

MATTAPOISETT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Mattapoisett, Massachusetts

March 29, 2021

BY: ZOOM LINK

MEETING MINUTES

March 29, 2021

Regular meeting of the Mattapoisett School Committee was held on Monday – March 29, 2021, and called to order by Chairperson James Muse at 6:38pm.

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

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

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.

MOTION: by James Muse to open the meeting with the FY22 Budget Public Hearing

SO MOVED: Shannon Finning

SECONDED: Carole Clifford

OPPOSED: None

MOTION PASSED – 5:0

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

Budget Public Hearing

Michael S. Nelson – Superintendent of School:

“Good evening everyone. Tonight, our first order of business is the FY22 Budget Public Hearing for the Mattapoisett Elementary Schools.

The budget development process started in late fall/early winter and required numerous meetings to strategize the financial direction of Center School and Old Hammondtown School moving forward.

Dr. Finning and Mr. Muse, our school committee member representation, listened to our administrators share their visions for their school buildings moving into next year and collaborated with central office administrators, the town administrator, and FINCOM representation to bring forth tonight’s FY22 Budget proposal.

During the budget development process, we assessed and considered the financial climate, our immediate school programming needs, discussed our known needs in coming years, and prioritized what we know about our students, families, and staff

members' needs for services, programming, and resources heading into the 2021-2022 school year.

The impact and reality of the COVID-19 pandemic also has played a major role in the budget process. Although we continue to move towards full in-person learning, we acknowledge, as a committee, that we need to be prepared to address any unknown factors that may arise next year.

As a result, tonight Mr. Barber our Assistant Superintendent of Finance & Operations will present our FY22 Budget proposal. We feel this budget represents not only a fiscally responsible proposal, but a budget that allows us to continue to service our students and families, meeting our educational expectations. I want to thank all those who have contributed to this process and Mr. Barber for his financial leadership during this process."

Mr. Howard Barber began by thanking the following people: Mr. James Muse, Chairperson of the Mattapoisett School Committee, Superintendent Nelson, members of the School Committee's Budget Sub-Committee (who attended endless meetings from December to now), school faculty and staff, school principals, the finance committee, directors, Board of Selectman – stating all of these stakeholders had an integral part of what we used to build our operational budget for providing instructional education for our students.

Mr. Barber presented the Mattapoisett School District's Fiscal Year 2022 Operating Budget as follows:

Budget Methodology and Goals: (Mr. Barber noted there were various points of interest relative to the budget, based on our achievement levels)

- To provide a modified zero based budgetary method
- To provide level, but cost effective programming and staffing
- To be proactive, rather than reactive
- To achieve administrative and departmental based goals
- To integrate all funds – budget approach

What is the Total Operational Cost of Mattapoisett School District? (Mr. Barber provided FY21 Budget to the proposed FY22 budget as follows):

- FY21 Budget \$ 7,645,787
- FY22 Proposed Budget \$ 7,823,908
- Increase of: \$ 178,121
- Net Percent Increase 2.33%

Mr. Barber noted we begin with the overall operational cost to operate the Mattapoisett Elementary Schools. This includes all forms of base pay or compensation, our other than base pay (stipends for instance), and other than personnel services (materials, supplies, contracted services, etc.)

Mr. Barber provided a breakdown of the FY2022 Overall Operations Budget as follows:

Department	Mattapoisett Elementary Schools FY2022	Bristol County Agricultural HS FY2022	Funding Offsets FY2022	Overall Budget FY2022
Center School	\$ 2,932,365	\$ -	\$ 109,585	\$ 3,041,951
Old Hammondtown	\$ 2,279,918	\$ -	\$ 13,500	\$ 2,293,418
Bristol County Agricultural HS	\$ -	\$ 126,747	\$ -	\$ 126,747

Central Office	\$ 198,444	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 198,444
Facilities	\$ 672,927	\$ -	\$ 10,000	\$ 682,927
Student Services	\$ 639,521	\$ -	\$ 178,950	\$ 818,471
Technology	\$ 129,150	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 129,150
Transportation	\$ 532,800	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 532,800
Total FY22 Budget	\$ 7,385,125	\$ 126,747	\$ 312,035	\$ 7,823,908
FY21 Budget	\$ 7,237,535	\$ 119,940	\$ 288,312	\$ 7,645,787
FY22 Budget INC/DEC%	102.04%	105.68%	108.23%	102.33%
\$ Increase	\$ 147,590	\$ 6,807	\$ 23,723	\$ 178,121

Mr. Barber stated “offsets” enables us to reduce the costs that are presented to the Town of Mattapoisett from the overall town assessment. Mr. Barber listed the following Financial Budgetary Offsets:

<u>Direct Offset Funding Source</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Title 1 Grant	\$ 3,500
IDEA Grant	\$ 93,085
State Grants (EEC & REAPS)	\$ 6,500
Circuit Breaker	\$ 128,950
Building Use	\$ 10,000
School Choice*	\$ 70,000
Total Offsets:	\$ 312,035

Mr. Barber noted the following:

- The offsets are made up from grants, circuit breaker (State reimbursement from Student Services), building use fees and School Choice.
- These funds are common reoccurring resources to reduce the Town Assessment.
- School Choice is a separately listed item, as we will have a separate warrant request.

Mr. Barber listed the Cost Impacted by Offsets as follows:

Para – Spec Ed (3 FTE)	\$ 93,085
Para – Title 1 (.10 FTE)	\$ 3,500
Para – Pre School (.27 FTE)	\$ 6,500
School General Supplies	\$ 20,000
Student Service Therapy Consultant	\$ 25,000
Tuition – Private Schools	\$ 25,000
Tuition – Collaboratives	\$ 128,950
Facility Costs	\$ 10,000
Total Offsets:	\$ 312,035

Mr. Barber noted the above simply indicates what the offsets are actually used to reduce from the general funds operational budget and we strategically changed from past practice to avoid additional mandated costs from grants.

Mr. Barber noted the General Funds Budget (the “Operating Budget”) is proposed as follows for FY2022:

FY21 Budget:	\$ 7,357,475
FY22 Proposed Budget:	\$ 7,511,872
Increase of:	\$ 154,397
Net Percent Increase:	2.099%

Mr. Barber stated the Superintendent’s priorities and strategies in developing the FY22 proposed budget of \$7,511,872, included the following:

- We utilized a Modified Zero Based budget looking at the overall operations, acknowledged student enrollment to sustain high academic standards and also provided new platforms from what we learned with COVID-19 impacting our District
- We maintained Level Services and looked at our Literacy Foundation, Reading Recovery and Enrichment programs
- We recognized Union Contract negotiations

Mr. Barber stated we recognized both our Union Contracts (teachers, paraprofessionals, etc.,) and Independent Contract Agreements, and noted the following:

- In the Teacher’s Union Agreement – 2 current staff retirements, and negotiation planning will be taking place
- In the Administrative Assistant, Paraprofessional Union Agreement and other staffing members – 1 staff retirement, and negotiation planning will be taking place
- We were able to save money due to the retirements and resignation (anyone hired for these positions would come in at a lesser rate)

Mr. Barber stated we recognized operational cost increases over last fiscal year for our other than personnel service. This includes the following Department and Organization Costs – net increases:

• Superintendent’s Operations – Legal Settlement	\$ 5,000
• Transportation – Regular and Special Ed Busing	\$53,000
• Building Operational Utilities & Maintenance Cost	\$49,000
• Technology Based Software & Equipment	\$12,000
• Bristol County Agricultural High School Costs	\$ 7,000

Mr. Barber noted while working with Mr. Davidson and recognizing with forms of offsets and overall operations, we found reductions in Student Support Therapy costs, as well as our Tuition Programs out of district as follows:

