

MATTAPOISETT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING  
Mattapoisett, Massachusetts

BY: HYBRID FORMAT

MEETING MINUTES  
February 28, 2022

Regular meeting of the Mattapoisett School Committee was held on Monday – February 28, 2022, and called to order by Chairperson James Muse at 6:32pm.

Chairperson Muse stated the meeting is being conducted via hybrid format only for School Committee Members; and, the public has the ability to participate remotely through zoom as well with the link provided.

MEMBERS PRESENT: James Muse, Chairperson – Remote; Carly Lavin, Vice-Chair – In Person; Tiffini Reedy – In Person; Carole Clifford – Remote; Karin Barrows – Remote

OTHERS PRESENT: Michael S. Nelson, Superintendent of Schools – In Person; Dr. Jannell Pearson-Campbell, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching & Learning – In Person; Craig Davidson, Director of Student Services – In Person; Kevin Tavares, Associate Principal – Mattapoisett Public Schools – In Person; Toni Bailey, Recording Secretary – In Person; teachers; staff; parents; members of the press and public- via zoom.

**MEETING TO ORDER:**

Chairperson, James Muse stated in accordance with Massachusetts Open Meeting Law, the Agenda has been set, the meeting is being video-taped, and unless there are any emergencies that need to be added, the Agenda will be followed as outlined.

**I. Approval of Minutes:**

1. A. Approval of Minutes – Regular Session

**Recommendation:**

That the School Committee review and approve the minutes of January 10, 2022

1. Regular Meeting Minutes – January 10, 2022

MOTION: by Karin Barrows to approve the Regular Meeting minutes of January 10, 2022, as presented

SECONDED: Carly Lavin

OPPOSED: None

MOTION PASSED – 5:0

Roll Call: Carly Lavin - Yes; Carole Clifford -Yes; Karin Barrows - Yes; Tiffini Reedy – Yes; James Muse - Yes

2. Executive Session Minutes – January 10 and February 1, 2022

**Recommendation:**

That the School Committee review and approve the Executive Session minutes of January 10, 2022 and February 1, 2022

Chairperson Muse stated these minutes would be approved during Executive Session.

### 3. Budget Sub Committee Minutes – February 14, 2022

#### Recommendation:

That the School Committee review and approve the Budget Sub Committee minutes of February 14, 2022

MOTION: by Carly Lavin to approve the Budget Sub Committee minutes of February 14, as presented

SECONDED: James Muse

OPPOSED: None

ABSTAINED: 3

MOTION PASSED – 2:0

Roll Call: Carly Lavin – Yes; Carole Clifford – Abstained; Karin Barrows – Abstained; Tiffini Reedy – Abstained; James Muse - Yes

## **IV. General**

### **A. FY23 Draft Budget Review**

#### Recommendation:

That the School Committee discuss the FY23 Draft Budget Superintendent, Michael Nelson stated the following:

*“Tonight the administration will provide an overview of the FY23 budget development work that has been completed to date. The budget sub-committee has met several times to discuss the needs of the schools in FY23 and most recently met with a representative from the Finance Committee and the Town Administrator to share the draft budget as it currently stands. We are planning to hold a formal public budget hearing on April 4<sup>th</sup> and after that meeting we will seek official approval from this school committee regarding the FY23 proposed budget.”*

Mr. Barber stated meetings have taken place over the past several months with Administration and the Leadership Team going over the different priorities they felt necessary, and they analyzed what they physically had for potential retirees and other opportunities for modifications of our current operating budget from a zero-based budget.

Mr. Barber stated within our “Operating Budget”, we have two different sections:

1. Mattapoisett Schools Section, which represents the two elementary schools; and,
2. Bristol County Agricultural School, which is also an allocation of our overall operating budget (These two combined is our total operating budget in the amount of \$7,679,144 or a 2.23% overall increase between FY22 to FY23.)

Mr. Barber stated we looked at other resources, such as grants/revolving accounts (approximately \$18,000), to help supplement the “one-time” costs that we normally look to within the overall operating budget.

Mr. Barber noted based on the reduction of a student’s attendance at Bristol County Agricultural School last October, the overall anticipated Bristol County Agricultural School tuition in FY22, went from \$127,000 to \$111,000 for FY23 (11.86% savings/approximately \$15,000 savings) in that portion of the budget.

Mr. Barber stated Circuit Breaker funds for FY23 totals approximately a \$30,000 increase - this helps supplement some of our higher student service tuition costs.

