



Winchendon Public Schools

Date Approved/Released

6/2/2022

Date Approved/Hold:

School Committee Chair:

Murphy

School Committee Meeting

April 14, 2022 - 6:00 pm

Town Hall - 4th Floor Conference Room

Attendance:

School Committee: Larry Murphy, Chair; Karen Kast-McBride, Vice-Chair; Greg Vine; Dr. Ryan Forsythe; Mike Barbaro; Thad King, Superintendent

1. Call to order

L. Murphy reads audio-visual disclosure.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Public Comment: None

4. Student Representative Report:

Student Representative presents information on the MHS Tournament of Plays, Blue Devil Weekly, Red Sox Opening Day and the Travel Club's trip to the Mediterranean coast. The junior class is sponsoring a talent show on Friday, April 29 at 7pm. Varsity baseball and softball teams will play tomorrow. MHS has been awarded the 2022 National Gold Council of Excellence by the National Student Council for its exemplary record of leadership service activities.

5. Superintendent's Report:

As of Monday, April 11, MHS Principal, Megan Weeks has resigned from her position for personal endeavors. Due to the late time of the school year, support will be provided to MHS by Central Office. Superintendent King will work at the high school on Tuesdays and Thursdays, while Director of Pupil Services, Nicole Heroux, will work Monday, Wednesday and Friday. The position is currently posted, and a search/interview committee will be assembled as soon as possible.

G. Vine asks for a likely start date for the new principal. T. King responds that in light of the contract terms, it will likely be July 1, 2022.

6. New Business:

L. Murphy introduces Stephanie Rondeau to present MHS Dues Report. Mrs. Rondeau provides the dues for various clubs and activities. She notes that no student is ever turned away from an activity for financial reasons. The dues report is as follows:

- Student Council: \$25 per student on regalia for graduation

- Two Regional Student Council Conferences per Year: \$35, depending on food and transportation
- Student Council State Conference: \$350-\$400 per student, includes transportation, two nights' lodging, meals and programming, T-shirts and any other activities participated in.
- National Conference: \$1,200, includes transportation, 5-6 day conference, lodging, meals, t-shirt and any expenses
- Summer Leadership Camp: \$400 for week long experience at Worcester State University
- National Honor Society: \$25 per student for regalia
- State Conference: \$40. Students not charged for their last 2 years

Discussion is had regarding what the costs of these activities might be. Mrs. Rondeau responds that there are no fees. L. Murphy states that these student activities should be included in the operating budget, to include the regalia and apparel. T. King responds that there is a student activities leader that is separate from the general budget. L. Murphy asks how we would get something in the budget to help fund these activities. M. Barbaro suggests using Murdock Trust. K. Kast-McBride asks how the EA Sports club is funded. Mrs. Rondeau responds that it is sponsored through MIAA. If students played two particular games, there was no charge through MIAA. Currently, she pays the PlayStation subscription out of her own pocket. K. Kast-McBride states that students should not have to pay out of pocket for those games. She wants to see the district budget more for the arts. Mrs. Rondeau states that the booster club is its own organization, and they choose what to spend their money on. It was created so they could have control over the Music Department and support the other music programs. They help students attend competitions and will kick in money toward other items in the buildings, but it is a parent organization. K. Kast-McBride reiterates that she would like to see more budgeted for the arts programs. T. King states that Murdock Trust is a great place to charge most of these activities to, as it is intended for enrichment and is available to provide all students with equitable access to all activities. L. Murphy summarizes that everyone seems to have the same vision, that the arts programs in the district are supported in the same way as the athletics programs. He does not want to discourage parent groups but wants to aid them in being supportive of the programs. G. Vine states that he agrees with everyone but questions how to fight the cultural tide and show students that these programs are worthwhile. M. Barbaro states that over the years, PTO has fallen to the wayside and one reason is that they have to do all the fundraising. He suggests using the PTO to bring students back to the programs.

7. Old Business:

G. Vine moves to table the topic of School Committee Meeting Frequency and move to a future agenda item. Seconded by K. Kast-McBride. Vote is unanimous.

8. Future Agenda Items:

Future agenda items are as follows:

- Murdock Trust Breakdown
- ESSER III Breakdown
- Data Presentations

- School Choice Seats
- Financial Share with Town
- Superintendent Eval
- Calendar

9. Adjournment:

Video recording ended.

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

Documents Attached: None