

Date Approved/Released: 3/14/18

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School Committee Chair: 

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2018
TOWN HALL AUDITORIUM

1. Call to order: 6:00 pm/ Pledge of Allegiance
Present: Larry Murphy, Dawn Fronte, Greg Vine
Steve Haddad-Superintendent
Richard Ikonen-Business Manager
2. Audio/Video Disclosure
3. Citizen Questions and/or Comments:
4. Student Representative Report – None.
5. Student/Staff Recognition: Students of the Month, February, 2017 –
Pre-School – Khloe O’Brien; Memorial – Bradley Scofield, 1st grade; Toy Town Elementary –
Mathew Tranbarger, 4th grade; Murdock Middle School – Kayden Gordon, 7th grade; Murdock
Academy – Joshua Smith, 12th grade.
Blue Devil Cool Recognition: S. Haddad recognized Paula Lashua-Brisbois, the WPS District-
Wide Occupational Therapist. During her 21 years in the district, she has exemplified superior
effort in regard to both verbal and written communication in the delivery of high quality
occupational services. Her thorough evaluations and recommendations provide the opportunities
for student growth. Her organizational skills always transcend to high measures of
accountability. She maintains the utmost professionalism when interacting with students,
families and colleagues. She puts in superior effort in order to deliver optimal instructional
services for the students. She works with staff and families to support the student’s development
at home. She is also very involved in the After School, Extended Day and Extended School Year
programs. She writes columns for community newsletters and volunteers at weekly playgroups,
and supports the Winchendon Head Start Program. L. Murphy commended her efforts She
noted the negative effects of technology and screen time on a child’s development, urging more
outdoor playtime. She thanked Sherry Divoll, the Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant,
noting the direct service she provides.

6:33 pm. G. Vine moved for a 5-minute recess. Second by D. Fronte. Approved 3-0-0.

6:36 pm. Reconvened in Open Session

6. Teaching and Learning Highlights: Mid-Year Data Reports Presentation –Building administrators presented the data from the Fall & Winter assessments.

Suzanne Michele explained the Pre-School BOEHM Test of Basic Concepts tool used for student growth assessment as a pre and post test measure. The data is from the 2016-2017 results. The program tables 4368 3229 points 3923 694 concepts were gained by the student population which equated to a 21% growth increase in the students basic concept knowledge over the course of that school year. There was a 16% increase in the number of students who scored in the standard category through targeted instruction. 90% of students were on track for standardized performance ranges in June, 2017. The growth for the 2015-2016 year was 16%, as she reported last year. She commended the Pre-K staff for identifying weaknesses and targeting instruction to teach those concepts. She will include data results for a 3-year period in June, 2017 for comparison purposes.

Michelle Atter explained the DIBELS testing for Kindergarten, Memorial and Toy Town Elementary that is administered 3 times a year. The Winter test showed measurable improvement, where 72% are receiving Core Support. She noted the benefits of having a Kindergarten Para in each classroom, along with the Interventionists. The Grade 1 test data showed lower improvement results, partially because the Winter results included Reading Fluency and these students identified as Special Education students.

Mary Aker noted the addition of grade level Paras to work with the grade level Special Education Teacher improved test scores at Toy Town Elementary. Grade 4 showed the greatest improvement, including 18 new students from school choice and new residents.

The Grade 5 student results also showed the effect of additional students on IEPs, who required more intensive intervention. The staff will identify students who need more targeted or different instruction for the remainder of the school year.

Jessica Vezina presented the MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) results for Murdock Middle School. The September, 2017 testing provided a baseline for reading and math. Again, the data can identify students who require various levels of intervention. The focus on Math resulted in a gap in the reading scores, and is an area of concern. Instruction in Reading will be increased.

Grade 6 Math achievement gaps are due to below average basic skills. Common Planning Time for teachers and departments will continue to fill the achievement gaps and move them students to the 6th grade curriculum. Identified students receive an extra period of learning for targeted subjects. The 7th grade Reading mean average was slightly above the norm; she expects similar results from the winter testing. She noted the 'Low' and "Low Average" numbers are concerning. The 7th Grade Math results showed students are moving in the right direction. The Grade 8 Reading showed above the expected mean scores and shows the desired growth rate.

The Grade 8 Math is moving in the right direction with much more targeted interventions. The projected growth for each grade level is higher than anticipated. She noted that students challenged themselves. The new assessment test provides growth data several times per year, not just from MCAS data. A correlation study between MCAS and MAPS data will be conducted and results presented next school year. S. Haddad reported that students are becoming acclimated to the Summit Learning program and noting self-progress. MAPS testing for the

elementary schools are being considered and price quotes included in the budget. J. Vezina reported grant funds are available for grades 3-8 next year. The technology is already available at no extra cost. G. Vine stressed the importance of commitment to the Summit Learning Program.

7. New Business:

- a. Murdock 2018/2019 Program of Studies – Ralph Olsen -

8. Consent Agenda

- a. Minutes – Regular Meeting Minutes: January 17, 2018

G. Vine moved to approve. Second by D. Fronte. Approved 3-0-0.

9. Superintendent/Business Office Report

S. Haddad noted a letter from the Office of Public School Monitoring from DESE contained a mid-cycle review in January, 2018. This review monitored selected Special Education criteria to determine the districts compliance with special education laws and regulations. The findings found the district to be in compliance with all of the criteria monitored in the mid-cycle review. The findings will be available online. The New England Association of Schools and Colleges granted a postponement of the NEASC evaluation, requested due to the change in leadership at the high school. The onsite visit is scheduled for May 5-8, 2019. The Capital Projects meeting is scheduled for February 15th and the 22nd. A school committee representative needs to attend; D. LaPointe's availability will be checked. G. Vine or D. Fronte will be alternates to attend the CPC meeting tomorrow. G. Vine and L. Murphy plan to attend the Monty Tech School Committee meeting on February 15th. Upon request from S. Haddad, G. Vine moved to increase the Toy Town Students Activity Account from \$2000.00 to \$4000.00 in order to cover expenses incurred by the recent Book Fair. Second by D. Fronte. Approved 3-0-0. The amount due is \$2,408.00 which exceeds the amount of money they can have in their checking account. The Strategic Plan meeting scheduled with DSAC last week was cancelled. DSAC will come in to work with the administrative team to prioritize the Action Plan and determine costs for each action item.

- a. Budget Update – The School District budget will be presented to Town Hall tomorrow.

b. WTA Negotiation Update- A 4th meeting is scheduled for tomorrow. The language is agreed to; fine details will be worked out. It has been positive to date. L. Murphy commended R. Ikonen for determining the possible financial impact of the negotiation figures.

10. Sub Committee Report – None

11. Old Business:

- a. Principal Search Update – The search committee has two more site visits; they have 3 good candidates.

12. Future Agenda Items:

- a. School Committee & Staff Communications
- b. School Committee Day Meeting Schedule Retreat Agenda

- c. FLLAC & CAPS (3/14/18) Reports
- d. Pupil Services

13. Committee Member Comments: L. Murphy and S. Haddad will go over the Superintendents Evaluation and determine whether to present it publically.

14. Executive Session. G. Vine – Aye; D. Fronte – Aye; L. Murphy – Aye. Approved 3-0-0.

15. Adjournment: 7:49 pm. G. Vine moved to adjourn. Second by D. Fronte. Approved 3-0-0.

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