

Regular Meeting
March 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 7:04 p.m. Those present were Ms.Cugno, Ms. DiBenedetto, Ms. Kreatz, Mr. Skerry, Ms. Van der Kloot, Mayor Burke and Superintendent Belson. Ms. Mustone was absent.

On the motion of Mr. Skerry seconded by Ms. Cugno that the minutes of February 6, 2017 be approved:

Ms. DiBenedetto asked that the report she requested on the data of new building development and effects on schools be added to list of requested reports.

Vote as amended:

Yes: 6

No: 0

Absent: 1

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

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

Roll Call:

Yea: 6 Cugno, DiBenedetto, Kreatz, Skerry, Van der Kloot, Burke

Nay: 0

Absent: 1 Mustone

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

Voted: That the Payrolls be approved

Roll Call:

Yea: 6 Cugno, DiBenedetto, Kreatz, Skerry, Van der Kloot, Burke

Nay: 0

Absent: 1 Mustone

Committee of the Whole Minutes – February 27, 2017

Ms. Van der Kloot read the minutes. The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chairperson Ann Marie Cugno at 7:06 p.m. in the Superintendent's Conference Room at Medford High School. Members present: Ann Marie Cugno; Erin DiBenedetto; Kathy Kreatz; Mea Mustone; Robert Skerry Jr; and Paulette Van der Kloot (6 present, 1 absent) Also present: Superintendent Roy Belson; Deputy Superintendent Beverly Nelson; Assistant Superintendent Diane Caldwell; Vocational Principal/Director Heidi Riccio; Director of Finance and Administration Kristeen Patterson and Director of Buildings and Grounds John McLaughlin. Parents: Sarah O'Grady; Melissa McInnis; Carolyn Montello; and Michelle Ciccolo. All rose to salute the Flag. Vice Chair Cugno stated the purpose of the meeting : “ To continue our discussions on capital planning projects for the Medford Public Schools” Vice Chair Cugno called upon the Superintendent to begin

the discussion. Superintendent Belson reiterated the importance of understanding the difference between capital planning projects and general repair and maintenance issues. Capital planning is usually a multi-year group of projects. Such projects generally require a mix of bonding, grants, and revenues. The Superintendent listed the capital projects that have been completed since FY 2000. Secretary Van der Kloot pointed out that the pool and boiler projects should be added to the list. The Superintendent stressed the importance of getting started. Capital projects often take multiple years to get approval from the funding agencies. Additionally, there are many non-school projects that need to be addressed. There must be a balance between city and school priorities as we go forward. Mayor Burke joined the meeting and assumed the Chair. The mayor was attending a city council meeting. Each committee member was provided with a packet of materials that detailed the projects that would be discussed during the meeting. The Superintendent identified the capital plan proposed of August 5, 2016 for the committee's reference. The discussion then reviewed the Statement of Interest (SOI) that was approved by the School Committee at their last regular meeting. This is only the first step toward acquiring MSBA funding assistance. Dr. Heidi Riccio then detailed three grant awards that are moving forward to enable major improvements and program development. The three grants are:

1. Massachusetts Life Sciences Grant for \$98,516 which will support the development of our robotics and engineering programs
2. Capital Skills Grant for \$500,000 to support the development of our culinary and hospitality programs. We will match this funding with both inkind assistance from our partners in industry and labor. Also we will use funding that is in a reserve contingency from the science labs project. This will require council approval.
3. Regional Services Grant for \$200,000 to expand our shops to accommodate enrollment growth. The focus of this grant will be on our electrical program and related areas. It will facilitate the inclusion with students from Everett who will pay tuition. Currently we have 25 Everett students. We expect to increase the number of tuition students to 100 over time. We are also recapturing tuitions from Minuteman.