Special Education & Student Services

- Student Support Therapy - \$ 21,000
- Tuition Programs for Private Schools and Collaboratives - \$ 60,000

Mr. Barber stated the proposed Chapter 70 funds for FY22, which is “state aid” funds, projected by the Governor is as follows:

- FY2022 – the projected amount is \$851,365
- This is a .01415% state aid increase
- This includes the proposed additional \$30.00 per student or a net increase of \$11,880 from FY2021

	FY21	FY22	Change
Enrollment	437	396	-41
Foundation Budget	\$ 4,546,819	\$ 4,245,574	-\$ 301,245

Required District Contribution	\$ 3,751,126	\$ 3,502,598	-\$ 248,528
Chapter 70 Aid	\$ 839,485 *	\$ 851,365	\$ 11,880
Required Net School Spending	\$ 4,590,611	\$ 4,353,963	-\$ 236,648

* Final Chapter 70 received after State of Massachusetts passed Budget 12/14/2020

Mr. Barber stated you can see, based on the reduction in enrollment from October 1, 2019 compared to 2020, we reduced 41 students from our enrollment. (Note: students who are “home-schooled” are not counted, since we are not technically educating those students)

Mr. Barber noted we are anticipating a few students will be returning next fiscal year from being home-schooled or other forms of non-public education.

Mr. Barber stated Chapter 70 Financial Aid is projected from the Governors January 2021 budget to be at \$851,365 – which is a \$11,880 or 1.4% increase over last year.

Mr. Barber stated the presentation given above leads to the following Mattapoisett School District’s Proposed FY2022 Superintendent’s Overall Operational Budget as follows:

Department	Fiscal Year 2022	Fiscal Year 2021	Department Changes
Center School	\$ 2,932,365	\$ 2,922,777	\$ 9,588
Old Hammondtown	\$ 2,279,918	\$ 2,201,232	\$ 78,686
Bristol County Agricultural HS	\$ 126,747	\$ 119,940	\$ 6,807
Central Office	\$ 198,444	\$ 180,615	\$ 17,829
Facilities	\$ 672,927	\$ 622,061	\$ 50,866
Student Services	\$ 639,521	\$ 720,700	\$ (81,179)
Technology	\$ 129,150	\$ 110,703	\$ 18,447
Transportation	\$ 532,800	\$ 479,447	\$ 53,353
Total Assessed Budget:	\$ 7,511,872	\$ 7,357,475	\$ 154,397

Mr. Barber stated the proposed FY22 Budget is \$7,511,872, which is an increase of \$154,397 or 2.099% increase over FY21. There will need to be a Motion to approve this “Overall Operational Budget”.

Mr. Barber stated a second Motion will need to take place regarding School Choice in the amount of \$70,000, to be used to supplement operational costs relating to the Elementary Schools and Student Services.

<u>School Choice</u>	
Center School	\$ 10,000
Old Hammondtown	\$ 10,000
Student Services	\$ 50,000
Total Assessed Budget:	\$ 70,000

Superintendent Nelson extended a “thank you” to Mr. Muse and Dr. Finning for participating on the Budget Sub-committee, as well as Mike Lorenco, Town Administrator, who attended numerous meetings and answered many phone calls not only to be supportive of the schools, but also to understand the financial landscape of the Town of Mattapoisett.

Mr. Nelson also extended a “thank you” to Pat Donahue from Mattapoisett FINCOM, who also attended meetings and provided historical knowledge in terms of the financial landscape and support moving forward.

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

Question by Carole Clifford:

Is the School Choice money that was presented this evening funds for this year because the funds have been held somewhere?

Mr. Barber stated in the FY21 budget there was an offset in the amount of \$72,000 and due to some of the limitations, when the final proposed budget was voted on, on August 17, that portion of the School Choice was not included on the overall budget for FY21. Mr. Barber noted there has been a few years where we have been collecting School Choice funds and they are currently sitting with the Town of Mattapoisett. Mr. Barber stated in working with Mr. Nelson and Mr. Lorenzo, we have funds that will allow for us to begin a fiscal year offset that we can use to supplement costs to the school district. Mr. Barber stated this is our starting point and we will continue to look at how we can sustain this over the next few years.

Question by Karin Barrows:

Piggy backing on School Choice – are we currently at capacity for FY22?

Mr. Nelson stated this FY21 school year, we currently have all eight (8) School Choice student slots filled as follows:

Kindergarten:	3
Grade 1:	3
Grade 2:	2
Grade 3:	0
Grade 4:	0
Grade 5:	0
Grade 6:	<u>0</u>
Total:	8

Mr. Nelson stated later on this evening, there will be an initial conversation regarding School Choice for FY21/22, and in May a school committee hearing will take place where the committee will be asked to take formal action in what direction you want to take moving forward. Mr. Nelson stated currently the eight (8) approved slots are filled, and these students are expected to return in FY22.

Question by Carly Lavin:

There were two (2) different slides shown – one entitled “Overall Operating Budget”, and a second entitled “Assessment Based Operating Budget”. They had four (4) different numbers in comparison. Can the difference be explained?

Mr. Barber stated when presenting the “Overall Operating Budget”, this represents the entire cost of operating the entire fiscal year for the school department. Mr. Barber stated this utilizes assessment monies that are voted on, and included in that is the “Building Based Budget and Bristol County Agricultural School Budget) – this is one section of the budget.

Mr. Barber stated in addition, we have other resources that we use – for example: Grants – Title 1; IDEA, etc., that covers approximately \$300,000 of the “Overall Budget”. Mr. Barber stated these are just three (3) portions of our overall \$7,823,000 budget that Mr. Nelson and he utilize to operate the school budget.

Mr. Barber noted during the year, there may be additional private or state grants that he applies for, and if additional funds are received from these new grant resources, the school committee is advised of those funds. Mr. Barber stated a vote is not held on “other income sources”, since these additional funds may become restricted or they may not always reoccur on a yearly basis.

Carly Lavin:

We are looking to increase the FY22 budget a little over 2%, however, on the FY21 approved budget, there are a fair number of line items that still have quite a bit of money left in them (i.e.: travel lines, conferences, etc.). How are we doing in total on the existing budget, giving that you are starting “here” and you are “adding on”?

Mr. Barber stated we started with a “modified zero-based budget” which means we take certain factors into consideration such as: student enrollment – we were able to recognize the “anticipated” projected enrollment for FY22 and from that we knew how many classes in each grade level would be needed as well as staffing for those grades; we looked at meeting the needs of students with disabilities – we were able to know how many paraprofessionals we would need; costs for out of district student placements were configured into the budget – these are just some of the examples we used to create this modified zero-based budget. Mr. Barber noted by creating a strategy to ensure that we have an overall aspect of what our operations are in FY22, and knowing there would be some gaps, the overall operating budget figure was calculated.

Mr. Muse asked if there were any additional comments/questions from the school committee members or the community at large – there were none.

MOTION: by Chairperson Muse to adjourn the Budget Hearing only to return to the regular school committee meeting as scheduled

SO MOVED: Carly Lavin

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

RETURNED TO REGULAR SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING AT 7:13pm

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. Mr. Muse expressed that he hopes everyone is able to share information for the good of the order and to better our school district, and hopes the conversation can be civil and respectful. Mr. Muse stated that per MGL for a public meeting the following is stated: No person shall address a meeting of a public body without permission of the chair, and all persons shall, at the request of the chair be silent. No person shall disrupt the proceedings of a meeting of a public body.