#### Question(s)/Comment(s) by School Committee Members:

Chairperson Muse stated the above is the result of a ton of work by Administration and numerous discussions with the Budget Sub-Committee as well. Mr. Muse stated we are getting to the point to have a public hearing, which we will continue to have discussions with the towns’

Finance Committee and Administrators as well, to bring forward in a public meeting the presentation of our proposed budget.

Superintendent Nelson stated we have made a lot of progress and there is still some work to be done. Mr. Nelson noted we did present this information to a representative of the Finance Committee as well as Mr. Lorenzo, Town Administrator, and we have been invited to meet with the Finance Committee and the Select Board in the near future to go over this information as well and to answer any questions they may have. Mr. Nelson stated this meeting would take place prior to the scheduled public hearing.

## **B. Tiered Focused Monitoring Audit (English Language Learners)**

### Recommendation:

That the School Committee hear an update from administration

Superintendent, Michael Nelson stated the following:

*“Tonight I am recommending that the School Committee hear a Tiered Focused Monitoring Audit update. Specifically, our six schools recently received our report for the Tiered Focused Monitoring Audit that looks at our school’s implementation of English Language Education or English Language Learner Regulations. The Department of Education looks at all relevant documentation, student records, interviews staff members and solicits parent and guardian feedback. I want to thank Assistant Superintendent Pearson-Campbell for her leadership on working through this process and recognize the affirmative feedback we received.”*

Dr. Jannell Pearson-Campbell stated the Department of Education reviewed our records and spoke to our staff, noting we have one teacher who supports all of our ELL students. Dr. Pearson-Campbell explained that although our student(s) speak English, their parent(s) may not, and we need to think about how we are going assist/support them when they come into our District. Dr. Pearson-Campbell stated there are 12 criteria that have to be met and we implemented eight of the twelve, with four criteria partially implemented based on a review of documents and interviews with parents/guardians, educators and staff that support English Language Learners. Dr. Pearson-Campbell noted if you look at our web page now, parents are able to translate the web page in four different languages – Portuguese, Spanish, Hindu and English and in working with Erin Bednarzyk our District Web Coordinator, any reports that are received now are translated into all of those four languages. Dr. Pearson-Campbell noted Google Surveys are now being translated in the four languages as well.

Dr. Pearson-Campbell stated the District’s Improvement Plan was submitted to DESE on February 14<sup>th</sup> and we are awaiting DESE’s approval of the Plan.

Mr. Nelson stated currently, we have between 9-15 students throughout the entire Old Rochester Regional School District – and in Mattapoisett we have less than 3 students.

### Question(s)/Comment(s) by School Committee Members:

Carly Lavin:

You talked about the functionality to translate webpages, surveys and all of the things that are hands on recently. I know we have other hardcopy things such as report cards, handbooks, etc. Will all of those things be translated as well?

Dr. Pearson-Campbell stated when the parent completes the survey – and they mark off “Hindu” for example – everything will be translated in that language.

Carly Lavin:

If we have a family move into the District who needs support in a fifth language, do we have the infrastructure to support that language - and would that come with an additional cost?

Mr. Nelson responded yes and noted it would depend on the level of translation needed. Mr. Nelson noted there are families that just need it to be translated (which is one piece), and there are other families who may need a translator for meetings and communicating, which would be an additional cost – it really depends on the level of need.

Tiffini Reedy:

What do we do currently if a family comes in and needs translation?

Mr. Nelson responded we have a number of vendors that we can reach out to who can provide these services.

Mr. Nelson explained to the school committee that we are audited every three years on Civil Rights, ELL and Special Education and we just completed our most recent cycle on all of these. Mr. Nelson noted we would receive feedback from DESE regarding Dr. Pearson-Campbell's Improvement Plan that she submitted on February 14<sup>th</sup> on the four criteria that were partially implemented, in the near future.

### **C. READS Collaborative Capital Plan Approval**

#### Recommendation:

That the School Committee review for approval the Capital Plan. READS Collaborative Board of Directors approved the READS Capital Plan and fund limit on January 27, 2022 and requests that member school committees approve the reason for the reserve and the limit on the balance that may be held in the reserve:

Reason for the Reserve:

1. Maintenance and improvement of READS' properties and leased properties.
2. Provide funding for payment of the lease for READS Academy Public Day School location during periods of time when enrollment is below expectations.
3. Prepare to purchase the location of the Academy Public Day School to eliminate the expense of a lease beyond 10 years.

