I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Superintendent Maruszczak. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

REORGANIZATION OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Superintendent Maruszczak stated School Committee reorganization is governed by Policy BDA, which calls for an organizational meeting to be held at the first regular meeting following the annual town elections. Section II of the current policy indicates that the office of Chairperson will be selected by nomination and a roll call vote. Please note that the M.G.L. Ch 71, S 16A, requires vote may not be done in secret from the School Committee membership for Chairperson and Vice Chairperson, Secretary and Assistant Treasurer.

Superintendent Maruszczak asked for nominations for Chairperson

MOTION: On a motion of Leigh Martin seconded by Diane Duncan to nominate
Tanna Jango as Chairperson.
VOTED: Unanimously approved by roll call vote

Chairwoman Tanna Jango begins chairing the meeting and asked for nominations for Vice Chairperson

MOTION: On a motion of Dorothy Scally, seconded by Diane Duncan to nominate
Leigh Martin as Vice Chairperson.
VOTED: Unanimously approved by roll call vote

APPROVAL OF AGENDA/MINUTES

Approval of Agenda
MOTION: On a motion of Leigh Martin seconded by Dorothy Scally to approve the agenda.
VOTED: Unanimously approved
Approval of Open Session Minutes of May 8, 2017
MOTION: On a motion of Leigh Martin, seconded by Dorothy Duncan, to approve the Open Session minutes May 8, 2017
VOTED: Unanimously approved

Approval of Executive Session Minutes of May 8, 2017
MOTION: On a motion of Dorothy Scally, seconded by Leigh Martin, to approve the Executive Session minutes May 8, 2017
VOTED: Unanimously approved

Chairwoman Tanna Jango asked for nominations for secretary
MOTION: On a motion of Leigh Martin, seconded by Dorothy Scally to nominate Diane Duncan as secretary.
VOTED: Unanimously approved

Chairwoman Tanna Jango asked for nominations for Taft Library Trustee
MOTION: On a motion of Diane Duncan, seconded by Sean Nicholson to nominate Leigh Martin as Taft Library Trustee.
VOTED: Unanimously approved

Chairwoman Tanna Jango asked for nominations for Risteen Fund Representative
MOTION: On a motion of Diane Duncan, seconded by Dorothy Scally to nominate Phil DeZutter Risteen Fund Representative.
VOTED: Unanimously approved

Chairwoman Tanna Jango asked for nominations for Assistant Treasurer
MOTION: On a motion of Diane Duncan, seconded by Leigh Martin to nominate Sean Nicholson as assistant treasurer.
VOTED: Unanimously approved by roll call vote

Chairwoman Tanna Jango asked for nominations for Treasurer
MOTION: On a motion of Diane Duncan, seconded by Leigh Martin to nominate Joseph Leacu as Treasurer.
VOTED: Unanimously approved

Chairwoman Tanna Jango asked for nominations for Clerk to the School Committee
MOTION: On a motion of Diane Duncan, seconded by Dorothy Scally, to nominate Kelly McElreath as Clerk to the School Committee.
VOTED: Unanimously approved

Chairwoman Tanna Jango asked for nominations for Blackstone Valley Educational Collaborative
MOTION: On a motion of Diane Duncan, seconded by Leigh Martin to nominate Superintendent Joseph Maruszczak as Blackstone Valley Educational Collaborative.
VOTED: Unanimously approved
MOTION: On motion of Diane Duncan, seconded by Leigh Martin to appoint Phil DeZutter, Tanna Jango and Diane Duncan to the Budget Subcommittee.  
VOTED: Unanimously approved

MOTION: On motion of Diane Duncan, seconded by Leigh Martin to appoint Phil DeZutter, Tanna Jango and Diane Duncan to the Budget Subcommittee.  
VOTED: Unanimously approved

MOTION: On motion of Diane Duncan, seconded by Leigh Martin to appoint Tanna Jango, Sean Nicholson and Phil DeZutter to the Negotiations Subcommittee.  
VOTED: Unanimously approved

MOTION: On motion of Diane Duncan, seconded by Leigh Martin to appoint Tanna Jango, Sean Nicholson and Phil DeZutter to the Negotiations Subcommittee.  
VOTED: Unanimously approved

After discussion by the School Committee, it was determined to keep the Golden Apple Subcommittee as an ad hoc committee.

II. STUDENT COMMENTS – Not Applicable

III. SUPERINTENDENT’S COMMENTS

Graduation 2017/Enrollment 2017-18
Superintendent Maruszczak stated there was a successful commencement last week: “Class of 2017 is small in size but high in statue and achievement.” He also noted the successful senior walk through all of the schools and a great tradition has emerged. Superintendent Maruszczak also updated the School Committee on kindergarten enrollment. Currently there are 89 kindergarten students for Memorial and 73 kindergarten students at Clough. This is an increase of 71 at Memorial and 64 at Clough from last year. Thus, there will be 27 more students in kindergarten next year. Also, the High School will also see an increase. The graduating class of 120 versus the incoming class of 166 (not including any choice students). This year there is a higher percentage of students going to Nipmuc from Miscoe. Less students (28) are going to BVT than last year’s 54 students. However, it was noted more students may decide to attend BVT over the summer.