Mr. Muse stated the following rules will be followed:

1. Public Comment shall be for a period of 20 minutes and shall generally follow the opening of the meeting. The Committee reserves the right to rearrange its agenda to accommodate scheduled presenters.
2. Any citizen wishing to speak before the Committee shall identify themselves by name and address and shall speak for no longer than 3 minutes. No citizen may speak more than once without permission of the Chair. All citizens shall speak to the full Committee through the Chair and shall not address individual members or administrators.
3. Individuals may address topics on the agenda, items specified for public comment, or items within the scope of responsibility of the School Committee. The Chair shall rule out of order any individual who fails to honor the guidelines or who addresses a matter inappropriate for public comment.

4. Any Committee member may direct questions to the speaker through the Chair in order to clarify comments of the speaker.

Ms. Bailey will call their name, state their address, and each person will have 3 minutes to speak. Mr. Muse explained that when the speaker has one minute remaining, Ms. Bailey will hold up a “1-minute remaining” sign.

Mr. Muse explained he would open the meeting with the OPEN COMMENTS section and expressed the administration and school committee members would also have a chance to speak during the general section of the meeting.

OPEN COMMENTS: NONE

I. Approval of Minutes:

A. Minutes

1. Regular Meeting Minutes – January 11, 2021, February 22, 2021

Mr. Muse asked if there were any changes to the meeting minutes of January 11, 2021

MOTION: by Carole Clifford to approve the Regular Meeting minutes of January 11, 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

Mr. Muse asked if there were any changes to the meeting minutes of February 22, 2021

MOTION: by Karin Barrows to approve the Regular Meeting minutes of February 22, 2021, as presented

SECONDED: Carole Clifford

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 – January 11, 2021 and February 22, 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:

Superintendent Nelson made a request to Chairperson Muse that Kevin Tavares, Associate Principal and Kevin Brogioli, Interim Principal for Mrs. Rose Bowman, join him in presenting this agenda item – Mr. Muse agreed.

Mr. Nelson stated the following:

“As most are aware – our schools in the Tri-Town are in the process of pivoting to a full in-person learning model for all grades. Specifically, at the elementary level, we have identified April 5th as our official pivot date to return grades 3 through 6 to full in-person learning. It is important to note that families will continue to have the option of remote

learning for this academic school year. As a result, both Mr. Tavares and Mr. Brogioli - with the assistance of others, including our teachers and staff members, have been busy working on plans to pivot to full in-person with goals of maintaining academic consistency and COVID-19 safety for all involved.

We recently surveyed our families once again asking for them to select either full in-person learning or remote learning moving forward. In addition, we asked about their needs for transportation and food services.

Tonight, you will hear a presentation speaking to Center School's and Old Hammondtown School's pivot readiness for April 5.

Recent updated in-person guidance released by the Department of Education highlighted or emphasized that:

- social distancing between students should be three to six feet,
- all desks should be facing the same direction,
- staff members should maintain six feet of distancing from others at all times
- six feet of distancing between all individuals during meal times,
- all individuals in our school buildings should be wearing masks, and others recommendations that were provided in the guidance.

At this time, I would ask Mr. Tavares to update the school committee on the upcoming pivot.

Mr. Tavares extended a “thank you” to Mr. Nelson, the school committee members and the staff at both Center School and Old Hammondtown School, noting this has been a collaborative effort to make this happen.

Mr. Tavares stated this same Pivot to Full In-Person Learning FY20/21 presentation will be offered to our families, followed by a Q&A session, on Tuesday, March 30, 2021 @ 6:30pm by Zoom.

Mr. Tavares presented as follows:

Bus Ridership/Transportation as of March 26, 2021:

- 280 families have indicated a need for transportation
- Presently, 257 students are currently riding the buses
- Each bus is averaging 37 students and there is room for additional ridership if needed

Student Population:

Remote Students – comparison from January 1 to March 29 – Center School:

	<u>January 1, 2021</u>	<u>March 3, 2021</u>
Kindergarten	0	0
Grade 1	5	0
Grade 2	7	4
Grade 3	<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>
Total:	15	5

Remote Students – comparison from January 1 to March 29 – Old Hammondtown School

	<u>January 1, 2021</u>	<u>March 3, 2021</u>
Grade 4	4	2
Grade 5	6	6
Grade 6	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>
Total:	12	8

Mr. Tavares noted that due to class size changes, Mrs. Mendes will become full-time, and provide both reading and math instruction for our Grades 2 and 3 remote learners; and, Mrs. Camacho will not provide reading instruction and support to students in Grades 1-3.

Enrollment and Class Sizes:

<u>Grade Level</u>	<u>Sections and Sizes</u>				<u>Total</u>	<u>Remote</u>	<u>Total</u>
Project Grow	23				23	0	23
Kindergarten	11	11	10	19	51	0	51
Grade 1	15	15	20		50	0	50
Grade 2	18	20	20		58	4	62
Grade 3	17	18	17		52	1	53
Grade 4	20	18	18		56	2	58
Grade 5	17	17	20		54	6	60
Grade 6	18	18	18		54	0	54
Total:					395	14	409

Mr. Tavares stated the number of students in the home-school model is:

Center School:	4
Old Hammondtown	10

Center School

Class Configuration:

Kindergarten – 3 classes will remain in the classrooms they currently occupy and one (1) class of 19 students will remain in the gymnasium – all of which maintains 6’ of distance between students.

Grade 1 – we will continue to utilize the large spaces – music room, art room and the library – all of which maintains 6’ of distance between students.

Grade 3 – they will continue to remain in the Grade 3 classrooms with a minimal of 3’ of distance between students.

Mr. Tavares stated the justification for keeping the Kindergarten class in the gymnasium is:

- It remains the largest and youngest class
- It is least disruptive to the students
- We can continue to maintain 6’ of distance between students in the classroom
- The Phys. Ed. teacher has a designated space for instruction and takes classes outside each day
- A 30x60 tent will be available for PE after April vacation.

Playground and Recreational Spaces:

- The playground is divided into 4 areas
- Each class is assigned a designated area on a daily rotating basis – i.e. – kickball, soccer, blacktop area, etc.
- Students will wash and sanitize hands before and after each recess
- Students will be monitored for social distancing
- Structures will be cleaned each day
- Students will be allowed to remove masks during recess time

Food Service:

Mr. Tavares stated the “guidance” is being followed during meals and any other time students and adults are not wearing masks – districts and schools must plan for a strict six feet of physical distance between individuals.

- Breakfast is free to all students and served in the cafeteria from 8:15 to 8:30am

- Four, 30-minute lunch periods will take place utilizing the cafeteria and the repurposed classrooms on the second floor – desks are cleaned each lunch period
- Snacks will be in the cafeteria, the outdoor spaces and the tent after April vacation

Arrival/Dismissal:

- Arrival – families will continue to follow the established plan using the Hammond Street entrance from 8:15-8:30am
- Dismissal – families will continue to follow the established plan using the Hammond Street entrance and we have asked that they place a sign in the passengers window identifying the child’s name, grade and teacher – we will use 2-way radios to call students out to the cars

Chairperson Muse asked the school committee members if they had any questions/comments regarding the pivot for Center School?

Comment/Question:

Shannon Finning stated she appreciates the six feet of social distancing requirement during meals and appreciates not wanting to cause further disruption for students or teachers, but in terms of precedent setting, with six feet of social distancing continuing with Grades K, 1 and 2 – is that going to make further changes to try to bring spaces on line for next fall more difficult?

Mr. Nelson stated if there were students who return from the remote platform or move-ins, if it meant that we would have to go from 6 feet to a lesser distance in Grades K, 1 and 2, we would certainly do that and adhere to the new 3-6 feet standards as endorsed by the Department of Education and CDC.