The limit on the above as approved by READS Board of Directors is \$4,000,000 for the reasons identified. READS Collaborative put together a video that can also be watched by school committee explaining the plan. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ADio17Hw5fw>

Please refer to "MTSC 02282022 READS Capital Plan". The attachment includes the following supportive documents from READS:

1. The Capital Plan Approval page which requires a signature of the School Committee Chair. This page also includes the language in CMR 603:50:07(10).
2. The FY22-26 Capital Plan which is for information only. This information does not require SC approval.
3. A copy of the slide show for easy reference
4. Brochures for the Academy PreK-6 and 7-12+ schools. We will mail you tri-fold copies in color to distribute to your School Committee members as well.

Motion to approve the reasons for the READS Collaborative Capital Reserve Fund as presented and the limit of \$4,000,000 on the amount that may be held in reserve.

Superintendent Michael Nelson stated the following:

*“Tonight, I am recommending that the school committee review the Capital Plan presented by READS Collaborative for approval. This plan was approved by READS Collaborative Board of Directors on January 27, 2022 and now must be approved by READS Collaborative member districts, which Mattapoissett, Rochester and Marion are member districts.*

*Reasons for the Capital Reserve Fund include:*

- 1. Maintenance and improvement of READS’ properties and leased properties.*
- 2. To provide funding for payment of the lease for READS Academy Public Day School location during periods of time when enrollment is below expectations, and*
- 3. To prepare to purchase the location of the Academy Public Day School to eliminate the expense of the lease beyond 10 years.*

*The limit on the above as approved by READS Board of Directors is \$4,000,000 for the reasons previously stated.”*

Dr. Theresa Craig, Executive Director of READS Collaborative and Lindsey Albernaz, Business Manager of READS Collaborative, presented a brief overview of the READS programs, services and locations. The full presentation can be accessed at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ADio17Hw5fw>

Dr. Craig concluded with:

*“The 18 Member Districts of READS Collaborative have provided consistent support and vision over the past 47 years. School Committee members and superintendents have sought to ensure specialized intervention for the students with disabilities is provided by the highly qualified staff at READS Academy, READS Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program, READS Clinic, and READS District Services both in READS programs and within school districts.”*

Superintendent Michael Nelson stated the following:

*“Hopefully the overview, for those of you who are not familiar with READS Collaborative, will have a better understanding of the services that they provide for us. We are a member of two collaboratives – one being READS Collaborative and the other SMEC Collaborative. Their structure is a little different in terms of how they operate. READS has a Board of Directors that is comprised of the Superintendents of the Member Districts and SMEC has a Management Team that is comprised of the Director’s of Student Services.*

*What is important for you to know tonight is that you are not approving their Capital Plan and you are not approving a certain amount of money to be allocated to READS Capital Reserve Fund. What you are voting on is just allowing them to establish this fund and any funds that would be put into it would go through their typical budget process, which requires approval through their Board of Directors.”*

Question(s)/Comment(s) by School Committee Members:

Tiffini Reedy:

How many students do we currently have enrolled in the READS Program; where does the funding come from; and how does the student determine eligible for READS or meet the needs?

Mr. Nelson stated currently we have no students attending READS Collaborative and noted that Collaboratives are an extension of the public school and what they are designed to do is to provide special education or student services to students who we may not be able to serve to their fullest need in district. Mr. Nelson stated if a student's special education team or the student service team convenes and decides that we cannot meet this students' need, we then have the responsibility to find those services. Mr. Nelson stated if READS Collaborative had the appropriate services we would work with them in terms of having a student tuition in. Mr. Nelson stated they also provide other services such as OT/ PT as well as Assessments.

Tiffini Reedy:

Is a portion of the budget allocated for READS or do they get their funding based on student enrollment?

Mr. Nelson stated it is based on student enrollment, and we budget for what we know and not for projections.

Karin Barrows:

Comment: Ms. Barrows stated in her professional experience in working with READS Collaborative, it is such an essential place for our students in this area to have access to – they do phenomenal work with our low incidence population and as a district (in speaking for herself and she hopes everyone) that we are proud to support READS in anyway that we can.

MOTION: by Carly Lavin to approve the reasons for the READS Collaborative Capital Reserve Fund as presented and the limit of \$4,000,000 on the amount that may be held in reserve

SECOND: Karin Barrows

OPPOSED: None

MOTION PASSED – 5:0

Roll Call: Carly Lavin – Yes; Carole Clifford – Yes; Karin Barrows – Yes; Tiffini Reedy – Yes; James Muse - Yes

#### **D. Student Handbook Update**

##### Recommendation:

That the School Committee review for approval an update to the Student Handbook.

