

MATTAPOISETT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
Mattapoisett, Massachusetts
September 14, 2020
BY: ZOOM LINK

MEETING MINUTES
September 14, 2020

Regular meeting of the Mattapoisett School Committee was held on Monday – September 14, 2020 and called to order by Chairperson James Muse at 6:37pm, only to go in to Executive Session for the purpose of items #3 and #7.

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

MEMBER(S) ABSENT: Karin Barrows

MOTION: by Carol Clifford to go in to Executive Session for the purpose of items #3 and #7
SECONDED: Shannon Finning
IN FAVOR: ALL
OPPOSED: None
MOTION PASSED – 4:0

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

Chairperson Muse announced the regular meeting of the Mattapoisett School Committee is beginning at 7:57pm

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

MEMBER(S) ABSENT: Karin Barrows

MOTION: by Carly Lavin to come out of Executive Session at 7:57pm and continue their regularly scheduled meeting
SECONDED: Carole Clifford
MOTION PASSED – 4:0

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

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

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.

Chairperson Muse entertained a motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding with the Mattapoisett Teacher’s Union.

MOTION: by Carole Clifford to approve the Memorandum of Understanding with the Mattapoisett Teacher’s Union
SECONDED: Carly Lavin
IN FAVOR: ALL
OPPOSED: None
MOTION PASSED – 4:0

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

MEETING TO ORDER

I. Approval of Minutes:

A. Minutes

1. Regular Meeting Minutes – August 6, 2020

MOTION: by Carole Clifford to accept the meeting minutes of August 6, 2020 as written
SECONDED: Shannon Finning
IN FAVOR: ALL
OPPOSED: None
MOTION PASSED – 4:0

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

IV. General

A. Update on Reopening Plan

Superintendent Nelson opened by thanking Carly Lavin and Carole Clifford for their support through the negotiation process, and also thanked Marissa Hughes and Sara Jacobsen for working collaboratively and in good faith on behalf of the Association.

Mr. Nelson stated the district will begin school on September 16 and will continue to work off the approved “Back to School 2020-2021 Reopening Plan”, starting with a “Hybrid Learning Model” (Cohort A and Cohort B Ideology). Students in Cohort A will attend on Tuesdays and Thursdays and students in Cohort B will attend on Wednesdays and Fridays.

Mr. Nelson acknowledged the concerns by staff regarding the HVAC system and air-quality at both Old Hammondtown and Center School, stating the district was able to obtain independent vendors to test both, and is happy to report the finding reports in both the HVAC system and air-quality gave full clearance to return back to the buildings/classrooms prior to the 10-day planning period for staff to return to school on September 1, 2020. Mr. Nelson stated he will continue to update the School Committee members and Association regarding the HVAC system and air-quality regularly moving forward.

Mr. Nelson stated that everything is going to look different concerning social distancing/social parameters in order to prevent COVID-19 transmission, (for example: students getting off the bus, students being dismissed, students using the bathrooms, students entering the cafeteria for lunch,

etc.) Mr. Nelson stated there will be signage marking traffic patterns in hallways and classrooms, signage regarding wearing masks/washing hands, dividers for students, marking desks 6 feet apart, etc. – all of this being done as friendly as possible for the staff and students, but also to acknowledge the seriousness of the situation.

Mr. Nelson stated Principal Bowman and Associate Principal Tavares has held several Question/Answer and Zoom sessions for parents regarding the re-opening of the schools.

Mr. Nelson thanked parents/guardians for their patience in teacher/classroom placement and that in scheduling Cohort A and Cohort B, balancing classes and meeting student's needs were of utmost importance. Mr. Nelson stated, as in every year, there may be minor changes as school begins.

Mr. Nelson stated the district is using their arsenal of approximately 1,700 chromebooks for students for both "Hybrid In" and "Hybrid Out" (Remote Learning) students, and have been able to purchase additional chromebooks and tablets through several grants that were obtained. Mr. Nelson noted it is the hope these devices will be delivered in early to mid-October, but stated to the committee these devices are hot items, and he cannot commit to that delivery time.

