

MATTAPOISETT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Mattapoisett, Massachusetts

February 22, 2021

BY: ZOOM LINK

and

BY: HYBRID – 133 Marion Road, Mattapoisett MA

MEETING MINUTES

February 22, 2021

Regular meeting of the Mattapoisett School Committee was held on Monday – February 22, 2021, and called to order by Chairperson James Muse at 6:42pm.

MEMBERS PRESENT: James Muse, Chairperson (remote); Carly Lavin, Vice-Chair (hybrid); Carole Clifford (remote); Shannon Finning (remote); and Karin Barrows (hybrid)

OTHERS PRESENT: Michael S. Nelson, Superintendent of Schools (hybrid); all others by remote - 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.

Mr. Muse took a moment at the beginning of the meeting to recognize the committee has been holding meetings by zoom because we all have been faced with this horrible pandemic for a year. Mr. Muse stated as a country we have suffered a grim mild stone of 500,000 deaths and stated for the people who have passed, for all their families and friends, to take this moment and consider this loss and consider what this country is going through now.

Mr. Muse asked the committee members at this time if they would like the Open Comments section on the Agenda moved down on the Agenda. There were no requests by the committee members.

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

Mr. Muse stated these minutes will be approved at the next scheduled meeting.

2. Executive Session Minutes – January 11, 2021

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

3. Budget Sub Committee Minutes – January 13, 20 and February 3, 2021

MOTION: by James Muse to approve the Budget Sub Committee minutes of January 13, January 20 and February, 3, 2021.

SO MOVED: Shannon Finning

SECONDED: James Muse

OPPOSED: None

MOTION PASSED – 2:0

Roll Call: James Muse – Yes; Shannon Finning – Yes

IV. General

A. Update on Reopening Plan

Superintendent Nelson made a request to Chairperson Muse that Kevin Tavares, Associate Principal and Carly Lavin join him in presenting this agenda item – Mr. Muse agreed.

Mr. Nelson stated the following:

The last time we met as a committee – we were making final arrangements and decisions regarding pivoting our youngest learners from the hybrid learning model to the full in-person learning model.

Many individuals made major contributions to making the pivot nothing but a success. Our kindergarten, first grade, and second grade students have returned to school five days a week.

We ordered new materials and equipment, we repurposed learning spaces, shifted a grade level to a different school building, we asked staff members to take on new roles, hired new

support staff, rerouted our busses, redesigned arrivals and dismissals and much more to make this pivot happen. All that effort was worth it.

I am happy to report tonight that from my perspective the pivot has been a tremendous accomplishment by the Mattapoissett Elementary School District. We have maintained our safety protocols and feel that our model is working for students and staff members at this time. Since January 19th – our youngest learners have been in our school buildings five days a week.

I cannot thank the many individuals who have made this possible – including our families.

Has everything been perfect – no - but our staff members continue to be flexible problem solvers in order to make teaching and learning happen. We have recognized that we need to continue to look for new ways to improve not only the model for our youngest learners, but all learners in our schools.

Most recently, we received updated transportation guidance from the Department of Education that lifts some of the previous restrictions around social distancing and the number of students on our vehicles. This guidance moves us closer towards a new normal. With that being said, as a school community we continue to monitor the most recent guidance and anticipate our educators being prioritized for COVID-19 vaccination in the near future. We continue to maintain six feet of social distancing in our schools in relation to the close contact definition as articulated by the Department of Public Health.

Moreover, we continue to monitor local and statewide COVID-19 data. At the close of the school day Center School does not have any current individuals in isolation or quarantine, they do have one individual awaiting testing results due to demonstrating COVID-19 symptoms. Regarding OHS, there are currently three individuals isolating due to testing positive and three individuals awaiting testing results due to demonstrating COVID-19 symptoms.

We have seen our COVID-19 data trends improve in recent weeks and we are hopeful that the numbers will continue to move in the right direction, even with our recent February vacation.

Regarding our enrollment numbers:

We currently have 23 combined remote learners in Center School and OHS amongst the different grade levels. As for in-person learning, we have 153 students at Center School and 216 at OHS.

Presently we have 11 home- schooled students – 9 at OHS and 2 at Center School.

