

MATTAPOISETT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
Mattapoisett, Massachusetts

BY: HYBRID FORMAT

MEETING MINUTES
May 3, 2021

Regular meeting of the Mattapoisett School Committee was held on Monday – May 3, 2021, and called to order by Chairperson James Muse at 6:30pm.

Chairperson Muse stated the meeting is being conducted in a hybrid format – with committee members and administrators having the option to attend in person at the Junior High School Media Room, 133 Marion Road, Mattapoisett MA, and the public has the ability to participate remotely through zoom.

MEMBERS PRESENT: James Muse, Chairperson- by: Remote; Carly Lavin, Vice-Chair- by: Hybrid; Carole Clifford – by: Hybrid; Shannon Finning by: Hybrid; and Karin Barrows – by: Hybrid

OTHERS PRESENT: Michael S. Nelson, Superintendent of Schools – Hybrid; Jannell Pearson-Campbell – Assistant Superintendent of Teaching & Learning – Remote; Craig Davidson, Director of Student Services-Remote; Howard Barber – Assistant Superintendent of Finance & Operations - Remote; Kevin Tavares, Associate Principal – Mattapoisett Public Schools - Remote; Kevin Brogioli, Interim Principal – Mattapoisett Public Schools - Remote; teachers; staff; parents; members of the press and public; and, Toni Bailey, Recording Secretary all participated via zoom.

Mr. Muse asked that the School Committee members, Administration and community members hold a moment of silence for Mr. Brian Dean, who was a long, long time school bus driver for the district. Mr. Muse stated sometimes it is forgotten what a pivotal role so many people play in educating our children and none more so than the bus driver who is the first person our students see in the morning and the last person they see when they get off the bus in the afternoon. Mr. Muse stated Mr. Dean was loved and passed away suddenly, and we send our condolences to his family.

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.

SCHOOL CHOICE PUBLIC HEARING

Michael S. Nelson – Superintendent of School:

“Good evening everyone. It is exciting to start this meeting with our School Choice hearing and I want to remind everyone on an annual basis, each Massachusetts school committee must hold a public School Choice hearing. At our last school committee meeting a discussion was had by this committee to discuss the current status of School Choice in anticipation of tonight’s hearing. Presently, the Mattapoisett elementary schools enroll 8 School Choice students.

As a friendly reminder, all these students have the legal right to matriculate through the sixth grade based off of their School Choice status. Presently there are 3 School Choice students in kindergarten; 3 in 1st grade; and 2 in 2nd grade. At this time, we anticipate all 8 students will be returning to the school next year. I have provided the committee 2021-2022 enrollment projections to aid discussion and decision making this evening. Later tonight, I am requesting this committee take action regarding whether or not the Mattapoisett Elementary School District will accept additional School Choice slots for the upcoming school year. At this point, I am happy to answer any additional questions members may have and I encourage the committee to discuss School Choice, and then recommend that the committee hear any open comments from the public.”

Mr. Muse asked if there were any additional comments/questions from the school committee members regarding School Choice.

Shannon Finning:

Understanding that we anticipate the eight (8) currently enrolled School Choice students to return, which is good news - that's what we want to see in terms of continuity of access to education. Are you looking for a recommendation of number of kindergarten students to admit, or across all school years?

Dr. Finning stated we have discussed previously that it is preferable that we bring students in Kindergarten and Grade 1 – is there any feedback that should be shared with the committee?

Mr. Nelson stated when we think about opening up additional slots (with the understanding these eight (8) students will be continuing to the next grade), it is his understanding that historical practices has been to identify the earlier grade levels so that students are able to enter the district at the beginning, learn the culture, be part of the community, and then matriculate through 6th grade.

Mr. Nelson stated his recommendation would be that if the committee would like to add additional School Choice slots, you would give parameters where minimally the administration would look to add these students to the lower grade levels if the enrollment allowed, and you would still have the option to discuss and agree upon adding School Choice slots to the upper grade levels.

Mr. Nelson noted it is really a discussion amongst the school committee members.

Carly Lavin:

Looking at the data that Mr. Nelson provided, is it fair to say that the Kindergarten row is what you are anticipating for School Choice enrollment or is that the current Kindergarten School Choice enrollment?

Mr. Nelson stated at this time, in FY21/22 we are anticipating 55 students enrolling in Kindergarten and if you were to add an additional two (2) new School Choice slots, it would be in addition to that projected number.

Carole Clifford:

If we do not add any additional Kindergarten School Choice students for the FY21/22 school year, it would mean next year there would be no School Choice students in Kindergarten?

