



SCHOOL COMMITTEE

BUSINESS MEETING OPEN SESSION MINUTES April 1, 2019

Meeting:	School Committee
Date:	April 1, 2019
Location:	Memorial School Conference Room
Attendees:	Pamela Beaudoin, Superintendent Avi Urbas, Director of Finance Shannon Erdmann, Chairperson Rachel Fitzgibbon, Co-Chairperson Ken Warnock Ann Cameron Sarah Wolf Caroline Weld Julie Riordan
Absent:	
Guests:	Max Warnock
Recorded by:	Gail Hunter

A. Call to Order – Ms. Erdmann called the School Committee Business meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

B. Business Meeting Open Session

1) **Public Comment** – There was no public comment this evening.

2) **Chairman’s Report** –

Ms. Erdmann reported the Massachusetts Association of School Committees will be focusing on Late Start at its upcoming meeting.

3) Consent Agenda –

- Acceptance of Warrants
- Minutes 3/19/2019

Ms. Cameron moved to accept the Consent Agenda, Ms. Fitzgibbon seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4) Sub-Committee Reports

a) Elementary Facilities/MSBC (Ms. Weld and Ms. Cameron)

Ms. Cameron reported there had been no Building Committee meeting since the last School Committee meeting and the Abutters meeting had been reported on at the previous meeting.

Superintendent Beaudoin stated there were lots of balls in the air and the small meeting of immediate abutters took place to address the abutters need to know. Their concerns were heard, and immediate abutters indicated there were additional neighbors interested in being included in the process.

Superintendent Beaudoin stated planning to keep things on schedule and working with the Planning Board and Conservation Commission was also a priority.

On April 9, 2019 the Building Committee will be discussing Security Superintendent Beaudoin suggested School Committee members may be interested in attending in order to be fully informed on security in the new Memorial School building and able to answer questions from the community.

There have been changes in security protocols since construction of the MSHS with windows a focus. The new building will have “school guard” coating (shatter proof) on the windows without ballistic proofing. It is rare for school buildings to have ballistic proof windows there are concerns about being able to access the interior of the building in the event of fire and costs can be prohibitive. Building security consultants do not recommend ballistic proof windows.

The most significant design element in the new building is hardening of the main entry way which is designed for visibility and requires two locks to be released for access to the building. Ms. Cameron will have FAQ draft for review addressing all security issues and additional information for parents.

Superintendent Beaudoin indicated there would be a meeting with Memorial School parents to review fall drop off plan and the phasing process. No students are allowed in the back of the building when school opens in August.

Ms. Fitzgibbon asked about the impact of demolition on the fields. Superintendent Beaudoin stated that was not anticipated as a problem and students would not be accessing the fields until after 3:30 p.m. when construction ended for the day.

b) Finance Sub-Committee (Ms. Cameron and Ms. Erdmann)

The Finance Committee has not met.

c) Policy Sub-Committee (Mr. Warnock and Ms. Fitzgibbon)

Task Force and Policy Sub-Committee meetings were cancelled. It is anticipated the Merrowvista Vista Task Force will come to an end in the next two weeks.

Ms. Erdmann stated there was some confusion and misinterpretation among parents regarding the Questionnaire. Rooming of students on travel is decided by the Principals. Students (and parents) are asked to provide a few options for their roommate choice with the final decision made by the Principal. If there are specific concerns the student should be in touch with the Principal.

Safe School Initiative suggests setting up a Bunk House option for students with multiple chaperones to help address any unique situations and to create a gender-neutral rooming option. Superintendent Beaudoin stated people are aware there are no couple rooming options on school trips.

This is a process the District is going through and a Civil Rights issue which Superintendent Beaudoin stated lends itself to several conversations to build knowledge and create a more positive process.

Mr. Warnock pointed out that for some students the 5th Grade Merrowvista trip is the first-time kids have slept away from home and that creates a separate need for understanding.

d) Negotiation Team (Ms. Wolf and Ms. Riordan) Will discuss under Continued Business.

5) Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Beaudoin stated School Choice was the same as it had been in previous discussions. The District anticipates accepting 10 students. Parents will be informed if their child will be accepted on April 10, 2019 with school assignments provided in July. Siblings in the lottery will be given priority and assigned to the same school as their sibling.

Scheduling of Moving On Day for the Elementary Schools will take place on Wednesday before the last day of school. Memorial School's program will start at 4:30 p.m. and Essex Elementary program will start at 6:30 p.m. Middle School program will take place on the day before the last day of school which allows for full participation in the Middle School dance.

6) New Business

There was no new business to discuss this evening.

7) Continued Business

- META Contract – Vote to Approve the contract was ratified by a vote of 98% in favor and 2% opposed.

Ms. Cameron moved to approve the ratified META Contract, Ms. Wolf seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- FY 20 School Choice Update – discussed in Superintendent's report.
- FY 20 Calendars – District School Year & School Committee

Superintendent Beaudoin stated the last day of school will be June 14, 2019 and confirmed the Holiday Break in December 2019 would be two weeks.

Ms. Cameron moved to approve the District School Year 2019-2020 Calendar as presented, Mr. Warnock seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

School Committee Calendar Discussion:

- On May 21, 2019 the School Committee Meeting will start at 5:00 p.m. with participation at the ASR Reception.
- Auditor's presentation proposed moving to June 4 meeting from May 21 meeting.
- School Committee will not meet in July 2019
- Retreat is scheduled for August 6, 2019
- First Business Meeting of 2019-2020 is scheduled for August 20, 2019
- School Committee Meeting agendas will focus on School oriented teacher driven presentation: focusing on Diversity, Technology and Curriculum
- Additional area for 2019-2020 School Committee meetings will be budget focusing on program cuts and reorganization
- ELA Task Force Presentation will take place during the School Committee summer retreat
- School Building questions and school building fatigue when construction is no longer new and becomes a distraction will be discussed throughout 2019 – 2020.
- Late Start

8) Public Comment –

Max Warnock commented on the Merrowvista trip stating that boys and girls were different, and he does not believe it's necessary to establish a bunk house room because it doesn't impact a lot of kids. Additionally, he thought it would be really difficult to monitor a bunk room.

He also spoke to late start times – he believes kids will simply stay up later and changing the start time will have little impact on kids. Ms. Riordan stated the Committee understands there is no way to control what time kids go to bed, however the later start time allows for the adolescent brain to be better functioning. When the first two periods are earlier in the morning it is like going to class with jet lag which a later start time would address.

9) School Committee Comment – There was no additional School Committee comment this evening.

10) Adjourn

Ms. Cameron moved to adjourn the School Committee Business Meeting, Ms. Fitzgibbon seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

11) Attendance at Manchester Annual Town Meeting 7:00 PM