Our Joint Labor Management Committee continues to meet regularly and our next meeting is scheduled to meet March 4th to continue discussing our learning models and look for ways to improve upon them.

Carly Lavin, Vice-Chairperson

Ms. Lavin echoed that the amount of effort that took place to bring K-2 students back to school, specifically Mr. Tavares, was absolutely incredible. Ms. Lavin extended a “thank you” to Mr. Tavares, as well as the teachers and staff.

Ms. Lavin stated during the most recent Joint Labor Management Committee (JLMC) meeting in February, before any official guidance came out from DESE regarding transportation or the CDD guidance, the JLMC did a number of hypotheticals “what if this happens”. Ms. Lavin stated they are looking forward to discuss, with the real guidance put before them, what this could mean for our learners, especially the 3-6 grade population.

Ms. Lavin stated they are meeting again next week to discuss the new guidance and if necessary, will request the school committee to meet again sooner since the next school committee meeting is not scheduled to take place until late March.

Kevin Tavares, Associate Principal

Mr. Tavares stated the transition coming back has been pretty smooth noting the second graders moving into OHS has settled in nicely and have minor changes as the day-to-day goes by. Mr.

Tavares noted they have made adjustments to their drop-off/pick-up, continuing to monitor what is happening on Shaw Street and working with the police department to make sure that runs smoother than it has been. Mr. Tavares stated we are hoping the weather gets better so that they can bring the students outside and have them ready to jump in their parent's vehicle to speed up the "pick-up" at the end of the day. Mr. Tavares stated the staff at Old Hammondtown have welcomed the second graders and we are living together in this new space and finding ways to utilize all of the space at OHS.

Mr. Tavares stated at Center School, the pivot plan worked out just the way they had hoped – larger spaces, maintaining 6-foot distancing, and utilizing the additional technology has made this transition go smooth as well. Mr. Tavares stated the students are very happy to be back, and we are looking forward to the spring so that we can get outside and use that space as well.

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

Shannon Finning:

Dr. Finning noted we continue to hear from families with students in Grade 3, and how important it is for the transition piece from Center School to Old Hammondtown School. What are the priority considerations for the spring for students in Grade 3, and when is the Joint Committee going to start discussions about planning for the fall?

Mr. Nelson stated at the most recent roundtable with the Department of Education and the Superintendents, we were advised that the DOE would be sending to us updated opening guidelines for the upcoming school year and once we receive those, that will be an important trigger for us to bring back our re-opening teams and adding new members, to begin discussions on what the fall may look like based on what we know right now.

Ms. Lavin stated she hears Dr. Finning loud and clear on Grade 3 transitioning from Center School to Old Hammondtown School and it is pivotal. Ms. Lavin stated the Joint Labor Management Team is trying to stick to a two-week cadence, or more, if there is a pivotal change in guidance.

Ms. Clifford stated we meet frequently when it is needed, and Grades 3 through 6 is certainly a discussion that needs to be addressed, as well as the re-opening in the fall.

Ms. Lavin stated they have met multiple times in a row before this meeting, and they will continue to meet as necessary.

Mr. Muse noted the extreme effort that has taken place on the part of Ms. Lavin and Ms. Clifford, as well as the entire committee, needs to be commended and stated we cannot underestimate the dedication they have all provided and the responsible way in which they have kept staff and students safe.

Ms. Lavin thanked Ms. Muse for his kind words and wanted to add that although Grade 3 is a priority, Grades 4, 5 and 6 are a concern as well in that they have missed opportunities to be with their friends as well as the social/emotional learning as well. Ms. Lavin stated this is a very important year for Grade 6 as well, since they will be transitioning to the Jr. High School and we need to make sure we give them as many opportunities as we can for them to solidify their foundation as they go off to the Jr. High School.

B: FY22 Draft Budget Discussion

Mr. Barber presented a PowerPoint - (Mattapoisett School District – FY2022 Budget Planning Update) noting that as he goes through the review, we need to keep in mind that we have not completed the full piece of what we are recommending, and that we are still going through

additional opportunities with some of the procurements and contracts we are currently contracting with.

