



Date Approved/Released: 4-4-19

Date Approved/Hold:

School Committee Chair: MW

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, January 17, 2019 - 6:00 pm

2nd Floor - Town Hall Auditorium

1. Call to order: 6:04 pm/ Pledge of Allegiance

Present: Dawn Fronte, Larry Murphy, Felicia Nurmsen (arrived at 6:35 pm), Roann Demanche, Greg Vine, Joan Landers, Interim Superintendent, Richard Ikonen, Business Manager (Abs)

2. Audio/Video Disclosure: None

3. Citizen Questions and/or Comments: None

4. Student Representative Report Chloe Lawrence:

- a. On January 11, the Student Council and National Honor Society celebrated Principal's Day by cooking breakfast for Mr. King and Mrs. Weeks.
- b. High school students completed their mid-term exams this morning.
- c. Murdock Student Council will be attending the Unified Bocce tournament with our special education students at Oxford High School.
- d. This Saturday from 9:00 am to 12 pm on Central Street, there will be a bottle and can drive that will benefit the sophomore class.
- e. Vendor Bingo Sunday, beginning at 1:30 pm at the Gardner Elks, will benefit the travel group at Murdock.
- f. The sophomore class will be selling Little Caesar pizza kits starting next week, earning student money towards their class dues.
- g. The Murdock Student Council will be taking the Polar Plunge on March 6 at Craigsville Beach in Hyannis to benefit the Special Olympics. Donations can be made at the school.
- h. On February 8, the Coaches Versus Cancer Basketball game will be played at home versus Gardner. Raffles will be held to raise additional monies for the National Cancer Society.

5. Student/Staff Recognition:

Students of the Month for January 2019:

Pre-K: Scarlett Grave, Memorial, Kindergarten: Cody Fischett, Toy Town, Grade 5: Bailee McKinnon, Middle School, Grade 8: Charlene Lor, High School, Grade 10: Jasmine Girouard, Murdock Academy, Grade 10: Seth Cochran.

6. Teaching and Learning Highlights: None

7. New Business:

a. Times for School Committee Meetings:

G. Vine asked the committee's opinion regarding the time change for the school committee meetings and if anyone had a motion regarding a time change. F. Nurmsen motioned to change the school committee meeting time to 6:30 pm, seconded by L. Murphy. Vote to change times 5-0-0.

8. Consent Agenda:

a. Field Trip – None

i. Minutes: School Committee Meeting, January 10, 2019

D. Fronte made a motion to accept the consent agenda as listed, F. Nurmsen seconded. Vote to approve 5-0-0.

9. Superintendent Report:

a. Laptop Donation:

J. Landers asked Michelle Atter, Principal of Memorial School to speak about the partnership with the Needham Public Schools and ClearEdge Partners of Needham, MA. M. Atter spoke about the 18-year relationship with Needham and the donations to needy families in Winchendon at Christmas. Recently, the school received a donation of used laptops to use in the classrooms. B. Clinton, the Director of Technology, will be getting a few parts at a minimum cost to get them working for our students. M. Atter stated that nine laptops would be able to be used in classrooms and the learning center. A letter of thanks will be sent to the donating party of the laptops for their generosity.

M. Atter spoke about a grant from Newman's Own Foundation. Memorial School was awarded \$5,000 from the foundation to assist needy families with summer camp, clothing and gas cards.

L. Murphy asked about how people access help. M. Atter has the money in an account and parents will call her, and they will obtain the funds for such things gas cards, clothing, heat, etc. J. Landers thanked M. Atter for all the work she does for our students and families in Winchendon.

b. Capital Improvement Plan:

J. Landers went over the list of capital plan projects for the school committee.

Maintenance Garage

The maintenance garage roof needs to be replaced and J. Landers will be reaching out to Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School to ask if they would collaborate with us on the project.

Fire Doors at Memorial School

This request is to install magnetic units on the doors to keep them open. The doors are too heavy for our younger students to open and hold should there be an incident.

Replacement of Security Cameras

The district is looking to replace outdated security cameras and has applied to the Robinson Broadhurst Foundation for this funding.

Murdock Gymnasium Ceiling Fans

The ceiling fans that were installed when the building was built now need to be replaced. This upgrade will assist and improve the ventilation in that location. The schools will be responsible for this because it falls under the \$20,000 requirement.

Window replacements at the Murdock Middle High School

The seals have been compromised, and there is a need for the district to make all the windows energy efficient throughout the building. This request will be a five-year project at the cost of \$80,000.

Toy Town Generator

Another significant improvement discussed was a generator for Toy Town Elementary School. This school will be the emergency center if an emergency happens in the town. This upgrade will ensure that all communication devices and the heating system will be operational in the event of an emergency. The district will be going out for a new estimate for this generator because the costs have increased since last proposed.

