

The First Regular Meeting of the Medford School Committee

Monday, September 12, 2022

Regular Meeting: 6:00 PM

To be held at the Howard Alden Memorial Chambers, Medford City Hall.

Also available via Zoom

<https://mps02155-org.zoom.us/j/97894050291>

Meeting ID: 978 9405 0291

One tap mobile

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Agenda

- I. Roll Call for Attendance of Members and the Student Representatives
- II. Salute the Flag
- III. Good of the Order
- IV. Consent Agenda
 - Bills and Payrolls
 - Special School Committee Meeting Minutes, June 13, 2022
 - Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes, June 22, 2022
- V. Report of Subcommittees
- VI. Report of the Superintendent
 1. Superintendent's Updates and Comments - Dr. Marice Edouard-Vincent, Superintendent
 2. Opening Report on Transportation and Operations - David Murphy, Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations
 3. Report on Personnel: David Murphy, Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations

4. Labor Update: David Murphy, Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations
5. Report on Enrollment: Dr. Peter Cushing, Assistant Superintendent of Enrichment and Innovation
6. Report on Summer Programs: Suzanne Galusi, Assistant Superintendent of Academics and Instruction; Joan Bowen, Director of Student Services and Paul Teixeira, Director of EL

VII. Presentations of the Public (not to begin before 7:00 pm)

“Regular Meetings of the School Committee include this ‘Presentations of the Public’ agenda item to give any resident the opportunity to place a presentation before the School Committee. A resident may only present once at any meeting.

These presentations are an opportunity for the public to make a presentation to the Committee but are not opportunities for dialog with the Committee. If one or more members of the Committee wishes to have a conversation about the topic presented, a member may request that the item be added to a subsequent Regular Meeting.

The details for submitting a presentation can be found within the policy BEDH, Public Comment and Presentations of the Public”

Pursuant to policy BEDH, Public Comment and Presentations of the Public - any resident in the audience may be given permission to speak once on any item on the agenda for up to three (3) minutes. The speaker is expected to keep their comments to the item on the agenda. The speaker must begin their comments by providing their full name and full Medford street address where they reside. A welcoming, inclusive community is both a value of the School Committee and an aspirational goal. We ask for your help in achieving this goal and value your perspective. Employees of the Medford Public Schools are exempt from the residency requirement of this policy. The voice of our employees is welcomed on all matters before this body. When a non-Medford-resident employee is participating in public comment or submitting a presentation of the public they will include their home address and identify themselves as an employee of the Medford Public Schools.

VIII. Continued Business

IX. New Business

2022-39 *Offered by Paul Ruseau*

The Medford School Committee may send a delegate and alternate delegate to the Massachusetts Association of School Committees(MASC)/Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents(MASS) Annual Joint Conference for the purpose of voting during the delegate assembly on the resolutions of the MASC. The conference is Wednesday, November 2 through Saturday, November 5, with the delegate assembly being held on Friday, November 4.

Voting is presently only allowed in person, and thus it is recommended that only members that are able to and are planning to attend the conference be nominated.

Are there nominations for delegate?

Are there nominations for alternate delegate?

Meeting Date Requested: 9/12/2022

Submitted Date: 9/6/2022

2022-40 *Offered by Paul Ruseau*

The following policies are rescinded as they are no longer necessary because state law covers these matters, we have no specialized language expanding upon the laws, and the MASC policy manual no longer offers these policies in their template system.

ACH - AFFIRMATIVE ACTION POLICY

ADB - DRUG FREE ENVIRONMENT

CFAA - DUTIES OF A PRINCIPAL

CHB and BGD (same policy) - SCHOOL COMMITTEE REVIEW OF REGULATIONS

CHC - REGULATIONS DISSEMINATION

CL - ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

CLA - ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS TO THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE (has been replaced by
CMA - ANNUAL REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS SCHEDULE)

CLB - INCIDENT REPORTS

Meeting Date Requested: 9/12/2022

Submitted Date: 9/6/2022

2022-41 *Offered by Paul Ruseau*

The School Committee must vote on each of the resolutions from the Report of the Resolutions Committee of the MASC to provide the delegate to the MASC Delegate Assembly guidance on how to vote during the assembly to be held on November 4, 2022.

The full language of the resolutions can be found at https://www.masc.org/images/events/2022/jtc/MASC_2022_Resolutions-Report.pdf and will be included in the meeting materials on September 12, 2022.