Slide 1 – Budget Methodology and Goals:

- 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 goals

Slide 2 – Budgetary Process Held:

- Held administrative and department-based team meetings (ongoing)
- Kick-off meeting with Mattapoisett School District Budget Sub-Committee
- Held 5 data and discussion-based Mattapoisett School District Sub-Committee meetings
- Analyzed impact of Governor’s proposed state budget

Slide 3 – Comparison of Initial to Proposed FY22 Budget:

- **January 13, 2021**
 - **\$7,481,174 Operating Budget (Exclude: *BCAHS)**
 - Level Service
 - \$208,699 or 2.87% increase over FY21
 - **February 3, 2021**
 - **\$7,466,815 Operating Budget (Exclude: *BCAHS)**
 - Modified zero-based budget
 - Maintaining level service
 - \$194,340 or 2.67% increase over FY21
- Currently 2.67% increase over FY21 approved budget of \$7,272,475
*BCAHS = Bristol County Agricultural High School

Slide 4 – Comparison of Initial to Proposed FY22 Budget – Continued:

- **February 3, 2021 – No changes**
 - **Bristol County Agricultural High School**
 - \$86,456 – Student Attendance Tuition Cost (4 students)
 - \$40,290 – Student Transportation Cost
 - **Fiscal Year 2020 BCAHS**
 - **\$85,000 recognized as BCAHS**
- Note: this included budgeted transportation costs – estimated \$41,750 increasing budget

Slide 5 – Comparison of Initial to Proposed FY22 Budget

- **February 22, 2021**
 - **\$7,593,561 total proposed FY22 operating budget**
 - Including costs of BCHAS
- Compared to FY21:
- **\$7,357,475 total in FY21 operating budget**
 - Overall - \$236,086 or 3.21% increase

Slide 6 – Summary of Staff Changes or Impacts

- No staff reductions
- Inclusive of 2 notifications of retirement
- Pending contract negotiations

Slide 7 – Departmental Increased Changes

- **Additional Other Than Based Pay(s) – (OTBP)**
 - **Superintendents Operations**
 - **Legal Settlement Net Increase \$5,000**
 - **Operational Contracts Net Increase \$15,000**
 - **Transportation**
 - **Regular and Special Education Busing Combined Increase \$20,000**
 - **Building Operational Utilities & Maintenance Cost**
 - **Net increase \$59,000 (gas, electricity, building maintenance/heating, air-conditioning – based on COVID guidelines)**
- **Technology Based Software & Equipment**
 - **Net increase \$12,000 (for 1:1 initiatives based on COVID guidelines i.e.: iPads/chrome books)**

Slide 8 – Budget Assumptions

- **Chapter 70 – Foundation State Aid Proposed**
 - **FY22 Projects \$851,365 or .01045% State Aid increase**
 - **Including proposed additional \$30/student**
 - **Net \$11,880 increase over FY21**

Note: Enrollment was based on the October 1 reporting – and there were students who withdrew to be homeschooled or to attend private schools due to COVID-19 – next year these funds may increase due to increased enrollment

Slide 9 – Budget Assumptions – Continued:

- **All funds budgetary offsets**
 - **Grants**
 - **Title 1, IDEA and Early Childhood Grants**
 - **Estimated \$120,000**
 - **Circuit Breaker**
 - **Estimated \$62,000**
 - **Revolving Funds (i.e.: building use and Early Childhood programs)**
 - **Estimated \$65,000**

Slide 10 – Next Steps

- **Continued budgetary evaluations**
- **Communications with Town-FinCom/Selectman**

Mr. Muse stated the point of tonight’s presentation was to give an overview and to discuss the major challenges that were faced in order to get to where we are.

Mr. Muse asked if there are any questions from the school committee members?

Ms. Lavin: Question to Mr. Barber

Regarding Chapter 70 funds – If we had not lost enrollment to “home-schooling” or students withdrawing to attend private schools, do you have a sense of what the Chapter 70 funds would be like?

Mr. Barber stated because of the fact there has not been a lot of additional guidance as far as how the state aid was going to be re-allocated, it is difficult to determine. Mr. Barber did however note that in the past, we would receive \$5,000 per student and out of that \$5,000 we would see approximately 70% per student.

