Date Approved/Released: 11-1-18

Date Approved/Hold: _____

School Committee Chair: _____

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
Thursday, October 18, 2018 - 6:00 pm
2nd Floor - Town Hall Auditorium

1. Call to order: 6:02 pm/ Pledge of Allegiance

   Present: Dawn Fronte, Larry Murphy, Felicia Nurmsen (Abs), Roann Demanche, Greg Vine, Joan Landers, Interim Superintendent, Richard Ikonen, Business Manager

2. Audio/Video Disclosure: Barrie Martins, Recording Secretary

3. Citizen Questions and/or Comments:

4. Student Representative Report: None

5. Student/Staff Recognition:

   Students of the Month
   Pre-K – Kaylee Smith
   Memorial – Jason Smith Grade 1
   Toy Town – Kylie Stewart Grade 5
   Murdock Middle - Reagan Kelley Grade 6 - **September**
   Alyshia Richard Grade 6 - October
   Murdock High – Stephanie Melanson Grade 10
   Murdock Academy – Dylan Bradley-Gomez Grade 12

6. Teaching and Learning Highlights:

   a. Washington, DC Trip for Middle School Students, B. Marinelli and Paula Spivey

   Paula Spivey, a parent of a middle school student, spoke about how the trip idea started last spring after talking with a few teachers and parents about the possibility of having an 8th grade field trip to Washington, DC like so many other towns in the area organize for their eighth graders. The students will need to fundraise, the cost for each student would be $829.00. The 8th graders have a class trip already scheduled for this school year, so this would be a separate trip for interested students.

   P. Spivey explained that the company they spoke to (Grand Classroom) would assist in fundraising and will handle the fundraising accounting for students. At least 40 students would have to participate in the trip to move forward. L. Murphy asked about the policy regarding the ratio of students to chaperones. An 8 to 1 ratio is what they have included in the cost. The trip

would be over the weekend, and the students would miss one day of school, a Friday. Discussion regarding students reaching their fundraising goals, and the possibilities of making this a field trip for the entire class in the coming years occurred.

L. Murphy made a motion to accept the idea of the Washington, DC trip as presented by Bridget Marinelli and Paula Spivey to the committee, seconded by D. Fronte. Vote: R. Demanche, Aye, D. Fronte, Aye, L. Murphy, Aye, and Chair Aye. Approved

7. New Business:

   a. MCAS Results – Presented by Superintendent and High School Principal

   Superintendent Landers explained the new accountability system the state is using for MCAS reporting this year. The new accountability system measures school and district performance. New indicators have been added to the accountability system to provide more information about school performance and student opportunity. Indicators such as achievement, student progress or growth, high school completion, progress towards English proficiency for ELL students, chronic absenteeism and advanced placement coursework completed are included. Superintendent Landers explained that this year's data could not be compared to other years, this is a baseline year. She encouraged parents to look at their student's growth scores. Superintendent Landers gave the overview of the results by grade and cohorts for non-high school and high school by grade level and categories. Superintendent Landers presented the Toy Town results. Accountability percent as compared to other like schools in the commonwealth was 11% and partially meeting targets overall.

   Superintendent Landers discussed the Murdock Middle School results and how the students scored and the results from grades 6 through grade 8, the cohorts for current middle school scores in comparison to last years. J. Vezina was asked about the interventions for the middle school in conjunction with DSAC/SSOS. L. Murphy asked about the DSAC/SSOS group and how it is working out for the middle school. J. Vezina, Principal of Murdock Middle School, explained what the DSAC/SSOS team was working on with the teachers and the use of the data analysis. DSAC/SSOS looks at the district systematically to include all levels of data over the years. Superintendent Landers discuss the need for programs for special education students. L. Murphy asked about the analysis of this data and suggested we highlight our strengths and focus on what we need to improve.

   T. King, Principal of Murdock High School, spoke about the MCAS results. The percentage rates (percentiles) were explained and how it relates to the high school standing. The graduation rate was lower than other schools like Murdock High School. Target rate is 43%, and our goal is over 50%. L. Murphy liked the focus areas identified, and the analysis gives clear direction to what needs to be worked on at the high school level. Sub-groups in our school district have been an area of concern and, and the district needs to focus on these. G. Vine spoke about the use of MCAS as an assessment and the effect and the results of this testing on the district.