Resolution 1: Regarding Sanctuary Laws for Transgender Students

Resolution 2: To Increase the Maximum Balance Allowed by the Special Education Reserve Fund

Resolution 3: Membership of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education

Resolution 4: Preserving Local Governance of Massachusetts Schools

Resolution 5: Personal Financial Literacy Education

Resolution 6: Establishment of a Regional School Assessment Reserve Fund

The votes of the Medford School Committee are considered binding on the delegate unless the language as presented at the September 12, 2022 meeting is different from the language up for final adoption at the delegate assembly on November 4, 2022. The reason votes are otherwise considered guidance is that the exact language voted on during the assembly can be modified by amendments during the assembly and returning to the School Committee for a vote on the final language is not possible.

Meeting Date Requested: 9/12/2022

Submitted Date: 9/6/2022

2022-42 *Offered by Sharon Hays, Jenny Graham and Paul Ruseau*

Whereas the Medford Public Schools is committed to supporting the academic, social-emotional and physical needs of our students;

Whereas the Medford Public Schools is committed to ensuring a safe and secure teaching and learning environment for all students and staff;

Whereas women, girls, and LGBTQI+ students and adults across the United States continue to face discrimination, harassment and barriers to equal educational opportunities; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Medford School Committee

1. calls on the Massachusetts Congressional Delegation to offer their support to the U.S. Department of Education's 2022 proposed amendments to its Title IX Regulations that will, as described in the government's factsheet (see links below): "restore vital protections for students in our nation's schools"; "provide clear rules to help schools meet their Title IX obligation"; and "strengthen protections for LGBTQI+ students."
2. directs the Superintendent to transmit official copies of this resolution to the following: Senator Elizabeth Warren, Senator Edward Markey, and Congresswoman Katherine Clark.

<https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/t9nprm-factsheet.pdf>

<https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/t9nprm-chart.pdf>

Meeting Date Requested: 9/12/2022

Submitted Date: 9/7/2022

2022-43 *Offered by Melanie McLaughlin, Mea Mustone and Paul Ruseau*

One of the Medford Public School District's highest priorities is school safety. While we focus on all areas of safety, this particular resolution has a focus on gun violence prevention through the leadership of the district, information sharing, empowerment, and education of our school community.

Whereas, The safety and well-being of our students, teachers, and staff is a top priority of Medford Public Schools;

Whereas, In the United States, gun violence is the leading cause of death in children and teens;¹

Whereas, Evidence strongly suggests that secure firearm storage is an essential component to any effective strategy to keep schools and students safe;

Whereas, An estimated 4.6 million American children live in households with at least one loaded, unlocked firearm;²

Whereas, Every year, roughly 350 children under the age of 18 unintentionally shoot themselves or someone else,³ about one unintentional shooting per day, and 70 percent of these incidents take place inside a home;⁴

Whereas, 1200 children and teens die by gun suicide each year⁵ and over 80 percent of children under age 18 who died by firearm suicide used a gun belonging to a family member;⁶

Whereas, Research shows that secure firearm storage practices are associated with up to a 78 percent reduction in the risk of self-inflicted firearm injuries and up to an 85 percent reduction in the risk of unintentional firearm injuries among children and teens;⁷

Whereas, In incidents of gun violence on school grounds, up to 80 percent of shooters under the age of 18 obtained their guns from their own home or that of relatives or friends;⁸

Whereas, the US Secret Service National Threat Assessment Center recommends the importance of appropriate storage of weapons because many school attackers used firearms acquired from their homes;

Whereas, Keeping students, teachers, and staff safe from the threat of gun violence should be the responsibility of all adult stakeholders at each of our school sites;

Whereas, Across the country, lawmakers, community members and local leaders are working together to implement public awareness campaigns, such as the Be SMART Program, which is endorsed by the National PTA and encourages secure gun storage practices and highlights the public safety risks of unsecured guns;

Whereas, Secure storage of firearms is a legal requirement in Massachusetts pursuant to G.L. Chapter 140, sections 131L and 131C, and failure to comply with secure storage laws can lead to criminal prosecution, jail time, fines, and/or revocation of FID card or license, depending on the offense;

Whereas, the American Academy of Pediatrics recommends storing firearms unloaded, locked, and separate from ammunition;

Whereas, in order to continue with preventive measures to increase student and school safety we must act now; therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Medford School Committee directs the Superintendent and staff to update the Student Handbook to include information about parents' legal obligations regarding the secure storage of firearms;

Resolved, That the School Committee directs the Superintendent and staff to create an appropriate direct communication in the form of a letter or email to parents and guardians, that explains the importance of secure firearm storage to protect minors from accessing unsecured firearms, and their legal obligations consistent with Massachusetts safe storage law. Notification will be done as soon as possible, and included on the district website and in annual registration materials at each school site.