Mr. Muse responded that is correct, unless we vote for additional Kindergarten slots to be added tonight.

Ms. Clifford noted if that is the case, she feels as though additional slots should be voted on tonight.

Carly Lavin:

Ms. Lavin agrees and is in support of opening up a few more School Choice slots and noted that she would like to stay cautious and stay on the “south” side of 60 students enrolled in Kindergarten. Ms. Lavin noted there was a large influx of grade 2 that moved into town that was pretty sizable and swung that grade size for us. Ms. Lavin stated she does not know if two (2) is a good number, or if we should go between two (2) and four (4) additional School Choice slots.

Mr. Nelson stated the school committee can decide that you want to add two (2) additional slots or four (4) additional slots preferably filling Kindergarten or 1st Grade or 2nd Grade. Mr. Nelson stated for example, at the region we typically are given the number and the school committee will say we prefer the students who are admitted first are students entering 7th Grade or 9th Grade. Mr. Nelson noted some parameters can be given within your vote if the school committee so chooses.

Shannon Finning:

Dr. Finning asked Mr. Muse if we would allow comments from the audience?

Mr. Muse responded yes.

Carly Lavin:

For the Kindergarten classrooms we currently use at Center School, what number of students can we fit in the classrooms at various distance levels? Are we able to fit 18 students at a 6-foot distance?

Mr. Tavares stated at six (6) feet, we had 11 desks in a classroom; at three (3) feet, including a teacher’s desk, we can fit 17 desks in a classroom – it pushes it out to the limit, but we can get in 17 desks in a Kindergarten classroom.

Karin Barrows:

Can you provide to me how many Kindergarten classrooms are at Center School in total?

Mr. Tavares stated we are currently at four (4) and prior to the pandemic we were at three (3).

Carole Clifford:

The classrooms that are being used now will be the same classrooms next year, or has that not been decided yet?

Mr. Nelson stated he would not be so bold as to say what the fall is going to look like as of yet and we are leaving our options open depending on what happens.

Carly Lavin:

Ms. Lavin stated the Kindergarten classrooms have bathrooms in them, which is slightly different than Grades 1, 2 and 3.

Mr. Muse asked the public/community members if there were any questions/concerns they may have regarding this discussion – there were none.

Mr. Muse adjourned the School Choice Public Hearing at 6:44pm and returned to the Regular School Committee meeting.

Mr. Muse stated at this time the meeting will begin with Open Comments, and instructed the committee members, administration, parents, members of the public and press how the Open Comments will be run.

OPEN COMMENTS: NONE

SCHOOL COMMITTEE RECOGNITION

Mr. Muse stated this is in all likelihood (but you never know) the last meeting for Carole Clifford. Carole has been a great advocate for the children of our town and this year was pivotal in putting in a lot of effort and time through all of the many changes we saw and Carole's efforts are greatly appreciated by the community, the administration and myself.

Mr. Muse stated the book chosen in honor of Carole Clifford will be put in her name at the Old Hammondtown School library is "The Perilous Voyage that Changed the World". Mr. Muse noted it is a very appropriate title for this year because this year really was a perilous voyage and Carole's efforts certainly made it a lot better! The inscription on the inside of the book reads:

"Carole Clifford, School Committee Member 2018-2021, is hereby recognized for significantly supporting a strong educational system that ensures all students receive instruction and resources necessary to be successful learners."

Mattapoisett School Committee
May 3, 2021

Ms. Clifford stated it will be nice to have the book in the library and extended a "thank you" to everyone stating it has been a nice four years working with this school committee. Ms. Clifford noted she is happy that this week is "Teacher's Appreciation Week", which she especially loves this week having been a teacher for so many years.

Ms. Clifford shared she literally worked her last day on the job in Connecticut on School Policy and came to Mattapoisett the next day and when she saw the School Committee opening at Town Hall, she thought this could be a way to transition herself from all of that slowly – so she could finally retire – really!

Ms. Clifford stated she is very glad she did it and was glad she was a part of picking Mike as the Superintendent. Ms. Clifford noted she doesn't think Mike was expecting quite the year that it was and stated she thinks he could write a whole book about 'my first year as Superintendent – very unusual'.

Ms. Clifford wished everyone success as they continue and stated she knows everyone will do a great job.

Michael S. Nelson – Superintendent stated:

"I want to thank you personally for your services as School Committee member. As you just shared, you are a life-long educator who has brought with you a wealth of educational knowledge and experience to the role of School Committee and I have appreciated you sharing it with us no matter what role I have been in, in working with you.

You have always taken the time to make sure that you understand all aspects of an issue and I have always seen you consider stakeholder perspectives before taking a position.