Mr. Nelson noted although the Chapter 70 funds can be viewed as disappointing in some ways, some of the silver linings through additional funding from the Department of Education, Entitlement Grants, Competitive Grants, as well as working collaboratively with the towns, these silver linings have assisted us in putting quite a bit of technology into the hands of our students and buildings.

Mr. Nelson extended a “thank you” to Mr. Barber in his first year in the district in stepping into a complex school system with multiple school districts including a region, during a pandemic and giving us solid numbers to work with.

Mr. Nelson extended a “thank you” to Dr. Finning and Mr. Muse for their commitment, noting that multiple meetings have taken place, and the both of them always made sure they were up-to-date in terms of what our thought process was and they always provided great feedback.

Mr. Nelson extended a “thank you” to the building administrators and the department heads for working with multiple stakeholders and bringing forward what we know what are needs are now, and what we think for the future. Mr. Nelson noted this budget does not give us everything we wanted in an ideal world, but he believes it meets our current needs moving forward and stated it is a responsible budget based on what we know right now.

Mr. Nelson extended a “thank you” to Town Administrator, Mr. Lorenzo and Pat Donahue of FinCom, for continuously participating in our meetings and listening to our viewpoints and offering feedback in terms of the town-wide perspective.

Mr. Nelson stated there is no official “action” that needs to take place tonight, but felt as though it was critical for the school committee at large to hear the information in terms of where we are today and Mr. Barber will continue to work on this number, as we move closer to a public hearing.

C. Student Opportunity Act Approval

Mr. Nelson stated the last time we met as a committee he briefed the school committee members on the Student Opportunity Act. Mr. Nelson noted the Plan was updated and it was submitted to the Department of Education, pending formal approval from the school committee members tonight.

Mr. Nelson stated tonight, Mr. Davidson and Mr. Tavares will briefly provide an overview of the Student Opportunity Act as related to Mattapoisett Elementary Schools and noted the Plans have been reviewed and approved by the other three school committees representing our schools.

Mr. Nelson stated in previous discussions tonight regarding Chapter 70 funds, we talked about the additional \$30 per student and Ms. Lavin pointed out that \$11,000 was not really a whole lot of additional funds. Mr. Nelson stated the reason he is pointing this out, is because the hope of the Student Opportunity Act was additional funding on Chapter 70. Mr. Nelson stated no one predicted COVID-19 and this pandemic obviously impacted the state’s vision regarding the Student Opportunity Act. Mr. Nelson stated for districts like ours who are not seeing a very large increase, the encouragement is to think about what we are doing already, the initiatives we have started, and to build upon those.

Mr. Davidson stated as a district, our focus regarding the Student Opportunity Act was to focus on High Needs students with disabilities defined as any student who is economically disadvantaged, has a disability, or is an English language learner or a former English language learner. Mr. Davidson stated our MCAS data showed these student subgroups are not making adequate gains in the areas of literacy, and we know from research in this area that early intervention is the best way to ensure ELA success.

Commitment 1: Focusing on Student Subgroups

Mr. Davidson stated over the next three years, educators at Center School and Old Hammondtown School will utilize the Student Opportunity Act funds to create intervention groups, and teachers

will use the following reading intervention strategies to ensure student learning needs are being adequately addressed:

- Foundations
- Visualizing and Verbalizing (Lindamood-Bell)
- Pearson Ready Gen
- Dibels Progress Monitoring
- Reading Recovery
- Wilson

Mr. Davidson noted Wilson is a great tool for not only students on an IEP, but for all students who require intervention in reading.

Mr. Davidson stated educators would utilize the following assessment tools to monitor student progress in ELA:

- Aimsweb
- Dibels
- Shaywitz Dyslexia Screener
- Wilson Assessment of Decoding and Encoding (WADE)
- Teacher Generated Assessments

Commitment 2: Using Evidence-Based Programs to Close Gaps

Mr. Davidson stated the first program that will be used is Wilson Foundations in grades K-2 noting teachers will be trained and coached in the implementation of this program. Mr. Davidson stated a coach will be trained at each grade level to ensure ongoing support is available and stated the first three years would look like as follows:

- Year 1 – Wilson Foundations training for educators/identify grade level coaches
- Year 2 – Wilson Foundations grade level coaches attend Foundations Facilitator’s training
- Year 3 – Order needed supplemental materials

