

Approved + released
4/2/15 AH

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
THURSDAY, MARCH 5, 2015
TOWN HALL AUDITORIUM

1. Call to order: 7:05 P.M.

Present: Michael Niles, Michael Barbaro, Susan Burdsall, Dawn Harris
Salah Khelifaoui-Superintendent
Mark Chapulis and David Lockwood-TMS/Business Management Co.

2. Citizen Questions and Comments: none
3. Correspondence and Announcements: none
4. Student Recognition: February: Memorial-Gabriel Rodriguez, grade 1; Toy Town Elementary-Magdalena Phelps, 4th grade; Murdock Middle School-Alicyn Gormley, 8th Grade.
Student Representative: Victoria Marshall noted the Student Council will represent Murdock at the annual MASC Conference, March 11-13, in Hyannis and participating in the Polar Plunge to raise money for the Special Olympics. Students are collecting care packages and supplies in homerooms until March 6 for Operation Winchendon Cares to send to soldiers. On March 7-8, the Student Council is volunteering for the Special Olympics evaluation team at various venues including the Alpine Events at Wachusett Mountain. Spring Sports registration is now open. A Murdock softball clinic will be held March 8th. She reviewed the sports games and Award Banquets schedules.

5. Superintendents' Report: S. Khelifaoui and the Business Team will meet with the town staff on March 10th.

Business Office Report: M. Chapulis reported the Oil bid submitted through the French River Collaborative was secured at \$2.27/gallon, effective July 1, 2015. The opening of the collective Transportation bid, managed by the City of Gardiner, was postponed to March 31st. M. Niles moved to approve and accept, on behalf of the French River Collaborative, the acceptance of Peterson Oil at \$2.2779/gallon. Second by S. Burdsall. Approved 4-0-0. The committee will go to the town for a warrant at the Annual Town Meeting for the additional funds needed. The Unemployment deficit is projected to be \$80,000 and the sending tuitions for School Choice are estimated to be \$54,000 higher than anticipated, for a total of \$134,000 by the end of FY15. There are also expenses from additional Sped students who came into town. The Workmans' Comp. figures have not been reviewed; any increase will be included in the warrant. As advised by DOR, any articles drafted will be reviewed by legal consul. M. Barbaro noted the district first heard about the unemployment in February but the Town gets monthly reports. The committee couldn't adjust the budget. S. Burdsall stated she hopes this is the last year there are unresolved issues like this; a monthly report from the Town Accountant would prevent this. M. Barbaro moved for a warrant to be created to supplement the school budget. Second by S. Burdsall. Approved 3-1-0. M. Chapulis reviewed the expenditure report and the proposed transfers. S. Burdsall moved to approve the transfers as requested; 1) \$51,912.00 from CO Supt. Secretary to CO Contracted Services and 2) \$30,000.00 from Sped DW Ed. Supply to MMHS Heating Fuel. Second by M. Barbaro. Approved 4-0-0.

7:40 PM M. Barbaro moved to take a 5 minute break to set up the FY16 Budget presentation. Second by S. Burdsall. Approved 4-0-0. Reconvened at 7:47 PM.

Budget Presentation: S. Khelfaoui noted this is the first time the entire budget was entered into Munis. He reviewed how the budget was built and the adjustments made when the balance errors were discovered in October and November. He noted the \$134,000 in Indirect Costs will be the 3rd cut, resulting in a \$470,613 total cut from initial budget voted on and approved by school committee. He reviewed the most recent figures from the state, noting they may change. M. Chapulis offered clarification as needed. Revenue sources and the impact if the district does not get the anticipated trust funds were reviewed. The District received an award from The Murdock Trust in the amount of \$170,000. The Early Childhood Revolving line item reflects the proposed change regarding the Pre-K program and anticipated state reimbursement. The State said towns should make a budget based on 80% of the FY15 budget. C. Landanno noted that the Kindergarten Enhancement Grant, which funds full day Kindergarten, will not be fully funded. The distribution of the Memorial School Principal line item was explained. M. Chapulis noted his office has not received a report of the towns' expenses for FY14 for the filing of the EoY report. The state is holding the Circuit Breaker payment, \$95,000, until the issue is resolved. One payment has been withheld; the March payment could also be withheld. D. Lockwood noted they need both the numbers and supporting documentation to ensure accuracy. DESE is aware of the situation. A warrant article for the revolving building rental revenue needs to be set up. The cuts do not include any repayment of the legislative debt; that would require additional cuts. The budget is built on an assumption of the \$300,000 override. J. Kreidler noted he has put the funds on the school side but the final decision is made at Town Meeting.

District Restructuring:

S. Khelfaoui noted Alternative D of the restructuring proposal was removed and explained why. Alternative C involves straight cuts that would have a devastating impact on student learning. Options A & B present two versions of consolidation of schools. He explained and compared each option, noting the savings are the same either way. Option A is preferred by the administrative team.

Greg Vine, resident with a grandson subject to realignment. He noted many adults voiced concerns about having 5th graders in with 7th & 8th graders. Segregation of grades, student maturity, self esteem and bully were commonly voiced. He asked 'Is it best for the students not just as money savings?'