Personally, I am very appreciative of the conversations that we have had and I will miss working with you in the committee moving forward. It has always been very clear to me how much you care about the Town of Mattapoisett and the students in our schools.

On a personal note, I will always remember when you picked me up to drive me to the next school on the Superintendent's search – you said, 'we are going to drive the long way by the water so you will really appreciate what Mattapoisett has to offer'. I thank you for all of your hard work – it is much appreciated!"

I. Approval of Minutes:

A. Minutes

Recommendation:

That the School Committee review and approve the minutes of March 29, 2021

1. Regular Meeting Minutes – March 29, 2021

Mr. Muse asked if there were any changes to the meeting minutes of March 29, 2021

MOTION: by Karin Barrows to approve the Regular Meeting minutes of March 29, 2021 as presented

SECONDED: Carly Lavin

OPPOSED: None

MOTION PASSED – 5:0

Roll Call: Carly Lavin - Yes; Carole Clifford - Yes; Shannon Finning -Yes; Karin Barrows - Yes; James Muse - Yes

2. Executive Session Minutes – March 29, 2021

Recommendation:

That the School Committee review and approve the minutes of March 29, 2021

Mr. Muse stated these minutes will be addressed during Executive Session

IV. General

A. Full In-Person Pivot

Recommendation:

That the School Committee hear an update from administration regarding the Full In-Person Pivot.

Michael S. Nelson – Superintendent:

Mr. Nelson stated this is probably one of the last times we will need to put this item on the Agenda as a “General” item noting this is now a second meeting where all of our students are back full in-person, acknowledging that some of our families made the decision to remain remote for the remainder of this school year.

“I am happy to report tonight that our students, families and staff members continue to settle nicely into this year's new normal. It has truly been great knowing that most of our students have returned to the classroom setting in-person on a full-time basis.

Presently we have 388 students participating in full in-person learning and 12 active remote students across the different grade levels. As a reminder, all families had the right to choose remote learning for the remainder of this particular school year.

Regarding COVID-19 data - as of today Center School has one (1) active positive case; 0 individuals in quarantine; and, one (1) individual awaiting test results after displaying covid-19 symptoms.

*At Old Hammondtown School there are currently zero known positive cases currently active; we have two individuals in quarantine; and three individuals awaiting testing results as a result of displaying covid-19 symptoms.
We continue to track all available data points, but remain pleased with the trajectory of all COVID-19 data points at this moment.
Our schools continue to implement safety protocols and mitigation strategies to keep all in our schools as healthy as possible.
Overall, our students and staff members continue to make learning happen!”*

Mr. Tavares stated the students and staff is amazing – they really do go with the flow! Mr. Tavares stated we have adapted to the new spaces and as far as wearing a mask, it reminds him of when we had to start wearing seatbelts – we had to get used to it and now it is automatic when we get in the car, and now it is the same way for wearing masks. Mr. Tavares stated the students come to school everyday and their masks are on and noted every once in awhile we have to remind the students to put them on.

Mr. Tavares stated they are working on some end-of-year activities for the 6th graders – trying to give them the proper send off knowing it will not be the same, but will share the ideas with the committee members once they are finalized.

Mr. Nelson publically acknowledged Kevin Brogioli’s willingness to step in post retirement from the district in our time of need and offer a consistent leadership approach both at Center School and Old Hammondtown School. Mr. Nelson stated he knows we have mentioned this previously, but it is nice to have Mr. Brogioli here tonight and thanked him again for stepping in and helping not only the fellow administrators, but the students, families and all the other stakeholders – it is much appreciated.

Mr. Muse noted every basketball team needs a good sixth man, and Mr. Brogioli has fit that role and we appreciate him very much.

B: School Choice Vote

Recommendation:

That the School Committee take a vote for the 2021-2022 school year.

MOTION: by Shannon Finning that we continue with the existing eight (8) School Choice students and invite three (3) incoming Kindergarten students to join the district as School Choice students for FY21-22

SECONDED: Carole Clifford

AMENDMENT TO MOTION:

by James Muse to continue with the existing eight (8) School Choice students and preferably invite three (3) additional incoming Kindergarten students or limit it to three (3) incoming students in total in either Kindergarten, Grade 1 or Grade 2 only

OPPOSED: None

MOTION PASSED – 5:0

Roll Call: Carly Lavin - Yes; Carole Clifford - Yes; Shannon Finning -Yes; Karin Barrows - Yes; James Muse - Yes

C. Format for Next Meeting

Recommendation:

That the School Committee discuss the format for the next meeting.