Superintendent Michael Nelson stated the following:

*“Recently we have had some changes in our COVID-19 protocols and practices, specifically around masking and some of the other pieces. It is necessary for us to bring the Student Handbook back to the committee today to update it to reflect those changes that were made. The work here is pretty straight forward – tonight Mr. Tavares will go over the specifics, but we essentially struck the language that had to do with masking mandate and some of the other pieces that now allows us to be fluid and to work within the guidance that was supported at our recent Joint School Committee.”*

Mr. Tavares stated the Student Handbook has been aligned with the recent changes noting masks are optional within the school – but masks must be worn in the nurse's office.

Mr. Tavares stated they revised the Student Handbook to reflect changes to gender pronouns and they made minor changes relating to staff (adding staff/taking staff out).

Mr. Tavares stated they updated the radio stations to listen to during inclement weather and noted they made changes to the Valuable Section of the handbook regarding Pokémon cards.

Mr. Tavares stated one of the biggest changes was adding a Bike Policy. Mr. Tavares stated they had limitations riding bikes to school and this new policy includes where and how to ride. Mr. Tavares stated the Mattapoisett Recreation Department donated a bike rack, which is located behind the school and extended a “thank you” to the Recreation Department.

Mr. Tavares concluded mostly the language around COVID-19 protocols was removed.

MOTION: by Karin Barrows to approve the Student Parent Handbook as presented

SECOND: Carole Clifford

OPPOSED: None

MOTION PASSED – 5:0

Roll Call: Carly Lavin – Yes; Carole Clifford – Yes; Karin Barrows – Yes; Tiffini Reedy – Yes; James Muse - Yes

## **E. School Consolidation Study Discussion**

### Recommendation:

That the School Committee have a discussion about the School Consolidation Study  
Superintendent Michael Nelson stated the following:

*“This past summer I was notified of the intent to utilize the UMass Collins Center to take a look at our school buildings structure. Presently, we are operating two schools and we are looking at the projections of our student enrollment and what would be their recommendation as we look forward to coming years. I joined Mr. Lorenzo and a representative from UMass Collins Center this past summer and we gave a tour of our two buildings – they took a look at the facilities and they were able to ask some questions regarding the “why” behind certain aspects of the buildings and they said they would be requesting some back-up data. That was the extent of the visits to our school buildings but I do know that we have been providing some information to them as they continue to work through the process. My understanding is as the study continues there will be opportunities for the community and stakeholders to provide feedback and to participate in the study in terms of giving their input. In speaking with Mr. Lorenzo, he is willing to attend a school committee meeting to explain the process if there is any additional questions for him. Mr. Lorenzo and I also talked about inviting a representative who is conducting the study so that you can hear directly from him as well, in terms of what is happening and what the process will look like moving forward.”*

### Question(s)/Comment(s) by School Committee Members:

Carole Clifford:

The study is going forward but nobody has heard anything concise yet?

Mr. Nelson stated he has been updated in regards to what work has been done and he shared with what has happened so far, which was the tour during the summer with Michael Edwards from UMass Collins Center. Mr. Nelson noted UMass Collins Center have been collecting data and information from us in terms of our buildings and using a lot of the data that is published, in terms of looking at our facilities and also looking at our current enrollment and what the projections may be.

Mr. Nelson reiterated there will be opportunities for the community to provide input into the process and stated the study will be ongoing.

James Muse:

Mr. Muse stated the study is being done to assist the town in having information. The study is not to determine how things are done, but rather give some guidance into the situation so that we can have clear advice on how the town can best move forward, and all of the stakeholders will have input as it goes. Mr. Muse stated this discussion has been around for quite some time and a number of questions have come up and we just want to let everyone know we will keep them abreast and the school committee will certainly do their part to provide whatever information they need so that the students of our town going forward, regardless of what happens, will still have a great education.

Tiffini Reedy:

The individual from the UMass Collins Center who is heading the study – are we funding this study or are they doing it pro bono as part of some sort of project within the school? I am not sure what the UMass Collins Center is.

Mr. Nelson stated it is a public service department within UMass where they help conduct studies for the public sector in general. Mr. Nelson stated the school district is not funding this – this is an initiative that came from the Town in terms of looking at planning options moving forward.

Tiffini Reedy:

Is there any relationship between the individuals at the UMass Collins Center with the Town of Mattapoisett or with the school?

Ms. Reedy is wondering if there would be any bias involved in the study.

How many individuals are conducting the study and what are their credentials?

Mr. Lorenzo stated the town took this on by going through a Community Compact Grant. Mr. Lorenzo stated if you go on line, the Governor funds certain projects – mostly investigative projects – i.e. Green Initiatives. Mr. Lorenzo stated the town received a grant looking to investigate the possibility of consolidation or the operations of both school buildings. Mr. Lorenzo stated they also received a grant to do an analysis of the Transfer Station to possibly look at improvements to be done at that site.