Mr. Nelson stated bus routes are being created to be most effective for families and students, noting that although a bus capacity is 77 students, we are only able to transport 24-25 students per bus. Mr. Nelson stated he is grateful many parents are willing to transport their child(ren) to/from school during this unprecedented time.

Mr. Nelson thanked the Mattapoisett and Joint School Committee members supporting the flexibility given by Commissioner Riley allowing for 10 days of planning and training. Mr. Nelson stated many of the teachers/staff had not been in school since March 13. Mr. Nelson stated within these 10 days, some of the areas covered were: What hybrid learning would look like from a platform and schedule standpoint; strike a balance of system-wide training; building-based training; and, department/grade level training opportunities, just to name a few.

Mr. Nelson stated he scheduled a meeting to meet with town health officials – Amanda Stone, Emily Field (health agent and town nurse) and the Board of Health Chair on September 30. The topic of discussion will be what the key indicators are for the Mattapoisett elementary schools, in terms of sharing local and statewide data, and for the schools to share what we see in the first few weeks of school in terms of compliance in social distancing and any type of social distancing issues that may arise. These conversations will be shared with the school committee so they can make informed decisions throughout the school year in terms of what learning model is most appropriate for Old Hammondtown and Center School.

Shannon Finning:

Now that the MOA has been approved, what will be the timeline when you will be providing the committee with indicators, in terms of when and how you would like to recommend to us consideration for potential moving?

Mr. Nelson stated he would like to give a thorough update at the next Mattapoisett School Committee meeting in October. Mr. Nelson stated this timeline would allow for students to be in the building for several weeks; he would have met with the town health officials and be able to collaborate with the officials to come to a common understanding of what are the meaningful data points that can be agreed upon between the school administration/board of health and health officials.

Carly Lavin:

What are the chromebook/ipad numbers on deficit for grades 2-6 population and the timeframe on when we will be expecting to receive them.

Mr. Nelson stated they are anticipating delivery at the beginning/mid-October and also noted he has heard that vendors are delayed in producing these devices. Mr. Nelson stated we have 1,700 chromebook devices within our school system ranging from brand new to the very end of their life expectancy and we are hoping to be able to get as much mileage out of the devices we have until the new ones arrive. Mr. Nelson stated we are confident to be able to provide devices for students 2-8 at this time, as well as have additional devices for students who may need one based on hybrid out/remote learning in the district. Mr. Nelson stated we are very fortunate many of the high school students have their own devices which they can use, but would like to be a true 1:1 device for every student in the future. Mr. Nelson stated after speaking with administration and early educators, the preferred device to be used for PreK-1 is the tablet, and those devices have been ordered as well.

Carly Lavin:

What is the contingency plan if tablets do not arrive in early October?

Mr. Nelson stated that based on a student's particular situation, a chromebook would be provided.

Carly Lavin:

Have all of the bus routes been publicized/published?

Mr. Nelson stated the bus routes are on the website, and Mr. Barber is working on sending parents/guardians individual emails on the particulars.

Mr. Barber stated he is building an email system to each of the bus ridership teams of students who are on each of the individual cycles per school/per physical bus. Mr. Barber noted being able to utilize only 32% of the seating (24-25 students per bus), and at times additional ridership to meet student's needs, has been completed and emails will be forthcoming to parents later this evening, or early in the morning.

Carly Lavin:

All parents/guardians and families will know what bus they will be riding on by tomorrow morning, along with pick-up/drop-off times?

Mr. Barber stated all families who completed the bus surveys earlier in the year, and then any additional requests up to September 4th will be receiving an email with bus ridership information. Mr. Barber stated that some students will be riding different "numbered" buses, because of the changes in quantity of students and the flexibility of seating on the buses.

