MENDON-UPTON REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

School Committee Meeting
Superintendent’s Conference Room, Miscoe Hill
Monday, September 26, 2016

Committee Present:
Leigh Martin, Dorothy Scally, Diane Duncan, Pam Angenent, Phil DeZutter, 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
Ann Meyer, Principal, Miscoe Hill School
Paul Marshall, Assistant Principal, Miscoe Hill School
Debra Swain, Principal, Memorial Elementary School
Janice Gallagher, Principal, H.P. Clough Elementary School

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 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 Dorothy Scally, to approve the agenda.
VOTED: Unanimously approved

Approval of Open Session Minutes of September 12, 2016
MOTION: On a motion of Tanna Jango seconded by Phil DeZutter, to approve the Open Session minutes of September 12, 2016
VOTED: Unanimously approved

III. COMMUNITY COMMENTS

Resident Kate Fancy spoke to the School Committee about the wait list for the before and after school program. She is asked what could be done to expand the program due to the hardship to her family.

Superintendent Maruszczak informed the School Committee he was working on the issue however space is the problem. It was noted the program cannot operate in Teachers spaces thus there is no room at Clough and Memorial is limited. He has been looking for creative solutions. He asked Ms. Fancy to contact him directly to discuss her situation. He stated it is a great, very well run program and at this time, the program is in high demand.
IV. SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

Update – Nipmuc Turf Field Feasibility Committee
Superintendent Maruszczak informed the School Committee there is a resident in Upton purchasing 20 acres of land on West River St. The purchaser is interested in donating 7.5 acres of land adjacent to Nipmuc. The majority of the land is not buildable however this donated land could be a buffer or wetland abatement area if it is decided to expand the playing fields. Superintendent Maruszczak is looking to revive the Turf Committee and look at different options.

FY2016 End of Year Report
Jay Byer provided a detailed report itemizing every expense and revenues. This is the report generate for State reporting.

FY2017 Budget Update
Jay Byer reported FY2017 budget is on track and expenditures are where they should be.

V. ADMINISTRATOR’S COMMENTS

Keys to Clough/What’s the Buzz at Memorial Programs
Janice Gallagher updated the School Committee on the “Keys to Clough” program to be held on October 20. There is a different format where there are 4 sessions the parents can attend. Also, based on feedback from parents, childcare will be available. Debra Swain informed the School Committee the “What’s the Buzz at Memorial” will be held on October 27. Parents can attend multiple sessions to learn more about Memorial. Many volunteers have signed up to assist with the sessions and childcare will be available as well.

VI. SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

Superintendent Evaluation Subcommittee
The next meeting of the subcommittee will be Monday, October 3 at 7 pm

VII. NEW BUSINESS

Presentation of 2016-17 School Improvement Plans
John Clements presented Nipmuc School Improvement Plan:

- Goal 1: Social Emotional Learning – provide professional development and curriculum to support students’ social and emotional wellness. (8 Action Steps and 8 Benchmarks outlined)
- Goal 2: Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment: support teaching and learning by providing resources and professional development to support the use of best practices; providing learning experiences that emphasize authentic learning, higher order thinking and inquiry-based learning; formalizing the curriculum through the collaborative development, review, revision of curriculum documents; integrating technology in teach and learning activities. (13 Action Steps and 13 Benchmarks outlined)
- Goal 3: Communication – improve communication with students, parents, and the community in order to support teaching, learning, and community awareness of the goals and objectives of the school (8 Action Steps and 8 Benchmarks outlined)
Ann Meyer and Paul Marshall outlined the Miscoe School Improvement plan:

- Goal 1: Communication (6 Action Steps outlined)
- Goal 2: Customer Service (6 Action Steps outlined)
- Goal 3: Challenging Curriculum (3 Action Steps outlined)
- Goal 4: Common Assessment
- Goal 5: Inclusion
- Goal 6: Social Emotional Learning (7 Actions Steps outlined for goals 4 – 6)

Debra Swain and Janice Gallagher outlined the Memorial and Clough School Improvement plan since there were the same:

- Goal 1: Implement Go Math program (9 Actions Steps and 5 Benchmarks outlined)
- Goal 2: Pilot the “Inspire Science” program (6 Actions Steps and 6 Benchmarks outlined)
- Goal 3: Utilize integration in the area of instruction and assessment in ELA and Math (6 Actions Steps and 4 Benchmarks outlined)
- Goal 4: Increase support/strategies to promote positive social, emotional and mental health for all students.

Diane Duncan commented it was great to see the social learning goals; Tanna Jango asked about how the elementary was using google and it was discussed the faculty was using it; Phil DeZutter thanked the presenters for their thoughtful and specify plans.

Approval of Nipmuc Student trip to Italy (FY18)
John Clements asked the School Committee to approve a student to Italy in April 2018 during school vacation. Kate Reardon is once again coordinating the trip. Cost is $3,452 per student.

Approval of Nipmuc Student trip to Italy (FY18)
MOTION: On a motion of Tanna Jango, seconded by Phil DeZutter, to approve the Nipmuc Student Trip to Italy (FY18)
VOTED: Unanimously approved

VIII. CORRESPONDENCE – Not Applicable

IX. Other Matters Not Anticipated By The Committee Within 48 Hours Of The Posted Meeting – None

X. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Approval of School Improvement Plans for 2016-17 – October 17
- Presentation of MCAS/Accountability Data – October 17
- Superintendents’ Annual Evaluation – October 17

XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION
MOTION: On motion of Phil DeZutter, 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

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:19 p.m.
Minutes by Kelly A. McElreath