Commitment 3: Monitoring Success with Outcome Metrics and Targets

Mr. Davidson stated the metrics that will be used to monitor success in reducing disparities in achievement amongst the different subgroups would be:

- Student Achievement: English language arts (ELA) achievement as measured by average scaled scores on MCAS
- Student Growth: ELA mean student growth percentile (SGP)
 - Metric 1: Foundations Unit Testing
 - Metric 2: MCAS ELA Achievement Data
 - Metric 3: MCAS Student Growth Data through Student Growth Percentile
 - Metric 4: Aimsweb Benchmarking
 - Metric 5: Dibels

Commitment 4: Engaging all Families

Mr. Davidson stated as a district we see the importance of engaging all families and we will continue to work on finding all subgroups that we identified and continue to work on meeting their needs.

Mr. Davidson stated we would continue to use existing family engagement opportunities at our schools to work with families on all aspects of this movement and continue reaching out to our community stakeholders through PTO meetings and monthly school council meetings. Mr. Davidson stated we will commit a focus on social/emotional learning opportunities that will engage all of our families in Mattapoisett, and the plan is to include a monthly social/emotional newsletter and provide a social/emotional page on our Google Classrooms. Mr. Davidson stated Old Hammondtown and Center School’s SEL team will share out resources to support

social/emotional learning opportunities in the district and a SEL Google Classroom will be developed, which will provide families the opportunity to stay up-to-date on the latest social/emotional curriculum and work lessons that are being conducted throughout the year.

Mr. Davidson stated families will have the insight into the SEL/Character lessons and materials that students are engaged in during lunch sessions, morning meetings and closing circles and the SEL Google Classroom will also allow parents/guardians the opportunity to communicate with members of the SEL team confidentially and safely.

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

Ms. Lavin:

Is it accurate to say that the “plan” here outlines a focus on K-2?

Mr. Nelson replied – yes.

Ms. Lavin:

Is there an opportunity to use these skills/tools for any of the children in Grades 3-6 that might also present with ELA deficiencies?

Mr. Nelson stated we will continue to support our other initiatives and programming for all students, but when we looked at the Student Opportunity Act and we anticipated additional funds, we had to identify what we thought was a subgroup that we could address that gap. Mr. Nelson stated when we thought about literacy in our youngest learners knowing that intervention is most critical in the younger grade levels, we thought this made the most sense to focus on the Student Opportunity Act. Mr. Nelson further stated we would also continue to close other gaps in Grades 3-6.

Mr. Tavares stated we have used MCAS as a tool to identify students who have gaps and we would craft the lessons for those students in Grades 3-6. Mr. Tavares stated now that we are utilizing Aimsweb, this allows us to identify students at a much younger age and we know that Foundations is researched-based and we will be able to target all subgroups in K-2 to try to get ahead of it.

Dr. Finning appreciated the detailed overview by Mr. Davidson and agrees starting at Grades K-2 is important so that we will have earlier identification and less identified issues later on is important. Dr. Finning’s question is how will the district be training the teachers and will Dibels precede Foundations?

Mr. Davidson stated the real focus would be on the interventions - Tier 2 and Tier 3 model. Mr. Davidson stated the Wilson Foundations would give us the opportunity to train our staff and identify the teachers that would become the grade level leaders. Mr. Davidson stated extended trainings would take place in Year 2, which would allow staff to share with and train each other during staff meetings or professional development days.

MOTION: by Karin Barrows to accept the Student Opportunity Plan as presented.

SECONDED: Carol Clifford

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

Mr. Barber presented a memo as of February 22, 2021 indicating the Mattapoisett School District currently has \$478,052 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 – 84.24% 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):

The Food Service Director's Report dated February 2021, provides a month to month summary comparison at both schools for fiscal years 2020 and 2021. Mr. Barber stated the meals are adequate, noting we have limited students physically inside the building, and stated he would like to see more students utilizing both the free breakfast and free lunches that are offered daily in school.