B. Central Office Staff Update

Mr. Nelson stated he is very happy to have a full Administrative TEAM in place for this upcoming school year and introduced the staff as follows:

Howie Barber – Assistant Superintendent of Finance & Operations, came to us from Hampden Wilbraham Regional School District and joined us full-time on August 17; Dr. Janelle Pearson-Campbell – Assistant Superintendent of Teaching & Learning, came to us from the Waltham Public

School system and joined us on August 24 and was running our new teacher program on August 27; and, Craig Davidson – Director of Student Services, came to us from the Bourne Public School system and will be joining the district full-time beginning tomorrow.

Mr. Nelson noted that the hiring committees for each of the above positions held 15-20 stakeholders for each position, which included school committee members, teachers, parents and students of the ORR School District.

C. Creation of New Sub-Committee

Mr. Nelson stated this past June, a special Joint School Committee meeting was held, where we talked and listened to our stakeholders around the need to be an active anti-racist school community. Mr. Nelson stated we know there is so much more work to be done and it is an ongoing process and commitment to be a school community that is actively anti-racist and to develop a culture that embraces that mindset and ideology. Mr. Nelson would like to establish an Anti-Racism Sub Committee in each of the four school committees, to continue the efforts and work that was done last year. Mr. Nelson stated that Marion, Rochester and the ORR School Committees have already held meetings and have agreed to approve an Anti-Racism Sub-Committee. Mr. Nelson stated if the Mattapoisett School Committee members would like to proceed and approve this Anti-Racism Sub-Committee, he asked the committee to appoint a representative from the Mattapoisett School Committee this evening.

Shannon Finning stated she is delighted this is coming forward and stated it is critically important.

MOTION: by Chairperson Muse to create a new sub-committee entitled “Anti-Racism Sub Committee”
SO MOVED: Shannon Finning
SECONDED: Carly Lavin
IN FAVOR: ALL
OPPOSED: None
MOTION PASSED – 4:0

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

D. Anti-Racism Resolution

Mr. Nelson stated the Policy Sub-Committee met with legal representation from the firm of Murphy, Lamere & Murphy, to adopt a “School Committee Anti-Racism Resolution” as follows:

SCHOOL COMMITTEE ANTI-RACISM RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, as schools have the responsibility to equip students with their civil right of obtaining a free and appropriate public education, it is the responsibility of each school to ensure we create a welcoming community for ALL students; and

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility that every district provide to all district staff, including School Committee members annual professional development on diversity, anti-racism, equity and inclusion; and

WHEREAS, every district will commit to recruiting and retaining a diverse and culturally responsive teaching workforce; and

WHEREAS, every district will examine their policies for institutional and systemic racialized practices and implement change with sustainable policies that are evidence based; and

WHEREAS, every district will incorporate into their curriculum the history of racial oppression and works by diverse authors and works from diverse perspectives; and

WHEREAS, we as school district leaders can no longer remain silent to the issues of racism and hate that continue to impact our public and private institutions;

RESOLVED: that Mattapoisett School District and all the school districts in the Commonwealth must guarantee that racist practices are eradicated, and diversity, equity and inclusion is embedded and practiced for our students, families, faculty and staff.

We must ensure our own school culture and that of every district in the Commonwealth is actively anti-racist.

MOTION: by Vice-Chair, Carole Clifford, to adopt the “School Committee Anti-Racism Resolution” as read above

SECONDED: Shannon Finning

IN FAVOR: ALL

OPPOSED: None

MOTION PASSED – 4:0

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

E. School Committee Format

James Muse stated currently, the Mattapoisett School Committee has been holding meetings by “ZOOM”, and the question at this time is if this process will continue, or do the committee members want to re-consider the committee format in that members and administration will meet in person. Mr. Muse stated at this time, the public would not be able to attend these meetings in person.