Mr. Lorenzo stated this is not being paid for – it is fully funded by the grant and the UMass Collins Center came to the town interested in basically assisting with the project. Mr. Lorenzo stated the town is not involved and stated he does not know any of the individuals on the study. Mr. Lorenzo stated the only communication the town has had with UMass Collins is during the tour – and he noted that Mr. Nelson and Mr. Jones has provided some additional information to UMass Collins Center. Mr. Lorenzo stated he has spoken with Michael Edwards personally to discuss the timeframe of when the report would be completed (they want to align with the Master Plan Committee to get ideas on what the town is looking for in terms of spacing needs – such as is the town looking for a community center in the future or an art center, etc.) Mr. Lorenzo stated UMass Collins Center is having a meeting with the Master Plan Committee in the month of March and the town will be involved in that. Mr. Lorenzo stated they will do an assessment on financials as well as enrollment and building use, etc. Mr. Lorenzo stated the report will be delivered sometime in the summer. Mr. Lorenzo stated the Board has not met with them, FinCom has not met with them and he has not met with them. Mr. Lorenzo stated the goal of this was to have an independent study done and have them do an analysis of what they see from the outside looking in. Mr. Lorenzo stated it does not mean that the Board and the School Committee will not be called upon to meet with them and to have a discussion, but at this time, nobody has been involved besides them.

Tiffini Reedy:

This Collins Center just randomly reached out to Mattapoisett?

Mr. Lorenzo stated when the Community Compact Grant comes out; the UMass Collins Center gives a call to many towns and asks if they can assist with the grant application. Mr. Lorenzo stated when the Community Compact Grant was being announced for another round of applications, someone from the Collins Center reached out to the Town of Mattapoisett and asked if the town was interested in making a submission for this grant. Mr. Lorenzo stated the UMass Collins Center needs funding in order to operate so they reach out to towns to see if they can partner with them on a grant application. Mr. Lorenzo stated the town is paying the UMass Collins Center with this grant to perform this study.

Tiffini Reedy:

Nobody from the town knows this individual from the UMass Collins Center?

Mr. Lorenzo stated no one from the town knew this individual – it was just an application for a study. Mr. Lorenzo stated he does not know Mike Edwards personally and he does not know anyone from the UMass Collins Center personally.

Tiffini Reedy:

Will we get some sort of a summary of the information that was provided to the UMass Collins Center as far as the financials and the enrollment?

Mr. Lorenzo stated he has not given UMass Collins Center anything.

Mr. Nelson stated information that was provided to UMass Collins Center was general information, i.e. specs of the building – how old are the buildings, how old are the roofs, when were the windows last replaced, etc.

Mr. Nelson stated every year SIMS Data has to be submitted to DESE (staffing, student enrollment) and end of the year reporting is submitted as well, which includes the financials, etc. Mr. Nelson noted this is all public record for anyone to access through the Department of Education's website.

Tiffini Reedy:

If we were to combine the schools, would that happen publically – would it require a vote from the School Committee – how does that happen?

Mr. Lorenzo stated it would go to Town Meeting – it is not something that would be done in haste. Mr. Lorenzo stated it could not happen without a lot of funding and changes and he and Mr. Nelson would have a lot of work to do ahead of time – it would not happen in a short timeframe. Mr. Lorenzo stated this is only a study and it does not force a decision either way.

Chairperson Muse thanked Mr. Lorenzo for the information he provided. Mr. Muse stated he has no doubt that all town departments associated with anything that might happen, that the school committee and the school community as a whole, will understand what is happening and will have ample opportunity to give input.

Mr. Lorenzo stated he would share with the school committee Mike Edwards (UMass Collins Center) contact information and they can feel free to contact him directly to ask additional questions.

Carly Lavin:

If a meeting were scheduled between UMass Collins Center/Mike Edwards and the Mattapoisett's Master Plan Committee – Ms. Lavin would like for Mr. Lorenzo to provide that date to Mr. Nelson so that he can share the date with the school committee.

## **F. May 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting**

### Recommendation:

That the School Committee review and discuss the regularly scheduled meeting on May 9<sup>th</sup>. The Mattapoisett Annual Meeting will be held on May 9<sup>th</sup>, therefore, Administration suggests moving the Mattapoisett School Committee meeting to Monday May 16, 2022.

Superintendent Michael Nelson stated the following:

*“I am recommending that the school committee take action tonight and move their regularly scheduled meeting on May 9, 2022 to May 16, 2022. The reason for this request is that the Mattapoisett Annual Meeting is scheduled to take place on May 9<sup>th</sup>.”*

MOTION: by Carly Lavin to move the regularly scheduled meeting from May 9, 2022 to Monday, May 16, 2022.