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

- Drain spout damaged from high winds - our roof contractor ordered fasteners and will repair as soon as weather breaks
- Assisted Town in administering Covid-19 Vaccinations
- Completed two 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 acquired and available on site
- Nurse and student services issued required additional safety PPE
- Conducted routine maintenance on all facility systems

Old Hammondtown School:

- Completed two 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 by the school committee members?

Ms. Lavin

Has there been any discussions regarding re-opening the playgrounds?

Mr. Barber stated this question is often brought up, however, maintaining the cleanliness of the playgrounds are not an area the custodial staff clean. Mr. Barber stated we still need to minimize the potential risk of passing any germs at this time.

Ms. Lavin congratulated Mr. Barber and the Café Team for receiving the Friends of Jack Foundation Award, noting it was wonderful article – well deserved!

VI. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT:

Chairperson Muse thanked the students, parents and community members stating this is not a perfect world by any stretch, but our district has proven to do very well if you look at the CDC Guidelines that came out and the things that we have addressed. Mr. Muse noted the cooperative work between administration, committee members and the teachers has led to success. Mr. Muse stated in light of today's grim situation, we are still in a very difficult situation and he hopes everybody takes it as seriously as they should, and we somehow get ourselves out of this and find what is going to be normal again very soon.

CENTRAL OFFICE ADMINSTRATOR'S REPORT:

Superintendent Nelson stated he wanted to recognize that Principal, Rose Bowman, remains out on leave at this time and he knows this communication has been communicated to our parents/guardians and to our school committee members. Mr. Nelson stated he wanted to publically acknowledge this and let Mrs. Bowman know we are thinking of her and our thoughts are with her during this time.

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

On February 1, one of the activities the Office of Teaching & Learning supported was building-based professional development, where educators reviewed Aimsweb data to support progress monitoring, and analyzed the teaching and learning cycles for grades K-6. The educators and support staff examined data in reading and math to support instruction for all students and created student-centered plans for their specific learning plan.

This coming Wednesday, the Instructional Council will hold its second meeting to focus on Teaching and Learning to prepare for the 2021-2022 academic school year. The Instructional Council will examine the first draft of surveys, which will be sent to parents/guardians, students, and educators. The response for this survey is due by March 26th. The importance of having feedback from the various stakeholders will provide a thoughtful and strategic professional development plan to build a plan past the pandemic. We are beginning the conversations about what the district will look like past the pandemic and what professional development will look like for the various educational settings, which I am naming, "Charting Our Course". Once the response is submitted, the Office of Teaching & Learning, along with the Instructional Team, will create the Professional Development Plan to be sent to the school committee for their review.

Ms. Pearson-Campbell acknowledge last year focused on safety and the opening of the year to support the shift in education to support the strategic plan of the three focus areas: 21st Century Learning, Global Citizenship, and Social-Emotional Learning. The Professional Development Plan will be focused on serving the needs of our educators to support lifelong learners in the classroom and building the capacity for educators and support staff.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

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

Mr. Tavares stated this is a very exciting time of the year and one of Mrs. Bowman's favorite times of the year, when we welcome Kindergarten families into our school. On February 3, Doreen Lopes, ORR Early Childhood Coordinator, met with about 45 families through ZOOM and we talked about what Kindergarten looks like. One of our main focuses was regarding the new on-line registration tool called "Family ID". Mr. Tavares stated in the past, we would have one night with the Kindergarten teachers and Ms. Balsis, the school nurse, and we would look at what a typical

day would be like for a Kindergarten student, and then take a look at the classrooms. Mr. Tavares stated this year, our first meeting focused on the registration piece, and as we get closer to spring, another meeting will be held to introduce the Kindergarten teachers and take a tour of the classrooms – hopefully having a better idea of what next fall will look like. Mr. Tavares stated there were a lot of great questions and we are looking forward to our next meeting, which has not been scheduled yet.

Mr. Tavares extended a “thank you” to everyone for all of their help and support over the last few weeks, noting it has been an interesting time for him as an educator and as a leader.

Mr. Muse asked if there were any additional questions regarding the Principal’s report?

Ms. Lavin:

Regarding the spring MCAS, could you help me understand, for the grade 3 students who are remote learners, is there an expectation they will have to come into the building for the testing?

Mr. Tavares stated at this time the DOE have not made a determination as to whether the students would come in or if they are going to create a take home test.

