

Date Approved/Released: 9-1-16

Date Approved/Hold: _____

School Committee Chair: LaPointe

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
THURSDAY, AUGUST 4, 2016
TOWN HALL AUDITORIUM

1. Call to order: 6:04 P M.

Present: Danielle LaPointe, Janet Corbosiero, Dawn Harris, Greg Vine, Larry Murphy
Steve Haddad-Superintendent, Richard Ikonen-Business Manager

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Citizen Questions and/or Comments: none

J. Corbosiero moved to move (Agenda Item) New Business 9a, (9) b and (9) c up to and before Correspondence and Announcements, 4. Second by D. Harris. Approved 5-0-0.

9. New Business

- a. Mark and Kat Ransom -Acknowledgement- Mark Ransom, resident, noted what a positive difference he has seen in the town's schools, calling it a breath of fresh air. He and his family wanted to say thank you and give a donation of \$1,000 for school supplies, hopefully to TEE. G. Vine moved to accept the gift from Mr. Ransom. Second by D. Harris. Approved 5-0-0. He commended Suzanne Michel and staff, the communication, meetings with teachers and seeing where his daughter will be going, saying it takes away all the worry of her going to a new school. L. Murphy noted that a small town can make accommodations and be more personal to meet the needs of our students.
- b. TTE Playground Update-Renee Eldridge, Tina Santos and Suzanne Michel: R. Eldridge read a statement that updated Project Playground (TTE). She asked for a firm date to schedule a community volunteer effort to make the structure fully operational by August 29th. S. Michel noted the critical need for physical outlet during the day and stressed the need for a fence along sections of Grove St. and Murdoch Ave. She noted donations received and pledged from groups and individuals, and stressed that this project is a significant community investment. She commended the media contribution and what it has helped accomplished. S. Haddad stated there will be cameras focused on the play structure and the basketball court. The committee thanked the group for their work, noting it is something that should be allowed in the budget. The importance of the community coming together and the efforts of the group that has worked to further this project were acknowledged.
- c. Co-Teaching Vision-Kristina Mecelicaite explained the initiative to help SPED students understanding of a subject matter, especially mathematics. The co-teaching pairs will combine their expertise to bring students closer to grade level knowledge. A consultant will mentor co-teaching pairs and supporting staff; those pairs can then mentor other co-teaching pairs. Funding from several combined sources will allow the district to launch this initiative over the next 2-3 years, starting in the '16-'17 school year. The benefits of co-teaching were discussed.

4. Correspondence and Announcements: The Tri-Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 1, at 6:30 PM. The School Committee meets at 6:00 PM.

S. Haddad read a letter from DESE regarding the newly mandated school breakfast program for Memorial and TTE by October 1, 2016. The Middle School is currently mandated. S. Haddad and R. Ikonen will look into the "Severe Need Reimbursement" aspect of the program. Discussion included which schools are actually mandated, how students participate and the potential cost to the district.

5. Student Representative: none

6. Student Recognition: none, Teacher of the Month: none

7. Superintendent Report-S. Haddad reported the administration is almost done filling positions. L. Murphy suggested the new staff be recognized, possibly at a committee meeting. S. Haddad noted the measures being taken to prepare each school building, emphasizing school colors and spirit. Regular summer maintenance is almost done. At TTE, the roadway leading to the basketball court will be widened and repaved and the concrete bad for an outside cooler will be replaced. The security camera project is on-going. Several items in the MMHS kitchen need to be repaired.

MWCC and the United Way Youth Venture Program offered to include the district in an up to \$3,000,000, 22 district partnership grant they are applying for. S. Haddad will provide more information as it becomes available. The grant would support students and entrepreneurship.

Business Office Report:

- a. MUNIS Update-Richard Ikonen noted the challenges he has faced as the new Business Manager, including learning MUNIS with the new, free upgrade. The necessary training will be paid by the town and district. The municipal government and the school district will not change any of the ways they do business. L. Murphy noted the town had voted in \$60,000 for this in 2015; the issue will be on the September 1st Tri-Board Agenda. All stakeholders will be included in the training. J. Corbosiero reported the training for the WPS Business Manager and the Town Accountant was paid for out of the FinCom budget. L. Murphy voiced concern that teachers cannot buy items/supplies when needed. R. Ikonen noted he will have the ability to see what is available and will keep pushing to complete Munis training. He stated that he loves coming to work now.
- b. Closing of Fiscal Year 2015-2016- He and the Town Accountant reviewed the necessary reclassifications. Because there are discrepancies regarding the ending balances that need to be resolved, he will ask for extension to November 1st to submit the FY 16 EOY. The budget for FY17 has been entered into Munis. He does not foresee any big issues.