Comment/Question:

Carly Lavin noted that Mr. Tavares mentioned outdoor spaces have been broken down into four areas and there is going to be a tent put up after April vacation somewhere. Knowing that Center School does not have much outdoor space, are the four spaces going to change once the tent is put up?

Mr. Nelson stated the tent will add a new dynamic since there is not a lot of “real estate” at Center School, and we will strategically place the tent as best we can. Mr. Nelson stated we are going to have to create a rotating schedule no matter what for groups to rotate from station to station on a daily basis, but the pros outweigh the cons, in that we will be able to utilize the tent for additional use throughout the school day.

Carly Lavin:

Will there also be a rotation basis on which children will be in the cafeteria vs. the auxiliary classrooms.

Mr. Tavares stated it’s up for discussion right now on the process we will use to determine which classes will eat in the cafeteria and which classes will eat in the auxiliary classrooms.

Comment:

Ms. Lavin stated the remote population in Grades 2 and 3 will be having their second teacher change, and wanted to acknowledge and recognize that it is probably a challenge for some of the students. Ms. Lavin noted she understands the decisions that had to be made regarding this teacher change.

Mr. Nelson stated there has been a give and take for all students this year as we continue to adjust our programming based upon the most up-to-date COVID data. Mr. Nelson stated the good news for those particular students is that Mrs. Mendes has been their teacher throughout the school year and she will just have an increased roll. Mr. Nelson acknowledged this change and stated that it can be difficult for students, but we felt it made the most sense based on all the moving pieces at this time.

Old Hammondtown School

Class Configuration:

- Grade 2 will remain at OHS in the spaces they currently occupy – maintaining 6 feet distance between students
- Grade 4 will continue with three classes – maintaining 3 feet distance between students
- Grade 5 will continue with three classes – maintaining 3 feet distance between students
- Grade 6 will continue with three classes – maintaining 3 feet distance between students

Mr. Tavares noted whenever they can, if classrooms allow for additional spacing between students, that takes place.

Mr. Tavares stated the justification for leaving Grade 2 students at OHS are:

- Least disruptive for the students
- Grade 2 classrooms are being utilized at Center School
- We are able to maintain our current 6 feet distancing between students in each classroom
- Gives us the ability to use the gymnasium for lunch/snacks

Playgrounds and Recreational Spaces:

Mr. Tavares noted in utilizing both Haley Field (west) and Lamborghini Field (east), we were able to set up recreational spaces as follows:

- Haley Field is used for physical education classes and overflow recesses
- Lamborghini Field has been divided into four areas
- Each class is assigned a designated area on a daily rotating basis
- Students will wash and sanitize hands before and after each recess
- Students will be monitored for social distancing
- Structures will be cleaned each day
- Students will be allowed to remove masks during recess time

Food Service:

Mr. Tavares stated the “guidance” is being followed during meals and any other time students and adults are not wearing masks – districts and schools must plan for a strict six feet of physical distance between individuals.

- Breakfast is free to all students and served in the cafeteria from 8:15 to 8:30am
- Four, 30-minute lunch periods will take place utilizing the cafeteria and the gymnasium - desks are cleaned each lunch period
- Snacks will be in the cafeteria, the gymnasium, the outdoor spaces and the tent after April vacation

Arrival/Dismissal:

- Arrival – 8:15 to 8:30am - families will enter and exit on Shaw Street and will use the inner loop and pull up to the curb – students must exit the car of the curbside
 - Tallman Street will be used for the buses

- Dismissal – All cars will enter on Shaw Street (signs in windows with student’s name, grade)
- Cars will split into two lanes – left side for Grades 2 and 4; right side for Grades 5 and 6
- Grades 2 and 4 will use the inner loop and follow the current dismissal system and exit on Shaw Street
- Grades 5 and 6 will be dismissed from the 6th grade wing and cars will exit by way of Tallman Street

Mr. Tavares stated if there are older siblings, they will be dismissed from the youngest child’s area. Mr. Tavares stated they have worked with the Mattapoisett Police Department and they will be monitoring the bus flow.

Chairperson Muse asked the school committee members if they had any questions/comments regarding the pivot for Old Hammondtown School?

Question by Ms. Lavin:

Will the specialists (in both schools) continue to travel to the classrooms?

Mr. Tavares replied yes.

Ms. Lavin stated she appreciates trying out the transportation logistics at Old Hammondtown on Wednesday and Thursday and asked Mr. Tavares how does he plan to update the parents with the changes or tweaks before school begins on Monday.

Mr. Tavares stated he would send it out as a “Blackboard” connect message.

Question by Dr. Finning:

Will there be a “detail officer” during arrival and dismissal?

Mr. Tavares stated a cruiser would be on Rte. 6 by the insurance company to monitor the traffic on Rte. 6.

Dr. Finning asked if any discussions have taken place regarding end of school events/activities, i.e. field day, transition day for Grades 3 or 6?

Mr. Nelson stated the Department of Education has released commencement guidance, not only for high school students, but for lower grades as well. Mr. Nelson stated they have been informed by the DOE that within the next week or so, additional guidance will be released, and once we receive it, we will quickly try to impact it and get it out to the administration and school committee members. Mr. Nelson stated commencement planning discussions have already started taking place with the elementary schools, the Jr. High School and the High School, as well as end of year activities and we will follow suit with any additional guidance.

Mr. Tavares noted that Mr. C. has been planning, in the background, his dates for field day and he is just waiting for further guidance.

Ms. Clifford wanted to recognize the fact that this has been the third pivot we are in – we were first closed, then hybrid and now full return. Ms. Clifford extended a “thank you” to the teachers and staff for all of their time during all of these changes, and a special “thank you” to Mr. Tavares for all of his hard work.

Question by Ms. Lavin:

At what point will we start to hear about summer school planning and enrichment opportunities? Ms. Lavin noted it is her understanding there was an increase in funding and would like to know the plans for this.

Mr. Nelson stated we are hearing that part of the SR3 package may include competitive opportunities and that guidance is forthcoming. Mr. Nelson stated there has been a couple of different thoughts for learning over the summer, including an accelerated summer program which would take place towards the end of the summer to prepare for the FY22 school year for students to enter back into school next year.

Mr. Nelson stated there still is no concrete information on this and noted we would still be offering our traditional S.A.I.L. program for a 6-week period, which would be offered in both remote and in-person learning for this summer.

Carly Lavin – Do you know when you will be receiving information on that guidance?

Mr. Nelson stated the DOE always says additional guidance will be received within the next couple of weeks. Mr. Nelson reiterated to the committee members that when he receives any guidance updates, his practice is he reviews it, and provides the information to the school committee members and/or the public if it is applicable to them, within one to two days of his receipt.

Mr. Muse extended a huge “thank you” to Mr. Tavares stating he has done a fantastic job, and he greatly appreciates Kevin Brogioli, who has stepped in and given a ton of support to the district.

Mr. Nelson stated he appreciates the effort our administration, the school committee, our staff members, facilities staff, custodians, etc., for all of their hard work this year. Mr. Nelson stated the flexibility and support of both the families and specifically the students, has truly been remarkable in terms of all the changes they have been able to manage and quickly been able to enter into new routines.

Mr. Nelson stated we are not looking for the school committee to take any official action tonight, and that he feels extremely confident we are ready for this pivot as of April 5.

