

Approved + released  
5/14/15 DH

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING  
THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 2015  
TOWN HALL AUDITORIUM

1. Call to order: 7:04 P M.

Present: Dawn Harris, Michael Niles, Michael Barbaro, Andrea Suchocki, Susan Burdsall,  
Salah Khelifaoui-Superintendent  
Mark Chapulis-TMS/Business Manager

2. Citizen Questions and Comments: none

3. Correspondence and Announcements: The School committee received correspondence from the WTA E Board with some budget recommendations and a request for a meeting if necessary, with a response within 5 days. M. Barbaro congratulated the National Honor Society of Massachusetts Winchendon student. There will be a presentation at a later date.

4. Student Recognition: Murdock Middle School (March)-Samantha Adams; Murdock High School- (February)-Chelsea Bitter, (March)-Hayley Knowlton and Tatum Mahoney; Murdock Academy- (March) Middle School-Anastasia LaRose and High School-Faith Doucette, 10<sup>th</sup> grade. Carla Charter from the North Quabbin Anti-Bullying Task Force recognized Josh Romano for making a vocal stand against a recent social media bullying incident. He received a standing ovation.

Student Representative: Victoria Marshall reported that Murdock won the Gold Council Award for the first time at the Annual Student Council Conference. They also won the 5 Star Council Award and raised \$250 for Special Olympics at the Polar Plunge Event. The Dodgeball Tournament of Special Olympics is on April 1<sup>st</sup>. The Tournament of Plays is March 27-28. The annual CDMASC Student Council Conference is on April 8<sup>th</sup> at Oakmont High School. A Murdock student is running for the Regional Executive Board.

5. Superintendent Report: He and more than 150 superintendents met with the Commissioner on Tuesday and discussed the changes to the teacher evaluation system. They should make the process more efficient. PARC testing started this week with a few glitches. A poll of middle school students rated the online test favorably. The new Secretary of Education and Board of Education Chairperson will form a task force to compare PARC & MCAS. At a meeting chaired by MARS, the NAWWG superintendents discussed potential cost saving measures by incorporating shared services, especially central services. MARS will hold an informational meeting with the NAWWG members and their school committees. The administration will consider all ideas regarding budget cuts that have been submitted and report at the April 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting. The budget cut plan will be finalized at the April 16<sup>th</sup> meeting

Business Office Report: none

6. Old Business:

A) FY 16 Budget Vote- S. Khelifaoui reviewed or noted the new indirect cost estimation of \$3,888,744, noting it will seriously affect the budget. The proposed budget of \$12,637,745 reflects the projected deficit of \$804,919 although the individual cuts are not yet identified in the line items. The \$470,000 cut made in FY15 has already been reflected in the FY16 budget, as well as the \$300,000 voted last year in the override that must be requested at Town Meeting. M. Barbaro stated he will not vote on the presented budget because it is incomplete; he wants to see where the cuts will be made prior to voting.

M. Barbaro moved to delay the (budget) vote until 'we have a complete budget including all of the cuts.' Second by S. Burdsall for discussion.

The \$11,281,045 from the State plus \$4,945,444 from the Town equals \$16,526,489 (\$16,226,489 Minimum Town Contribution plus \$300,000 from the Override). From that an estimated Indirect Cost of \$3,888,744 must be subtracted to give a Net School Spending of \$12,637,745. M. Barbaro noted that once the committee votes on the budget it has no say. M. Barbaro amended the motion to read "delay the budget vote to April 2<sup>nd</sup> when the cuts or reductions will be identified and reflected in the document. In order to give the public an opportunity to comment on the identified cuts and reductions, the committee could delay the budget vote to the meeting with the FinCom on April 7<sup>th</sup> by calling it a joint meeting. If the State presents different figures then the school committee can vote to amend the budget. \*There was no Second.\* Vote:3-2-0-the motion passes. D. Harris stated" it will be voted on April 2<sup>nd</sup>". The E Board requested a meeting to discuss their comments and recommendations for voting consideration. M. Barbaro will abstain from the meeting due to a conflict of interest. The finance sub-committee (A. Suchocki and M. Niles as alternate) will meet with representatives from the WTA. At M. Niles request, the business office will verify the WTA's reduction proposal of \$697,000.

7. New Business:

A) Draft Warrant Articles for Town Meeting (Due 4/13)-At. M. Chapulis's request, this item was moved to the April 2<sup>nd</sup> agenda due to new figures just received.

B) Special Education Parent Advisory Council-Cindy Landanno, Pam Smith and Samantha Olivera reviewed the goals and activities. They noted anyone can be involved with the PAC and urged parents to submit the survey.

C) Middle School Field Trip update-Scott Rogers updated the May 18<sup>th</sup> trip to Camp Takodah and the fundraising efforts. He will give a formal presentation to ask for the committees' approval. Calvin Miller reviewed the 8<sup>th</sup> grade field trip on June 12<sup>th</sup> to a Red Sox game and daytime activities. Public donations are welcomed.

8. Consideration of Minutes of Previous Meetings Not Yet Approved or Released: none

9. Questions and Comments by Members: M. Barbaro noted the difficulty of the budget decisions, stressing that the students always come first. He stated the district might have to consider regionalization. A. Suchocki echoed his comments about regionalization. She noted the many factors and the hard work put into the reorganization process and that she trusted the administration. S. Burdsall noted she also appreciates all the work being done and stressed the importance of creating the plan and making the hard decisions. An earlier start to the process could be beneficial. She voiced concern regarding the moving costs and the cost per pupil associated with sending students to Monty Tech. The Town Manager explained the impact of sending an increasing number of students each year based on the long standing agreement. The assignment of the extra seats was reviewed. The agreement between the two schools would have to be re-negotiated to change the formula and process. D. Harris noted the positive impact touring the schools had on her. There is a Special Town Meeting on April 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM at the Murdoch Auditorium. S. Khelfaoui noted that the payroll system is being looked at to determine the best method or company. The administrative team will fulfill their responsibility to present the final budget for vote and it is important to trust their judgement. The final budget figures will be available early next week.

10. Other: none

11. Future Agenda Items: none

A) Guidance Department Review

B) Negotiation Strategy Meeting

C) Monty Tech Representative/Superintendent

- D) Draft Warrant Articles for Town Meeting (Due 4/13)
- E) FY 16 Budget Vote

12. Executive Session: 8:50 PM M. Barbaro moved to go into executive session for Purpose #2-To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel. Second by a. Suchocki. Andrea Suchocki-Aye; Michael Barbaro-Aye; Susan Burdsall-Aye; Dawn Harris-Aye; M. Niles-Aye. Approved 5-0-0.

13. Adjournment:

-3- 3/19/15

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