

Approved + released
3/31/16 OH

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
THURSDAY, MARCH 3, 2016
TOWN HALL AUDITORIUM

1. Call to order: 6:00 P M.

Present: Dawn Harris, Greg Vine, Danielle LaPointe, Janet Corbosiero, Larry Murphy

2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Citizen Questions and/or Comments: none
4. Correspondence and Announcements: none
5. Student Representative: none
6. Student Recognition: none

Teacher of the Month-MHS Math Teacher Laurel Pytko was recognized for her outstanding work with the MWCC and the AP math program. She also helps students prepare for the MCAS. L. Murphy noted her connection with the students and as good role model.

7. Superintendent Report: S. Haddad proposed the creation of a Fund-raiser Co-coordinators position. Discussion included duties and compensation. L. Murphy suggested a district-wide calendar that would organize fundraisers on one calendar to avoid multiple events running at one time or overlapping. He outlined a possible process. S. Haddad reviewed the current process for fundraisers to be approved; he will establish a protocol with the administration team. Memorial School celebrated Read Across America yesterday; the students enjoyed it very much. L. Murphy thanked Michelle Atter for the invite. The negotiations sub-committee is in the process of negotiating all 4 contracts; the secretaries meetings start next week. Everyone is being very collaborative and understanding. The WPS Extended Day program is presenting Cinderella on March 24-26.

Business Office Report: a. Budget Development Update-M. Chapulis reviewed the operations report for the local budget, grants and for expenditures. They will be posted by tomorrow. The FY16 budget is expended 64% with 66% of the year run through. Transfers will be made from the local budget into the negative balances in the sub-lines. Funds will be transferred into Sped line items when Circuit Breaker reimbursements are available. He noted the district has to keep \$99,000 in reserve. The grants expenditures total \$471,000. The School Lunch line item shows a deficit because late timing of payments, a clerical position and the approximately \$26,000 deficit carried over from last year. Any year end deficit will have to be funded from the local budget. M. Chapulis reviewed individual line items. The updated budget sent to the committee will be further revised prior to the Budget Public Hearing on March 10th. He has not received the Indirect Costs figure from the town. The committee will meet on Thursday, March 10th at 4:00 at the Superintendents' office to discuss the budget; it will be open to the public and will be recorded.

S. Haddad announced that the district has decided to hire a Business Manager and not to renew the TMS contract on June 30th. M. Chapulis and TMS had been notified prior to this meeting. J. Corbosiero moved that we do not renew the TMS contract for the new year. Second by L. Murphy. After discussion, J. Corbosiero moved to amend the motion to read "for the 2016-2017 fiscal year". Second by L. Murphy. G. Vine thanked M. Chapulis for the work he has done for the district. Committee members thanked him and TMS for their services during a difficult period. L. Murphy-Aye; D. LaPointe-Aye; G. Vine-Aye; J. Corbosiero-Aye; Dawn Harris-Aye. Approved 5-0-0.

8. Old Business:

a. 2016/2107 School calendar - L. Murphy/Jessica Vezina, Middle School Assistant Principal and Christina Ricard, President of WTA, presented the revised calendar. J. Corbosiero commended the new format. J. Corbosiero and L. Murphy voiced concern about the 12 half days each child attends; C. Ricard explained the rationale for those days. The document was approved by the calendar committee. The High School will use the time to prepare for a self study as part of the NEASC process. The

elementary and middle schools use that time for assessments of their students and share with next teachers. The district exceeds the 900 (elementary) and 990 (middle and high) learning hour requirements. After discussion, D. LaPointe moved to accept the calendar as presented. Second by G. Vine. Approved 5-0-0.

b. Murdock Middle School Field Trip Updates - Scott Rogers and Calvin Miller reviewed the YMCA Camp Takodah Outdoor Education in Richmond, NH, for the 7th grade, May 23-26. The new field trip form and the contract with the camp were presented for signatures. The school was able to negotiate a \$35 scholarship for each student; fundraising will pay for busses and other scholarships. Mr. Rogers reviewed the chaperone coverage, activities and the educational component to the trip. G. Vine moved to approve the field trip to Camp Takoda. Second by J. Corbosiero. Approved 5-0-0. A day program is also offered to accommodate afterschool activities. S. Rogers noted some students sign up at the last minute; several teachers are sponsoring students. L. Murphy urged them to try to get all kids to go, to make sure it is not a financial reason.