Reminder of K12 Insight Survey
Superintendent Maruszczak reminded the K12 Insight Survey will emailed the survey on June 12 and stakeholders will have until June 26 to complete. He will be sending an email to parents to look for the survey and there will be a live link on MURSD website as well.

Update on FY18 Budget – State Funding & Expenses
As an update to the FY18 Budget, Superintendent Maruszczak informed the School Committee the State Budget will increase State Aid to $30 per student which equals $45,000. The Regional Transportation was funded at the House Level after an amendment was offered and supported. The State Legislature is concern about funding due to state revenues are lower than expected. Also, the budget includes language for the Foundation Budget Review Committee’s recommendations but will not be implemented due to funding.
IV. SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

Golden Apple Subcommittee
Nominations are being accepted until June 12 for all staff members and the award will be given on June 19 School Committee meeting. Diane Duncan, Sean Nicholson, Tanna Jango and Dorothy Scally will meet on June 13th to review the nominations.

Negotiations Subcommittee
There is another meeting scheduled for June 6 and the negotiations are moving forward.

V. OLD BUSINESS

Follow up Kindergarten Recess
There was a meeting on May 15 with Janice Gallagher and Debra Swain, teachers and parents. It was concluded there needs to be greater consistency between Clough and Memorial for the end of the day unstructured play time. Memorial is looking to change its schedule to align more with Clough and hopefully the issues will be resolved. It was asked to reach out to the Principals to ensure outcome for the next meeting.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

Presentation of Data Related to Inclusion Practices
Superintendent Maruszczak presented a 37 slide PowerPoint looking at the data to determine if inclusion practices are making a difference. It was important to look at this data since it is a strategic imitative and the district has made significant investment. All students will benefit and not just the students with disability with high quality content.

Data collected was from grades 3 and 4 during the last 2 years and include:

- MCAS – ELA and Math by each classroom
  Conclusion: Clear increased proficient rate in the past 3 years for students with disabilities in grades 3 + 4 (vs very static state average); Grade 3 inclusion classrooms show proficiency rates equal or greater than traditional classrooms; Grade 4 inclusion classrooms show proficiency rates equal or lower than traditional classrooms, however growth (SGP) showed significant improvement in 2016

- Benchmark – Scholastic Reading Inventory
  Conclusion: 3rd grade student with disabilities in inclusion settings had significant growth in reading as compared to their peers; Most 3rd and 4th grade inclusion classrooms were around or above the average lexile growth; 2015-16 showed a fairly significant improvement for 4th grade inclusion classrooms

- Student Attendance
  Conclusion: There is not a statistically significant difference in attendance data in the inclusion classrooms versus non-inclusion; Attendance in 2015-16 was very slightly better (less overall absences) than in 2014-15, perhaps due in part to a very severe winter

After reviewing the data, it was noted the trends are positive, administration is still learning best practices and teachers should be proud of their hard work.

Approval of Nipmuc Engineering Field Trip
Superintendent Maruszczak informed the School Committee of a Makerspace Weather Balloon Project being conducted at Nipmuc. The students will launch a weather balloon equipped with a GoPro camera packed into a Styrofoam cooler. Physics students have designed small experiments that can be contained in a ping pong ball in the payload. The location of the weather balloon will be tracked using a SpotGPS device so it can be recovered later. It was determined based on weather patterns an ideal launch date is Thursday, June 8th. It will be determined that morning where the ideal launch space is. The students (15) will need to travel, possibly out of state, in order to conduct the launch.

Approval of Makerspace Weather Balloon Project Field Trip
MOTION: On a motion of Sean Nicholson seconded by Diane Duncan to approve Nipmuc Students to travel to their launch space for the Nipmuc Makerspace Weather Balloon.
VOTED: Unanimously approved

VII. CORRESPONDENCE

- Letter from Jim Grant, detailing the $4,000 he once again has fundraised for Clough, Miscoe, Nipmuc and the Warriors Club through his annual Golf Tournament.
- Letter from Massachusetts Medical Society urging the district to adopt policy for maintain supply of preloaded Epipens -- Superintendent Maruszczak reminded the School Committee that MASS and MASC do not recommend adopting a policy due to cost. However each school does have one generic Epipen purchased annually from CVS at a reduced rate.
- MASC Summer Institute will be held on July 28 and 29

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

IX. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Golden Apple Award – June 19
- 1:1 Learning Evaluation Presentation – August 21

X. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: On motion of Diane Duncan, seconded by Leigh Martin 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
Diane Duncan, yes
Sean Nicholson, yes

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.
Minutes by Kelly McElreath