Mr. Muse recommends at this time to continue hybrid format for the school committee members and zoom only for the public – there were no questions/comments by the school committee members.

D. School Health Unit Application

Recommendation:

That the School Committee discuss for approval of the School Health Unit Application through the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. This application is submitted by Amy Ripley and Jaime Balsis our School Nurses on behalf of the Mattapoissett Public Schools, it has been endorsed and signed by both school nurses, school physicians Dr. Jason Reynolds and Dr. Steven Mendes and Superintendent of Schools, Mr. Michael S. Nelson and it also needs the approval of the school Committee.

Michael S. Nelson-Superintendent:

“Each year the school committee must approve the School Medication Administration Application to submit to the Department of Public Health. This application allows for our school nurse or school nurses to train administrative staff and teaching staff to administer medication to students as appropriate and needed on school grounds and on field trips or during extra-curricular events.

The application that was provided to the school committee in your back up information has been reviewed and endorsed by our school nurse, Dr. Mendes, one of our school physicians, and myself.

Tonight I am asking for a motion to authorize the school nurses to delegate the administration of medication to other school personnel as presented in the School Health Unit Application.”

MOTION: by Carly Lavin to accept the School Health Unit Application through the Massachusetts Department of Public Health as presented

SECONDED: Karin Barrows

OPPOSED: None

MOTION PASSED – 5:0

Roll Call: Carly Lavin - Yes; Carole Clifford - Yes; Shannon Finning -Yes; Karin Barrows - 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 presented a memo as of April 29, 2021 indicating the Mattapoissett School District currently has \$275,559 available of the general funds appropriated in the 2021 Fiscal Year. Mr. Barber stated we are able to identify how our funds are currently encumbered and expended and out of the \$7,357,475 million-dollar budget appropriated to the District – 83.04% is directly assigned and is spent/encumbered to student instruction.

Mr. Barber noted there are a couple of general ledger lines that are in deficit and as we get closer to the end of the fiscal year, at next month’s meeting in June, Mr. Barber will provide the school committee a summary of reallocations to eliminate the deficit numbers to balance out the budget.

Mr. Barber reported on the Food Service Director’s Report (By: Jill Henesey) as follows (for both Center School and Old Hammondtown School):

The Food Service Director's Report dated May 2021, provides a month to month summary comparison at both schools for fiscal years 2020 and 2021:

- Meal counts are increasing
- USDA recently announced that all schools will be permitted to continue to provide Free School Breakfast and Lunch through June 2022 – waiting on further guidance from DESE
- Successfully completed our second Board of Health inspections
- Obtained new packaging equipment to assist in meal preparation and service with the full return of all students while maintaining COVID safety protocols
- Grab N Go meals continue to be available for the duration of the school year for those who are full remote or have a need for the meals – available every Tuesday afternoon from 4:30-5:30 at the ORR High School entrance (by the bulldog)
- Received a Mini-Grant from Harvard Pilgrim Health Plans in the amount of \$550.00
- May 7th is National School Lunch Hero Day

Mr. Barber reported on the Facilities Director's Report (By: Gene Jones) as follows for Center School:

- RTU 1 and kitchen stove, fully repaired and operational
- 30 X 60 mask break tent installed by Sperry Tent
- Fire sprinkler test completed
- COVID-19 protocols strictly adhered to for HVAC, Cleaning, and Sanitizing along with traffic control
- Nightly sanitizing all our buses with static spray sanitizing equipment, including buses
- Deployed all DESE/CDC required Personal Protection Equipment (PPE)
- Protective shields installed in all required areas
- Testing shields installed in all required areas
- Nurse and student services issued required additional safety PPE
- Conducted routine maintenance on all facility systems

Old Hammondtown School:

- 30 x 60 mask break tent installed by Sperry Tents
- Fire sprinkler test completed
- COVID-19 protocols strictly adhered to for HVAC, Cleaning, Sanitizing and traffic control
- Nightly sanitizing all our buses with static spray sanitizing equipment, including buses
- Deployed all DESE/CDC required Personal Protection Equipment (PPE)
- Protective shields installed in all required areas
- Testing shields acquired and available on site
- Nurse and student services issued required additional safety PPE
- Conducted routine maintenance on all facility systems

Ms. Lavin stated there was a little bit of discrepancy from Center School to Old Hammondtown Schools update noting at OHS it states that the playground is temporary closed.

Mr. Barber stated that is an error and the playground is open and will have Mr. Jones revise his update.

VI. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT:

Mr. Muse stated he is extremely grateful to all of the work that goes in to educating our children. It is a fantastic job done by a lot of people – administration, teachers, all of the different staff members in the school – it is appreciated.