   Superintendent Landers spoke about the MCAS and the importance of education and the district's need to partner with parents/guardians in this endeavor.

8. Consent Agenda:

    a. Field Trip – Monthly A. L. L. Program field trip to Market Basket (TTE)
    b. Minutes:
        i. School Committee Meeting, October 4, 2018
        ii. Policy Sub-Committee Meeting Minutes, October 11, 2018

D. Fronte motioned to accept the consent agenda and field trip request, seconded by L. Murphy.
Vote: R. Demanche Aye, D. Fronte Aye, L. Murphy Aye, G. Vine Aye

9. Superintendent Report:

    a. New App for Winchendon Public Schools:

    J. Landers presented the new Winchendon Public Schools App now available on Google Play and the Apple Apps store. Its free and will now keep users informed of anything posted to the website from each school and the district pages. D. Fronte state that on social media the App was very positively received.

    b. Special Town Meeting Warrant Final:

    G. Vine thanked Superintendent Landers for the presentation of the Director of Instruction and Curriculum to the finance committee and believed she was able to procure the votes to make this pass.

    c. Local Access Channel - Updated the School Information:

    J. Landers thanked Lindsay Kuchta, administrative assistant at the town manager's office for taking it upon herself to update the school's local access channels information page.

    Business Office Report:

    d. End of year report - R. Ikonen reported that the FY-2018 end of year report will be submitted tomorrow, Friday, October 19, 2018. He has to make further corrections to the fiscal year End of Year Report 2017 report which was returned. L. Murphy asked if it was going to affect our funding from the state.

10. Policy Sub Committee:

    a. File: CBD - SUPERINTENDENT'S CONTRACT
    b. File: CBI - SUPERINTENDENT EVALUATION
    c. File: CH - POLICY IMPLEMENTATION
    d. File: DBD - BUDGET PLANNING
    e. File: DBJ - BUDGET TRANSFER AUTHORITY
    f. File: DD - FUNDING PROPOSALS AND APPLICATIONS
    g. File: DGA - AUTHORIZED SIGNATURES
    h. File: DJE - PROCUREMENT REQUIREMENTS
    i. File: DKC - EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT
    j. File: EBB - FIRST AID

D. Fronte requested that this meeting be considered the first reading for the ten policies. All have minor language changes or law reference updates.

G. Vine asked for a motion, D. Fronte moves the motion, L. Murphy seconded, Vote: D. Fronte Aye, R. Demanche Aye, G. Vine Aye, L. Murphy Aye.

11. Old Business:

    a. Summit Learning Information/Website:

    Superintendent Landers stated that this agenda item was a follow-up to F. Nurmsen's request regarding having information available on the Murdock Middle School website for the public. She asked Mrs. Vezina to communicate where the Summit information was located on the website. J. Vezina explained that the "Personalized Learning" section has all the Summit information available for the parents and public. G. Vine asked if concerns have diminished, J. Vezina explained the rollout was changed and opportunities for touring the program are available. Superintendent Landers will be attending a Summit training on October 22nd and October 23rd in Rhode Island to learn more about the program. She spoke about a parent, staff and student survey that will be coming out as part of the overall program implementation process.

12. Future Agenda Items:

    a. Superintendent's Goals
    b. School Committee Executive Session Minutes, October 4, 2018

13. Committee Member Comments: None

14. Executive Session: None

15. Adjournment:

Submitted by: Carolyn Hendricks, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent and School Committee

List of Documents and Exhibits used:

- Policies
  - File: CBD - SUPERINTENDENT'S CONTRACT
  - File: CBI - SUPERINTENDENT EVALUATION
  - File: CH - POLICY IMPLEMENTATION
  - File: DBD - BUDGET PLANNING
  - File: DBJ - BUDGET TRANSFER AUTHORITY
  - File: DD - FUNDING PROPOSALS AND APPLICATIONS
  - File: DGA - AUTHORIZED SIGNATURES
  - File: DJE - PROCUREMENT REQUIREMENTS
  - File: DKC - EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT
  - File: EBB - FIRST AID
- MCAS Presentation PowerPoint
- DESE MCAS Accountability Reports
- Minutes, October 4, 2018
- Field Trip Request