



## **SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

### **BUSINESS MEETING OPEN SESSION MINUTES for May 7, 2018**

<b>Meeting:</b>	School Committee
<b>Date:</b>	May 7, 2018
<b>Location:</b>	Essex Elementary School
<b>Attendees:</b>	Pamela Beaudoin, Superintendent Avi Urbas, Director of Finance Ann Cameron, Chairman Julie Riordan, Co-Chairman Sarah Wolf Rachel Fitzgibbon Ken Warnock Caroline Weld Shannon Erdmann
<b>Absent:</b>	
<b>Guests:</b>	
<b>Recorded by:</b>	

#### **A. Call to Order**

Ms. Cameron called the School Committee Business Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

- 1) **Public Comment** – There was no public comment.
- 2) **Chairman' Report** – There was no report.
- 3) **Consent Agenda** – Approval at next School Committee Meeting May 15, 2018.
  - Acceptance of Warrants
  - Minutes: 4/24/18

#### 4) Sub- Committee Reports

- Elementary Facilities (Ms. Weld and Ms. Cameron) –

The Building Committee has selected W. T. Rich Company Inc. as the CM at Risk firm for the Memorial School building project. W. T. Rich Co. was selected from three companies considered by the School Building Committee. The decision to select W. T. Rich Co. was based on the Company's strength and focus on school building projects. W. T. Rich has a demonstrated track record for meeting or exceeding client expectations, especially in the face of projects that are inherently unique, complex or challenging. The Memorial School project is on a tight site, some construction will take place while students are on site and the Company has an excellent plan for safety.

- Finance Committee (Ms. Cameron/Ms. Erdmann) –

The Finance Committee has scheduled an All Boards Meeting (Essex and MBTS – BOS, Fin Com and School Committee) meeting for May 16, 2018. Discussion will focus on funding for the new Memorial School and the impact that will have on the Towns. MERSD has developed 3 possible paths for planning construction of the new Essex Elementary School following construction of the Memorial School. The options will be presented and discussed on May 16, 2018.

- Policy Committee (Ms. Fitzgibbon/Mr. Warnock) – No Report
- Negotiation Team (Ms. Wolf/Ms. Riordan) – No Report

5) **Superintendents Report** – is included in the Pre-K Expansion discussion, part of Continued Business.

6) **New Business** – no new business

7) **Continued Business**

- **Building Project Issues**
  - **Pre-Kindergarten Expansion**

The Committee held a comprehensive discussion on developing a Pre-K program within the new Memorial School. Superintendent Beaudoin presented information outlining the discussion for program development and expansion to coincide with the opening of the new Memorial School.

Superintendent Beaudoin presented the town of Georgetown Model as an example of how the proposed Memorial School Pre-K program might be structured. Georgetown's enrollment for 2016-2017 included 108 students in the Pre-K program. The total number of teachers was 4 with a student/teacher ratio of 27 to 1. Georgetown is comparable in size to MERSD with the District-wide program located on a single site. The program is a popular service for young families because of lower costs compared to private day care. Placement in the Pre-K program is made through an annual lottery with the program serving approximately 62% of children eligible based on Kindergarten enrollment.

The Georgetown tuition model ranges from 2 days a week half day tuition at \$167.00 a month to 5 days a week full day tuition at \$822.00 a month.

MERSD enrollment history for Pre-K has a ten-year average of 23 students in Pre-K representing 25% of the total number of children enrolled in kindergarten; with a five-year average of 16 students in Pre-K representing a 21% of the total number of children in kindergarten.

Superintendent Beaudoin indicated the MERSD program has gone through different structures both district-wide and by school. Additionally, different time and day options have impacted enrollment. The current configuration is not helpful to working parents. The District intends to redesign the program to coincide with the completion of the new Memorial School.

Initial projections for the Pre-K program in MERSD calls for development of the program over 5 and 10 years. With participation building from 25% to 80%, in 4 classrooms at the new Memorial School. The long-term goal for the program is self-sufficiency.

Committee members are supportive of the concept and will be further discussing the program in the upcoming School Committee meetings.

- **Parks & Rec/Community Space**

- **SC FY 19 Calendar** – Will be reviewed at next School Committee Meeting.
- **FY 19 Budget Update** – There are no changes, the FY19 budget remains tight.

8) **Public Comment** – There was no public comment.

9) **School Committee Comment** – There was no additional Committee comment.

10) **Executive Session** – If Needed to discuss contract negotiation strategy.

11) **Attendance at Essex Town Meeting – 7:30 PM**

12) **Meeting Materials:**

- **District-Wide Integrated Pre-K Power Point Presentation**