

Date Approved/Released: 12/7/17

Date Approved/Hold: _____

School Committee Chair: _____

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2017
TOWN HALL AUDITORIUM

1. Call to order: 6:00 pm/ Pledge of Allegiance
Present: Larry Murphy, Danielle LaPointe (arrived 6:03 pm), Dawn Fronte, Felicia Nurmsen, Greg Vine, Steven Haddad, Superintendent, Richard Ikonen, Business Manager
2. Audio/Video Disclosure
3. Citizen Questions and/or Comments: None
4. Student Representative Report – Nicole Lemire reported that on November 5th, 13 Murdock students played in the MASC Special Olympics Unified Bocci Tournament. There were two teams of four athletes (two Olympians and two unified partners); both teams received medals. On November 9th, 17 Student Council delegates attended the Central District Fall Regional Conference where they attended a keynote presentation, two workshops and other activities. Three students presented a workshop for other delegates. Murdock High School will host the Spring Regional Conference in 2019. The middle and high school students have been collecting canned and dry goods for Thanksgiving baskets. Donations can be dropped off during Parent-Teacher conferences next week. The Chicken Bowl, the JV football game against Narragansett, is on November 17th at Alumni Field. The Thanksgiving Varsity Football game is at Narragansett at 10am. The Cross-Country team will be competing in the state qualifiers on Saturday, November 18th. The Morton E. Converse Tournament of Plays is on December 1st and 2nd; the award ceremony is on Saturday night. The Student Council will host another American Red Cross Blood Drive on Monday, December 11th from 8:00 am-1:00 pm. Interested persons should contact Ms. Rondeau.
5. Student/Staff Recognition – Student of the Month
Pre-K: Victoria Dodge, Memorial: Lucienne Batchelder, Kindergarten: Toy Town Elementary: Michael Fetzner, 4th grade, Murdock Middle School: Stacey Wood, 7th grade, Murdock High School: Ryan Thira, 11th grade; Murdock Academy: Kalib Montgomery, 10th grade.

6:36 pm D. Fronte moved for a 5-minute recess. Second by D. LaPointe. Approved 5-0-0.
6:43 pm Reconvened.
6. Teaching and Learning Highlights: None
7. Consent Agenda
 - a. Minutes – Regular Meeting Minutes
 - i. October 19, 2017 G. Vine moved to table the approval of the minutes for October 19, 2017. Second by F. Nurmsen. Approved 5-0-0.

8. Superintendent/Business Office Report:

- a. School Advisory Committee Update – R. Ikonen reported that the committee has held two meetings to review how to better utilize the districts resources. The 10- member committee is comprised of R. Ikonen, L. Murphy, 2 administrators, 2 teachers, a secretary and 4 community members (2 are parents). The group identified some issues at the October 30th meeting; the second meeting tonight delved further into those issues that confront the WPS. They will meet every other week, usually prior to School Committee meetings, until they have recommendations and action items. S. Haddad noted problems with the district Facebook page, including setting up and loading images and information. F. Nurmsen offered her help with the project.
- b. Principal Search Update (School Spring, Committee) – The position is posted on School Spring; there have been 8 responses. Notice to join the Search Committee will be sent out this weekend; it will comprise of 2 administrators, 2 teachers, 2 students, 2 parents, 1 secretary and 1 school committee member. The committee will meet December 1st to set ground rules; S. Haddad noted would like to make an offer by the middle of February. G. Vine nominated L. Murphy to sit on the Principal Search Committee. D. LaPointe seconded for discussion. Approved 4-0-1. L. Murphy abstained.
- c. WTA Negotiations – G. Vine and L. Murphy comprise the committee. S. Haddad and R. Ikonen are working on the presentation, the numbers and the proposals they would like to see in the negotiations. Ms. Ricard, WTA President, plans to have the negotiations done by Christmas. It generally is a 3-year contract but can be negotiated and then determined. At the request of F. Nurmsen, the school committee will meet in executive session to discuss the negotiations on December 7th, prior to any negotiation meeting.
- d. Revenue Sharing Committee Volunteer – Tom Kane, Finance Committee Chairman, has proposed a committee be formed to discuss a possible revenue sharing process between the town and school district. S. Haddad and Town Manager Keith Hickey will be on the committee. D. LaPointe nominated G. Vine. Second by F. Nurmsen. Approved 4-0-1. G. Vine abstained. S. Haddad will inform Mr. Kane.
- e. Budget Process Timeline – S. Haddad met with Town Manager Keith Hickey yesterday, who requested the school district budget by the middle of February. S. Haddad stated the budget will be ready by the requested time. The district administrative team meets on November 30th to start the process.
- f. MCAS Update – The School administrators will present the test results on December 7th. S. Haddad reviewed the history of the Legacy MCAS test and grades/levels required to pass and be allowed to graduate, through 2020. The Next Generation test (MCAS 2.0) was given in Spring, 2017 for the for the first, grades 3-8. The new test will eventually replace the Legacy MCAS with new categories and scoring numbers. S. Haddad noted it is a more rigorous test, that will focus on critical thinking skills, application of knowledge and the ability to make connections between reading and writing. He stressed that Spring, 2017 is a baseline year for the new test for grades 3-8 and those scores should not be compared to previous years' scores. Lower test scores are anticipated until students become familiar with the new format. F. Nurmsen noted the committee and administration should be more concerned with the students' actual grades. The

presentations will include the action plan to move forward for students who scores low on the MCAS and the effect of test scores in regard to School Level determination.

9. Sub Committee Report:

- a. Agenda for December 7th meeting posting - A Policy Subcommittee meeting for 5:00 pm that evening needs to be posted.

10. Old Business: None

New Business:

School Committee upcoming meetings – D. LaPointe informed the committee that she will not be able to attend meetings starting in January, 2018 due to her class schedule. The committee discussed options and will discuss further at the December 7th meeting.

11. Future Agenda Item:

- a. Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School Representative
 - i. Questions for Austin Cyganiewicz 7:21 DL's question
- b. WTA Negotiations – School Committee discussion in Executive Session (12/7/17)
- c. MCAS Presentation (12/7/17)
- d. School Committee Meeting Schedule

12. Committee Member Comments – F. Nurmsen asked for members who attend any conferences to report back on what they learned, such as best practices. She also asked if the information from the Ashburnham/Westminster SOCS (Support our Children and Schools) parent group newsletter can be used to advocate for more school funding at the State level. The committee agreed the district needs to get organized and be part of something similar where the parents are galvanized. S. Haddad will check if school committee members can simultaneously be on school councils. G. Vine asked the committee to consider action regarding the Monty Tech Agreement. G. Vine moved a) that we again vote to endorse the letters the Mayors have sent to the Monty Tech School Committee and b) ask the Board of Selectmen to also endorse the letter as they have done in the past and c) that we send a letter of our own to the Monty Tech school committee reiterating what has been put forward from the two Mayors to Monty Tech to be signed by the chair of the School Committee and the Board of Selectmen. Second by D. LaPointe for discussion. G. Vine stated 'our voices should be heard since we are the second highest sending district'.
Approved 5-0-0.

13. Executive Session: none

14. Adjournment: 7:32 pm. G. Vine moved to adjourn. Second by D. LaPointe. Approved 5-0-0.

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