MENDON-UPTON REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

School Committee Meeting
Superintendent’s Conference Room - Miscoe Hill Middle School
Monday, December 19, 2016

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

Administration Present:
Joseph Maruszczak, Superintendent of Schools
Jay Byer, Business/Finance
Dennis Todd, Director of Student Support Services
Maureen Cohen, Director of Curriculum
Ken Choiniere, Director of Ground & Maintenance

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm by Diane Duncan. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA/MINUTES

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

Approval of Open Session Minutes of November 28, 2016
MOTION: On a motion of Pam Angenent, seconded by Dorothy Scally to approve the Open Session minutes of November 28, 2016
VOTED: Unanimously approved

III. STUDENT COMMENTS

- December 20, there will be a STEM/Humanities College meeting and how business trends are affecting careers
- January 4, there will be a Prospective College Athletic night. What it is like to be a college athlete will be discussed
- Lastly, on January 5, there will be an alumni fair for students.

IV. COMMUNITY COMMENTS - NA

V. SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

Kindergarten Informational Evenings
Superintendent Maruszczak informed the School Committee there will be informational sessions for prospective kindergarten parents on Tuesday, Jan 10 at 6 pm at Memorial School and Tuesday, Jan 24 at 6 pm at Clough. A special session for
Spanish Immersion program will be held on Tuesday, Jan 19 at 6 pm at Clough. Kindergarten registration will be in March.

Blackboard Connect/Parent Link Functionality
Superintendent Maruszczak discussed the new mass communication system the district will be using. The service now has the ability to create HTML based emails that will be more attractive and allow the schools to send notices, newsletters, etc in a more concise format. The new system also allows to tag specific content so parents will have control over the content. Parents can unsubscribe to emails they do not wish to receive. This new system has more functionality and is user friendly such as a texting option for quick reminders. Training has taken place and schools will begin transitioning.

Update on Next Generation MCAS
Superintendent Maruszczak updated the School Committee on the DESE standards for the next generation MCAS:

- New performance categories will be Exceeding Expectations, Meeting Expectations, Partially Meeting Expectations and No Yet Meeting Exceptions. 
- Over 50% of the districts will have computer based testing. In MURSD, only the 3rd grade class will be taking paper based test. 
- The original MCAS, now known as Legacy MCAS, will continue as paper based and administered to 10th grade through 2019. 
- Online practice tests and tutorials will be available on DESE website after the holidays. 
- District is applying for to the Risteen Trust Fund for the funding of two laptop cards with 60 laptops for Clough and Memorial to assist in the administering the MCAS to the 4th grade. 
- Commissioner is looking to add history/civics at the HS level however there is not funding at this time.

FY2017 Budget Update
Jay Byer stated the budget was in good shape and at this point the 9C cuts are not affecting us.

VI. SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

Policy Subcommittee
The Policy Subcommittee presented Policy GBEC - Gifts to and Solicitations by Staff to the School Committee for first reading. These are formalized procedures for crowd sourcing to support school activities. More explicit language is needed due to crowd sourcing is being used more and proper approval is needed.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

MURSD Capital Needs & Future Directions
A detailed report of capital budget items for each of the schools was given to the School Committee for review. Jay Byer explained the district has been able to accomplish some minor upgrades with funds available. However, there are major upgrades such as roof at Nipmuc and well/septic at Miscoc where more expertise and additional funds are needed.
No capital items need to be done in the next 3 months. Thus a strategy needs to be developed and presented to the Multi Board. The district will need to be more explicit with its critical needs to the community, Selectmen and Finance Committees. With bonds about to be paid off, reallocation of funds could be an option.

Reschedule Multi Board Meeting
It was determined to schedule the next Multi Board meeting for January 19th.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

Spotlight on Teaching & Learning: Inclusion Professional Development
Dennis Todd presented a PowerPoint about Co-Teaching to the School Committee. Highlights of the presentation follows:
- Co-teaching is sharing of responsibilities and a positive experience for the teachers
- Co-teaching has been used in grades 3 and 4 since 2014
- It is the 2nd year for Miscoe and 1st formal year for Nipmuc
- Professional Development for Co-teaching include 2 1/2 day session, review the models and communicate/collaborate the classroom cultural. Consultants have been advising the co-teaching efforts.
- Memorial and Clough have on going consultation and monthly meetings to review what is working.
- Para educators are invited to participate in PD and take advantage of the training
- Funding for PD is provided by a 274 Special Ed grant.
- This impacts all student achievement
- Other districts are modeling MURSD progress

IX. CORRESPONDENCE - NA

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

XI. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- MURSD Makerspace Pilot - January 9
- MURSD FY2018 First Pass Budget – January 23
- District Action Plan Progress - January 23

XII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: On motion of Tanna Jango, seconded by Leigh Martin to adjourn.
VOTED: Unanimously approved

Meeting adjourned at 8:09 p.m.
Minutes by Kelly A. McElreath