SECOND: Carole Clifford

OPPOSED: None

MOTION PASSED – 5:0

Roll Call: Carly Lavin – Yes; Carole Clifford – Yes; Karin Barrows – Yes; Tiffini Reedy – Yes; James Muse - Yes

## **V. New Business**

### **B. Business**

#### **1. Financial Report**

### Recommendation:

That the School Committee hear a report from Mr. Barber.

Mr. Barber reported the following:

The Mattapoisett School District currently has approximately \$435,000 available of the general funds appropriated in the 2022 Fiscal Year. Per the attached Year-to-Date Budget Report by Department, we are able to identify how our funds are encumbered and expended. This report recognizes that of the \$7,511.872 appropriated to the District, consisting of both the Mattapoisett School District and Bristol County Agricultural enrolled student operational costs, 82.97% of funding spent or encumbered are directly relating to student instruction.

### Question(s)/Comment(s) by School Committee Members:

Carly Lavin:

Do you have a balance on any remaining ESSR Funds?

There may be some discretion on how we might want to use this.

Mr. Barber will provide this information to the school committee.

Mr. Barber reported the following:

Food Service Director's Report (By: Jill Henesey) dated February 2022, as follows (for both Center School and Old Hammondtown School):

- Meal participation continues to remain strong
- Nation-wide supply chain disruptions and price increases are having a significant impact on our program.

- Changes to posted menus may happen without notice. Please have patience and understanding. We will ensure that all students are provided a well-balanced, nutritious meal that meet the USDA nutrition standards
- Cost of food and supplies are increasing significantly

Question(s)/Comment(s) by School Committee Members:

Carly Lavin:

Has the rise in inflation and the food cost uncertainty been brought into our budget as well for next year?

Mr. Barber stated the food service itself is a self-sustaining revolving account. Mr. Barber stated when we do our normal budget accounts, we don't identify the food services as a direct impact to the operating budget because it usually is self-sustaining.

Carly Lavin:

If the Federal program goes away and free lunch and free breakfast is not available and parents have to pay for those meals again, and if we kept the cost the same as it was two years ago – it actually would not be a self-sustaining program – the costs would be higher than the revenue. Potentially, we are looking at, in order to keep it self-sustaining, there would be a meaningful price increase?

Mr. Barber stated he would leave that open for right now because knowing the restrictions we had before for product as it is now, and we don't know if there is going to be modifications to what the food options would be (since each year they make changes upon eligibility factors that come into play to what we can serve) – those things also have restrictions in what we can purchase and what we can't. Mr. Barber noted these things factor into the price margin.

Carly Lavin:

Do you have a rough ETA of finding out when there might be a re-up on the Federal program or when they might make a decision?

Mr. Barber stated there has not been anything formally released as of yet.

Mr. Barber reported the following:

Facilities Director's Report (By: Gene Jones) dated February 2022 as follows:

Center School:

- Completed one snow/ice removal operation
- Completed ANSUL Kitchen fire system inspection
- Assisted Town in COVID test kit distribution
- COVID-19 protocols set for HVAC, cleaning, sanitizing
- Conducted routine maintenance on all facility systems
- 

Old Hammondtown School:

- Completed one snow/ice removal operation
- Completed ANSUL Kitchen fire system inspection
- Completed HVAC Controller updates
- COVID-19 protocols set for HVAC, cleaning, sanitizing
- Conducted routine maintenance on all facility systems

## **VI. CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT:**

Chairperson Muse stated our school district succeeds because of great people and that goes from the Building Administration, Central Office Administration and our teachers and staff. Mr. Muse stated we have a great school system and it is imperative that the public remembers we have this great school system because of great people.

## **CENTRAL OFFICE ADMINSTRATOR’S REPORT:**

Superintendent Nelson stated the following:

*“The big news today is returning from school vacation marked the official start of mask optional for our students and our staff members. At the most recent Joint School Committee it was decided that our schools would follow the most recent Department of Ed guidance regarding masks and allowing individual choice moving forward.*

*Over the weekend, things continued to change in the Federal Order related to school transportation – mask mandate was lifted. Masks are now optional for individuals utilizing transportation as well.*

*At this time, our focus is to support all individuals no matter their masking preference and focusing on teaching and learning. We will continue to utilize other mitigation strategies and monitor available data points and keep the school committee informed.”*

Dr. Jannell Pearson-Campbell, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching & Instruction provided a written report as follows:

On February 9<sup>th</sup> (1/2 day of PD) we continued to focus on the following three key areas: Global Citizenship, 21st Century Learning, and Social Emotional Learning. Educators were offered building-based opportunities for vertical alignment.