Mr. Muse noted the school committee members worked very hard this year as they do every year, and appreciated all of the work that Carole Clifford has done these past years.

CENTRAL OFFICE ADMINSTRATOR'S REPORT:

Dr. Jannell Pearson-Campbell – Assistant Superintendent of Teaching & Learning – reported as follows:

The Office of Teaching & Learning is working alongside Mr. Tavares and Mr. Brogioli supporting diverse student voices at both Center and Old Hammondtown Schools. We understand the importance of students' voices during this academic year and understand the connection with social emotional learning and global citizenship this school year. In addition, we are continuing the conversations at the middle and high school student levels with Mr. Eugene Hamilton. After Mr. Hamilton's webinar, building administrators and educators reviewed students' interaction on the Internet and we provided questions that students and teachers could discuss. On May 5th, the Joint School Committee will have the opportunity to hear the proposal from the Office of Teacher & Learning along with the Instructional Council, the draft of the proposal of the professional development plan for the 2021-2022 academic year. An appendix and a power point will be sent to school committee members tomorrow afternoon.

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

Kindergarten - Transition Timeline

- On June 2 and 3 Kindergarten Meet and Greet will take place along with the traditional bus ride across all of the elementary school districts

Building Equitable Support for Children with Disabilities - Leveraged 298 Grant Fund

- The Early Childhood Team will utilize the 298 Grant funds to support instruction around Equitable Supports and Anti Bias practices
- The Early Childhood Team participated in the following:
 - 3 Statewide conferences,
 - 3 Regional (Southeastern MA) conferences
 - 3 individual coaching sessions with our TEAM
- The end result – this will allow a robust library in all our pre-school classrooms and at home materials that reflect inclusiveness and diversity
- Final report will be out on June 4th
- The 298 Grant total = \$3,914.00, which will allow approximately \$1,300 per school to purchase materials for our youngest learners

Preschool Assessment has been completed as follows:

- It will follow the same format as the Kindergarten report card
- Priority Standards will be vertically aligned with Kindergarten
- Developmentally appropriate expectations and guidance has been completed for ages 3, 4 and 5

Connecting Families and Community Engagement Grant - CFCE

- The next Early Childhood Council Meeting is scheduled to take place on May 18th @ 6:00pm – at this meeting we will dive deeper in the Family Engagement Frameworks

SEPAC:

- Last month we held our annual “Basic Rights Training for parents/guardians”. Christine Riley presented on behalf of the Federation for Children with Special Needs – 10 families attended this meeting.
- The next SEPAC event will be on May 12th at 5:00pm. The focus of this virtual event will be on “Effective Communication”. An email communication will be sent out to families in the district in the next few days with a link to join in on this meeting.

Mr. Nelson stated the only other updated he would like to share is as we see the finish line for this particular school year and we celebrate the fact the majority of our students are back full in-person, we are starting to look at what the next year might look like in terms of bridging the gap to the new normal. Mr. Nelson stated we recognize there are some students where learning may have been impacted negatively this year and there are other students who may have done just all right in this environment and may need to have some targeted acceleration. Mr. Nelson stated in recent news articles regarding the Department of Education’s efforts is that the ESSR-2 funds and ESSR-3 funds that will be awarded to school districts really should look to meet the needs of local school districts in bringing their students up to speed as to any learning loss or to create opportunities for acceleration regarding teaching and learning. Mr. Nelson stated in the coming weeks he will be working with the central office team, TLC at large and soliciting teacher voices and staff member voices, in terms of potential needs, as we start looking towards summer planning and bridging the gap from this year to next year. Mr. Nelson stated it is his hope to be able to share additional information at the June meeting of their efforts, timelines and action plans around this.

Mr. Muse asked the school committee members if they had any questions/comments at this time?

Carly Lavin:

Mr. Nelson, you spoke about the fund availability and you had the tone of how to best use it in the next school year. Are there any plans to incorporate any of that into the summer programs and expand or do something different than we have done in the past for the summer?

Mr. Nelson stated we know that our summer learning will look different - yes we will have our extended year services for our special education students and we have typically offered enrichment opportunities for our students as well, but we anticipate that our families and our students may be looking for increased opportunities for all the reasons we just stated. Mr. Nelson noted one of the key pieces of information that we are waiting for, as well as other districts around us, is the Department of Education is planning on releasing competitive grants for this exact reason in terms of celebration camps during the summer months. Mr. Nelson stated this is the first piece of information that we need – Will there be additional funds available from a competitive nature to offer such programming? Mr. Nelson stated after we have this information than we may know how the ESSR-2 and ESSR-3 funds may be help offset those particular costs or help fund them in general.