B: FY22 Budget Approval

Recommendation:

That the School Committee review and approve the FY22 Budget

MOTION: by Chairperson Muse, to approve the Proposed Fiscal Year June 30, 2022 Operating Budget in the amount of \$7,511,872 for the Mattapoisett School District

SO MOVED: Carole Clifford

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

MOTION: by Chairperson Muse, to allocate \$70,000 of the School Choice funds from the Town of Mattapoisett for purposes of the FY22 budget

SO MOVED: Shannon Finning

SECONDED: Carole Clifford

OPPOSED: None

MOTION PASSED 5:0

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

C. READS Appointment

Recommendation:

That the School Committee appoint a representative to READS for the 2021-2022 school year.

MOTION: by Shannon Finning, to appoint Michael S. Nelson, Superintendent of Schools, to serve as the Mattapoisett School District's representative on the Board of Directors of READS Collaborative, in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40, Section 4E as amended by Chapter 43 of the Acts of 2012 for the 2021/2022 school year

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

D. School Choice Discussion

Recommendation:

That the School Committee have a discussion regarding school choice for the 2021-2022 school year.

Mr. Nelson stated each year public school districts have to consider being a "School Choice" district and if they choose to be a "School Choice" district, a decision on how many slots they will enroll in that particular school year.

Mr. Nelson stated tonight, he is asking the school committee to have an initial conversation regarding School Choice for the 2022 fiscal year, and in May a School Choice Public Hearing will take place by this committee.

Mr. Nelson stated currently there are 8 School Choice students enrolled at Center School as follows: Kindergarten – 3; Grade 1- 3; and Grade 2 – 2. Mr. Nelson noted that as of right now, all of the 8 students are expected to return next year.

Mr. Nelson stated for each School Choice student enrolled, the Town receives \$5,000 reimbursement and for any student receiving special education services through and Individual Education Plan (IEP), the school district submits additional reimbursement claims.

Mr. Nelson stated it is important tonight that the school committee discuss what direction they would like to take in FY21/22.

Mr. Muse stated School Choice has been a vital part of our district and the question is whether or not we want to add any additional School Choice slots for the upcoming school year. Mr. Muse noted presently we have 8 students participating and they are all expected to return next year.

Dr. Finning stated she is a supporter and proponent of School Choice for accountability purposes for districts and for graduation rates and leveling the playing field around social economics status for students and families. Dr. Finning would like to know the projected number of incoming Kindergarten students for next year across the three Kindergarten classrooms.

Mr. Nelson stated when they went through the development budget process, we look at our current numbers and we do make projections based off what we know from the census and

historical trends. Mr. Nelson stated Mrs. Bowman worked on this prior to her leave, and she was anticipating three classes with 19, 18, and 18 students in each of the three classrooms.

Mr. Tavares stated there were 54 Kindergarten invitations sent out to families based on the survey and the above numbers have not changed.

Dr. Finning stated classroom sizes have been between 18 to 20 students, with one exception of a classroom with 21 students – and she just wanted to know the impact this would have.

Ms. Clifford noted it looks like there is room to add additional students to Kindergarten and there are possibilities to add students at the other grade levels as well.

Question by Ms. Clifford:

Why are there no School Choice students at Old Hammondtown?

Mr. Nelson explained typically the school committee has agreed that when they add additional slots, they add them to the younger grades so that students can be part of the community from as early on as possible. Mr. Nelson stated some of the students who started in Kindergarten, Grade 1 or Grade 2 have moved through both Center School and Old Hammondtown, and last year there were two vacancies opened in which we filled at the lower grade levels. Mr. Nelson stated for the past few years, the school committee has capped School Choice slots at a maximum of eight students for the Mattapoisett School District.

Ms. Clifford noted the school committee is able to increase or decrease the number of School Choice students as they would like.

Mr. Nelson agreed with Ms. Clifford, but explained that once you accept a student under School Choice, that student is able to attend school in the school district up to that last year in that school district – which for Mattapoisett would be through grade 6.

Ms. Clifford noted that once they have completed Grade 6, students have to re-apply for a School Choice slot for the Jr. High School.

Mr. Nelson stated that is true, and it is based off of the school structure that we have in the Tri-town. Each town, Marion/Mattapoisett/Rochester is under a different school district, with the JHS/HS under a separate district as well.

Ms. Clifford would like to know how School Choice is advertised?

Mr. Nelson stated once an agreed upon number of School Choice slots is voted on, we advertise through our website, and we often have families call throughout the year asking if we have openings or when will school committees be voting on the topic. Mr. Nelson stated often times we have a waiting list for different grade levels and if we did not have enough applicants, we would advertise in local newspapers.

Question by Karin Barrows:

Once students accept enrollment at the elementary level, do we have a high graduation success rate with those students who enrolled as School Choice from the elementary schools?

Mr. Tavares noted there was only one student who did not continue, and it was because of transportation.

Ms. Barrows:

Are families responsible for providing transportation for the students?

Mr. Nelson responded yes.

Ms. Lavin stated we had a large increase in Grade 2 this past year (new students moved into town), and when Mr. Tavares read off the numbers for Kindergarten, what we are projecting right now – 19, 18 and 18 – those numbers feel really close to the top of where we would want to be for Kindergarten. Ms. Lavin stated these numbers are what we have had in the last few years.

Mr. Tavares noted these are historically high numbers for us.

Ms. Lavin asked if there is a number at which we start talking about going to a fourth section of Kindergarten?

Mr. Nelson stated the Mattapoisett School Committee has historically, when we have been in the lower 20's, had conversations in terms of what makes the most sense. Mr. Nelson stated there is not a particular number that triggers an additional section.

E. School Calendar Discussion

Recommendation:

That the School Committee review and discuss the school calendar for the 2021-2022 school year.

Michael S. Nelson – Superintendent:

“Tonight we are sharing the first draft of the 2021-2022 school calendar. You are the first to see the school calendar. It has been shared with the leadership team, who will share it with their school councils for feedback, and we have also shared with the associations for initial thoughts. We are not seeking a vote tonight, but instead a review and discussion of the draft calendar. It is important to remember that the school calendar will ultimately be voted on by the Joint School Committee later this school year.”

August:

- *New teacher orientation would be held on August 26th*
- *All teachers would return for staff orientation on August 30th*
- *The first day of school would be August 31st*

September:

- *September 3 (a Friday) there would be no school in anticipation of Labor Day weekend*
- *September 6th would be no school recognizing Labor Day*
- *On September 22nd – there would be an early release professional development day for our teachers and staff members*

October:

- *Our schools would recognize Columbus Day on October 11th*
- *On October 21st and October 22nd, the elementary schools would have early releases for parent conferences*

November:

- *The 11th would be no school in honor of Veterans Day and the 12th would be a full professional development day for teachers and staff*
- *Thanksgiving break would start on the 24th through the 26th*

December:

- *We are recommending an early dismissal on December 23rd and then school vacation through the 31st of December*

January:

- *Students would return on the 3rd*
- *We would celebrate Martin Luther King Day on the 17th*
- *On the 18th we would hold a full professional development day for teachers and staff*

February:

- *The 9th is scheduled for an early release day for professional development*
- *School vacation would start on the week of the 21st*

March:

- *On the 9th we would utilize another early release day for PD purposes*
- *On the 24th and 25th – only Mattapoisett Elementary Schools would have early release days for parent conferences per the teacher’s current contract*

April:

- *April 15th to April 22nd - school vacation*

May:

- *Students would be in school regularly with the exception of May 30th that honors Memorial Day*

June:

- *June 1st would be the last professional development early release for the school year*
- *With no snow days – June 16th would be our last day of school*
- *This calendar has built in an additional five school days to account for possible snow days*
- *Additionally, depending on the last day of school – Juneteenth would be recognized on June 20 per state law*

“At this time – I would ask the school committee to discuss the 21-22 draft calendar and share initial thoughts and feedback for consideration.”

