

MATTAPOISETT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
16 Barstow Street – Mattapoisett, MA 02739

MEETING MINUTES
September 16, 2019

The regular meeting of the Mattapoisett School Committee was called to order by Chairperson Muse at 6:34 p.m. on Monday, September 16, 2019.

PRESENT

Committee Members:

James Muse
CHAIRPERSON

Carole Clifford
VICE-CHAIRPERSON

Charles Colburn
Rider

Shannon Finning

Karin Barrows

ABSENT

Committee Members:

-

ALSO, PRESENT

Dr. Douglas White
SUPERINTENDENT OF
SCHOOLS

Michael Nelson
DIRECTOR OF
STUDENT SERVICES

Rose Bowman
PRINCIPAL

Keven Tavares
ASSISTANT
PRINCIPLE

Jenn Seco
RECORDING
SECRETARY

Members of the
Press

MEETING TO ORDER

Agenda item C.

PERSONNEL

Principal Bowman graciously welcomed two of her new staff members to the school committee.

- Ms. Joy Titcomb, Psychologist
- Mr. Christian Dow, Instrumental Music Teacher

Dr. White welcomed the new members and invited anyone interested in learning more about the new staff, to check out the video that can be found on the Mattapoisett School website.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A.1. Regular Session

Minutes of June 3, 2019

MOTION: Vice Chairperson Clifford made the motion to accept the June 3rd meeting minutes as amended
SECOND: Ms. Barrows
VOTE: Unanimously Pass

Minutes of July 11, 2019

MOTION: Ms. Barrows made the motion to accept the July 11th meeting minutes as presented
SECOND: Ms. Finning
VOTE: Unanimously Pass

Chairperson Muse introduced and welcomed Jenn Seco as the new Recording Secretary to the school committee.

MOTION: Ms. Barrows made the motion to accept Jenn Seco as the recording secretary
SECOND: Vice Chairperson Clifford
VOTE: Unanimously Pass

Agenda item IV. A.

REVIEW OF OPENING DAY

Dr. White shared that opening day was outstanding. It began with the staff meeting with their colleagues over a continental breakfast followed by a brief welcoming speech in the ORR auditorium.

Recognition of the staff of 10, 15, 20 or 25 years of service and introduction to new staff followed by a video. Dr. White pointed out Margarete DeMello for her 45 years of service as a member of the Mattapoissett staff. In this video the new staff introduced themselves and who their lighthouse was. Dr. White went on to explain that one of our own administrators, Rose Bowman was recognized and connected with a former student of hers from second grade. This student, Steve Pemberton who was also our keynote speaker.

The highlight of the morning was eleven students telling their story about what it's been like to be a student in the Tri-Town and who their light house was to this point and what they expect going forward.

On the first day of school Dr. White and Mr. Nelson visited all the schools welcoming students.

Agenda item IV. B.

OPEN HOUSE UPDATE

Principal Bowman gave an overview of both schools describing the nights as a happy festive social events where all student family members were welcome in order to see every component of the school. Both open house events were well-attended and lead by the enthusiasm of the kids. Principal Bowman shared that education is why they are there, but the relationship is the foundation between home and school.

Agenda item IV. C.

SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH COMMITTEE

Chairperson Muse explained the steps that had been taken thus far in order to start the process of finding a new superintendent.

The four chairs have met and have contacted consultants to help with the process. This preliminary information will help with the next step which will be to form a Search Committee. The next Joint Committee meeting will be October 9th to choose a consulting company.

Agenda item V.C.1.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Dr. White reviewed the FY19 financial report. Please refer to "MTSC 09162019 FY19 End of Year" which is closed out.

He also reviewed the first month of the FY20 financial report. Please refer to "MTSC 09162019 FY20 Budget". In the next couple of months lines will be adjusted and sorted out as things change. Updates will follow.

Dr. White also mentioned that at the last Joint Meeting he brought forward that the business office is looking to provide support on a part time basis until they can secure a full-time business administrator. Dr. White has secured the services of Lincoln Lynch for two days per week on an as needed basis. The search for full time person will continue.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Chairperson Muse stated how proud and exceptionally grateful he is for all the professional services provided to all the students of this town by all individuals involved.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Assistant Principal Tavares brought forth for the committee's consideration to remove a variety of old surplus items that are in a room in the old Center School building basement left over after a major cleanup was made.

MOTION: Ms. Finning made the motion to declare the items as surplus

SECOND: Ms. Barrows

VOTE: Unanimously Pass

Principal Bowman reviewed projected vs actual enrollment numbers for Center School and Old Hammontown Schools. She went on to state that the numbers are close and balanced out as projected. Principal Bowman mentioned having the beginning of school start with three, four, five day weeks really helped the students ease in gradually and the opening of both schools has been very successful and smooth.

Principal Bowman shared that on September 18th will be the first half day for professional development and it will be focused on the “ALICE Program”. Principal Bowman stated that this will be a good opportunity to raise worries and concerns the group may have and how they can be resolved together. Ms. Finning shared some input about possibly having counseling available to the staff because of the burden and the responsibility they may feel after this type of training.

Principal Bowman also shared that the October 11th full day professional development will be focused on Project Based learning with Trevor Muir the author of The Epic Classroom.