The grants will be supplemented by inkind work by the Laborers and Wynn as well as other industry partners. The development of our shop spaces will also enable us to serve adult learners and to maximize the use of our facility. The Laborers will also help increase handicap accessibility. The discussion moved to the high school roof needs some small repairs that can be accomplished for about \$25,000 - \$30,000 this summer. We would expect to consider roof replacement beginning with 2020. This would be done in sections. The outside schools are in good shape. They have another ten years before possible replacement. Mr. McLaughlin was present to answer questions. Mr. McLaughlin then discussed the emergency repair to the heating system pipes in A building. A financial account was provided. Member Mea Mustone asked how we could find funding for this type of repair. Also why we are not finding money for building appearance projects. The Superintendent explained that he would have had to shut down "A" building if the repairs were not made. It is not uncommon to divert funding for emergency repairs. He also reiterated his plan to add additional funds to the operational budget next year for general repairs. Member Erin DiBenedetto asked that the hanging

wires in the conference room be removed from sight. Mr. Skerry urged more cosmetic work be done. Members Cugno and Van der Kloot recognized the need to do more with appearance but supported the priority of emergency repairs. Ms. Van der Kloot asked for a report on the bleachers at our k-8 schools. The Superintendent referenced the report from Mr. McLaughlin regarding the need to replace air conditioning compressors while the schools are functional there could be better efficiency. Curb replacement and parking lot resurfacing was discussed with emphasis on the high school, McGlynn, and Andrews. Playground replacement at the elementary schools was discussed. Pricing is now being sought. There is some possible mitigation/linkage from a developer to assist with the Roberts playground. The Committee received the draft executive summary for our school technology. As we move forward technology is central to our educational and operational programs. Testing, state/federal reporting and instruction are more and more dependent on a robust and reliable technology infrastructure and tools. The National Assessment study will provide us with important guidance. However, we will need to enhance our network and refresh our devices on an ongoing basis. We are eligible for substantial funding from the E-Rate program under Tier II. This will require a 40% match. Technology capital investment must be an essential part of our capital plan. On the motion of Mr. Skerry seconded by Ms. Cugno the meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Discussion:

Ms. DiBenedetto requested a report on bleachers be added to request reports. Mr. Skerry would like a report on score boards at the middle schools. Ms. Kreatz questioned the play yard gate at the Brooks and if it has been repaired. She also said that some signage is needed so that the community does not use this area when school is in session. Also she requested that a brief description of the capital projects be posted on the blog for parents.

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

Vote:

Yes: 6
No: 0
Absent: 1

On the motion of Ms. Van der Kloot seconded by Mr. Skerry to suspend rules to take #9 out of order.

Vote:

Yes: 6
No: 0
Absent: 1

Report on Medford High Ethics Bowl Team Achievements and Recommendation to Approve Participation at National High School Ethics Bowl in Chapel Hill, North Carolina

Director of Humanities Dr. Nicole Chiesa presented the report. Dr. Chiesa reported that the Ethics Bowl Team is an afterschool activity offered to all high school students. It is designed to cultivate virtues that are central to democratic citizenship. On February 4th

the team participated in the New England Regional High School Competition hosted by Tufts University. The team won the overall competition by outperforming in multiple rounds against teams throughout New England. As a result the Ethics Bowl Team was eligible to participate in the semi-finals on February 23rd. The team was successful and has been invited to the National Ethics Bowl to be held at University of North Carolina Chapel Hill in Early April. The advisor to the team is English teacher Eric Esner. Dr. Chiesa requested permission for the team to travel to North Carolina from April 7 to April 9, 2017.

On the motion of Ms. Van der Kloot to approve trip to North Carolina with Mr. Esner accompanying team and to be paid for by the school department:

Roll Call:

Yea: 6 Cugno, DiBenedetto, Kreatz, Skerry, Van der Kloot, Burke

Nay: 0

Absent: 1 Mustone

Ms. Cugno asked the students what type of questions they are asked. They students replied and gave an example. Ms. Cugno asked the approximate cost of the trip. Dr. Chiesa answered the trip would be about \$5,000 – \$6,000 total. Ms. Cugno suggested looking into adding a line item for these trips during budget.

Mea Mustone arrived at 7:23 p.m.

Recommendation to Accept Gift from Thomas Sutherland in Memory of Jean Barry Sutherland

Superintendent Belson announced that Thomas Sutherland would like to make a gift in memory and honor of Jean Barry Sutherland the late former principal of the Columbus School. The gift will be a bench and plaque to be installed on the Columbus School grounds.