D. Harris moved to take Agenda Item 9.d.out of order. Second by J. Corbosiero. Approved 5-0-0.

9. New Business

d. Handbook Review:

- Pre-K- J. Corbosiero moved to accept the Pre-K handbook as given to us. Second by G. Vine. Approved 5-0-0. The Pre-K handbook must be approved by the school committee because it now receives Chapter 70 funds. S. Michel noted it includes a PBIS statement to be in direct alignment with Memorial School. J. Corbosiero moved to amend the motion to include the words "in its

entirety". Second by L. Murphy. Approved 5-0-0. D. Harris moved to approve the motion as amended. Second by G. Vine. Approved 5-0-0.

- Memorial School-There was no representative present. G. Vine moved to approve. Second by D. Harris. Approved 5-0-0.
- Toy Town Elementary-Assistant Principal Mary Aker reviewed minor (names and dates) and the Co-Curricular and Extra Curricular Activities policy that was added to all of the handbooks. J. Corbosiero moved to accept the Toy Town handbook in its entirety. Second by G. Vine. Approved 5-0-0.
- Murdock Middle School-Jessica Vezina reviewed the changes. Discussion included the new After School Homework Policy and room; the administration is trying to raise academic expectations. Middle School sports eligibility was added along with new criteria for field trips eligibility. G. Vine moved to accept the Middle School handbook in its entirety as presented. Second by J. Corbosiero. Approved 5-0-0. L. Murphy cautioned the administrators to not be punitive, but to be corrective.
- Murdock High School-Josh Romano will send it to the committee with a summary of the changes, which he reviewed.
- Murdock Academy-The handbook will be slightly different.

7. c. Custodian Contract, Para-educator Contract and Secretaries Contract Update-The Custodians Union will vote on their contract August 9th; this will be on the August 18th meeting agenda. The Para's and Secretaries contracts are on hold until September.

8. Old Business:

a. Policies-Policy Sub-Committees

i. Procedures for New Hires/Terminations/Resignations/Changes-S. Haddad asked for it to be tabled so he can review it with the administration team. D. Harris moved to table to the next meeting. Second by G. Vine. Approved 5-0-0.

L. Murphy moved to move (Agenda Item) 9.g ahead of 9.e-Sub-Committee Assignments. Second by J. Corbosiero. Approved 5-0-0.

g. Edviate Update-J. Vezina and M. Aker reported that the boot camp takes place next week. A draft will be presented to the school committee, teachers, school councils and the community.

e. Sub-Committee Assignments-G. Vine moved to table to the next meeting-August 18th. Second by L. Murphy. Approved 5-0-0.

f. Student Activity Balance approvals-L. Murphy moved to move the Student Activity Balance approvals, 9.f, to our next meeting, August 18th. Second by G. Vine. Approved 5-0-0.

h. Post Card- S. Haddad noted the post card was designed to promote and market the schools and their connection to the town. Activities inadvertently omitted will be added. The effort to celebrate the schools achievement includes the Administration team introducing themselves to the community. A letter will be sent to local businesses to garner their support. A brochure will be created that highlights the programs, the administration team and teachers. It will be available at Town Hall, the school buildings and especially the realtor offices. S. Haddad also reported the recently signed new copier

contract can print publishing quality. He will check the commercially printed price that would include postage.

i. MASC/MASS Fall Conference-Update-D. Harris is not able to go. L. Murphy, J. Corbosiero, S. Haddad and G. Vine confirmed attendance. D. LaPointe will decide later.

10. Citizens Questions and Comments: Suzanne Michel reported the district concluded the Extended School Year program (ESY, previously called Summer School); she served as the district wide director this year. She noted that positive feedback from some parents has already been received and strongly commended the staff for doing such an amazing job. She read the names of participating staff. The committee and S. Haddad thanked her for her extraordinary work.

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

a. June 16, 2016-Regular Meeting-L. Murphy moved to correct the dates for the vote on Chartwells (Agenda Item 7.g-Chartwells Vote) and put the correct dates from July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016. Second by G. Vine. Approved 5-0-0. G. Vine moved to approve (as amended). Second by J. Corbosiero. Approved 5-0-0.

J. Corbosiero moved to change the October 20, 2016 meeting to October 27, 2016. Second by G. Vine. Approved 5-0-0. Due to scheduling conflicts, J. Corbosiero moved for L. Murphy to be the CAPPS Winchendon representative. Second by G. Vine. Approved 5-0-0.

13. Other:

14. Future Agenda Items:

a. Monty Tech Representative - FY17 Quarterly Meeting Schedule

b. Murdock High School Handbook-VOTE

c. Discussion/Action-Question 2-The Lifting of the Cap on Charter Schools (8/18/16)

15. Executive Session: none

16. Adjournment: 8:13 P.M. D. Harris moved to adjourn. Second by G. Vine. Approved 5-0-0.

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