MENDON-UPTON REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

School Committee Meeting
Professional Development Center – Nipmuc Regional High School
Monday, June 19, 2017

Committee Present:
Tanna Jango, Leigh Martin, Dorothy Scally, Sean Nicholson, Philip DeZutter

Administration Present:
Joseph Maruszczak, Superintendent of Schools
Jay Byer, Business/Finance
John Clements, Principal, Nipmuc High School
Janice Gallagher, Principal, Clough Elementary School

I. CALL TO ORDER
The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Tanna Jango. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA/MINUTES

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

Approval of Open Session Minutes of June 5, 2017
MOTION: On a motion of Sean Nicholson, seconded by Dorothy Scally, to approve the Open Session minutes June 5, 2017
VOTED: Unanimously approved

Executive Session Minutes of June 5, 2017 was tabled

II. STUDENT COMMENTS – Not Applicable

III. SUPERINTENDENT’S COMMENTS

Follow up on Nipmuc Makerspace Project
Superintendent Maruszczak informed the School Committee of the Makerspace Weather Balloon Project had a successful launch and there much press coverage. He showed a news broadcast done about the project. The balloon landed in Ipswich which is 70 miles away. It was determined it went 12,000 miles up in the air. Superintendent Maruszczak congratulated the teachers and students for this successful project.

Summer Professional Development/Curriculum Work
There is a professional development website with a list of curriculum available. Focus is on technology and apps, project based learning, SEL.

FY17 Budget – Update
Jay Byer updated the School Committee on the FY17 Budget. Maintenance for building and out of district tuition were over budget but the overall budget will be in good shape mostly due to the Snow and Ice line item.

IV. SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

Golden Apple Subcommittee
Leigh Martin presented the Golden Apple award to Kristine Thibault, first grade teacher at Clough Elementary School. Attached to the minutes is the presentation to Ms. Thibault.

Superintendent Maruszczak congratulated Ms. Thibault and it was well deserved. Janice Gallagher commented it was an honor to have her as a teacher and very happy she is being recognized for her work.

Negotiations Subcommittee
There is another meeting two week ago and the negotiations are moving forward. There will be an update during executive session.

V. NEW BUSINESS

Nipmuc Financial Wellness Fair
Superintendent Maruszczak introduced Beth Hennessey, the Nipmuc Community & Career Coordinator. Beth detailed the 1st Financial Wellness Fair held for sophomores and juniors. She received a $5,000 grant from the State’s Treasurer’s office. Beth enlisted students to help form a committee to do the necessary planning.

Each student prepared a W4 in their math class and took a survey to determine their career choice. During the Fair, each student received personalized information on their credit score and their annual income. They used this information to make choices on cars, housing, clothing, entertainment, etc. so each student understood the budgeting process.

Beth indicated this is a sustainable event and she will be applying for another $2,500 grant to continue the Fair.

MURSD Summer Maintenance Project:
Jay Byer discussed the FY2017 closeout projects:
Nipmuc server room air conditioner: $27,549 – needed to protect the server
Bleacher Repairs at Nipmuc: $15,885 – bleachers are used a lot and repairs are needed
Nipmuc 84” Lawn Mower: $7,561 – replacing a 20 year old mower
District Maintenance Pick Up Truck: $28,357 – to replace a truck that will not pass inspection
Exterior Doors – Miscoe Hill: $21,362 – replacing doors installed in the 1960s
Canopies – Miscoe Front Entrance: $14,865 – wood is rotting and will be sided with aluminum
Chairs for Miscoe Band Room: $6,551 – replace folding chairs
Three-way Valve Clough Boiler needs to be replaced.

These projects total $122,130 and will be funded with Snow and Sand funds and Health insurance deductible funds totaling $132,936. Jay is confident these projects can be done and budget will still be in good shape.

VI. CORRESPONDENCE
VII. Other Matters Not Anticipated By The Committee Within 48 Hours Of The Posted Meeting

Sean Nicholson commented on what a great event the 7th grade International Fair was.

VIII. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

• 1:1 Learning Evaluation Presentation – August 21

IX. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: On motion of Leigh Martin, seconded by Sean Nicholson 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:
Tanna Jango, yes
Dorothy Scally, yes
Leigh Martin, yes
Phil DeZutter, yes
Sean Nicholson, yes

Meeting adjourned at 7:42 p.m.
Minutes by Kelly McElreath

Below is the presentation to Golden Apple Award winner Kristine Thibault:

I’m very excited to be able to present this award once again. This will be our 4th awarding of the Golden Apple Award in the district and I have to admit, I’m excited to see that the enthusiasm for this award is still going strong. I think I’ve decided that handing out diplomas on graduation day and looking at those happy faces, happy parents are my two favorite parts of SC. I’m so pleased to announce that once again we had a great parental and student representation in nominating individuals in the MURSD for this award. 40 nominations in fact. Despite it being the end of the school year and “crunch time”, people still took the time to recognize the good that is going on every day in the district.

Tonight we have the opportunity to honor an individual who has put her stamp of excellence on so many students. She received multiple nominations for this award, but it was the way in which her nominators spoke about her in their testimonials that was so moving to this subcommittee. Admittedly, the decision was not an easy one as we received so many heartfelt words of praise for more than 35 MURSD staff members. This truly sends such a positive message, one of connection engagement and excellence in our district. So, let’s talk about tonight’s award recipient…

First I will tell you that she has served as a 1st grade teacher in the district since. Her nominators applauded her ongoing efforts with their students speaking specifically about her warmth, positivity and humor that she brings to her job each day, no matter what was happening in her own busy life. I will happily share some direct quotes with you, but I must add in that although none of my children have been fortunate enough to have this teacher, through word of mouth, I still knew about this teacher even before she was nominated for this award. She’s one of those people whose positive reputation precedes her. Whether it be when class assignments come out and
parents were excited to learn that his outstanding educator would be their child’s next teacher or by listening to others on the sidelines of a soccer field, her reputation was admirable.

So before I reveal her name, I’ll give her the opportunity to listen to a few quotes detailing what her nominators have said about her…

This teacher has completely changed my son’s attitude toward school. Once reluctant to go to school, fast forward a year and now we hear stories of positive things that have happened each day making him look forward to his time in school. It’s a total transformation and we are so grateful.

She understands my child and has brought out his funny, silly and creative side allowing him to be himself and enjoy school, enjoy learning. She actually makes learning fun by using laughter. She isn’t’ afraid to act silly with the kids. We hear all kinds of stories of how she is the “Silliest 1st grade teacher” in town.

In this teacher’s classroom, kids congratulate each other on successes and cheer each other. Some evenings we find our son thinking of ways to try to give one of his classmates a “kudos”.

She fosters a community of learning and a community of kindness.

She has incredibly high expectations of her students but uses a lot of love and humor to help them grow academically and emotionally.

She assisted our family during a difficult time in the fall. I credit her with being a key player in his getting through this, a constant support system for our son, contacting us daily to let us know how he was doing. She went well above and beyond the call of duty and for this we are indebted.

She is a tremendous role model for all of her students and we see her impact on a regular basis. He loves school and carries his lessons and objectives with him.

IT is with great pleasure that I award the 4th Golden Apple award to Clough very own, Mrs. Kristine Thibault and extend a genuine word of thanks for all you do. Please come forward to receive your award.