Carly Lavin stated she would like the committee members consider a hybrid meeting going forward and would be more than happy to be in a socially-distant setting. Ms. Lavin stated she has no expectation that other committee members or administration would have to be there, but she feels as though offering the opportunity provides a lot of value for the committee members to understand what the teachers and educators are going through, as well as to figure out if the technology our school district is offering is valuable for them and our students and families.

Shannon Finning stated the committee members have received several emails from parents asking the committee members to participate in hybrid meetings since the committee members are expecting the educators and administrators be back in the classroom. Ms. Finning stated the Five-Chair meeting took place in a socially distancing format in the ORR Media Room located in Mattapoisett and she would be willing to actively participate in hybrid meetings with Ms. Lavin.

Carole Clifford understands the committee should be an example of hybrid, and depending on the equipment and there is no problem with the acoustics, she would agree to attend a hybrid meeting.

James Muse stated it is important for the committee to do everything they can, at all times, to use every method of mitigating against this horrible disease. Mr. Muse stated while a simple meeting for a few hours, creating social distancing, it still is introducing people into a building that other than to be there in the same space and have a meeting on camera, there is no other change. Mr. Muse stated it would not discernably add to the work the committee has to do. Mr. Muse stated there

are two choices here – one to stay fully remote, and the other is to hold the meetings in hybrid format. Mr. Muse stated he would continue to attend the school committee meetings remotely.

MOTION: by Shannon Finning to hold the next Mattapoisett School Committee meeting on October 26, by hybrid format
SECONDED: Carly Lavin
IN FAVOR: Carole Clifford
OPPOSED: James Muse
MOTION PASSED – 3:1

Role Call: Shannon Finning – Yes; Carly Lavin – Yes; Carole Clifford – Yes; James Muse - No

F. MOA Update/Approval

James Muse stated this was completed during Executive Session

V. New Business

Mr. Howard Barber stated primarily at this time, he has been working with administration regarding the re-opening plans for the school district. Mr. Barber stated he has been working diligently with regards to the transportation; working closely with Mr. Gene Jones, Facilities Manager for the District, assisting with safety set-up of classrooms, cafeterias, hallways, etc.; COVID-19 cleaning/disinfecting on a daily basis - developing cleaning check-off lists; assisting with the new guidelines; scheduling of eight chromebook distributions at the elementary levels and three distributions of chromebooks at the Junior/Senior high school level; working closely with Ms. Susana Cunningham (Human Resources) regarding staff changes/modifications/limitations due to COVID-19 guidelines; and, working closely with Ms. Jill Henesey, Director of Food Services for the tri-town schools, continuing distribution of free lunch/breakfast meals to families attending both the hybrid and remote learning models as well as distributing lunches to students in school.

Mr. Barber stated the Mattapoisett School District received the Elementary Secondary Emergency Relief Grant just under \$29,000; the Remote Learning Technology Essentials Grant of approximately \$33,000; and is completing the grant process for Title I (\$35,000); Title II (\$8,000); and Title IV (\$10,000). Mr. Barber stated in addition, the Special Education Early Education grant in the amount of \$6,500, and the IDEA grant in the amount of \$115,000 is in process.

Mr. Barber stated he has been working with town official, Mr. Lourenco, regarding the Plymouth County CARES Funding with respect to our “appropriation” of these funds. (Note: these funds are sent directly to the town – not the schools)

B. Business

1. Financial Report

Mr. Barber stated he would have an updated financial report at the next meeting in October.

Ms. Lavin:

With the hybrid in students, will breakfast be served in the cafeteria or in the classrooms?

Mr. Barber stated at the elementary levels “breakfast” carts will be located as students enter the building and they will have the option to take a “grab and go” breakfast and bring it to their classroom/homeroom. Mr. Barber stated there will be additional trash bins/cleaning materials in classrooms established for this morning breakfast, and it will be cleaned up before instruction takes place.