Karin Barrows:

You mentioned that the Aimsweb Plus winter assessment took place – I am curious if there were any gaps identified given the nature of the school year we have had that you could discuss with us?

Mr. Tavares stated we were happy at the first “look” on the most recent Professional Development day, in that we saw some great growth. Mr. Tavares noted there were some students in areas that were identified and those students have been targeted for Benchmarking. Mr. Tavares stated teachers have identified an area and have put interventions in with a timeline, and the students will be reassessed.

Mr. Muse stated we all wish Mrs. Bowman to continue to get back 100% to speed and extended a “thank you” to Mr. Kevin Brogioli, former Principal of the ORR Jr. High School, who has stepped forward to fill in. Mr. Muse stated this is a testament to how our communities work together.

VIII. School Committee

A. Committee Reports

1. ORR District School Committee

Mr. Muse reported as follows:

- Primary focus of discussions was regarding FY22 Budget and School Choice
- Discussions on attempting to resume sports at the High School and Jr. High School levels took place
- Plans and discussions for this years’ Class of 2021 graduation will begin taking place at the next meeting

2. SMEC

Carole Clifford reported as follows:

- The adult program they were trying to do on campus had to be sent home due to state regulations
- SMEC is going through the budget process
- Due to SMEC having a “rainy day” fund, they have been able to continue to cover a lot of services that they always do
- On an ORR High School update – the girl’s basketball team won the championship!

3. READS

Mr. Nelson stated a virtual meeting was held on January 28, 2021 and reported the following:

- **Meeting was called to order**
- **Discussed FY22 Budget**
- **FY21 Budget Update was heard**
- **Discussed a potential conflict of interest for a READS staff member**
- **Accepted the Executive Director's recommendations regarding approval of new staff and retirements**
- **On an informational standpoint: We discussed COVID-19 status of in-person learning and remote learning**
- **Discussed program updates and new student initiatives**
- **Briefed on their Coordinated Program Review in collaboration with the Department of Education**
- **We were provided a list of staff resignations**
- **Heard items of interest to the Superintendents**

4. Early Childhood Council

Karin Barrows stated they met on January 26 and reported as follows:

- **Kindergarten registration is open – online registration process is live**
- **Guest speaker, Sonja Amaral, Coordinator of the Southeast Consultation Program joined their meeting – they provide consultation and resources for children ages 0-3 who have complex medical care needs.**
- **Ms. Barrows encourages any family who is struggling with any complex medical care needs to reach out to her, and she would be happy to put you in touch with Sonja.**

5. MASC

Shannon Finning reported as follows:

- **MASC is doing a great job with Professional Development**
- **Dr. Finning noted unfortunately they are holding a session tomorrow night, which directly conflicts with our community program. MASC's program tomorrow night is on Bias Inclusion and Diversity & Cultural Proficiency.**
- **Dr. Finning encourages folks in our district to attend our community program.**

6. Mattapoisett Capital Needs Committee

Carole Clifford reported as follows:

- **A priority is to have the phone system fixed at the elementary schools**
- **Mr. Nelson added that Mr. Gene Jones is proposing a phased tile replacement at both Center School and Old Hammondtown School, and Mr. Jones was invited to the Capital Planning Team meeting this coming Wednesday.**

7. Tri-Town Education Foundation

Karin Barrows reported as follows:

- **They are still accepting grant applications**
- **Deadline for applications are due by April 9**
- **Maximum grant award of:**
 - **\$3,000 for a collaborative inter-school/cross curriculum project**
 - **\$2,000 for an intra-school collaborative project**
 - **\$1,000 for an individual school project**
- **Ms. Barrows reminded Administrators to remind their teachers of this grant opportunity.**

8. Policy Sub-Committee

Carly Lavin reported the meeting was held on January 25, 2021 and reported as follows:

The following policies were reviewed:

1. JF- School Admissions
2. JFBB-1 School Choice
3. JH- Student Absences and Excuses (MASC) & JE- Attendance (ORR)
4. JHD- Exclusions and Exemptions from School
5. JICFA- Prohibition of Hazing
6. JICH- Alcohol Drugs and Tobacco
7. JIH – Searches and Interrogations
8. JEB – Entrance Age revisited (2nd time)

Ms. Lavin stated at the next Policy Sub-Committee meeting, revisions will be made and she will report the outcome of those revisions.