Amy Mizhir, 1st grade teacher at Memorial for 28 years, noted Memorial teachers met with S. Burdsall, D. Harris and the Superintendent to air their concerns. The Memorial building is newer and built for that sized and aged students. Concerns about the playground structure and area, fencing in that area and crossing the road for PE were noted. The teachers do not want older high school students in with the younger ones. She noted Josh Romano suggested an option is to house the Academy students at MMHS in the IA room.

S. Khelfaoui stressed any change is not predicated on moving the Murdock Academy to Memorial. Erin Boucher, Kindergarten teacher, noted concerns about sufficient staffing to keep the schools separate; also concerns about the curriculum, Specials, the lunch program and elementary grade resources being available to Kindergarten students.

Bonnie Veilleux, parent, stated she would not send her children to Memorial if the Academy students are there. She also noted the young students are trying to learn the school system. Memorial is built and designed for elementary students, including cubbies and facilities sized for them.

Amy Shay-parent, stated she was going to choice out but did not. She feels his and other students academic success would plummet. The kids need to be safe in school.

J. Tenney, parent, voiced concerns about academy students taking smoking breaks on school property and inappropriate speech/language.

Heidi Bevacqua, teacher, stated the older students do not belong at Memorial; that is best for the little kids. She agreed that moving the 5th graders to the middle school works nicely in some places.

Tina Santos, parent, stated the staff and administration are wonderful at Memorial; she has worked on the PTO. TTE is also great but not suited for younger children. The play area needs a Fence or severe

Supervision. She has concerns about the academy students being there. C. Landanno noted the ALL/SPED program would work around any plan.

S. Burdsall announced there are meetings on March 12th and 19th, with the budget vote on 3/19. She thanked the speakers and attendees of Mondays' meeting and tonights'. She noted the committee has not had time to look at all of the details and supporting documents but will in the next few weeks.

M. Barbaro noted that TTE was totally renovated into an elementary school. It is the most efficient and up to date. Young students use lockers elsewhere. Memorial needs 1 million dollars of repairs. Some of the items are part of the capital project request. He noted the options are not pretty.

M. Niles stated the committee has to consider the kids; Academy and Memorial students. The Academy students could be role models. Classroom size needs to be analyzed and our priorities reassessed.

Academy students leaving the campus will be discussed. He commended the staff.

S. Khelifaoui stated it is illegal to smoke on school grounds and it will not be allowed. He stated 'we have to do the best we can for our students'.

9:40 PM M. Barbaro moved for a 5-minute recess. Second S. Burdsall. Approved 4-0-0.

9:50 PM Reconvened.

6. Old Business:

A) Domestic Violence Leave Policy (GCCD): S. Burdsall moved to table. Second by M. Barbaro. Approved 4-0-0.

B) Toy Town generator progress update-Jim Murphy reported he planned to ask for temporary borrowing so the project can go forward. In light of the district restructuring talks, D. Harris said to put the project on hold. J. Kreidler confirmed that the authorization to borrow allows a delay. The use of the funds can be changed by town meeting.

C) MASC Saturday Workshop to be scheduled: S. Burdsall moved to take out of order. Second by M. Barbaro. Approved 4-0-0

7. New Business:

A) Senior Trip-NY City -Josh Romano reviewed the proposed trip. He will bring the matter before committee again when plans are finalized.

B) Winchendon BOH-Jason Moury-Lyme disease Awareness-J. Moury distributed information, reviewed his background and the purpose of the presentation. He was given permission to provide the information electronically to the schools to raise awareness and to speak to the teachers. It will also be posted on website with additional links. .

C) Restructuring public hearing invite-March 12, at 7PM-

D) Consideration of legal services-S. Burdsall and M. Barbaro comprise the legal services sub-committee. They will work with C. Landanno and M. Chapulis. Priorities include proximity to the town, services provided, responsiveness, educational and Sped and labor. The decision to hire will be made in open meeting; the interviews will be private. The ad will be listed on the MASC website.

6. C) MASC Saturday Workshop-After discussion, it was tentatively scheduled for June 27th.

8. Consideration of Minutes of Previous Meetings Not Yet Approved or Released:

A) February 12, 2015-Regular Session-M. Barbaro moved to approve as presented. Second by S. Burdsall. Approved 3-0-1. M. Niles abstained.

9. Questions and Comments by Members: M. Barbaro stated he did not mean to come across harsh and has not made up his mind. He thanked Josh Romano for his passion for our students and

Congratulated Brandon Jinn for destroying the record-get from courier. S. Burdsall noted there is still a lot of work to do. The comments did not do the Academy students any justice. The committee will reexamine use of the Marvin building. M. Niles congratulated Brandon Jinn. He said the joint meeting on Monday was somewhat productive; the boards need to stay on task and work together. He asked committee members to forward emails and the response to all members. D. Harris noted her daughter is fine with the proposed changes. Chartwells needs to be consulted regarding lunchtime facilities and numbers. S. Khelifaoui advised members to submit ideas and come in for discussion. S. Burdsall noted the Superintendent Evaluation process has to begin.

10. Other: none

11. Future Agenda Items:

- A) Guidance Department Review
- B) Negotiation Strategy Meeting
- C) Monty Tech Representative/Superintendent
- D) Snow Days Makeup (if needed)
- E) Warrant articles for the Annual Town Meeting
- F) Domestic Violence Leave Policy (GCCD)

12. Executive Session: none

13. Adjournment: 10:35P.M. M. Barbaro moved to adjourn. Second by S. Burdsall. Approved 4-0-0.

3/5/15

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