Mr. Barber also stated there will be a hot or cold lunch option that students can choose from daily, and the teachers will be asking students in the morning if they would like to order one of those lunches. The teachers will be responsible to give the “lunch count” to the cafeteria personnel.

Mrs. Bowman stated there are desks set up in the cafeteria six feet apart from each other and that each grade level will have the opportunity to go to the cafeteria, grab a lunch, sit in the cafeteria to eat, noting that Mr. Tavares has put together a cleaning schedule for trash pick-up and wiping down the individual desks that students eat at, so that the next class can come in to the cafeteria. Mrs. Bowman stated there is 10 minutes in between lunches to properly clean each student desk where they have eaten.

Mrs. Bowman stated the nurses have communicated with families regarding allergies and that is an area that will be addressed to make sure there is no cross-contamination in the cafeteria.

Mr. Barber stated the technology department is in a planning process for generating a mastery report from our database, coding for allergies, student’s needs and potential risks.

C. Personnel

Mr. Nelson stated the following:

Erin Custadio - Teacher – resigned

Pamela Hiller – Paraprofessional – retired

Dr. Douglas R. White – Superintendent of Schools – retired

Staffing Change: Mr. Michael S. Nelson – Assistant Superintendent is now the Superintendent of Schools

Mr. Nelson noted he would like to introduce additional new staff/changes at the next meeting in October, since we are still solidifying staffing needs at this time.

VI.

CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT:

Chairperson Muse stated he has two words – “Thank You”. Mr. Muse further stated school committee members, Carly Lavin and Carole Clifford, alongside with teacher representatives, put together a thorough, detailed Memorandum of Understanding, which took a lot of hard work for both parties, and numerous meetings were held to come to an agreement. Mr. Muse stated the teachers were fantastic and supportive in providing information and taking care of all of our children. Mr. Muse thanked the rest of the school committee for their hard work and commitment throughout the year for the enormous amount of work that has been done to get to this point.

CENTRAL OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT:

Superintendent Nelson thanked the School Committee members for their continued support, including Karin Barrows who is not at the meeting this evening, noting this year, more has been asked of the members under the circumstances, and realizes the time away from their professional and family worlds were interrupted by additional meetings on short notice to position themselves to start the school year.

Mr. Nelson thanked the Association, parents/guardians, facilities, food service, IT department, support staff, town officials and most importantly the students. Mr. Nelson recognizes how their lives have been turned “upside down” since March in terms of routine, and noted that although we are only returning to a “hybrid” style, he is excited to see students back in school and in the classrooms.

Dr. Jannell Pearson-Campbell stated this has been an exciting time for her, even though it has only been three weeks since she has been in the district. Dr. Pearson-Campbell noted on her 3rd day in the district, she began the “New Teacher Orientation” modeling the hybrid/remote learning format and that she and Ms. Kelly Chouinard, Asst. Principal of the JHS, are putting together a resource, “New Teacher’s Guidebook” for all new teachers in the district.

Dr. Pearson-Campbell stated on August 30th, the district started the “10-day Plan”, consisting of two plans – the “Back-to-School Plan” and “Fall Remote Learning Plan”. These plans focused on three key areas – 1) COVID-19, 2) Remote Learning; and, 3) Social Emotional Learning.

Dr. Pearson-Campbell stated from these two plans they pulled out the nine priorities, where the elementary, middle and high schools principals developed their 10-day plan – each morning the individual schools focused on their own individual needs; from 1-2pm webinars were held focusing on the following: COVID Training – Mr. Barber; Google Classroom – Mr. Coellner; How to Navigate the New World using a Practical Tool in Educational Settings Focusing on Social Justice and Equity – Dr. Jannell Pearson-Campbell; Responsive Classroom/CPI during COVID – Charles West; Preparing for Pre-School – Doreen Lopes; Teaching All Students in a Hybrid Setting using Assistive Technology – Kristine Lincoln; Teaching in a Hybrid Setting through Synchronous/Asynchronous Learning – Dr. Jannell Pearson-Campbell; Coping in Changing World (from a student and teacher perspective) – Phil Alessi – School Psychologist; and Supporting Students in a Changing World – Dr. Alex Hirschberg.

