provided by Armstrong Ambulance at no cost. Narcan was purchased through CVS at a reduced cost using grant funding from our Essential School Health Services (ESHS) grant funding.
  2. ESHS provided an additional grant of \$9700 to support student screening planning costs under (SBIRT)
  3. High School nurses have been trained on SBIRT screening procedures to meet initial DPH requirements (Grade 9 students). We expect to implement SBIRT screening during 2016-2017 at the high school as per DPH recommendations. We are planning to train middle school nurses to meet 2017 SBIRT mandates (Grade 7 students) Additional training to elementary nurses is a possibility depending upon DPH mandates and recommendations.
  4. At our professional day on March 1, 2016 we provided motivational interview training to nurses
  5. We continue to prioritize social and emotional learning.
- SBIRT/Verbal Screening must occur on an annual basis at two different grade levels. Parents may opt out in writing. All information obtained through screening is confidential except in case of medical emergencies. We are well ahead of this act. As explained above we are moving in the direction of the law. The implementation of screening is subject to state appropriation and will not be generally required until SY 2017-2018 if funded.
  - There is a “Good Samaritan” section (12FF) that absolves any person who in good faith, attempt to render emergency care by Narcan from liability except for gross negligence or willful/wanton misconduct.

On Saturday April 2, 2016 the Medford Public Schools/Bloomberg Center for Civic and Social Responsibility will offer a workshop program on addiction. Dr. Robert Brooks will be the keynote speaker.

As you know the Medford Public Schools has implemented the “Michigan Model” curriculum. This program is a comprehensive approach to health, wellness, and good decision-making. We are giving great emphasis to social and emotional learning. We have added counseling assistance to our faculty and work closely with many external agencies The Medford Public Schools is committed to working with our community and state to effectively address addiction issues and to educate our students and families. The following information is provided to inform you of our substance abuse program activities this year.

### **Curriculum:**

- Michigan Model pilot at the elementary schools – The Michigan Model elementary curriculum was purchased and is being piloted at all four elementary schools in Medford from February 1, 2016 to June 15, 2016. There are 13 teachers across the district piloting this program and making a comparison to the Second Step curriculum. Teachers will evaluate each lesson and choose lessons to teach to their students. Teachers meet at the end of the pilot to discuss their thoughts on this program.
- Middle School and High School are in full implementation of the Michigan Model
- “If Only” Wahlberg Foundation Opioid awareness video was added to the sophomore curriculum at Medford High School.
- “Vaping: More dangerous than you think” video added to the sophomore curriculum at Medford High School

### **Presentations:**

- End the stigma of addiction substance abuse prevention projects were unveiled at an event at Medford City Hall on February 3, 2016. Michael Skorker, MHS Team Medford and MHS students of Gay Straight Alliance shared their stories of family and friends with addictions.
- Addiction Symposium April 2, 2016  
The Center for Citizenship and Social Responsibility at Medford High School is hosting a symposium on addiction. “Proactive Steps and Resources” is aimed at parents and teachers of students in grades kindergarten through eighth. The event is taking place on Saturday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> from 12:45 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. in the Medford High School library. Anyone interested in attending is asked to register online. The keynote speaker is Dr. Robert Brooks, a clinical psychologist. He will speak about raising resilient children and adolescents. Workshops include “What Parents and Teachers Can Do About Substance Abuse: In the Home and Classroom, Preventative Family Strategies, Identifying Substances, Identifying Signs and Symptoms of Anxiety and Depression in Adolescents, and Anxiety and Depression: How Substance Abuse Impacts.” A resource fair will follow the workshops.

### **Grants:**

- Partnerships for success grant for prevention of prescription drug misuse among youth was awarded to the City of Medford. Penny Funaiolo, Brooke Hoyt, Lisa Bandoian, Rachel Perry, John Perella, Heidi Riccio, Amelia Jensen and Toni Vento are working on a plan to implement evidence-based prevention programs, policies, and practices to reduce prescription drug misuse among persons aged 12 to 25 years old.
- Safe and Supportive School Grant (we applied for this grant at the end of November 2015 for all four elementary schools, waiting to hear if it was awarded) The purpose of this competitive grant program is to provide funding to districts (and their selected schools) to develop action plans that organize, integrate, and sustain school and district-wide efforts to create safe and supportive school environments and coordinate and align student support initiatives. Schools and districts shall create action plans based on all the elements of the safe and supportive schools framework and the self-assessment tool currently referred to as

the Behavioral Health and Public School (BHPS) Framework and Self-Assessment Tool created by the BJPS Taskforce and Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, pursuant to Section 19 of Chapter 321 of the Acts of 2008.

**Workshops/Professional Development:**

- MIAA workshop – The Faces of Addiction: The Opioid Crisis, The Journey from Pain Killers to Addiction. Health teacher Ellen Reardon will be attending this workshop in May 2016.
- HEAT (heroin education awareness taskforce) Conference – Friday, June 17, 2016: Rachel Perry will attend this conference.

Discussion:

Mr. Skerry suggested getting the packet of information to the public relations officer to post. It is very stimulating and we need to get the message out. Superintendent Belson informed the committee that the information will be posted on the website and media this week. Ms. Cugno said it is great to work together as a collaborative. Ms. Mustone asked when the middle school and high school students get the Michigan Model?

Superintendent Belson answered that they receive this instruction in health class. Ms. DiBenedetto said that she did not see a copy of our policy and would like to see it before it is posted.

On the motion of Mr. Skerry the report was accepted and placed on file.

Yes: 7

No: 0

Absent: 0

Report on Brooks Maintenance Issue

Assistant Superintendent Diane Caldwell reported that on Wednesday, March 9<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 a.m. water began to come up through the floor drains in the first floor student bathrooms and the kitchen store room of the Brooks School. Principal Andrews contacted Director of Buildings and Grounds John McLaughlin, Diane Caldwell and Superintendent Belson to inform them of the problem. The “Drain Doctor” was contacted and investigated the problem. Mr. McLaughlin reported that a clogged sewer pipe was causing water to back up. The food service department made alternate arrangements for lunches for students. ServPro, the water and sewer department, Board of Health, Brooks custodians, and the administration all worked together to rectify this situation as quickly as possible. The total cost for repairs were \$5200.

Discussion:

Mr. Skerry inquired if anyone investigated to see why a large amount of paper towels were in the drain? Ms. Caldwell said that was a question for Mr. McLaughlin. Superintendent Belson added that all drains have been cleaned at all school as preventative. Mr. Skerry asked to check with Mr. Andrews to see if anyone owned up. Ms. Kretz suggested power hand dryers.

On the motion of Mr. Skerry the report was accepted and placed on file.

Yes: 7  
No: 0  
Absent: 0

Superintendent Belson had a few announcements:

1. Field trip reimbursements – checks sent to families totaling \$3680.
2. Day on the Hill is April 26<sup>th</sup> please inform us if you will attend.
3. Middle School Math Program is April 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

Negotiations and Legal Matters moved to Executive Session

Ms DiBenedetto asked for an update on academic curriculum sub committee?  
Superintendent Belson answered that this needs to be scheduled.

On the motion of Mr. Skerry to go into Executive Session at 8:19 p.m. for the discussion of MTA grievance, paraprofessional contract, security contract, custodial contract, clerical contract and nurses contract.

Roll Call:

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

Executive Session ended at 10:36 p.m. with no return by the Committee.

Respectfully submitted:

Robert E. Skerry Jr.  
Secretary