Resolved, the Medford School Committee and the Superintendent will continue to work with local law enforcement agencies, health agencies and non-profit organizations to collaborate and increase efforts to inform district parents, guardians, and caregivers of their obligations regarding secure storage of firearms in their homes and vehicles.

Meeting Date Requested: 9/12/2022

Submitted Date: 9/8/2022

References for Motion 2022-43:

¹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics. WONDER Online Database, Underlying Cause of Death, Injury Mechanism & All Other Leading Causes. Data from 2020. Analysis includes children and teens aged 1 to 19.

² Matthew Miller and Deborah Azrael, “Firearm Storage in US Households with Children: Findings from the 2021 National Firearm Survey,” *JAMA Network Open* 5, no. 2 (2022): e2148823, <https://doi.org/10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2021.48823>

³ Everytown for Gun Safety. #NotAnAccident Index. 2020. <https://everytownresearch.org/maps/notanaccident/>. Analysis includes incidents that occurred between 2015 and 2019.

⁴ Everytown for Gun Safety. #NotAnAccident Index. 2020. <https://everytownresearch.org/maps/notanaccident/>. Analysis includes homes of the shooter, the victim, relatives’ homes, friends’ homes, and “other” homes.

⁵ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics. WONDER Online Database, Underlying Cause of Death. A yearly average was developed using five years of the most recent available data: 2016 to 2020. Children and teens aged 0 to 19.

⁶ Johnson RM, Barber C, Azrael D, Clark DE, Hemenway D. Who are the owners of firearms used in adolescent suicides? *Suicide and Life-Threatening Behavior*. 2010;40(6):609-611.

X. Reports Requested

XI. Condolences

The Medford School Committee expresses its sincere condolences to the family of Angelina M. D’Onofrio, mother of former Director of Math & Science, Mrs. Carolyn Joy.

The Medford School Committee expresses its sincere condolences to the family of Joyce M. Arcieri, mother of Administrative Assistant Maria Arcieri.

The Medford School Committee expresses its sincere condolences to the family of Irene M. Sherritt, who worked as a nurse for the Medford Public Schools.

The Medford School Committee expresses its sincere condolences to the family of Albert M. Benedict, Jr., husband of former Medford Public Schools Elementary Teacher Lorna Benedict.

The Medford School Committee expresses its sincere condolences to the family of Kyle Roust, a graduate of the MHS Class of 2019, who passed away in a tragic accident. Kyle attended the (Columbus) Missituk Elementary School, the Andrews Middle School and Medford High School.

The Medford School Committee expresses its sincere condolences to the family of Suzanne Mary Gilpatric, who was an elementary school teacher for the Medford Public Schools.

The Medford School Committee expresses its sincere condolences to the family of Gertrude Boudreau, wife of the late former Medford High School History teacher and Mustang Hockey Coach George Boudreau, Sister of the former Dame Elementary School Principal Ann Kenneally and Aunt of Brooks 5th grade teacher Eleanor O’Leary.

The Medford School Committee expresses its sincere condolences to the family of Joyce Abramson, stepmother of former Medford High School English teacher, Diane Abramson.

The Medford School Committee expresses its sincere condolences to the family of Mary T. (O'Connell) Brady, former teacher at the Tufts Elementary School and later a librarian/media specialist at Medford High School. Mother of former City Councilor Patricia Brady Doherty and Brooks Elementary School 5th grade teacher Ellie Brady O'Leary. She was also the sister of former Dame Elementary School principal Mrs. Ann Kenneally and sister in law of former School Committee member the late William J. Brady.

The Medford School Committee expresses its sincere condolences to the family of Maria Tiberi, who for 35 years served the Medford Public Schools as a lunch mother.

The Medford School Committee expresses its sincere condolences to the family of Adele Kraus, a former social studies teacher at Medford High School.

XII. Next Meeting

- **Monday, September 19, 2022, 6:00 PM: Regular School Committee Meeting** - Alden Memorial Chambers, Medford City Hall in addition to zoom:
<https://mps02155-org.zoom.us/j/93876474168>

XIII. Adjournment