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

Question by Carly Lavin:

In the past, has the Wednesday before Thanksgiving always been a full-day off?

Mr. Tavares responded yes.

Ms. Lavin asked is the calendar based on the number of days or a count of hours?

Mr. Nelson responded both - you need at least 180 learning days and a certain number of instructional learning hours within those 180 days.

Ms. Lavin asked if we can meet structured learning time with Mattapoisett having two (2) extra half days, how does that work with the other school districts not having those half days?

Mr. Nelson stated the calendar is not right up to the exact number of hours and there is some flexibility within, and based off of those half days we still reach the threshold.

Ms. Lavin asked if we could make it just one additional half day, instead of the two?

Mr. Nelson stated the half days for the parent/teacher conferences are part of the teacher's contract.

Ms. Lavin noted the teacher's contract expires this May. Iff there was any development, would that be reflective at a later point?

Mr. Nelson stated if there was a change in the current contract moving forward, if this calendar was adopted as is, the calendar would have to go back to the Joint School Committee for review and adoption.

Ms. Lavin asked if there have been any historical conversations around consolidating February/April breaks into one spring break?

Mr. Nelson stated there has been numerous conversations regarding the day before Thanksgiving, the day before the December break and also the February/April breaks. Mr. Nelson stated they tend to result in the calendar that has been drafted here tonight.

Mr. Muse stated Good Friday has also been a big discussion as well.

Question by Karin Barrows:

Is the professional development day the day after Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday is typical of the district?

Mr. Nelson stated it is currently being proposed as a full professional development day – we thought it fit nicely where it was in terms of the long weekend, and then our students would be back with less interruption.

Mr. Muse asked if there were any additional questions/comments regarding the proposed FY22 school calendar – there were none.

Mr. Muse stated each year the calendar can always be a little different.

F. Format for Next Meeting

Recommendation:

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

Mr. Muse stated he does not think any future meetings within this calendar school year will be held as a full public meeting. Mr. Muse stated at this time he is asking the school committee members if at the next meeting, they would like to hold it fully remote or by hybrid?

Ms. Lavin, Ms. Barrows, Dr. Finning and Ms. Clifford would like to have the next meeting be hybrid, or at least have the option of being hybrid, pending any developments have been made regarding the technology piece to hold such a meeting.

Mr. Muse stated the next meeting will be planned as a hybrid meeting.

G. Equity & Inclusion Survey Discussion

Recommendation:

That the School Committee hear a presentation from Administration.

Michael S. Nelson – Superintendent:

“We have been discussing at all of our school committee meetings the Anti-Racism Sub Committee’s work that has been completed this school year. This group has been extremely active throughout the year and have met regularly to discuss our sub-committee’s structure, our goals, and action plan moving forward. We have started working with outside consultants to tap into their expertise and bring community events to our families in the Tri-town. One of the goals has been to solicit student voice regarding equity and inclusion in our schools. Recently, we completed a grade 6 through high school survey of our students to gain greater insight into the equity and inclusion culture of our school buildings. Our administration has begun unpacking the results, most recently taking part in a training offered by our survey vendor – Panorama - to best understand how to analyze our results and plan for next steps. Tonight, Mr. Craig Davidson, Director of Student Services – will present the key findings of our survey to all of you with the support of Principal Medeiros. It is truly exciting to have student data to drive our current work and our future action.”

Mr. Davidson stated we were lucky to have had the opportunity to work with Panorama over the last few months and had the opportunity to survey our students – grades 6 through 12 – in the month of February. Mr. Davidson stated we have established a “working group”, which Dr. Finning was a part of, to go through the data from each of our school districts.

Mr. Davidson stated the following:

The survey was broken down into three sections – each section had 8 to 10 questions, which each student participated in and results from some of the questions are being presented tonight. The answers were compared to the national averages and the percentage is based upon favorable responses - there were 49 Grade 6 students who participated in the survey.

Section 1: Cultural Awareness and Action

- There were 49 responses – OHS was at 59% compared to schools across the country, which is near the 30th percentile on this topic

Question:

How comfortable are you sharing your thoughts about race-related topics with other students at your school? – 39% responded favorably

Question:

How often do you think about what someone of a different race, ethnicity, or culture experiences? – 74% responded favorably at OHS; Old Rochester Regional District as a whole response: 74%

Section 2: Diversity and Inclusion

- There were 49 responses – OHS was at 53% compared to schools across the country, which is near the 10th percentile on this topic

Question:

How fairly do adults at your school treat people from different races, ethnicities, or cultures? – 98% responded favorably

Question:

At your school, how often do students from different races, ethnicities or cultures hang out with each other? – 42% responded favorably at OHS; Old Rochester Regional District as a whole response: 63%

Section 3: Sense of Belonging

- There were 49 responses – OHS was at 64% compared to schools across the country, which is near the 70th percentile on this topic

Question:

Overall, how much do you feel like you belong at your school? – 79% responded favorably

Question:

How much do you matter to others at this school? –46% responded favorably at OHS; Old Rochester Regional District as a whole response: 39%

Mr. Davidson shared with the school committee an open-ended question that students in Grade 6 at Old Hammondtown was able to respond to – these were some of the responses that were received:

Question:

What is the most important thing your school can keep doing to support students of different races, ethnicities, and cultures?

Student Responses:

- Educating and involving EVERYONE, which my school does a great job at doing.
- To not do anything special but to treat them as equal as the other students and not give them special treatment but also not treat them worse than the other students. I feel everyone should just be treated the same.
- The most important thing my school can do to support students of different races, ethnicities, and cultures is that for them to keep on doing the right thing and also they always want people to be nice to new people.

Mattapoissett Takeaways:

- Create opportunities for exposure to and understanding of cultures through the curriculum
- More opportunities for race related conversations for students, staff and stakeholders to participate in together.

Mr. Davidson shared the Old Rochester Regional School District’s “takeaways” as follows:

- Create opportunities for exposure to and understanding of cultures through the curriculum
- Create focus groups for students to provide opportunities for follow-up discussions
- Create opportunities for students to have honest conversations and share thoughts about race-related topics with each other

Dr. Jannell Pearson-Campbell stated in the next two weeks, we will have Eugene Hamilton speak to our middle and high school students; in addition, as a TEAM, we will also be looking at our hiring practices to ensure we will have opportunities for diverse candidates. Dr. Pearson-Campbell noted as we move forward, we will be looking at our curriculum, especially during this pandemic, to make sure we have opportunities for all students.

Dr. Pearson-Campbell stated our goal is to make sure we have opportunities for everyone at different entry level points so they feel comfortable enough to have conversations.

Mr. Davidson thanked Dr. Finning for her time as we all dove into the data we received back from the survey. Mr. Davidson stated we will be sharing out each buildings data within our district, the administration will be sharing out at our next Anti-Racism sub-committee in what they identified in their survey results and also what bookmarks we made within the survey, so that we can roll-out support from the Panorama playbook at our next professional developments within our buildings.

Mr. Nelson extended a “thank you” to Mr. Davidson, Dr. Pearson-Campbell and Dr. Finning for their time in rolling out this information.

Mr. Nelson stated this work is never done and although this is our data now, the data will always be changing and it is exciting to be able to build from this point and measure our progress as we move forward.

Mr. Muse asked if there were any questions/comments from the school committee members?

Question by Carly Lavin:

Ms. Lavin noted on the right-hand side of the slides there was an indication of female results OHS vs. District – can you explain why that gender was called out but not the others?

Dr. Finning stated females tend to respond to all surveys and also tend to respond more favorably. Dr. Finning stated what was interesting as they went through the data, and at some points it was concerning, in that our females recorded much lower than males in sense of belonging, sense of opportunity to talk across difference, etc.