Principal Bowman stated that the parent conferences will take place for each grade level the week of October 21st. Each grade will have a full day in order to schedule individual meetings during school hours and accommodations will be available when times outside the school hours are needed.

Mr. Nelson shared information about the SMEC program and that it has been running seamlessly. SMEC is very grateful for the hospitality they have been shown. The location of the classroom works nicely because of the wheelchair access needed.

CENTRAL OFFICE ADMINISTRATORS REPORT

Mr. Nelson added to Principal Bowman comments on Trevor Muir. Mr. Nelson stated that he is one of the gurus of Project Based Learning and will be the key note speaker on October 11th along with a workshop for our district. Mr. Nelson went on to speak about a keynote for January through an agency called Diversity Talks which is a student-based keynote. He believes it will be a very powerful experience for the faculty.

The Central Office has been asked to take a look at the training that the administration and faculty receive regarding cultural proficiency. Through an agency called Change Works, a full day of training for the six-building based cultural proficiency teams will take place. The teams will then lead workshops within their schools.

Mr. Nelson went on to share that looking forward to professional development in the spring the Central Office has entered into a contract with Responsive Classroom; Social Emotional and Academic approach (elementary through junior high). They will be offering two one-day works shops. The first will be connecting academics to morning meetings, which is a great way to set the learning stage for the rest of the day to connect with what is done in the classroom. The second will focus on student and teacher language.

Dr. White asked the committee to approve the Bristol Aggie Bus Contract for \$34,940 which is lower than originally introduced, however it's still \$4,940 over the budget, the original budget was \$30,000. All three towns are using this transportation and the cost is the same per each community. Dr. White has met with the bus owner and driver to discuss how to best service the students that need transportation.

MOTION: Vice Chairperson Clifford accepted the Braga transportation contract for \$34,940

SECOND: Ms. Barrows

VOTE: Unanimously Pass

Dr. White asked that the committee look for the weekly “Friday News” for updates and more information.

Mr. Nelson thanked the staff members who committed themselves for six weeks in the SAIL summer program which continues to be a success with nearly 60 Mattapoissett kids and over 200 system-wide.

Agenda item VIII.A.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS

ORR District School Committee

Per Chairperson Muse there are a number of facility projects taking place. A potential proposal for canopy solar grid. 3500 LED lights will be installed throughout the school in order to reduce the lighting expenses of the facility. Working on improving a much-needed Capital Improvement system.

SMEC

No update

READS

No update

Early Childhood Council

No update

MASC

No update

Mattapoissett Capital Needs Committee

No update

Tri-Town Education Foundation

Per Ms. Barrows, the meeting was on September 9th. They discussed looking for a Marion representative. Also discussed Marketing and making teachers aware and thinking of the grant funds that will be available.

Policy Sub-Committee

No update

Budget Sub-Committee

No update

Clock Committee

No update

Agenda item X.

OPEN COMMENTS

CUSTDIAL SERVICES

Vice Chairperson Clifford asked about a future report out on the new custodial services and Principal Bowman was happy to report that the service is outstanding in both locations thus far.

SUGGESTIONS

Mr. Motta (attendee) a former committee member shared a few suggestions

1. Install a clock in front of Old Hammonctown School in order to help people with the time.
2. Capital projective plan – is the committee looking into a “wish list”
3. Plantings near the Center School sign. Principal Bowman addressed Mr. Motta’s suggestion, stating that Mr. Squire (Science Teacher) would like to do that activity with the students.
4. A friendly competition between the schools. e.g. Quiz Program, Contest through the PTA

Also during OPEN COMMENTS, Ms. Finning brought forth some unsolicited concerns she has received about the sugary drinks that are available to students. One drink unparticular is called Switch. Ms. Finning asked if there was an opportunity to make parents aware of the offerings to students. Principal Bowman stated that she

will follow up with Ms. Henesey in order to see how this can be communicated through her office. Mr. Motta followed with a suggestion of added symbols to products to help children make better choices.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Dr. White requested that Principal Bowman and Mr. Nelson be present for this executive session

MOTION: Vice Chairperson Clifford made a motion to enter executive session at 7:29 p.m. for the purpose for negotiations of nonunion personal.

SECOND: Ms. Finning

ROLL CALL VOTE: 5:0

James Muse	Carole Clifford	Charles Rider	Shannon Finning	Karin Barrows
YES	YES	YES	YES	YES

Re: Executive Session Minutes 9.16.2019

MOTION: Chairperson Muse made a motion to come out of executive session at 7:41 p.m. to take a vote and adjourn meeting.

SECOND: Ms. Finning

ROLL CALL VOTE: 5:0

James Muse	Carole Clifford	Charles Rider	Shannon Finning	Karin Barrows
YES	YES	YES	YES	YES

MOTION: Mr. Rider made the motion to add the Registered Behavior Technician to category three of the support staff agreement

SECOND: Vice Chairperson Clifford

VOTE: Unanimously Pass

ADJOURN MEETING

MOTION: Ms. Finning gave the motion to adjourn meeting

SECOND: Mr. Rider

VOTE: Unanimously Pass

Meeting ended at 7:43pm

NEXT MEETING

Thursday, October 28, 2019 at 6:30

Submitted by:

Jenn Seco

Recording Secretary