9. Budget Sub-Committee

Mr. Muse reported this item was addressed earlier in the meeting and a public hearing date will be announced soon.

10. Clock Committee

Mr. Muse stated we are forever indebted to Mr. Andrews for keeping the clock moving and keeping that history alive, and at this time, there are no issues with the clock.

11. Anti-Racism Committee

Shannon Finning stated the following:

- This committee has been working fast and furiously and grateful for the leadership of Dr. Pearson-Campbell and Mr. Davidson
- The District has brought in a consultant, Christina Brown, who will be facilitating tomorrow night's community conversation – Dr. Finning encourages committee members, families and educators to participate in both training opportunities taking place this week
- On February 1, the District administered a Panoramic Survey for students in grades 6-12. We received back 979 results (75.9% response rate)
- As a committee, we will be doing a "deep dive" to better understand the data and Dr. Pearson-Campbell and Mr. Davidson will present on the key findings to the school committee. (Dr. Finning has also offered to present)
- In March, the committee will be focusing on the survey results and how we reflect back the voices of our students and share that information
- In April, the committee will be working on a review of hiring practices
- In May, the committee will be looking at policies
- The committee will be looking at the school calendar to ensure that our calendar is reflective and more inclusive across types of religions and other practices for members of our community
- In June, the committee will be looking to do something based upon whatever the Massachusetts guidance is around public health to celebrate the diversity and the effort in our community

Dr. Finning stated she is very grateful for the leadership and engagement, not only from school committee members but also from the Tri-town Against Racism (which is open to the community), and Dr. Finning noted that other communities have attended meetings. Dr. Finning stated she is very excited that students will be part of the committee as well.

Dr. Finning noted the two presentations this week are as follows:

February 23, 7:00-8:30pm by Zoom – Christina Brown – Tri-town Black History Month Community Conversation on Identify and Belonging

February 25, 6:00-7:30pm by Zoom - Sarah Fiarman – Who, me racist?

IX. Future Business

A. Timeline

Mattapoissett School Committee will be held on March 29, 2021 @ 6:30pm – hybrid format

Note: the Joint School Committee scheduled for March 11, 2021 @ 6:30pm – has been canceled

Ms. Lavin addressed the committee members regarding holding the next school committee meeting scheduled for March 29, to take place fully remote. Ms. Lavin stated due to audio complications, she and Karin Barrows were placed in separate areas of the school, and Mr. Nelson returned back to his office, in order to participate in tonight’s meeting.

Dr. Finning noted on principle, she does not believe meetings should take place fully remote and would like it on record that she believes meetings should take place by hybrid format. Dr. Finning noted she would follow the decision of the group.

Ms. Lavin would like this discussion to take place at each meeting, to see how the meetings will take place going forward. Ms. Lavin stated she would be attending the next meeting remotely.

Ms. Clifford stated she does not want to force anyone to do something they don’t want to do, and if Dr. Finning would like to attend future meetings in hybrid format, then that is her decision.

Ms. Lavin and Ms. Clifford agree that a Motion does not have to take place regarding this topic.

Mr. Muse stated the next meeting will take place in hybrid format, and this topic will be discussed at each meeting going forward.

B. Future Agenda Items

- MCAS Results Report (November/December – depending upon receipt of results)
- Initial Budget Review (January)
- School Lunch Statement (January/June)
- Approval of Chairperson’s Annual Report (February)
- Interim report on School Committee progress toward goals (February)
- Budget Approval (public hearings – March)
- 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

- Mattapoissett School Committee Meeting Agenda – January 22, 2021
- Financial Report dated February, 2021
- Food Service Director Report – February, 2021
- Facilities Director Report – February, 2021
- Principal’s Report – February 22, 2021

Meeting of the Regular Mattapoisett School Committee meeting ended at 8:15pm

Chairperson Muse requested at 8:15pm a Motion to go in to Executive Session for the Purpose of #3 and #7 – to comply with the provisions of any general or special law.

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

SECONDED: Carly Lavin

IN FAVOR: All

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