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## **The Thirteenth Regular Meeting of the Medford School Committee**

**September 18, 2023**

**Executive Session: 5:15 p.m.**

**Regular Meeting: 6:00 PM**

*Held at the Howard Alden Memorial Chambers, Medford City Hall as well as on Zoom*

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://mps02155-org.zoom.us/j/97706018891>

### **Agenda**

- I. Roll Call for Attendance of Members and the Student Representatives
- II. Salute the Flag
- III. Negotiations and Legal Matters - Executive Session: 5:15 PM

Executive session pursuant to G.L. c. 30A (a) (3): the Medford School Committee will convene in Executive Session to discuss strategy in preparation for negotiations with Teamsters Local 25 Security Monitors and Local 25 Administrators, because an open meeting will have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the Committee and the Chair so declares.

Executive session pursuant to G.L. c. 30A section 21 (a) (3): the Medford School Committee will convene in Executive Session to discuss pending litigation before the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination (MCAD) and United States District Court, since an open meeting will have a detrimental effect on the litigation position of the Committee and the Chair so declares.

The Medford School Committee will not reconvene in public session subsequent to the executive session.

IV. Consent Agenda

- Bills and Payroll
- Committee of the Whole Minutes, 6/12/2023
- Special School Committee Meeting Minutes, 6/14/2023
- Special School Committee Meeting Minutes, 6/28/2023
- Special School Committee Meeting Minutes, 7/19/2023 (*previously tabled*)
- Special School Committee Meeting Minutes, 8/14/2023 (*previously tabled*)
- Regular School Committee Meeting Minutes, 9/11/2023

V. Report of Subcommittees

VI. Report of the Superintendent

1. Superintendent's Updates and Comments - Dr. Marice Edouard-Vincent, Superintendent
2. Report on Start of School Operations at Medford High School - Ms. Marta Cabral, Principal
3. Report on the 2022-2023 DESE Comprehensive Review of Medford Public Schools - Ms. Suzanne Galusi, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction and Dr. Peter Cushing, Assistant Superintendent of Operations, Enrichment & Innovation

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

**2023-20 Offered by Member Ruseau**

**Resolution in Support of the Rural Schools Bill**

Whereas rural school districts in Massachusetts face daunting threats to their financial sustainability and thus to their ability to provide rural students with the same quality of educational opportunity enjoyed by students in other parts of the state;

Whereas the Commonwealth has rightly touted its significant increase in education funding following the 2019 Student Opportunity Act (SOA), however, the most needy rural and declining enrollment districts have received less than 1% of that increase in funding;

Whereas no less than four recent state and legislative commissions have reviewed the looming crisis facing rural schools and concluded that rural school districts are seriously under-resourced and under-funded;

Whereas the most recent of these commissions was specifically created by the SOA "...to study and make recommendations concerning the long-term fiscal health of rural school districts that are facing or may face declining student enrollment..." including recommendations for, among others things, "expanding the rural school aid grant program" and "establishing and including a low and declining student enrollment factor within the foundation budget.;" and

Whereas in its final report, issued in the December 2022, the Commission on the Fiscal Health of Rural School Districts, concluded that Districts with very low student enrollments cost 16.7% more to operate than the state average and that small K-12 regional school districts cost 22.7% more to operate than larger ones. Now, therefore, be it:

*Resolved*, that the Medford School Committee:

1. urges the Massachusetts' legislature's Joint Education Subcommittee to schedule a prompt hearing for H.3567 (and its companion bill S.2388) and, ultimately, to recommend passage by both chambers of the Massachusetts General Court. Both bills would fulfill the commitment of SOA to address the chronic underfunding of rural and declining enrollment schools by requiring an annual appropriation of \$60 million for rural school aid and implementing the full range of well-documented recommendations contained in the Report of the Commission on the Fiscal Health of Rural School Districts; and
2. will send this resolution to the members of the Joint Committee on Education.

**Date of Request: 9/12/2023**

**Date Requested to be on the Agenda: 9/18/2023**

- X. Reports Requested
- XI. Condolences
- XII. Next Meeting

**October 2, 2023** - Alden Memorial Chambers, Medford City Hall in addition to zoom

- XIII. Adjournment