Carly Lavin:

Will this be handled by the central office? The summer S.A.I.L. program is run by folks who are not located in the central office, right?

Mr. Nelson stated Charles West is a long-time Assistant Principal and a TLC member, who works at Rochester Memorial School. Mr. Nelson stated Mr. West has always been a Co-Director for the summer program as long as Mr. Nelson can remember. Mr. Nelson stated Kyle Letendre,

who is a teacher at Old Hammondtown School and who also helped in to fill in as an Assistant Principal also continues to work as a Co-Director of the summer program, and Mr. Davidson's role, and one of my previous roles, work hand-in-hand in terms of designing programs based on the current needs.

Mr. Nelson stated in addition, depending on what other funding opportunities come, we will be looking at other opportunities for students based off of this past school year.

Mr. Davidson stated the S.A.I.L. Program will be releasing an email tonight which will have access to our website and it will have the brochure of all of the different programs that are going to be running this summer. Families will be able to access that and sign-up on the Google form that is available on the website.

Karin Barrows:

Ms. Barrows stated she knows many students have been impacted academically but also social/emotionally. Ms. Barrows is wondering in planning the summer opportunities if there would be social/emotional learning opportunities as well?

Mr. Nelson stated absolutely – we see social/emotional learning and academics going hand-in-hand and addressing social/emotional deficits or areas of concerns in alignment with the social/emotional standards. Mr. Nelson stated we do that as a given in terms of making sure that we are accounting for those needs, especially now with how the pandemic may have affected those students and their families.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Mr. Kevin Tavares, Associate Principal of Center School/Old Hammondtown School stated he shared the report with the school committee members and highlighted the following:

Mr. Tavares extended a "thank you" to Carole Clifford for her commitment to the students, staff and families in Mattapoisett as well as her support and guidance that she has given to him. Mr. Tavares wished Ms. Clifford best wishes and extended an invitation for her to visit the schools in the future.

- The PTA provided a great luncheon today to kick off Teacher Appreciation week
- The weather is getting better and we are getting students outside more
- The tents are up – it has been a bit of an adventure with the wind we have had over the last few weeks
- Letters will be going home to incoming Kindergarten families which will provide them with information and links to the "Meet and Greet" screening
- On May 13th, Kindergarten orientation will take place for incoming Kindergarten families and they will have a presentation on what a typical day in the life of a Kindergarten student at Center School looks like

Mr. Tavares addressed the committee with his concerns regarding the upcoming day of town voting, noting that in years past they shared the cafeteria with the voters. Mr. Tavares stated in light of the events over many years in the past, we have ramped up security when it came to town voting. Mr. Tavares stated they made accommodations for the national election in November and in previous years prior to COVID, we had Old Hammondtown School students go over to Center School, noting they had "buddy classes" and "walking field trips" for those days. Mr. Tavares stated this year it is different – we can't have students go over to Center School. Mr. Tavares stated there was an 80% turn out for the national election and typically for town elections, it is usually between 25-28%.

Mr. Tavares stated he has been working with Sergeant Jason King and SRO Officer, Matt McGraw of the Mattapoisett Police Department to make sure we have a safety plan in place. Mr.

Tavares noted three areas of concern – Student Arrival/Dismissal, Point of Entry (front doors of the school), and playground/outdoor spaces. Mr. Tavares noted a few changes have been made:

- Staff will park out back on the field – not in the parking lot
- Student drop-off will remain the same – it has been pretty fluid and goes quickly
- Dismissal will look different
 - We will dismiss students by the outdoor space where the playground area is – buses will enter through Tallman Street – students will board the buses by the playground area – and buses will exit by Shaw Street

Mr. Tavares noted typically it takes between 15-16 minutes to get all of the students picked up and off the school grounds, which might mean voters may have to wait in a traffic line for a few minutes to get into the parking lot.

Mr. Tavares stated they are requesting an additional two officers on the school grounds while voting takes place – typically there is one officer in attendance.

Mr. Tavares noted they will utilize tent spaces for lunches – setting up desks 6 feet apart and they will block off the two wings inside of the school.

Mr. Tavares stated he will continue to finalize the plans with Sergeant King and Officer McGraw over the next few days.

Questions/Concerns by the School Committee Members:

Carly Lavin:

Ms. Lavin extended a “thank you” to Mr. Tavares stating he has put a lot of thought and energy into this. Ms. Lavin noted she is nervous about this and stated this was something that was worked hard on by a group of parents through the School Council to really push the safety concerns for the students and the staff on voting days and not having the general public inside the school building.

