

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
THURSDAY, JANUARY 7, 2016
TOWN HALL AUDITORIUM

Approved + released
2/25/16 DH

1. **Call to order: 6:00 P M.**
Present: Dawn Harris, Greg Vine, Danielle Hart, Janet Corbosiero (participated via phone), and Larry Murphy
1. **Pledge of Allegiance**
2. **Citizen Questions and/or Comments: None**
3. **Correspondence and Announcements:** S. Haddad reported that Memorial School will be closed tomorrow to allow for thorough cleaning due to the Noro-virus flu epidemic sickening students and staff. The Dept. of Health was notified; they offered information and guidelines. The bus company will also clean the buses. Estimates for steam cleaning the carpets include a \$30,000 quote; the insurance provider is examining the policy for coverage. He advised parents to keep any students home who do not feel well. The building will be checked Monday morning to determine if it can be re-opened.
4. **Student Representative:** Aidan Provost reported the blood drive was huge success; 35 pints were taken with 12 appointments deferred. The Giving Tree provided gifts for 17 children; all items were donated. He reviewed the sports schedule. Responding to L. Murphy, Aidan noted student groups are always trying to build school pride. He sees less bad behavior and more effort and wanted to recognize their efforts and people who inspire them. S. Haddad noted the Memorial School students were thrilled by the visit from Santa Claus. The High School will present the musical Into the Woods on February 5th & 6th. Toy Town Elementary had the kickoff for and filled 41 backpacks as part of a program to provide nutritious food for students the weekends. The Key Club is working with the Kiwanas and The Winchendon School. The Backpack Program organizers hope to expand the program to all grades.
 - a. **Teacher of the Month:** Angela Suarez, Speech Pathologist, was recognized for being an advocate for her students and their parents and being an asset to the district.
7. **Superintendent Report/Business Office Report:** S. Haddad and Josh Romano accompanied Chandler Torres-Pagan to the Worcester County Superintendents Association scholars' luncheon where she was recognized for her academic accomplishments. She has been accepted at Harvard University and several others. Kathryn Vanderhoof reviewed the proposed new report card for Kindergarten students and the reasons to use the trimester reporting system. After discussion, G. Vine moved to approve the new Kindergarten report card for Memorial School. Second by L. Murphy. J. Corbosiero-Aye; G. Vine-Aye; D. Hart-Aye; L. Murphy-Aye; D. Harris-Aye. Approved 5-0-0. S. Haddad reported that the December 18th, 2015 meeting with representatives from Robinson/Broadhurst and the Murdock Trust went well. The presentation detailed the use of each grant and the proposed plans for future grants. The policy committee is not ready to approve the concussion policy; it will meet to review and compare it to the West Boylston policy provided by L. Murphy.

Business Office Report: M. Chapulis presented the operations report through December, 2015, and reviewed total figures. The salaries reclassification has been completed; the Sped tuitions now have to be reclassified in the district budget until they are funded by the 240 Grant and Circuit Breaker. He explained the updated TMS website. The Student Activities Account Audit will be done soon; he should have results within 6 weeks. M. Chapulis and S. Haddad recommend the district institute a budget freeze to cover unexpected expenses such as the Memorial carpet cleaning and the additional audits. The drop of students who school choice-in will result in a revenue deficit of approximately \$85,000. G. Vine moved to that the School Committee vote to support the Superintendent in any decisions he may make relative to a budget

freeze. No Second G. Vine moved that the School Committee resolve to support Superintendent Haddad in his budget making decisions as we face a definite budget freeze. Second by D. Hart. She noted such a vote is not necessary as this is his job, but seconded the motion to show support. L. Murphy also supports whatever S. Haddad needs to make the budget work and stated a vote was not necessary or in our purview of authority to offer such a motion. He also noted this is his job, and is what we hired him for. Our job is to formulate the budget and his is to manage it and make it work. G. Vine stated he wanted to make a public statement of support for his efforts to do his best for the district. J. Corbosiero stated she will support him (the Superintendent) and approves of the budget freeze. S. Haddad acknowledged and stated that he appreciates the support. The FinCom Chairman Tom Kane stated the vote is not necessary but is a vote of confidence. G. Vine asked to move the question and summarized the motion at the request of J. Corbosiero, saying that it offers the committees' support to Superintendent Haddad in terms of taking action with the budget freeze and moving forward.

J. Corbosiero-Aye; G. Vine-Aye; D. Hart-Aye; L. Murphy-Aye; D. Harris-Aye. Approved 5-0-0.
M. Chapulis noted this action (budget freeze) is common and prudent. The administration will complete FY17 budget worksheets. He reported that Harpers has not corrected the accruals process as expected and is again working on it. At D. Hart's request, M. Chapulis reviewed options the district can pursue in FY17 and beyond. D. Harris noted a new option must be considered, noting the continuous errors do not foster transparency or trust.

8. **Old Business:** none

9. **New Business:**

a. **Policies First Readings-**D. Hart moved to table the 3 policy readings until the next school committee meeting. Second by G. Vine. J. Corbosiero-Aye; G. Vine-Aye; D. Hart-Aye; L. Murphy-Aye; D. Harris-Aye. Approved 5-0-0.

i. Concussion

i. Field Trip

ii. Substitute Policy

10. **Citizens Questions and Comments by Members:** none

11. **Consideration of Minutes of Previous Meetings Not Yet Approved or Released:**

a. Regular Minutes

b. Executive Minutes - November 9, 2015- J. Corbosiero moved to accept the November 19, (2015) Executive Session approve and hold as presented. Second by D. Hart. J. Corbosiero-Aye; G. Vine-Abstain; D. Hart-Aye; L. Murphy-Abstain; D. Harris-Aye. Approved 3-0-2.

12. **Questions and Comments by Members:** L. Murphy reported that he met with the three Principals as part of his effort to be involved with the schools. He will share comments from those meetings with S. Haddad. Student Chris Lamb guided him on a tour of the Middle School. Mr. Lamb stated the best thing is teachers, who are always ready to help and go the extra mile. Felicia Shipley gave him a tour of the High School. She stated she loves the school, the support she gets from the teachers and the opportunities the district offers. She and other students want to help kids who are not having a good experience at the school. S. Haddad is working with Ruth and Jerry Carton at the Courier, they are doing stories on teachers and administrative personnel. Jerry will start doing stories on students, high lighting their successes and future plans. G. Vine stated "We need to look at the district as a business and market it better."

13. **Other:** Subcommittees-After Discussion, L. Murphy was assigned to the Calendar, Ipod and Paras subcommittees. L. Murphy was asked to serve on the Teachers subcommittee; G. Vine would remove himself from that subcommittee. Discussion included the definition and limitation

of a "quorum". The committee will look into it and decide member assignment. The Teachers Union has asked to start the process.

14. Future Agenda Items:

- A) Monty Tech Representative - FY16 Quarterly Meeting Schedule
- B) Policies First Readings- Concussion, Field Trip, Substitute Policy

15. Executive Session: none

16. Adjournment: 7:17 P.M. J. Corbosiero moved to adjourn. Second by D. Hart.
J. Corbosiero-Aye; G. Vine-Aye; D. Hart-Aye; L. Murphy-Aye; D. Harris-Aye. Approved 5-0-0.

Respectfully submitted: _____
Barrie E. Martins, School Committee Recording Secretary