Parking Lot Repairs

The parking lot repairs are estimated at a cost of approximately \$250,000.

Hot Water Heater at Toy Town Elementary

The demand for hot water has decreased over the years, and the tank is oversized and costing money to heat water that the school does not require daily. The cost will be \$25,000, and the district will look to place this in the school's budget.

Boiler at Murdock Middle High School

At the capital planning committee meeting last evening J. Landers stated they discussed putting in an SOI (Statement of Interest) with the Massachusetts School Building Authority for the boilers and the entire system. J. Landers will work at getting the application together for this project for approval from the School Committee, Board of Selectmen and Annual Town Meeting.

Retaining Walls Replacement at Memorial and Murdock

It was suggested that the district get an engineering study completed for these two projects to see if the walls can be fixed or relocated. The cost estimate now is approximately \$50,000.

Security System at the Murdock Middle High School

This project would upgrade the current security system.

Double door Entry at Toy Town Elementary

The decision to increase security at the main office entry area was done in consultation with Office Flagg. The cost would be approximately \$50,000. This proposal has been included in the Robinson Broadhurst Foundation Grant proposal.

J. Landers stated that the Town Manager has asked the School Department to get back to him with a prioritized list and that she has informed the Capital Planning Committee of the projects that would be submitted to Robinson Broadhurst.

J. Landers spoke about the last project, lead remediation/water bottle fillers. Last year the town allotted monies but the prices increased \$15,000, and this project will now need to go out to bid. J. Landers said she decided to take another approach. The district could buy the devices and then work with Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School's plumbing department for installation. This approach would lower the cost of the project.

J. Landers asked the School Committee to vote on the Capital Improvement Plan and to set the priorities for the projects. G. Vine asked when the Town Manager wanted the priorities. J. Landers said the information is due for next Wednesday's meeting of the Capital Planning Committee. G. Vine wondered whether the committee would like to set the priorities tonight. L. Murphy stated that this prioritized list was made two years ago at a Tri-board meeting. He thought there was a five-year plan in place. J. Landers said no one has spoken about this process and that some of these items have been on the plan for many years. The Capital Improvement Committee also discussed other funding and assistance that could be used, such as Robinson Broadhurst Foundation, Massachusetts School Building Authority, and Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School.

D. Fronte made a motion to approve the capital improvement list as reviewed and Joan Landers will work with James Murphy to set the priorities, F. Nurmsen seconded, motion was approved 5-0-0.

10. Business Office Report:

a. FY2019 Grants:

L. Murphy asked J. Landers to read the listing of grants received including the amounts. As of today, the district is receiving \$1,136,946. L. Murphy asked who is writing the grants and what is the money being used for in our schools. J. Landers stated that the principals assist with writing the grants. S. Michel spoke about the types of grants and what they fund in the district. J. Landers thanked the principals for all their hard work.

11. Policy Sub Committee: None

12. Old Business:

a. Superintendent Contract:

G. Vine spoke of the overwhelming response to keeping Joan Landers and opened the floor for public comments.

- Mr. Ward stated that he was speaking for his wife, Dr. Maureen Ward, who was unable to attend. He thanked F. Nurmsen for slowing down the process, not spending the money on another search and then discussed the possibility of signing a one-year contract and then evaluating J. Landers before signing a three-year contract.
- Christina Ricard – Speaking on her own behalf. Teachers are happy with J. Landers visiting the schools, talking to the teachers and staff. J. Landers understands the leadership role.
- Barbara Anderson has worked with Joan on several committees. She works well with town hall and is a great fit. B. Anderson would like to see Joan stay and keep moving the schools forward.
- L. Murphy spoke of the Interim Superintendent search and recommended the committee vote to offer Joan Landers a three-year contract.
- Felisha thanked people for coming and speaking. She will support what the committee would choose to do.

Greg Vine asked for a motion, L Murphy motioned to offer the superintendent position to Joan Landers, Felicia seconded the motion, vote; L Murphy aye, R Demanche, aye, F Nurmsen aye G Vine aye, unanimous. R Demanche and L Murphy to work with Joan on her contract for three-year period.

13. Future Agenda Items:

- a. Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School Representative Report
- b. Town of Winchendon and Winchendon Public Schools Elevator Bid - Update
- c. Audio Video Bid – Update
- d. Health Center Overview

14. Committee Member Comments:

15. J. Landers spoke about the Superintendent's Advisory Meeting; the meeting was well attended by teachers, parents, and the principal. There was a discussion on Summit Learning amongst all

parties. Thanks to everyone who attended and participated in the discussion. There were many ideas brought forward.

16. Executive Session: **None**

17. Adjournment: 7:31 pm

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

List of Documents and Exhibits used:

- Capital Improvement Proposal