Ms. Lavin realizes we have the tent but what happens if it is a really rainy day – does all of the planning for lunches and snack breaks still hold?

Mr. Tavares stated the lunches and snack breaks will still hold but we would have to change or modify bus dismissal for boarding. Mr. Tavares noted he would have to set up some sort of staging areas to bring students from different parts of the building out to the buses.

Carole Clifford:

Regarding MCAS - which the schedule has been reduced quite a bit - is this going to be able to take place easily?

Mr. Tavares stated they are prepared and ready for MCAS and noted one part of the testing session has been eliminated. Mr. Tavares also noted all of the chromebooks have been updated and are ready to be distributed and he is confident that everyone is ready.

Carol Clifford:

Ms. Clifford stated she hopes everyone keeps in mind that we are testing without comparison to anything that is normal and there should be no punishment - we are testing against what? They can't compare it to anything.

Carly Lavin:

Ms. Lavin noted in the past around MCAS, there was a component around attendance - Has there been any communication/discussion around accountability? How will that work this year?

Mr. Nelson stated what Superintendents are being told and what we advocated for was that we do not participate in MCAS testing. Mr. Nelson stated as many of you know, we have not been granted such liberty at this point. Mr. Nelson noted the important piece to recognize is that it is not an individual state decision necessarily – the first waiver has to come from the Federal Government to allow a state to make a decision in terms of whether or not they want to modify or waive the testing. Mr. Nelson noted you put at risk federal dollars that are attached to participating in such standardized testing. Mr. Nelson stated at this point we have been told from the most recent briefing from the Commissioner to continue to prepare for the MCAS testing at all typical grade levels.

Mr. Nelson stated the main difference is the remote students will be able to take the MCAS test remote and that has been another piece the building administration and IT has been navigating.

Mr. Nelson stated when it comes to accountability that is another area that has been discussed and the most recent information the Commissioner has shared is that he does not want this to be used as traditional accountability but what he would like for us to do is to see how did it impact “your local school district/your local students” in terms of how can it be a valuable set of data in terms of informing future decision making.

Shannon Finning:

Dr. Finning stated from the Massachusetts School Committee group that she serves on, one of the legislative priorities was rethinking the appropriateness of testing and accountability and it is why they recognize that standardized tests are of little value except to guide for educators to tailor educational strategies to students.

Dr. Finning noted their membership has called for a moratorium in the use of testing punitive or sanctioned purposes and they urge the legislature to act to restore local graduation requirement standards to school districts rather than incorporate a high-stake test into the process.

Carole Clifford:

Ms. Clifford would like the School Committee to reach out to Mr. Dean’s family to recognize his services to the town stating he was a wonderful man, always on time and always had a smile.

Mr. Muse stated he would arrange with Ms. Russo to send a card or other recognition to Mr. Dean’s family.

Carly Lavin:

Going back to the Election Day - If we are unable to get an additional detail officer for that day, is there a backup plan? Ms. Lavin stated she doesn’t want to say the words “fully remote” but we do have that functionality, noting that it would be a great challenge for the students and staff to have a one day of being remote, but wondered if that was considered at all?

Mr. Nelson stated we don’t actually have that luxury of “remote” at this time based off of the Commissioner’s most recent action in that if we chose to do so, we would have to make up those particular hours at a later date. Mr. Nelson stated this is the main reason we did not consider that as an option at this time – it would have meant we would have had to look at adding an additional day at the end of the school year.

Mr. Tavares stated Sergeant King is working with Chief Lyons and noted he will be communicating over the next couple of days with the two of them and will keep the school committee updated on the results.

Carly Lavin:

Ms. Lavin extended a “congratulations” to Mrs. Hughes’ first grade class on their winning of the Boston Bruin’s Assembly, noting it was very well enjoyed at her house.

VIII. School Committee

A. Committee Reports

1. ORR District School Committee

Mr. Muse reported as follows:

- This is a busy time of the year and the transition to in-person has taken place
- The excitement of sports moving ahead allowing opportunity for students to have extra-curricular activities is great
- The students who sit in at the school committee meetings are happy at the prospect of seeing students in school

2. SMEC

Carole Clifford reported as follows:

- They have not finished the budget yet – they have two additional meetings scheduled at the end of June to finish the budget
- Students are back in school/programs

3. READS

Mr. Nelson stated they have not met since the last meeting.