On the motion of Mr. Skerry seconded by Ms. Van der Kloot to accept the gift

Roll Call:

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

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

Recommendation to Approve School Calendar SY 2016-2017

Deputy Superintendent Beverly Nelson informed the committee that the calendar reflects the start date of August 29th for students. There are five snow days built in with a projected closing date of June 20, 2018. Two professional days as mandated by the teachers' contract will be on November 7 and March 12.

Discussion:

Ms. Van der Kloot said that she thought we built in seven snow days. Superintendent Belson answered that we actually have twelve days that could be used until June 30. Ms. Van der Kloot would like to add an additional two days to the calendar. Ms. DiBenedetto agrees with her colleague so that parents can may plans. She also requested that a note be made regarding the professional day on November 7th saying that is Election Day. Ms. Kreatz commented that because of collective bargaining the students and faculty return in August and not after Labor Day. It was just the last contract that resulted in the change.

On the motion of Ms. Van der Kloot seconded by Mr. Skerry:

Roll Call:

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

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

Report on Professional Development Day March 13, 2017

Deputy Superintendent Beverly Nelson and Assistant Superintendent Diane Caldwell presented the report. Ms. Nelson reported that on Monday March 13 the district will have its second full day of mandated professional development for teachers and paraprofessionals. Scholl will not be in session for students. There will be various workshops at each grade level around three main themes – Social Emotional Learning, At Risk Students and Special Education. Also there will be activities designed to prepare teachers for the upcoming new MCAS 2.0.

Discussion:

Ms. Kreatz commented that she attended the November 8th professional day and enjoyed it. Ms. Mustone asked if all the computers are set to go for the testing. Ms. Caldwell answered yes.

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

Yes: 7

No: 0

Absent: 0

Pre Budget Guidance

Director of Guidance Amelia Jensen presented the report. Ms. Jensen said the mission of the guidance department is to ensure all students thrive in the areas of academic development, college and career preparation, and social/emotional wellness by being immersed in an environment that enhances learning, values diversity, inspires self-discovery, and provides innovative opportunities through dynamic school, student, family and community partnerships. Ms. Jensen highlighted the major accomplishments of the department for the year and gave budget requests for next year.

Discussion:

Ms. Van der Kloot asked what the welcoming project is. Ms. Jensen explained the project. Mr. Skerry inquired about the increased counselor and if it is working out. Ms. Jensen explained that there are no elementary guidance counselors only adjustment counselors.

Ms. DiBenedetto asked about School Brains and if anyone is still struggling with usage.

On the motion of Ms. DiBenedetto seconded by Mr. Skerry to receive an update report on School Brains.

Yes: 7

No: 0

Absent: 0

Ms. DiBenedetto asked how the department is handling the merger between the high school and vocational school. Ms. Jensen said that moving forward the two schools will

be completely integrated. Students will be will all counselors. The counselors have been working together and are preparing for next year. Ms. DiBenedetto asked how many students does each counselor service. Ms. Jensen said that it varies but around three hundred. Ms. Mustone asked what the umbrella project is. Ms. Jensen explained how this is supporting social emotional and behavioral students. Ms. Kreatz asked about the online program and asked if information has been sent out to parents. Ms. Jensen answered that that this is a pilot program with Juniors and Seniors for credit recovery. It has not been put out to the public yet. It will be expanded to include enrichment.

On the motion of Ms. DiBenedetto seconded by Ms. Van der Kloot to accept report and place on file:

Yes: 7

No: 0

Absent: 0

Ms. Jensen updated the committee on the 8th grade information night held last week.