On March 9th half day of building-based professional development; the focus is Global Citizenship and Equitable Practices. Educators will have the opportunity to participate in a training focused on examining assessments and units to support diverse learners facilitated by Atlas, our curriculum-mapping platform.

The District’s English Language Learner department received feedback from DESE regarding a recent audit. The Tiered Focused Monitoring report evaluates 12 criteria. Eight out of the 12 criteria were fully implemented. Four criteria were partially implemented based on a review of documents and interviews with parents/guardians, educators, and staff that support English Language Learners. The results of the ELL audit places our district in Tier 1 under the Continuous Improvement Plan. The District’s Plan was sent to DESE on February 14th; we are awaiting DESE’s approval of the Plan.

The Office of Teaching and Learning is working with Ms. Erin Bednarczyk, the District’s Website Coordinator, to create a Family Engagement webpage. The webpage will provide parents and guardians with translated steps when enrolling or transferring into the District. The school district's data is now in a Google Datasheet to ensure parents receive translation or written documents in their native language.

The Instructional Council Team will be sending Google Surveys to staff, students and parents/guardians for feedback to support the creation of the 2022-2023 Professional Development Plan. Once all of the data has been received from the surveys, the Instructional Council Team will review the survey data and create the draft 2022-2023 Professional Development Plan.

Mr. Craig Davidson – Director of Student Services reported the following:

Last week, during February vacation, we provided a Math Acceleration Academy to over 70 Tri-Town students enrolled in grades 3 through 10. Students participated in engaging and dynamic Math lessons that focused on accelerating students' learning in data driven targeted areas. The Academy was free of charge for all students who participated. A second Math Acceleration Academy will be offered during April vacation.

The Community Talks Series: On February 10, host, Jon Mattleman, a mental health counselor, presented “The Secret Lives of Teens & Tweens”. It was a dynamic and fun presentation for parents and caregivers. Part two will take place on Thursday, March 10th at 6:00 p.m.

Question(s)/Comment(s) by School Committee Members:

Carly Lavin:

At the beginning of the school year, we talked about different scaffolding opportunities with the acceleration academy camps being one of them – but there was also mention of afterschool opportunities for students as well. Is there any information on this?

Mr. Tavares will respond to this question in the Principal’s Report.

**PRINCIPAL’S REPORT**

Mr. Kevin Tavares, Associate Principal of Center School/Old Hammondtown School stated the following:

- A new telephone system has finally been installed at Center School!
- FORM Concerts are back! The School Chorus, under the direction of Mrs. Willow Dowling, will be performing at the high school on March 8, 2022 and the Concert Band, under the direction of Mr. Brent Alger, will be performing at the high school on March 15, 2022.
- Dates for MCAS are being put together – Students in grades 3-8 will take two sessions of ELA and two session of math; students in grade 5 will take two sessions of science and technology/engineering
- Spring photos will be taken on April 13

Mr. Tavares stated they will have the afterschool tutorial program for students – presently, they have identified the students that will be invited in the first wave, beginning the week of March 7. Mr. Tavares noted they would be reaching out to families by emails as well as making phone calls to parents/guardians who they have identified as needing this extra tutorial services. Mr. Tavares stated both math and ELA will be offered – Monday/Wednesday and Tuesday/Thursday. Mr. Tavares stated this is not a homework club – their will be instruction in areas where students need help.

Question(s)/Comment(s) by School Committee Members:

Karin Barrows:

Is the program invitation only and what criteria is it based on?

Mr. Tavares stated it is based on Aimsweb Benchmark testing, as well as teacher feedback. Mr. Tavares stated they are using the fall and winter scores of the Aimsweb testing, so they can see if there was growth in areas of need.

## **VIII. School Committee**

### **A. Committee Reports**

#### **1. ORR District School Committee**

Mr. Muse reported as follows:

- Discussed the Budget
- Discussed the High School's Program of Studies
- Discussed the Tier Monitoring Audit

#### **2. SMEC**

Ms. Reedy stated they have not met – the next meeting is scheduled at the end of March, 2022

#### **3. READS**

Mr. Nelson stated READS met on January 27, 2022, and reported the following:

- Met with the Board of Directors
- Approved the Minutes as presented
- Heard the report from the Special Education Administrators within the READS Collaborative
- Regarding Action Items:
  - Took action on the FY23 Budget
  - Talked about the process for the work we did tonight regarding the READS Capital Plan
  - Increased the pay scale for substitutes (READS is also struggling obtaining substitutes)
  - Accepted the recommendation of the Executive Director regarding new staff

#### **4. Early Childhood Council**

Ms. Barrows stated they will be meeting on March 22, 2022

#### **5. MASC**

Mr. Muse reminded the committee members that MASC is a great resource, not just for their trainings and information, but their website is fantastic and they do have individuals who can answer questions that are more generic to school committees as a whole.