Dr. Pearson-Campbell stated at the next meeting she will be discussing 21st Century Learning – “How do we support all students at the same time? “

PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

Mrs. Rosemary Bowman, Principal of Center School/Old Hammondtown School reported the following: Kindergarten Screening begins on Wednesday – 9/16; the Principal and Kindergarten teachers will be holding a parent “zoom” meeting tomorrow evening, 9/15 to answer any questions they may have regarding the kindergarten screening taking place on September 16; the Principal’s report provides student enrollment both hybrid/remote grades 1-6 for both Cohort A (attending Tuesday/Thursday) and Cohort B (attending Wednesday/Friday) noting approximately 8-10 students are in a classroom at a time; presently at Center School 17 students are full remote, with the understanding that additional students may be remote after Kindergarten screening takes place – at Old Hammondtown 9 students are full remote, with potentially one additional student to be added.

Remote teachers at Center School are: Grades K, 1 and 3 – Mrs. Holly Maloof, Grade 2 – Mrs. Camacho and Mrs. Sarah Mendes, math specialist, will support all grade levels; Remote Teacher at Old Hammondtown will be Mrs. Barrows and Mrs. Bungert will replace Mrs. Barrows in the 5th grade teaching team.

Mrs. Bowman stated the health and safety of getting children in/out of school is of great concern with parents, and transportation is very different from past years. Mrs. Bowman stated many families are willing to drive their children to/from school and the Mattapoissett Police Department has offered to assist in any way they can to make sure the children are safely dropped off/picked up from both schools. Mr. Tavares is researching various apps that may be beneficial to use for the parent dismissal process.

Mrs. Bowman stated in previous years, the specialists changed schools halfway through the school day – this will not occur this year – three specialists will stay in one building for a trimester, then switch over to the other building for the second semester. Mrs. Bowman and Mr. Tavares will determine in trimester three that the students receive all the information from all of the specialists. Mrs. Bowman stated Grade 5 science will be taught by Mr. Squire for both remote and hybrid students. Mrs. Bowman

stated in Grade 6, teachers will have a homeroom and the teachers will move from classroom to classroom and the students will remain in one classroom – ELA will be taught by Laura Mirabito, Math – Kyle Letendre, Science – Sara Jacobsen, and each homeroom teacher will teach social studies with the support from Sara Jacobsen who has focused in social studies the last few years.

Mrs. Bowman concluded in collaboration with the custodians/cafeteria staff, parents/guardians, the staffs hard work and dedication, our goal this year is to make this an absolute wonderful experience that we want for our children as they began a new school year.

Carly Lavin:

Will Mrs. Bowman and Mr. Tavares travel between buildings, or will they stay at one building at this time?

Mrs. Bowman stated she feels very comfortable in continuing what they have done in the past, which is to be at Center School for 2 weeks, then OHS for 2 weeks, and with the technology of “zoom”, she is confident that she and Mr. Tavares will be able to continue supporting staff in each building, just as they have done in the past.

VIII. School Committee

A. Committee Reports

1. ORR District School Committee

James Muse stated the district is going through the same structure as each of the elementary levels, just dealing with older students, which they will have to adjust some concerns at that level. Mr. Muse stated the high school graduation took place – and although it was very “unique”, this day was very special for all of the graduates, parents and staff.

2. SMEC

Carole Clifford stated they have attended a few meetings over the summer by “zoom”, and SMEC has to wait on individual decisions by each of the districts they hold programs in, as to how they can proceed. Ms. Clifford stated Fall River has been added to the SMEC group.

