



Date Approved/Released: 4/7/2022

Date Approved/Hold: _____

School Committee Chair: [Signature]

School Committee Meeting

March 3, 2022 - 6:00 pm

Town Hall - 2nd Floor Auditorium

Attendance:

Karen Kast-McBride, Vice-Chair; Ryan Forsythe; Mike Barbaro; Thad King,
Superintendent

1. Call to order

K. Kast-McBride reads audio visual disclosure.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Public Comment: None

4. Student Representative Report

Student representative gives update about news and events, including progress reports, district-wide half days, the National Honor Society state conference and student council, as well as sporting events at the varsity level.

5. Consent Agenda:

K. Kast-McBride introduces Consent Agenda.

Motion made by M. Barbaro to accept the minutes as presented. Seconded by R. Forsythe. Vote is unanimous.

6. Superintendent's Report:

a. COVID Update:

T. King provides updated numbers of COVID cases throughout the district, showing a dramatic decline. Masks are no longer being worn in schools or on buses, but they are still required when entering nursing offices. There is no more close contact tracing within the district and therefore there will be no more test and stay protocol.

K. Kast-McBride asks for clarification on whether symptomatic testing still takes

place. T. King answers affirmatively.

b. Budget Update:

T. King presents an updated year to date budget report, outlining a few accounts that have a negative balance and explaining the process for each account.

R. Forsythe asks for clarification on the sick day buy back which caused an overage in one of the accounts. T. King explains that it is an expected cost when an employee is retiring, and it is put in the budget to offer some flexibility in the case of an unexpected retirement.

M. Barbaro comments that these numbers are not surprising and thanks T. King for clarifying. R. Forsythe asks if the district should be at approximately 60-70% of salaries at this point and asks if an account is at 30% usage, does that indicate a vacancy. T. King responds in the affirmative on both points.

7. New Business:

K. Kast-McBride introduces New Business.

a. Director of Finance and Operations Appointment:

T. King introduces his recommendation Robert Mullin to the school business office. R. Mullin is interviewed for position of Director of Finance and Operations.

R. Forsythe moves that the School Committee vote to approve the appointment of Robert Mullins as Director of Finance and Operations pending successful contract negotiations. Seconded by M. Barbaro. Vote is unanimous.

b. School Committee Meeting Frequency:

Motion to table the school committee meeting frequency discussion made by M. Barbaro. Seconded by R. Forsythe. Vote is unanimous.

c. Subcommittee Representatives:

R. Forsythe suggests a change in the way the committee assigns members to subcommittees, asking that one or two alternates be appointed in addition to the lead subcommittee members. M. Barbaro agrees it is a good idea. K. Kast-McBride expresses concern that it is not something they can do very easily and is uncertain whether or not a vote is necessary. T. King agrees to verify the town charter and school committee policy to determine if a vote is required. Topic will be re-addressed at next School Committee meeting.

d. Murdock High School Program of Studies:

M. Barbaro makes motion to table discussion. Seconded by R. Forsythe. Vote is unanimous.

e. **Murdock High School Makeup Day: March 11, 2022:**

T. King explains the necessity of a makeup day for the high school due to a closure when COVID numbers were excessively high and teachers were given a day to prepare for the switch to remote learning temporarily. T. King suggests that this makeup day take place on March 11, 2022, which is currently scheduled for a professional development day district wide, allowing the date of graduation to remain on June 5, 2022.

R. Forsythe asks for clarification on the implications of teachers missing a professional development day. T. King explains that their professional development will take place on a different day. R. Forsythe asks for clarification on the details of the agreement with DESE to quarantine students and staff. T. King explains that the makeup day was very specifically mentioned in the agreement.

M. Barbaro moves that the School Committee vote to approve the Murdock High School makeup day on March 11, 2022. Seconded by R. Forsythe. Vote is unanimous.

8. Old Business:

K. Kast-McBride asks for Old Business. M. Barbaro moves that the minutes presented this evening be amended to make corrections. Seconded by R. Forsythe. Vote is unanimous.

9. Future Agenda Items:

Discussion is had regarding the appointment of subcommittee alternates and whether or not it should be addressed at the next school committee meeting, which will include the FY23 budget hearing. K. Kast-McBride suggests that the issue be discussed before the budget hearing.

10. School Committee Closing Comments:

M. Barbaro clarifies that he had trouble with being on the phone for the last school committee meeting. He explained that he was fearful about getting rid of masks, but he is pleased to see the COVID numbers going in the right direction.

K. Kast-McBride states that everyone's feelings should be respected with regard to masking. She is also very impressed with the employees who cleaned up the snow for the day of the play. She thanks all staff for everything they do and asks parents and students to keep respecting each other.

T. King states that the number of people involved in the play to make it a success were tremendous and he is very grateful to all, but he gives a special thanks to Martin Johnston, Director of Facilities, for working to ensure that the heat was repaired in the building for the play.

11. Adjournment:

K. Kast-McBride makes Motion to adjourn. Seconded by R. Forsythe. Vote is unanimous. Meeting is adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted: *Liz Latoria*
Liz Latoria, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent

Documents Attached: None