#### **6. Mattapoisett Capital Needs Committee**

Mr. Barber noted there was a meeting tonight and he will obtain a re-cap of that meeting and share it with the school committee at the next meeting

#### **7. Tri-Town Education Foundation**

Ms. Barrows stated they are in the process of scheduling the next meeting.

Ms. Barrows wanted to publically thank Abington Bank – we just accepted a donation from Abington Bank in the amount of \$790.00 to go directly to our fund and we are hoping to accept Grant Applications very soon.

#### **8. Policy Sub-Committee**

Ms. Lavin stated they have gone through a number of reviews – we have approved a whole host of policies relating to gender pronouns; the Public Comments for School Committees was clarified to align with the MASC recommendations

9. Budget Sub-Committee

Mr. Muse reported the following:

- An overview of what is happening has been shared and they will continue to meet until we have our public meeting – targeting for April 4, 2022

10. Clock Committee

Mr. Muse reported the clock is working fine according to all accounts

11. Anti-Racism Committee

Ms. Clifford stated they have not met.

**COMMENTS/QUESTIONS BY SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS:**

Carly Lavin:

There was some work being done in one of the high school classrooms around educational policies and early education – Ms. Lavin thought it would be really helpful if they don't present to the Anti-Racism Committee, she was wondering how we can bring diversity into some of the educational components. Ms. Lavin would be interested in hearing a little more – it would be a nice “full circle” of seeing the work the high school students are doing and having them feel appreciated.

**IX. Future Business**

**A. Timeline**

The next meeting(s) of Committee will be held as follows:

**Mattapoissett School Committee**

April 4, 2022 @ 6:30pm

Hybrid Format

**Joint School Committee**

April 28, 2022 @ 6:30pm

Zoom

**B. Future Agenda Items**

- Budget Approval (public hearings) (April)
- School Committee Reorganization (May/June – depending on election date)
- School Choice Public Hearing (May)
- Administrator Contract (May)
- Approval of new School Council goals (June)

**COMMENTS/QUESTIONS BY SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS:**

Carly Lavin:

Given the change that we just made at the District Level about the terms of School Committee members, does it make sense to have the “Reorganization” after that?

Mr. Muse stated we couldn't have the “Reorganization” until after the election.

Ms. Lavin's concern was that School Committee member's terms go until the end of June now.

Mr. Nelson stated it is only for the region. Mr. Nelson stated the School Committee members have to follow the bi-laws of their towns for the elementary districts

## **X. Open Comments**

Chairperson Muse stated at this time for anyone who is participating via zoom, if you would like to make an “Open Comment”, add your name and address to the chat, we will acknowledge that we have a request, and with the Chairperson’s permission, anyone with a public comment can speak up to three (3) minutes – and the Open Comments will last a total of fifteen (15) minutes – **there were no “Open Comments”.**

## **XI. Information Items**

### LIST OF DOCUMENTS USED AT THE MEETING

- Mattapoisett School Committee Meeting Agenda – February 25, 2022
- Regular Session – Meeting Minutes – January 10, 2022
- Budget Sub Committee Minutes – February 14, 2022
- Tiered Focused Monitoring Report dated January 12, 2022
- READS Collaborative Capital Plan – Supporting Document FY2022-2026
- Student Handbook - Update
- Financial Report dated February 18, 2022
- Food Service Director Report dated February, 2022
- Facilities Director Report – February, 2022
- Principal’s Report – February 28, 2022

## **XII. Executive Session**

### Recommendation

That the School Committee enter into Executive Session for the purposes of exception #3, to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining and exception #7, to comply with the provisions of any general or special law or federal regulations

MOTION: by Karin Barrows to go into Executive Session at 7:52pm for the Purpose of #3 and #7, and to return to the regular School Committee meeting as scheduled only to adjourn

SECONDED: Carole Clifford

OPPOSED: None

MOTION PASSED – 5:0

Roll Call: Carly Lavin – Yes; Karin Barrows – Yes; Carole Clifford – Yes; Tiffini Reedy – Yes; James Muse - Yes

Respectfully Submitted,

Toni M. Bailey, Recording Secretary