Dr. Finning stated our female as well as our black identified students, and most concerning our Latino and Spanish population, in terms of their sense of disconnect and not belonging in our districts, was very concerning.

Dr. Finning stated that what we want to do with our focus groups is really understand with students who identify as male, what were the key drivers or indicators – did they interpret the questions differently? Dr. Finning noted they hypothesized maybe it had to do with them belonging in a team sport or other activity.

Dr. Finning stated sometimes in those team contexts there are fostering conversations across race and across difference because of a composition of a team – and we want to better understand that in the focus groups.

Mr. Davidson stated we were able to pull out all the different subgroups in the survey, but they pulled out the “female” subgroup because it was one that had the biggest difference in our answers across the board.

Mr. Davidson stated that students also had the opportunity to stay confidential throughout the survey process.

Questions by Carly Lavin:

Has there been any discussion to hold this type of survey down to the Kindergarten age group?

In terms of training, is there an opportunity to connect this with parent engagement nights for the early elementary students?

Mr. Davidson stated this question has come up on numerous occasions to be able to create a survey for our youngest learners and noted we will need to identify pathways so that we can establish a survey for those students.

Ms. Lavin asked on the curriculum we are looking at, is this also tying in with what Mrs. Lopes is doing with early education as well?

Mr. Davidson responded yes, and we have exciting news for our pre-school students in the next few weeks.

Mr. Muse asked if there were any additional questions/comments? – there were none.

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 March 29, 2021 indicating the Mattapoisett School District currently has \$430,549 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 \$7.3 million-dollar budget appropriated to the District – 86.26% is directly assigned and is spent/encumbered to student instruction.

Mr. Barber reported on the Food Service Director's Report (By: Jill Henesey) as follows (for both Center School and Old Hammondtown School) –March, 2021:

Comparing FY20 to FY21, you will see at Center School in February of this year, we served 999 lunches (41% of the school population) as oppose to 1234 (36%) last year; at OHS we served 663 lunches (31% of the school population) as oppose to 1145 (43%) last year.

Mr. Barber stated with school beginning next week at 100% attendance five days a week, we are hoping to see an increase throughout the remaining of the school year.

Mr. Barber reported on the Facilities Director's Report (By: Gene Jones) as follows for Center School – March 2021:

- Ordered gas valves for RTU 1 and kitchen stove, that were leaking
- Assisted town in administering COVID-19 vaccinations
- Completed one snow/ice removal operations
- 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 – March 2021:

- Completed one snow/ice removal operations
- 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
- Playgrounds temporarily closed per DESE/CDC recommendations
- Nurse and student services issued required additional safety PPE
- Conducted routine maintenance on all facility systems

Mr. Muse asked if there were any questions/comments by the school committee members?

Questions by Carly Lavin:

In terms of the process regarding the budget, is it the process to leave line items as is and use the money in different places? Do you close down lines items?

Ms. Lavin noted there are lines that are almost untouched entirely with only three (3) months remaining of school. Ms. Lavin stated she realizes that other lines have been overspent (i.e. long term sub/sub line).

Mr. Barber stated teaching hybrid this year, we had to incur additional costs in staffing which was not budgeted for as well as additional costs for facilities.

Mr. Barber noted that as of March we have already put a “freeze” on spending, knowing that we are nearing the end of the year, in order for us to be as transparent as possible.

Mr. Barber noted as we enter the “close-out” process, we will be making some transfers and adjustments to level out the budget numbers, and these numbers will be a lot more in line with the FY22 proposal.

Mr. Muse explained the process of budget transfers happening towards the end of the fiscal year, is a normal process. Mr. Muse explained transfers have to be approved by the school committee if it is funds transferring from one program account to another program account, and these are mostly done in a large “batch”, so that we are not shifting funds from one account to another on numerous occasions.

VI. CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT:

Mr. Muse stated the following:

It is wonderful looking forward to increased activity in our schools and having the hope that we can have more and more in-person education and a more typical school experience for our children and staff. Mr. Muse noted it still is not going to be “normal” – we are still wearing face masks and there are so many other things that are just not normal.

Mr. Muse would appreciate that everyone try and remember for everyone involved that COVID does not affect everyone the same way – it impacts people differently. Mr. Muse noted if you are coming from a family that has a medical situation where there are high vulnerabilities, you are much more sensitive and your concerns are higher than someone who isn’t. Mr. Muse stated our entire society has been impacted by COVID – we can’t do anything – life and death are not the same anymore. Mr. Muse stated he had a couple of deaths of friends and family members and is happy hear his niece had a baby boy, however, he is not able to go and see the baby, and he couldn’t honor the people that passed away. Mr. Muse stated this has happened to everyone and when you do face these things, remember just how horrible this virus is.

Mr. Muse stated this is not over - it is getting so that we can hope for some regular safety in our lives and he would like everyone to remember just how hard it has been on everyone and that it has not been the same for everyone. Mr. Muse stated you do not know what the other person has faced. Mr. Muse stated the teachers, parents and families, just in the “life” as a school system, has gone through so much, and has dealt with so much, which is just the tip of the iceberg – this is plain and simple – it is about life and death.

Mr. Muse stated if everyone can think of the other person, we will get through this and hopefully as far as school goes, we will see kids in school the way we like to see – having fun, playing with each other and having teachers be able to sit with the students and engage and teach them and not be six feet away.

Mr. Muse concluded – I look forward to that, but just be vigilant.

CENTRAL OFFICE ADMINSTRATOR’S REPORT:

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

- Dr. Pearson-Campbell extended a “thank you” to Associate Principal Tavares and Interim Principal Brogioli in supporting the planning of the March 22 Professional Development half-day. Educators and administrators were able to prepare to pivot back to full in-person

learning where they reviewed safety protocols, lesson planning, priority standards, and the teachers/staff was able to prepare their individual classrooms.

- The Office of Teaching & Learning reviewed results from parents, students, and teachers' surveys to support the creation of the districtwide Professional Development Plan. We are reviewing the results and looking past the Pandemic and what Professional development for our educational settings would look like. I am naming it "Charting our Course." The Professional Development Plan will be focused on serving the needs of our educators, students, and families to support lifelong learners in the classroom and building the capacity for educators and support staff.
- The Office of Teaching & Learning is preparing for the ELL Audit. I will be working with Ms. Dranchak in reviewing all materials to be submitted by June 1st. There is a total of 10 indicators to support the four districts. DESE will be reviewing our curriculum and professional development to build an inclusive classroom supporting English Language Learners and students with disabilities. As part of the review, DESE is requesting Professional Development to support teacher's licensure - 15 PDP's in both ELL and students with disabilities.
- The recent Panorama data supported the importance of having student voices. There will be student voices from our JHS and HS, facilitated by Eugene Hamilton on April 12 and April 26, at which time he will discuss footprints on social media and student safety.
- Our mentor and mentees have two more meetings. At the first of the two meetings, they will be finalizing their online portfolio where they will demonstrate what they have learned this year. This is the first time the mentees have created and will be sharing their interactive site. At the last meeting, they will have time to share their sites and we will celebrate their first year in Mattapoissett.

Mr. Craig Davidson reported the following:

- The transition meetings with staff from Old Hammondtown School and the Jr. High School will be taking place soon, which allows the Grade 6 teachers to correspond with the JHS staff for the upcoming Grade 6 students to the Jr. High School. Mr. Davidson noted students from OHS will be able to tour the JHS, and he will keep the committee updated on the additional transition happenings.

Mr. Muse asked the school committee members if they had any questions/concerns?