4. Early Childhood Council

Karin Barrows stated the following:

- They have not met and Mr. Davidson and Mr. Tavares covered all of the updates for Early Childhood education.
- The next meeting is scheduled to take place on May 18, 2021

5. MASC

Shannon Finning reported as follows:

- The “Day on the Hill” took place remotely and it was a great opportunity to learn about legislative priorities and to meet some of the elected officials who previously served as school committee members
- On May 7 another program is taking place through the learning lunch series called “Learning Recovery Insuring Effective and Equitable Strategies for all Students” from 12:00-1:15pm. Dr. Finning will provide an update to the committee at the next meeting

Mr. Muse noted as far as legislative advocacy, contacting Representative Straus and Senator Pacheco is certainly appropriate if there are any issues. – they like to hear from School Committee members.

6. Mattapoisett Capital Needs Committee

Carole Clifford reported as follows:

- Both items (upgrading the phone system at both Center School and Old Hammondtown School, as well as replacement of the flooring tiles at both of the schools) have been placed on the Town Warrant
- Noted FinCom was not happy with our budget proposal – but assumes it will go forward

Mr. Muse stated he feels confident that the Town Administrator received volumes of information regarding the budget and we were very open at the finance budget meetings. Mr. Muse noted Town Administration as well as a representative of FinCom was at the meeting and he is optimistic the proposed FY22 budget will move forward.

7. Tri-Town Education Foundation

Karin Barrows reported as follows:

- The deadline for receiving applications has been met
- Applications are in hand and the distribution committee is set to meet and review the applications and make their recommendations for the grants
- Grant recipient winners will be announced at the next school committee meeting

8. Policy Sub-Committee

Carly Lavin reported they have not met.

9. Budget Sub-Committee

Mr. Muse stated the sub-committee did a fantastic job working to develop the budget with Mr. Barber and the support of the town and the administration – a lot of hard work went into getting it done.

10. Clock Committee

Mr. Muse stated Mr. Andrews continues to keep the clock going and noted there are people in this town who dedicate a lot of time and effort, and Mr. Andrews is one of them.

11. Anti-Racism Committee

Shannon Finning stated the following:

- The next meeting is scheduled to take place tomorrow night – May 4 via zoom.
- Priorities for tomorrow night's meeting are:
 - Review DESE's document on new teacher recruitment guidance (a new project being launched through DESE)
 - Continue to work on creating a more inclusive calendar

Dr. Pearson-Campbell stated Eugene Hamilton has worked with our teachers and staff and at the building level we are thinking about how do we hire, and how do we include diverse educators and administrators. Dr. Pearson-Campbell noted this is crucial right now because of what is going on in the country, and what is important right now is to ensure how all students are being supported.

Dr. Pearson-Campbell stated Mr. Davidson would speak to the Panorama Survey which took place, and noted we are looking at the curriculum to make sure all students are being supported.

Mr. Davidson stated at the last meeting, they worked through the Panorama Survey data again and had a training with the Panorama Survey Team (the "Team" met with all of the Administrators in the district).

Mr. Davidson noted Interim Principal Brogioli, and Associate Principal Tavares worked together with central office staff to identify needs within their school buildings. Mr. Davidson stated Mr. Tavares presented at the last Anti-Racism sub-committee meeting on using the Panorama Survey tools to be able to identify areas and work within the buildings using the dashboard in rolling out some of their recommendations.

Mr. Davidson stated he would report back to the school committee members at the next meeting.

IX. Future Business

A. Timeline

Mattapoissett School Committee will be held on June 7, 2021 @ 6:30pm – Hybrid Format
Joint School Committee is scheduled for May 5, 2021 @ 6:30pm – Remotely via zoom

B. Future Agenda Items

- Approval of new School Council goals (June)

XI. Information Items

LIST OF DOCUMENTS USED AT THE MEETING

- Mattapoissett School Committee Meeting Agenda – May 3, 2021
- Regular Session – Meeting Minutes – March 29, 2021
- Financial Report dated March, 2021
- Food Service Director Report – May, 2021
- Facilities Director Report – May, 2021
- Principal's Report – May 3, 2021

Meeting of the Regular Mattapoissett School Committee meeting ended at 7:45pm

Chairperson Muse requested at 7:45pm a Motion to go in to Executive Session for the Purpose of #3 - for negotiations with non-union personnel and #7 – to comply with the provisions of any general or special law

SO MOVED: by Carole Clifford to go into Executive Session for the Purpose of #3 and #7, to return only to adjourn

SECONDED: Carly Lavin

OPPOSED: None

MOTION PASSED – 5:0

Role Call: Carole Clifford – Yes; Karin Barrows – Yes; Shannon Finning – Yes; Carly Lavin – Yes; James Muse - Yes

Respectfully Submitted,

Toni M. Bailey, Recording Secretary