



SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday, April 11, 2018
2nd Floor - Town Hall Auditorium

Date Approved/Released: 5/3/18

Date Approved/Hold: _____

School Committee Chair: _____

1. **Call to order:** 6:00 pm/ Pledge of Allegiance

Present: Larry Murphy, Danielle LaPointe (arrived 6:02 pm), Dawn Fronte, Felicia Nurmsen (via phone conference), Greg Vine, Steve Haddad, Superintendent (Absent), Richard Ikonen, Business Manager

2. **Audio/Video Disclosure:** Barrie Martins (Recording Secretary), Doneen Durling (Gardner News)

L. Murphy announced that F. Nurmsen is participating in the meeting via remote speaker phone conference. L. Murphy requested a “Roll Call Vote” be used for tonight’s meeting due to the phone conference with our member.

G. Vine moved to move (Agenda Item) #5 up to before step # 3. Second by D. Fronte. G. Vine – Aye; F. Nurmsen – Aye; D. Fronte – Aye; L. Murphy – Aye. Approved 4 -0-0.

5. **Student/Staff Recognition:**

a. State Champion’s Track Participants and Coaches:

Coach Findley presented the 4 State Champions on the Murdock Track Team, between outdoor and indoor.

Alexia Allard, 9th grade, Indoor Long Jump; this was her first state championship. She moved onto All State in 2 events and has qualified for National Standard for Long Jump and Triple Jump; she will compete in Raleigh, North Carolina in June. Her hard work and perseverance after an injury epitomize her character.

Justin Thira was the Middle School State Champion in Long Jump last year; he qualified for States in the Long Jump this year. He recovered over the winter from a football injury.

Lilly Digman, 8th grade, was a Middle School State Champion last year in the Outdoor 400M; this year she was a High School State Champion in the 600M. She was the only 8th grade girl in the New England Meet in her event this year.

Richard Swanson, 11th grade, was the State Champion in Division 5 in 600M; he was 4th in the States and 6th in New England at States. He finished 29th in the 400M Nationals. His goal is to be All-State Champion in the 400M.

L. Murphy noted it is a great accomplishment for Coach Findley and his staff, the school district and the community. G. Vine added ‘there is a lot to look forward to next year’. Coach Findley agreed, noting the Boys’ team could be the State Champions next year. The Girls’ team could finish similarly in 2 years.

b. Students of the Month:

April, 2018: Pre-Kindergarten: Logan Hanks, Memorial: Kindergarten, Jaclyn Khan, Toy Town Elementary: Grade 5, Cohen Veilleux, Murdock Middle School: Grade 6, Abigail Bradley, Murdock High School: Grade 9, Lexi Pare, Murdock Academy for Success, Grade 11, Crystal Fasulo.

6:46 pm. D. Fronte moved for a 5-minute recess. Second by G. Vine. G. Vine – Aye; F. Nurmsen – Aye; D. Fronte – Aye; L. Murphy – Aye. Approved 4-0-0.

6:52 pm. Reconvened in Open Session.

G. Vine moved to move up for our next piece of business (Agenda Item) #7 The Apple Institute Presentation. Second by D. Fronte. G. Vine – Aye; F. Nurmsen – Aye; D. Fronte – Aye; L. Murphy – Aye. Approved 4-0-0.

7. New Business:

a. APPLE Institute Presentation: Suzanne Michel and Pam Smith Presenting

P. Smith, CPAC Co-Chair, explained the purpose of the program, Advancing Parent/Professional Leadership in Education, is to support parents as team leaders. The group will attend the workshop on May 3rd and 4th. S. Michel reviewed the application process, noting the district had to define their intent for attending, specifically its goals regarding special education, focusing on inclusion, outreach and increased parent involvement to support the CPAC.

3. Citizen Questions and/or Comments: None

4. Student Representative Report: None

6. Teaching and Learning Highlights:

Summit Learning: Andrew Coleman, 7th & 8th grade Geography and World History Teacher at the Middle School, explained his use of the Summit Learning Platform to implement personalized learning. A. Coleman explained the use of “Project Time” to study economics and micro-entrepreneurism. A. Coleman’s 7th grade students are coming up with their own inventions to solve small challenges in their lives. Student’s will present these on May 11th and the School Committee is invited to attend. A.

Coleman stressed that classes still have direct instruction and explained how he is implementing ideas from mathematics, science and art. A. Coleman believes the students are really able to explore that creativity and utilize the different disciplines/subjects. He explained how the presentations will be conducted, scored and graded. G. Vine hopes to attend. F. Nurmsen stated she knows from her daughter that Mr. Coleman does interactive teaching and gets positive feedback.

7. New Business:

c. Director of Pupil Services Search Update:

Committee Chair G. Vine reported the 8 applicants resulted in 4 interviews. Superintendent Haddad will conduct his interviews with the 2 finalists and present his candidate to the School Committee for approval. The committee is enthusiastic about the finalists, there is one internal and one external candidate.

d. Murdock High School Assistant Principal Search:

R. Ikonen reported the position is posted on SchoolSpring from April 3rd to April 13th. There are currently 17 applicants as of today. A Search Committee will be formed after Spring (April) vacation and T. King, the newly hired Murdock High School Principal will be part of that process and possible chair of the Search Committee.