S. Rogers also announced the next bottle and can drive is on Saturday, March 12th. He invited the administration and the school committee to attend the cookout on Wednesday, May 25th. A Parents Night is scheduled. C. Miller updated the 8th grade trip to Boston on May 20th, noting there was 99% involvement last year. Senator Gobi and Representative Zlotnik offered to do a pre-visit at the school. The group also goes to Fenway Park for an evening game. S. Haddad offered to chaperone. The trip meets the state frameworks; 25 students will go on Duck Boat tour and all will do a walking tour of historic sites. The Red sox organization discounted the tickets.

D. LaPointe moved to take (Agenda Item) 9b out of order. Second by G. Vine. Approved 5-0-0.

9. b S. Rogers noted he is the faculty member who runs the activity account for the Middle School. He explained the lengthy turnover times for reimbursements from the town treasurer, which created difficulty getting funds in a timely manner to pay bills and deposits. The account is currently limited to \$10,000. He requested access to the funds through a checking account, with a \$16,000 balance limit. This action was recommended by the auditor in December, 2015. L. Murphy moved that we increase the Middle School Student Activity Account from the present \$10,200 to \$18,000. Second by D. LaPointe. M. Chapulis noted this is allowed under MGL 71, Sec. 46. G. Vine stressed the funds in question are not tax payer money; they do not come from the school budget. The audit is on the agenda for March 17th. S. Rogers will send the FY15 End-of-Year report to S. Haddad. D. LaPointe read a section of the audit that recommends training for teachers in charge of activity accounts. Vote: Approved 5-0-0.

9. New Business:

a. Out of State Field Trip-East Hill - The Inn at East Hill, Troy, NH, on June 3, 2016. Sufficient chaperones are listed and educational requirements were noted. S. Haddad offered to chaperone. D. LaPointe made a motion to approve the field trip to East Hill Farm, Troy, NH. Second by G. Vine. Approved 5-0-0.

c. Graduation Requirement Changes - Joshua Romano reviewed the Mass Core standards, noting that Murdock High requirements are out of date. He reviewed proposed changes needed to prepare students for a four year college. Staffing concerns have been considered. He noted there are too many students struggling to pass 3 years of math and stressed the need to improve math instruction to prepare them for higher levels of math. A fourth year of math could be required by 2021. Additional course choices will be offered starting in the 2016-2017 school year. L. Murphy commended him for his goal towards making our kids more competitive. Additional cost would be incurred more from books than personal; courses would be phased in over several years. G. Vine approves of the fine arts requirement, noting a stronger foreign language requirement would be beneficial to students. J. Corbosiero voiced her approval of the proposed math requirement. D. LaPointe moved to approve this proposal as presented with the addition of adding the 4th (fourth) year/unit of math to the class of 2020 requirements. Second by J. Corbosiero. Approved 5-0-0.

10. Citizens Questions and Comments by Members: none
11. Consideration of Minutes of Previous Meetings Not Yet Approved or Released: none
12. Questions and Comments by Members-D. Harris reviewed the future agenda items.
13. Other:
14. Future Agenda Items:
 - A) Monty Tech Representative - FY16 Quarterly Meeting Schedule
 - B) Budget Public Hearing - March 10, 2016
 - C) Student Activity Accounts Audit - March 17, 2016
 - D) Day on the Hill - April 26, 2016

15. Executive Session: 7:40 PM J. Corbosiero moved to go into executive session for Reason #2-To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel and to return to Open Session for the sole purpose of adjournment , if the Chair so declares. Second by L. Murphy. L. Murphy-Aye; D. LaPointe-Aye; G. Vine-Aye; J. Corbosiero-Aye; Dawn Harris-Aye. Approved 5-0-0.

16. Adjournment:

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Respectfully submitted: _____
Barrie E. Martins, School Committee Recording Secretary