MENDON-UTPON REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

School Committee Meeting
Professional Development Center - Nipmuc Regional High School
Monday, April 10, 2017

Committee Present:
Leigh Martin, Philip DeZutter, Dorothy Scally, Diane Duncan, Tanna Jango

Administration Present:
Joseph Maruszczak, Superintendent of Schools
Jay Byer, Business/Finance
Dennis Todd, Director of Student Support Services
Maureen Cohen, Director of Curriculum
John Clements, Principal, Nipmuc High School

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 pm by Diane Duncan. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA/MINUTES

Approval of Agenda
MOTION: On a motion of Tanna Jango, seconded by Dorothy Scally to approve the agenda.
VOTED: Unanimously approved

Motion of Approval of Open Session Minutes of March 27, 2017
MOTION: On a motion of Leigh Martin, seconded by Dorothy Scally to approve the Executive Session minutes of March 27, 2017
VOTED: Unanimously approved

III. STUDENT COMMENTS

- Wellness Week begins this week. Activities will be available to teach students how to be healthy and cope with stress. Activities include no homework weekend, skin cancer awareness, therapy Alpacas, workout Wednesday and thoughtful Thursday.

IV. COMMUNITY COMMENTS – NA

V. SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

2017-18 Kindergarten Enrollment
Superintendent Maruszczak updated the School Committee with the enrollment figures for kindergarten. For Memorial School, there are 85 students including 3 school choice request. For Clough, there are 75 students including 15 school choice requests. For the first time in years, there are more students interested in Spanish
immersion than spaces available. Thus, there will be lottery drawing to determine the Spanish immersion enrollment. There will be 22 in each class at each school for Spanish immersion. It was noted, students from Upton could not be enrolled in Clough’s Spanish immersion class due to transportation costs.

**MURSD Leads Author Series**
Superintendent Maruszczak highlighted an initiative started by Dave Quin, Director of Technology Integration. The District Leadership Team read the work of Peter DeWitt, *Collaborative Leadership: Six Influences That Matter Most*. As in the past, the team discussed the work after each chapter using Google Classroom. Dave Quinn, reached out to the author, Peter DeWitt and coordinated a live-streamed video chat with the Leadership Team. The chat occurred on March 22 and involved Tanna Jango, two Nipmuc students and two outside administrators. It was a great success and Mr. DeWitt had numerous insights to share.

Dave Quinn has already received commitments from authors Tony Wagner and Will Richardson to conduct chats with the district in coming months. These chats are a valuable opportunity to further professional learning in a meaningful way. It is also a unique way to brand the district (#MURSDLeads) as one promoting emergent ideas that improve teaching and learning. Superintendent Maruszczak commended Dave for this initiative!

**Introduction of New Miscoe Hill Middle School Principal**
Superintendent Maruszczak introduced the new Miscoe Hill Middle School Principal, Jennifer Mannion. He thanked the Search Committee for their work. The Search Committee reviewed 52 applications and Ms. Mannion was the top candidate. She has 25 years of experience as an educator at the High School, Middle School, and Elementary School levels. Her leadership and management skills will craft good relationships with all stakeholders in the district.

Ms. Mannion stated she is excited and humbled to be joining the District. It has been a positive experience and she is looking forward to getting to work.

**VI. ADMINISTRATOR COMMENTS**

**Update on Mendon Upton SEPAC Activities**
Dennis Todd updated the School Committee on SEPAC activities. Recently, 10 parents met with Leslie Leslie for over 2 hours to discuss parent advisory committees and the following 4 points were highlighted:

- Emphasis positive force for change – move from good to great programs
- Diverse mix of ages and disability types
- Build active relationships with Administration
- Investment in helping other families, i.e. older parents assisting younger parents.

Next steps include updating the bylaws and developing a thoughtful mission statement. Ms. Leslie will assist with this and will be a great resource. Parents are pleased and energetic for next steps.

Superintendent Maruszczak recognized a core commitment from parents to create a formal structure. It was noted this is important for families and Dennis Todd’s leadership will be great for the program.
VII. SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

*Negotiations Subcommittee*
Weekly meetings with MURTA and the negotiations are moving in a positive direction.

*Policy Subcommittee*
Policy Subcommittee is reviewing the policy regarding students’ accounts and will present the policy to the School Committee on April 24th.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS - NA

IX. NEW BUSINESS

*Potential MURSD Exchange Program with San Sebastian, Spain*
Katie Cardamone provided the School Committee with an update from the Exchange Subcommittee. The Exchange Subcommittee has found a willing partner, the Santa Teresa School in San Sebastian, Spain. The location is a small city on the border of France and is beautiful area. The school is private K-12 with about 500 students.

John Clements thanked Katie for her work and explained how the exchange program would work – 10 days would include classes and sightseeing; student will stay with host family; low cost with a glimpse into the cultural; test use of language; students from Spain would return with students so it would be a 4 weeks duration.

Next step is staff will be going to Spain in September for planning purposes. Fundraising efforts are beginning. The Exchange Subcommittee will return in September with an update.

It was noted this would be a phenomenal opportunity for students. Also, the program will be great motivation for the Spanish Immersion students to continue with the program through High School.

*K12 Insight Survey Feedback Action*
Superintendent Maruszczak presented the actions taken in the District based on feedback from last year's K12 Insight Survey. Highlights include the following:

- Clough: timely feedback – each teacher have digital space; upward challenge – use of flexible grouping; creativity - Clough makerspace; support of emotional needs – professional develop of SEL; teacher overload – conscious efforts to avoid pulling teachers from classrooms
- Memorial: support for struggling learners – addition of Title 1 with 6 week progress monitoring; student’s social emotional – staff emphasis on SEL; effective communication – teacher digital space and ‘Buzz around Memorial; consistency with Clough fun events – Halloween parade and Field day; layout of classroom – looking to reorganize.
- Miscoe: front office – new office staff and streamline physical environment; communications – back to school events, monthly coffees, and quarterly newsletter; one learning application – Google classroom implemented; parent teacher conference- digital signups to meet with teachers
- Nipmuc: better communication – model professional practice goal, effective feedback; real world learning – 2 21st Century Conferences planned; one
learning application – Google classroom implemented; opportunity for student voice/feedback – weekly lobby hours and formal feedback forums.

This demonstrates feedback is important. There will be another K12 Insight conducted the first weeks of May.

X. CORRESPONDENCE

- MASC’s annual Day on the Hill will be on 4/25. There is not a set agenda. If interested in attending, notify Superintendent or Lauren
- Thank you note from Mitchell Chester for hosting the forum

XI. Other Matters Not Anticipated By The Committee Within 48 Hours Of The Posted Meeting

XII. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Inclusion Practices & Student Performance Data – April 24
- Elementary Recess – April 24

XII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: On motion of Leigh Martin, seconded by Dorothy Scally to go into executive session and not return to open session per MGL Ch. 30A, §21(a), under exemption #2 to discuss strategy in preparation for a successor contract for the Superintendent of Schools and prepare for Collective Bargaining. The School Committee will not return to open session.

VOTED: Phil DeZutter, yes
       Tanna Jango, yes
       Dorothy Scally, yes
       Leigh Martin, yes
       Diane Duncan, yes

Meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m.
Minutes by Kelly A. McElreath