3. READS

Superintendent Nelson stated the next meeting is scheduled for September 17

4. Early Childhood Council

No report

5. MASC

Shannon Finning reported the following: On September 21st @ 8:00pm, MASC is doing a session on School Committee Members and Social Media; and, MASC has canceled this year’s 20-21 conference that was scheduled to be held November 4 through November 7, which included Massachusetts Association for School Committee and Massachusetts Association for Superintendents. Ms. Finning stated that she will provide to the committee information regarding a series of programs and workshops on line that they will be rolling out.

6. Mattapoisett Capital Needs Committee

Carole Clifford – no meeting has been held

7. Tri-Town Education Foundation

No report

8. Policy Sub-Committee

Carole Clifford – no meeting has been held

9. Budget Sub-Committee

James Muse reported they have completed the budget and everything is in place

10. Clock Committee

No report – Mrs. Bowman stated that a new “keeper of the clock” will have to be named

B. School Committee Reorganization

Superintendent Nelson asked the school committee members for nomination(s) of the Chairperson position for FY20/21 school year

MOTION: Carole Clifford to nominate James Muse to continue as Chairperson

SECONDED: Carly Lavin

Superintendent Nelson - Mr. Muse do you accept this nomination?

James Muse - Yes

Superintendent Nelson asked the school committee members for any other nomination(s) for the Chairperson position for FY20/21

MOTION: by Shannon Finning to self-nominate herself

SECONDED: None

Superintendent Nelson - Are there any further discussions?

Role Call by Superintendent Nelson to nominate James Muse as Chairperson for the FY20/21 school year

Carole Clifford – Yes; Shannon Finning – Abstained; Carly Lavin – Yes; James Muse – Yes

MOTION PASSED: 3 – Yes; 1 Abstained

Chairperson Muse asked the school committee members for nomination(s) of the Vice-Chairperson position for FY20/21 school year

MOTION: by Chair, James Muse, to nominate Carole Clifford for Vice-Chair

SECONDED: None

MOTION: by Carly Lavin to nominate Shannon Finning for Vice-Chair

SECONDED: None

MOTION: by Carole Clifford to nominate Carly Lavin for Vice-Chair

SECONDED: James Muse

Chairperson Muse - Carly Lavin do you accept this nomination?

Carly Lavin - Yes

Chairperson Muse – Are there any further discussions?

Role Call by Chairperson Muse to nominate Carly Lavin as Vice-Chairperson for the FY20/21 school year

Carole Clifford – Yes; Shannon Finning – Yes; James Muse – Yes; Carly Lavin - Abstained

MOTION PASSED: 3 – Yes; 1 Abstained

Mattapoissett School Committee Subcommittee List 2020-2021

Chairperson	James Muse
Vice Chairperson	Carly Levin
Secretary	To be announced
ORR District School Committee	James Muse
Mass. School Supt. Union No. 55	Shannon Finning Karin Barrows Carole Clifford
READS	Michael S. Nelson
Sick Leave Bank	Carole Clifford James Muse
SMEC	Carole Clifford
Early Childhood Advisory Council	Karin Barrows
Sole Signatory	James Muse
MASC Delegate/Legislative Liaison	Shannon Finning
School Physician	To be discussed/hold
Health & Safety Committee	Carly Lavin
Collective Bargaining (Board of Selectmen)	To be discussed/hold
Capital Planning Committee	Carole Clifford
Policy Subcommittee	Carly Lavin
Warrant Review Committee	To be discussed/hold
ORR Foundation Committee	Karin Barrows
Budget Subcommittee	James Muse Shannon Finning

Clock Committee James Muse

Town Liaison James Muse

Superintendent's Goals Sub-Committee Carole Clifford

Anti-Racism Committee Shannon Finning

MOTION: by Shannon Finning to approve the re-organization of the Mattapoisett School Committee Subcommittees FY20-21

SECONDED: Carly Lavin

IN FAVOR: ALL

OPPOSED: None

MOTION PASSED – 4:0

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

IX. Future Business

A. Timeline

Chairperson Muse reported:

The next meeting of the Mattapoisett School Committee is Monday, October 26, 2020 @ 6:30pm.