Report on Transgender Student Rights

On February 22, 2017 the federal government using an executive order from the President rescinded guidance and determined that Title IX's prohibition on gender identity discrimination was null and void. The President took the position that the protection of transgender rights should be left to each state. Massachusetts law already protects the rights of transgender students in schools. Chapter 199 the Acts of 2011 went into effect in July 2012. The Medford School Committee approved a local policy affirming the Massachusetts law on April 11, 2016. He also stated that in Medford and Massachusetts transgender rights are protected. Superintendent Belson also spoke on the advisory received from Attorney General Maura Healy on Immigration. The advisory is intended as a reminder that state and federal law require state educational agencies and local school districts to provide all elementary and secondary students with equal access to public education irrespective of race, color, sex, gender identity, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, disability or immigration status. He stated that Medford is an equal opportunity school system.

On the motion of Ms. Van der Kloot seconded by Ms. Kreatz to accept report and place on file:

Yes: 7

No: 0

Absent: 0

Report on Compliance with State Defibrillation Law

Superintendent Belson reported that effective July 1, 2018 all schools must have automated external defibrillation on site. Automated external defibrillators (AEDs) are medical devices that analyze heart rhythms and can deliver electrical shocks to help the heart reestablish an effective rhythm during a sudden cardiac arrest. The American Red Cross recommends that AEDs be readily available and be applied within four minutes of cardiac arrest. Under this law (s2449) each school must have a trained person on staff. Also, that an AED is readily available at any school sponsored athletic event. Every school in Medford has at least one defibrillator in place (see attached chart). The devices are serviced annually by the Life Support Systems Service and Maintenance

Programs. In all schools the nurses check each defibrillator on a daily basis to ensure that the batteries are charged and that the device is operational. Our athletic trainer and most coaches are trained to use the devices when needed. We are currently evaluating any need we may have to increase the number of devices in our schools and to expand training. It is important to ensure that this type of device be readily available and that there be individuals capable of using it properly and effectively.

Discussion:

Ms. DiBenedetto commented that there should be a defibrillator near the fields. Superintendent Belson answered that coaches and trainer bring it to the fields. Ms. DiBenedetto asked for a list of who is trained so everyone knows.

On the motion of Ms. DiBenedetto seconded by Mr. Skerry to have a list of employees, by school, certified in using the defibrillation and posted near the device.

Roll Call:

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

Ms. Van der Kloot wants to make sure that we have enough trained employees and encourages us to train as many as possible. Ms. Mustone asked who checks the devices. Superintendent Belson answered that he has been informed by Toni Vento that the nurses check them on a daily basis. Ms. Kreatz asked if they conduct practice drills. Superintendent Belson said that he would get more information from Toni Vento.

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

Yes: 7
No: 0
Absent: 0

Update on Elementary Class Size

Superintendent Belson stated that the report was in response to the committee's request for a break out of class by specific class rather than by grade average.

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

Yes: 7
No: 0
Absent: 0

Ms. DiBenedetto would like the report sent to the City Council as requested.

Recommendation to Approve Reasonable Use Policy

Superintendent Belson presented the report. He reported that this proposed policy outlines the guidelines and behaviors that all users are expected to follow when using technology. The proposed policy has been checked out by reviewing other school policies in place and is consistent with legal guidance from USOE.

This policy applies to school owned technology on the district internet/network as well as use on non-school networks and offline and privately owned technology that is connected to the district internet/network and on privately owned networks while on school property. The Medford Public Schools is in compliance with the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) and has installed technology protection measures for all computers under the school system's control. All users must sign off on the Reasonable Use Policy each year.

Discussion:

Mr. Skerry asked if there is a space for a signature and date. Superintendent Belson said that they will add to the final version. Ms. Kreatz commented that something like this should be drafted to keep students safe at home. Ms. Cugno asked if this will be sent home; parents should have this information.

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

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 Rodger Windt. Mr. Windt was the former Medford Public Schools Director of Buildings and Grounds.

School Committee Resolution

Be it resolved, that the Medford School Committee express its sincere condolences to the family of Margaret Yerardi. Mrs. Yerardi was the mother of Medford Public Schools math teacher Janet Forti.

Be it resolved, that the Medford School Committee express its sincere condolences to the family of James Coughlin. Mr. Coughlin was a retired Medford Public Schools physical education teacher. He was the husband of Paula Coughlin a Kids Corner preschool teacher.

On the motion of Ms. DiBenedetto seconded by Ms. Van der Kloot the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 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