Question by Carly Lavin:

Dr. Pearson-Campbell, has there been any thoughts about bringing down the social media education into the elementary school ages or guidance to do that?

Dr. Pearson-Campbell stated yes we would be bringing social media education into our elementary schools, and noted that Mr. Hamilton has spoken to our elementary teachers during professional development.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Mr. Kevin Tavares, Associate Principal of Center School/Old Hammondtown School reported the full report can be reviewed in its entirety on the drive but want to point out the following tonight:

- March has been a very busy month at both Center and Old Hammondtown Schools. The staff has worked tirelessly in preparation for our return to full in-person learning and we are excited to have everyone back in the buildings.
- On March 22, the focus of the full professional development day will be to prepare and plan to full in-person learning instruction. Teachers have reviewed grade level content, with a focus on reading and math, and have prioritized the skills students will need to be

exposed to over the next 12 weeks. Teachers have created scope and sequence maps for each subject.

Celebrations and Remembrances:

Gail Stetson, long-time paraprofessional at OHS passed away on February 27 after a brief but hard fought battle with Frontotemporal Dementia. Gail's 24 years of service to the students at OHS never wavered. She was a caring and compassionate educator who worked each day to brighten the lives of the students she worked with. Her wit, and continuous thirst for knowledge inspired students to constantly ask "but why?". Mr. Tavares noted he had the great pleasure of working with Gail for most of her 24 years at OHS and can say without a doubt that she will hold a special place in our OHS family.

Sue Powers, principal's secretary at Old Hammondtown retired February 26th after 12 years. Prior to her time at OHS, Sue served 10 years in the same role at the Sippican School in Marion. Sue kept the ship afloat each and every day and her commitment and dedication to the students and staff at OHS will be sorely missed. It is safe to say that Sue is missing her OHS family but I know that she is loving the time she is getting to be "grandma". We wish Sue good health and happiness in her retirement. Her star will always shine brightly in the foyer at OHS.

VIII. School Committee

A. Committee Reports

1. ORR District School Committee

Mr. Muse stated they met a few days ago and reported the following:

- The primary focus was the pivoting as well as a lot of enthusiasm with additional things happening in the schools, on the school grounds, extracurricular activities, etc. – which are all lifting a lot of spirits
- They announced the senior class will be having a prom, which will take place in Mattapoisett
- The graduation is also being planned

2. SMEC

Carole Clifford reported as follows:

- At this time, all of SMEC's programs are open, running the full five days
- They have renewed their lease at Rogers School in Fairhaven
- The next meeting is March 30

3. READS

Mr. Nelson stated a virtual meeting was held on March 11, 2021 and reported the following:

- Approved the most recent Meeting Minutes
- Superintendents heard updates from the Special Education Administrators/Program Directors of READS Collaborative

There were discussions on Action Items:

- Heard a review on the FY22 Budget update
- Took action on needed amendments for the FY21 Budget
- Discussed COVID-19 expenditure update from the Executive Director's point of view
- Looked at some changes in the Policy Manual
- Reviewed a couple of job descriptions
- Discussions were held regarding summer programming

4. Early Childhood Council

Karin Barrows stated they met on March 23rd and reported as follows:

- A reminder that Kindergarten and Pre-School registration is available on line on the school website
- Great news – we learned that Kindergarten “meet and greets” will happen in-person and families should look out for the invitation for sign-up; children will have a 45-minute timeslot to see the school facilities (held outdoors) and will be able to participate in the traditional bus ride
- A reminder that there are free resources available for transition at Berkshiremuseum.org
- Ms. Lopes reviewed the Family Engagement Framework as well as the Department of Education Strategic Plan

5. MASC

Shannon Finning reported as follows:

- Information was sent to school committee members regarding the upcoming MASC Lunch & Learn scheduled to take place on Friday at 12:00
- This event is to prepare for the annual “Day on the Hill” scheduled for April 16 @ 9:00 virtually
- This is an important opportunity to speak to legislators, student leaders and others regarding the values of public educators and to inform and influence key decision in policy makers about the challenges faced in our school district
- Ms. Finning will forward the link to the members once she has received it

6. Mattapoisett Capital Needs Committee

Carole Clifford reported as follows:

- In FY22 the phone systems will be upgraded and fixed at both Center and Old Hammondtown School
- The replacement of the flooring at Center and Old Hammondtown Schools will begin, and will take place over the next number of years
- In closure 2023 – discussions are taking place regarding replacing items at Old Hammondtown on the roof

7. Tri-Town Education Foundation

Karin Barrows reported as follows:

- They have not met since the last meeting
- Extending a “thank you” to administrators – they have been getting the word out that grant applications are being accepted until April 9
- Extended a gratitude to Abington Bank stating they will be donating \$10.00 for every checking account opened
- The next meeting will be held on April 6 at which time they will be meeting with the sub-committee to discuss the grant applications received and the awards that will be presented

8. Policy Sub-Committee

Carly Lavin reported they have not met.

9. Budget Sub-Committee

Mr. Muse reported the proposed FY22 Budget was approved tonight.

10. Clock Committee

Mr. Muse stated the clock does make a historical difference and noted Center School is a unique piece of architecture and history and the effort that goes in keeping the clock working makes everyone aware that Center School does serve vital services.

11. Anti-Racism Committee

Shannon Finning stated the following:

- There were two (2) outstanding sessions that were open to families, including students, at the end of February – Christina Brown, the consultant who the district has partnered with and contracted with us to support our work; and, Sarah Fiarman

Dr. Finning noted the importance for school committee members and families engage with one another. Dr. Finning recognized this year that everyone is feeling “zoomed out”, but noted as we move forward our group is going to dig in from the surveys and focus groups, and hopefully be able to hold some sort of celebration, in-person in June. Ms. Finning stated this celebration is to thank our graduating class, as well as last year’s grads, who really helped lead the call for this work.

Dr.. Finning noted the importance of starting these conversations and talking about race with children as young as two years of age – this makes a critical difference.

Dr. Finning appreciated what Dr. Pearson-Campbell said earlier regarding the importance of us meeting people where they are. Dr. Finning stated even a step further, some of the work that even we as a committee hopefully can do when we are all back in-person is to talk about how do we move pass the need for safe spaces and talk about brave spaces and being open to challenge ourselves and our biased as well, as we start to move forward and demonstrate vulnerability for our children.

Dr. Finning stated these conversations can’t just happen at our schools – they need to happen at our dinner tables, teams and all the different venues if we truly want to make an anti-racist community a reality in Mattapoisett and beyond.

IX. Future Business

A. Timeline

Mattapoisett School Committee will be held on May 3, 2021 @ 6:30pm – Hybrid format

Joint School Committee will be held on April 29, 2021 @ 6:30pm – Remotely via zoom

B. Future Agenda Items

- School Committee Reorganization (May/June – depending on election date)
- School Choice Public Hearing (May)
- Administrator Contracts (May)
- Approval of new School Council goals (June)

XI. Information Items

LIST OF DOCUMENTS USED AT THE MEETING

- Mattapoisett School Committee Meeting Agenda – March 29, 2021
- Regular Session – Meeting Minutes – January 11, 2021
- Regular Session – Meeting Minutes – February 22, 2021
- Financial Report dated March, 2021
- Food Service Director Report – March, 2021
- Facilities Director Report – March, 2021
- Principal’s Report – March 29, 2021
- Draft FY21/22 School Calendar
- Full In-Person slide show presentation

- FY22 Proposed Budget slide show presentation
- Equity & Inclusion Survey slide show presentation

Meeting of the Regular Mattapoisett School Committee meeting ended at 9:23pm

Chairperson Muse requested at 9:23pm 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