The next meeting of the Joint School Committee is Thursday, September 24, 2020 @ 6:30pm.

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

X. Open Comments

Sara Jacobsen spoke on behalf of the staff indicating there are a lot of questions answered and a lot of questions still remain. Ms. Jacobsen stated they are anxious and excited to have the students in school to have clarity to be able to answer some of these questions, they miss the students and are happy to have them return back into the classroom.

Ms. Lavin asked Superintendent Nelson if there would be an additional meeting prior to October 26, regarding the "key indicators" discussions that he will be having with the Board of Health on September 30th. Mr. Nelson replied if there is additional information that should be shared after his meeting with the health advisors/Board of Health, he would contact the Chair and be happy to accommodate another meeting prior to October 26.

Tim Seeberger of Sippican Weekly asked Superintendent Nelson how many tablets the district has. Mr. Nelson referred the question to Mr. Barber, who stated in addition to the 1,700 chromebooks the district has at this time, 550 additional chromebooks and 550 tablets have been ordered to date.

Stephanie Clark – parent of a rising second grader, is concerned that the next opportunity in which the community will hear back from the Superintendent/School Committee members won't be until the November meeting, at which time discussions will be held regarding how school will continue – fully remote/in person, etc. Ms. Clark stated as a parent, she needs to understand what is happening and how to prepare for it. Ms. Clark stated at first it was DESE who made the decisions, then the Superintendent, and she is very concerned that it will now be up to the five school committee members to vote in November on how school will continue for the entire Mattapoisett School District.

Mr. Nelson stated the process has not changed and it has been the school committee all along in terms of who makes the decisions. Mr. Nelson stated that October 26th is the next scheduled school committee meeting and if there is a need to reconvene sooner, that would be 100% at the discretion of the school committee members. Mr. Nelson stated based on the new guidelines by the Department of Education, DPH Mapping and also around data collection, this would put us in a good position to meet with the Board of Health and agree upon key indicators in terms of looking at data from a local and state standpoint. Mr. Nelson further stated being in school for a couple of weeks, then meeting with the Board of Health, will give him the opportunity to share what we are seeing in the schools, and he will be able to provide as many data points as possible for them to consider what learning model is best for the district.

Carly Lavin noted the new sub-committee that was created during the Memorandum of Understanding - "Joint Management of Labor Committee" needs representation. Mr. Nelson recommended that Carole Clifford and Carly Lavin serve as committee members in that capacity if they are so willing. Both Carly Lavin and Carole Clifford accepted that role.

Carly Lavin stated having the "Joint Management of Labor Committee" created and committee members named, would provide an opportunity before the October 26 school committee meeting, to go over the Mattapoisett specific health indicators and compliance data from the school, which would fall within the 30 days as outlined in the Memorandum of Understanding.

Sara Jacobsen stated the reason for the formation of the "Joint Management Labor Committee" was because they did not have a functioning "Health & Safety Committee". Ms. Jacobsen noted that in other districts she collaborates with, these two committees have agreed to merge, and if Mattapoisett would like to do the same, it could be considered.

XI. Information Items

LIST OF DOCUMENTS USED AT THE MEETING

Mattapoisett School Committee Meeting Agenda – September 14, 2020

Meeting Minutes of June 8, 2020 and August 6, 2020

Food Service Director Report – September, 2020

Facilities Director Report – September, 2020

Principal's Report – September, 2020

Letter dated August 12, 2020 from Mattapoisett Board of Health

MOTION: by Shannon Finning to adjourn the meeting at 9:52pm
SECONDED: Carly Lavin
IN FAVOR: All
OPPOSED: None
MOTION PASSED – 4:0

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

**Respectfully Submitted,
Toni M. Bailey, Recording Secretary**