

Date Approved/Released: 12-15-16

Date Approved/Hold: _____

School Committee Chair: D. LaPointe

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2016
TOWN HALL AUDITORIUM

1. Call to order: 6:04 P M.
2. Pledge of Allegiance

Present: Danielle LaPointe, Janet Corbosiero, Dawn Fronte, Larry Murphy, Felicia Nurmsen
Steve Haddad-Superintendent, Richard Ikonen-Business Manager

3. Citizen Questions and/or Comments: none
4. Correspondence and Announcements:

Chairwoman LaPointe offered congratulations to Mrs. (Dawn) Fronte who got married 2 weekends ago. She also welcomed new committee member Felicia Nurmsen.

5. Student Representative: Alyssa LaBrack reported the Murdock High School Student Council attended the Fall Conference with a delegation of 26 students. Their executive board presented a workshop about communication skills. The Murdock Middle and High School student councils and the NHS provided 12 families with Thanksgiving baskets. They will provide additional baskets for Christmas in conjunction with the MS Elf Project and the HS Giving Tree. A blood drive will be held on December 12th. The annual Morton E. Converse Tournament of Plays will be held on December 9-10TH. The MS Student Council will host their holiday dance on December 16th at Murdock. On December 17th, the Murdock cheerleaders will be gift wrapping presents at the Crafty Cauldron from 10-6, as their community service project. The 7th grade class will be holding a Bottle & Can Drive that day, next to Rite Aid, to fund scholarships for their week at Camp Takodah. The student council will have their annual Rondeauka to celebrate the holidays. Winter sports practices have started. Meets and games start in about 3 weeks. Alyssa hopes to break her own and Murdock alumni records in Winter Track again as she has in the past.
6. Student Recognition: none/Blue Devil Cool Award: Tom Paine will be honored on December 15, 2016. Kristina Mecelicaite was recognized for her pioneering spirit. S. Haddad read a statement explaining her strengths and accomplishments, stating that her vision has spread throughout the district. L. Murphy noted the impact she has made on the district through improving student achievement. J. Corbosiero noted the joy and excitement she shows every day.

J. Corbosiero moved to move 9.a The Comprehensive District Review Update and 9.b MCAS Scores up before the Superintendents Report. Second by D. Fronte. Approved 5-0-0.

8. New Business:

- a. K. Mecelicaite reported the DESE Comprehensive District Review concluded today. She reviewed the DESE personnel, noting their expertise totaled 200 years experience. She reviewed the structure of the review and the groups interviewed, the documents and information requested. She noted they found a different climate and atmosphere than during previous reviews and they thanked everyone for their cooperation and engaged involvement. They felt good about being here, felt welcome and it was a positive experience. A DRAFT response is expected in 8-10 weeks. K. Mecelicaite noted she appreciated all the team effort and work. S. Haddad noted that although the process was grueling; it was eye-opening and beneficial. L. Murphy stated it pointed out we need to crystallize our goals and the committee needs to advocate for the district more/better. He presented a 10 goal document; it will be on the December 15th agenda.
- d. MCAS Scores-Josh Romano presented the scores and compared them to the past 3 years. Measures taken to remedy the needs improvement and failed scores were discussed. The Composite Performance Index was explained, as part of the formula that goes into the accountability report. The Student Growth Percentile (SGP) was explained and its effect on the districts level rating. L. Murphy noted the district is moving in the right direction but needs to do it quicker. F. Nurmsen stated that J. Romano is setting the appropriate expectation. He urged parents to impress the importance of school now and beyond high school, stressing that it has to be the most important thing. He noted 83% of seniors applied to college this year. The AP passing rate is the same but participation has tripled. The district SAT scores are higher than the state average but participation is very low. J. Romano will do some grant research to defray the test cost. Skills are taught from common core standards; He explained how data dictates which gaps need to be addressed. Discussion included the value of a Science Technology course but at a higher level. J. Romano reviewed the new math requirements.

7. Superintendent Report:

S. Haddad presented the WPS Strategic Plan, explained the meaning of the new Vision statement and the Theory of Action. The Objectives and Initiatives were designed to bring students back to the district and to fully support all students; it was put together by the administrative team. S. Haddad stated the district needs one strategic central plan; the school plans, IPODS and focus groups will be used to inform this plan. The business owners will be involved; the process must be transparent for the community and the stakeholders. L. Murphy stressed the document is a process. S. Haddad announced he has 2 tickets to the Youth Summit on Opioid Awareness on December 6th. 30 students are signed to attend. The Gardner Community Safety Forum will hold a similar event the following evening; S. Haddad and several staff members are attending.

Work will begin on the phone system beginning with the software on December 7th; S. Haddad reviewed the schedule, noting anticipated service disruptions.

The Robinson-Broadhurst application is due December 14th; it was presented to the board 2 weeks ago; J. Corbosiero will work with S. Haddad on the document.

Business Office Report:

R. Ikonen reported that he is continuing to reclassify and will report at the December 15th meeting.

8. Old Business: None

9. New Business:

- b. Para-educator Contract Negotiation Update - J. Corbosiero moved to accept the new contract for the Para-educators from July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2019. Second by D. Fronte. Janet Corbosiero-Aye, Dawn Fronte-Aye, Larry Murphy-Aye, Felicia Nurmsen-Aye; D. LaPointe-Aye. Approved 5-0-0. D. LaPointe signed the contract.

Secretary Negotiations-L. Murphy and D. LaPointe will conduct negotiations.

- c. SISEP Update - Directors and Principals - J. Corbosiero move d to table to the December 15th meeting. Second by F. Nurmsen. Approved 5-0-0.
- e. Substance Abuse Task Force - School Committee Representative - J. Corbosiero nominated D. Fronte to be the School Committee representative on the task force. Second by L. Murphy. Approved 5-0-0.

10. Citizens Questions and Comments: none

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

- a. Thursday, November 10, 2016-Regular Meeting-D. Fronte moved to table to the December 15th meeting. Second by F. Nurmsen. Approved 5-0-0.

12. Questions and Comments by Members: The administrative team will meet on December 10th to discuss the budget process timeline. R. Ikonen has started the process.

13. Other: none

14. Future Agenda Items:

- a. L. Murphy's 10 goals/ideas (12/15/16)
- b. SISEP Update (12/15/16)
- c. Monty Tech Representative - FY17 Quarterly Meeting Schedule

15. Executive Session: None

16. Adjournment: 7:45 P.M. L. Murphy moved to adjourn. Second by D. Fronte. Approved 5-0-0.

Respectfully submitted:_____

Barrie E. Martins, School Committee Recording Secretary