**MENDON-upton REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

School Committee Meeting  
Professional Development Center - Nipmuc Regional High School  
Monday, January 9, 2017

Committee Present:  
Leigh Martin, Pam Angenent, 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  
John Clemens, Principal, Nipmuc High School

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 pm by Diane Duncan. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA/MINUTES

Approval of Agenda  
MOTION: On a motion of Phil DeZutter, seconded by Pam Angenent to approve the agenda.  
VOTED: Unanimously approved

Approval of Open Session Minutes of December 19, 2017  
MOTION: On a motion of Leigh Martin, seconded by Pam Angenent to approve the Open Session minutes of December 19, 2017  
VOTED: Unanimously approved

III. STUDENT COMMENTS

- Worcester County Superintendent Luncheon at Clark University will be January 10. Kylie Gallagher will be attending with Superintendent Maruszczak and Principal John Clemens
- Nipmuc Showcase on January 10. 7th and 8th graders and parents are invited to Nipmuc to learn more about the High School
- On January 13, 105 DECA members will be attending the District Competition
- World Challenge presented their upcoming trip to Iceland

IV. COMMUNITY COMMENTS - NA
V. SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

MURSD Risteen Grant
Superintendent Maruszczak announced the grant of $20,176 from the Risteen Fund. He wanted to acknowledge the support of the Upton Board of Selectmen. These funds will be used to purchase two laptops carts and a total of 60 HP laptops for the two elementary schools. This will assist in increasing access to mobile devices for the youngest learners. They will also be used for online assessments and the administration of the new online MCAS 2.0 this spring.

Mendon-Upton SEPAC (Special Education Parent Advisory Council)
Superintendent Maruszczak informed the school committee he will be reaching out to parents to reconstitute the District Special Education Advisory Council (SEPAC) which has been close to defunct for the last two school years. The mission is to facilitate understanding, respect and appropriate education for all children. The past this Council has offered the following services:

- District wide Disability Awareness Programs
- Outreach programs to new families or families transitioning form Early Intervention
- Special Education seminars for parents and educators
- Support Groups and Coffee/Tea Conversation Hour
- Referral Network and IEP Assistance
- Current information on legal issues and advocacy
- Resource Library

There will be two parent information sessions on topics of interest before the end of the school year. The first meeting will be Monday, January 30 at 7 pm at Nipmuc PDC.

Administrative Personnel Note
Superintendent Maruszczak presented the School Committee with letter of intent to retire from Ann Meyer, Miscoe Hill Middle School's principal. He noted it is sad to see her go but personally happy for her. Ms. Meyer has worked the past 15 years with the district in many capacities and is deeply committed to the district. She will be missed by many.

Superintendent Maruszczak outlined a timeline for hiring a new middle school principal:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task</th>
<th>Dates</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Updating Job Description</td>
<td>January 16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Posing of Position (SchoolSpring &amp; Locally)</td>
<td>January 20 - February 20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Solicitation/Selection of Screening Comm</td>
<td>January 10 - January 31</td>
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<tr>
<td>Screening of Applicants by Committee</td>
<td>February 26 - March 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Initial Interviews/Selection of Finalists</td>
<td>March 5 - March 9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Visits to the MURSD</td>
<td>March 12 - 17</td>
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<tr>
<td>Visits to Finalists’ Schools/Districts</td>
<td>March 20 - 24</td>
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<tr>
<td>Selection &amp; Appointment of New Principal</td>
<td>April 1</td>
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Screening Committee will conduct all initial interviews and will consist of all stakeholders to include staff, students, administration, parents and a couple of school committee members.
VI. **SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES**

*Policy Subcommittee*

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

**Approval of Policy GBEC - Gifts to and Solicitations by Staff**

**MOTION:** On a motion of Leigh Martin, seconded by Dorothy Scally to approve the Policy GBEC - Gifts to and Solicitations by Staff.

**VOTED:** Unanimously approved

VII. **OLD BUSINESS**

*MSBA (MA School Building Authority) Statement of Interest Window*

Superintendent Maruszczak presented the School Committee with information regarding the Mass School Building Authority (MSBA) acceptance of Statements of Interest (SOI) for consideration in calendar year 2017. SOI is the formal mechanism for the district to inform MSBA about deficiencies that may exist in a school facility.

Jay Byer is looking into the specifics. It is believed Nipmuc’s roof would be covered and research is needed to determine if Miscoc’s well would be covered. By submitting the necessary paperwork, it will get these projects into the pipeline. Deadline is in 5 weeks and if the SOI is to move forward, approvals from both Board of Selectmen and the School Committee will be necessary.

VIII. **NEW BUSINESS**

*Turf Field Exploration Committee – Next Potential Steps*

Superintendent Maruszczak updated the School Committee on the progress of the Turf Field Exploration Committee. There has been 3 or 4 meetings of the committee since October and 2 local civil engineers have volunteered their time and expertise.

Bob Gilchrist, resident in Mendon who works in field construction field was introduced. He described the current status of the fields. The deficiencies include but not limited to overtaxed field conditions due to use, issues with irrigation and drainage, no track or field facilities, nearby wetlands, insufficient seating for spectators and student athletes, lack of paved walkways and accessibility issues and no lighted fields.

It was noted in a perfect world it would cost over $7M and 2 years of construction to correct all of the deficiencies. Thus the Committee meeting since October has worked with the consultant to brainstorm and determine a rough cost estimate of a scaled down project. The scaled project would include two turf fields with lights. Front field would be soccer/football and the back field would be lacrosse and field hockey. The back field would also include 6 lane standard track. There would be a new grandstand for both fields and a press box for the front field.

Mark Allen, resident of Mendon who works with conservation issues was introduced to speak to the costs of the scaled down project. Pre-design cost is estimated at 5.4M and includes contingency and soft costs. However, to get a more accurate cost
estimate, a detailed background evaluation, facility assessment & schematic design must be completed. Mr. Allen has offered his services, including geotechnical services and wetlands testing for $25,000. To move forward, support for the School Committee and each community Board of Selectmen is desired.

It was noted area Towns are improving their athletic facilities and it is becoming a revenue stream. Improved athletic fields would be a solution for the district and the community. Maintenance costs are lower for turf fields and it would triple the amount of hours the fields could be in use.

Superintendent Maruszczak recommended splitting the $25,000 fee between the two towns and the district. This project will be presented to the MultiBoard to see if the commitment is there.

IX. CORRESPONDENCE - NA

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

Golden Apple Committee needs to review the nominations received. The next meeting will be on January 17 at 6 pm.

Due to a conflict with kindergarten information session, the MultiBoard meeting will be moved to January 26.

XI. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- MURSD Makerspace Pilot - January 23
- Golden Apple Award – January 23
- District Action Plan Progress - January 23
- MURSD First Pass Budget – February 6

XII. ADJOURNMENT

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.
Minutes by Kelly A. McElreath