MENDON-UPTON REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

School Committee Meeting
Superintendent’s Conference Room – Miscoe Hill Middle School
Monday, April 25, 2016

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

Administration Present:
Joseph Maruszczak, Superintendent of Schools
Jay Byer, Business/Finance
Maureen Cohen, Director of Curriculum
Dennis Todd, Director of Student Support Services
John Clements, Principal, Nipmuc Regional High School

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 Tanna Jango, seconded by Pam Angenent, to approve the agenda. VOTED: Unanimously approved

Approval of Open Session Minutes of April 11, 2016
MOTION: On a motion of Leigh Martin, seconded by Pam Angenent, to approve the Open Session minutes of April 11, 2016
VOTED: Unanimously approved

III. COMMUNITY COMMENTS – Not Applicable

IV. STUDENTS COMMENTS – Not Applicable

V. SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

Kindergarten Enrollment for 2016-17
Superintendent Maruszczak presented updated numbers for the enrollment for 2016-17 Kindergarten. It currently stands for 79 students at Memorial and 71 at Clough. The numbers for Spanish immersion are good and hopefully the number can be equalized.

Updated on Health Care Insurance Costs for FY17
The initial rate increase was 19% and it is currently at 17% which is still a high renewal rate. The District is still waiting to see if this increase is lowered based on experience. The District is reaching out to all 4 major health insurance carriers however it looks like the increase will be 17% and will be a challenge for the district and its employees.
Warriors Walking for Warriors 5K – April 30
Superintendent Maruszczak publicized the Warriors Walking for Warriors 5K event on April 30th beginning at 9 am at the High School. This is a family event with lots of activities. All are encouraged to participate.

VI. SUBCOMMITTEES UPDATES

Policy Subcommittee
Pam Angenent presented the second reading policy ECAF – Security Cameras in Schools. This policy updates the handbook in regards to cameras in the schools.

Approval of policy ECAF
MOTION: On a motion of Tanna Jango, seconded by Pam Angenent, to approve policy ECAF.
VOTED: Unanimously approved

Jay Byer informed the School Committee the cost to replace Styrofoam trays would be about $10,000 to purchase the trays. It is recommended to pilot the new trays in one school. Options are still being reviewed as well as cost, manpower and what school to pilot. The School Committee will be updated once all factors are considered.

Jay Byer is recommending to raise the school lunch fees to $2.85 (an increase of $.10). This would prevent another increase for a couple of years. This item will be discussed at the next meeting.

VII. OLD BUSINESS- Not Applicable

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

Discussion of School Start Times
Superintendent Maruszczak presented a PowerPoint in regards to delaying the school start time. Highlights include the following:

- 2 articles within the last 2 years written by the American Academy of Pediatrics and CDC that addresses the significant consequences of chronic sleep loss.
- It is recommended by both organizations that middle and high school should aim for a start time no earlier than 8:30 am and to consider commute times. Currently, there are bus routes that start at 6:30 am for Nipmuc HS.
- Many schools in the area are researching start times. Ashland HS will transition to at 8:30 start time starting in 2017-18.
- Challenges to moving start times include busing and potential added costs; childcare arrangements; after school athletics and extracurricular activities; contractual obligations and making a change in general.

Discussion followed the presentation. Comments included:

- Logistics would be reason not to do this however science supports it
- Mr Clements stated a 8:15 start time at the HS would make a big difference
- Discussion in regards to the health benefits and creating better habits
- Students are very busy now
- Best to study the implications
It was recommended to form a committee to review changing the school start times in the district.

IX. CORRESPONDENCE - Not Applicable

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

XI. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Approval of MURSD Technology Plan – May 9
- Presentation on CopSync Software – May 9
- Golden Apple Award – June 20

XII. ADJOURNMENT

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:47 p.m.
Minutes by Kelly A. McElreath