8. Consent Agenda:

- a. Field Trips
- b. School Year end of Year Changed to June 21, 2018 (Half Day Districtwide)
- c. School Year Calendar 2019 Final approval
- d. Minutes - Regular Meeting March 14, 2018
- e. Minutes – Budget Hearing Meeting, March 28, 2018

R. Ikonen noted that one field trip is to London, England during April Vacation, 2019 and another one to Barcelona and other areas in Spain and Morocco, during April 16th through April 20th, 2020. The previously approved trip to Puerto Rico is next week during school vacation.

G. Vine moved to accept the full Consent Agenda as one motion. Second by F. Nurmsen. G. Vine – Aye; F. Nurmsen – Aye; D. Fronte – Aye; L. Murphy – Aye. Approved 4-0-0.

9. Superintendent/Business Office Report:

R. Ikonen reported the district received a FY19 Inclusive Pre-School Learning Environment (IPLE) grant from the Department of Early Education and Care (EEC) for \$30,000. S. Michel received notification from the State recently. G. Vine moved to accept the Department of Early Education and Care (EEC) Inclusive Pre-School Learning Environment (IPLE) renewal grant of \$30,000. Second by D. Fronte. G. Vine – Aye; F.

Nurmsen – Aye; D. Fronte – Aye; L. Murphy – Aye. Approved 4-0-0. Suzanne Michel will manage and report to R. Ikonen regarding the grant.

The DRAFT Town Meeting Warrant Articles are in the School Committee packet for review. R. Ikonen is making adjustments in response to questions and challenges and will present the school district budget to the Finance Committee on April 24th.

L. Murphy noted the Board of Selectmen also requested a presentation of the school budget on their Monday, April 23rd meeting. G. Vine stated the committee can just present to the Board of Selectmen but hold explanations to the following evening.

D. Fronte agreed that the questions should be cleared up with the Finance Committee prior to speaking with the Board of Selectmen. F. Nurmsen also agreed and suggested the Board of Selectmen submit questions in writing and they can be addressed at the Finance Committee meeting. She stressed that the School Committee needs to be prepared for the presentation to the Finance Committee and that someone needs to attend with R. Ikonen if Superintendent Haddad is not available. L. Murphy will inform the Board of Selectmen Chairperson that the committee will not present to the Board of Selectmen. G. Vine commented that he does not think making staffing decisions are an appropriate part of the discussion by the Finance Committee. He hopes they will remain within the bounds of their charge and leave staffing recommendations to the administration. L. Murphy noted the committee is trying to be transparent and share the needs of the school district. He agreed that someone who can support R. Ikonen and who knows the budget well also needs to attend the presentation to the Finance Committee.

G. Vine moved to politely decline the invitation of the Board of Selectmen to their April 23rd meeting. Second by D. Fronte. F. Nurmsen noted it was not a formal request and the request was not in writing. G. Vine withdrew the motion. L. Murphy will request written questions from the Board of Selectmen.

a. MIIA Grant – Risk Management

Sub Committee Report – MASC Policies Update Newsletter - D. Fronte reported the policies in question are only those the MASC has recommended be removed, because they are redundant or unnecessary and have been removed from the MASC Reference Manual. She noted that the School Committee's policy manual is the MASC manual, and that the district does not have most of the referenced policies. D. Fronte moved if these policies are in our Winchendon Manual to have them removed. Second by G. Vine. G. Vine – Aye; F. Nurmsen – Aye; D. Fronte – Aye; L. Murphy – Aye. Approved 4-0-0. She will work with Carolyn Hendricks on the revisions.

11. Old Business: None

12. Future Agenda Items:

- a. School Committee & Staff Communications
- b. School Committee Day Meeting Schedule Retreat Agenda
- c. Blizzard Bags & How to Handle Severe Weather in the Future
- d. FLLAC Report – S. Haddad
- e. CAPS Report – L. Murphy

13. Committee Member Comments:

The Day on the Hill is on Wednesday, April 25, 2018. G. Vine and possibly S. Haddad plan to attend. F. Nurmsen requested an update regarding a response to the parent group Families for Empowering Education and their concerns about the Summit Learning Platform; she wants to insure that the administration is responding to them appropriately. L. Murphy reported that steps have been taken to address the concerns. Middle School Principal Jessica Vezina and staff are meeting with parents and doing a lot of research. They are also waiting for a response from legal consul who is working with other districts with similar concerns. Administration will respond to parents once there is more information.

- 14. Executive Session:** (#3 Motion to go into Executive Session to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation and will reconvene in open session).

7:32 pm G. Vine moved to go into Executive Session to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation and will convene in Open Session for the sole purpose of adjourning. Second by D. Fronte. G. Vine – Aye; F. Nurmsen – Aye; D. Fronte – Aye; L. Murphy – Aye. Approved 4-0-0.

15. Adjournment:

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