

Whately School Committee Meeting
Whately Elementary School
Tuesday, September 11, 2018

MINUTES

Present: Chair Katie Edwards, Vice Chair Robert Halla and Secretary Maureen Nichols;
Principal Kristina Kirton; and Interim Superintendent Darius Modestow

Katie Edwards called the meeting to order at 8:04 am.

Interim Superintendent Modestow called for nominations for Chair. On a motion from Bob Halla, and a second from Maureen Nichols, Katie Edwards was nominated Chair. Bob Halla moved, seconded by Maureen, to close nominations for Chair and appoint Katie Edwards as Chair. Approved 3-0-0.

The meeting was then turned over to Chair Katie Edwards who asked for nominations for Vice Chair. On a motion from Bob Halla, and a second from Katie Edwards, Maureen Nichols was nominated Vice Chair. Bob Halla moved, seconded by Katie Edwards, to close nominations for Vice Chair and appoint Maureen Nichols as Chair. Approved 3-0-0.

On a motion from Bob Halla, and a second from Katie Edwards, Maureen Nichols was nominated as Secretary. Approved 3-0-0.

Chair Katie Edwards then appointed the following representatives:

Frontier Representative, Bob Halla;
Union #38 Representatives, Katie Edwards, Bob Halla and Maureen Nichols;
The Collaborative Representative Maureen Nichols;
the Capital Planning Committee Katie Edwards;
the Policy Review Committee Maureen Nichols;
the Sick Bank Committee Katie Edwards and Maureen Nichols and
Negotiations Team Bob Halla

On a motion from Bob Halla, and a second from Maureen Nichols, the Minutes of June 4, 2018 were approved 3-0-0.

Brian Richards, representative from The Management Solutions, presented the Financial Statement. He noted that the General Fund is at \$0.00. Discussed were school choice funds, tuitioned-in funds and circuit breaker. Chair Edwards asked for the revenues and expenses for the full day preschool program as of 6/30/18. This information will be provided at the November meeting. Lastly, warrants totaling were \$52,412.00 were presented.

There was no Public Comment.

Under Unfinished Business, Darius gave an update on the sprinkler system. Flushing of the sprinkler system has been completed. There were numerous leaks but the flushing went well and repairs have been completed. An invoice from Hampshire Fire was received in the amount of \$20,006.85. Dry head pendants and heads still need to be completed. Expected cost will be between \$35,000 and \$40,000. The town has set aside \$74,000 for this project. Hampshire Fire is currently preparing a quote to add nitrogen to the fire system to help reduce the amount of corrosion from forming in the pipes.

Under New Business, Darius presented a proposed revision of the School Committee Meeting Schedule. He noted that the committee would remain with the traditional schedule for the months of January, February and March due to budget talks. On a motion from Bob Halla, and a second from Maureen Nicholas, the revisions to the School Committee Meeting Schedule were approved 3-0-0.

Under Summer Building Maintenance, Darius noted that the Town of Whately is proceeding with the purchase of a used emergency generator from Mike Morawski. The town is looking into the cost of excavation and having a pad installed. Mark Lussier is looking into the electrical portion of the project. Bob Halla asked about the painting of the poles. It remains on the list. The new telephone system has been installed. Scott Paul, Director of Instructional Technology, is handling the linking of the clock and intercom to the new telephone system.

The handicap swing on the playground is broken and has been removed. Principal Kirton will look into the cost of a replacement. There was discussion regarding installing a Pre-K playground and possible funding through grants and fundraising. The playground will be discussed in more detail at the November meeting. The purchase of additional wood chips for the playground is under way.

The roof over the cafeteria has been leaking. A company will be contacted to do repairs and maintenance.

The gymnasium floor was not sanded and finished over the summer. Principal Kirton is requesting information on how to get that done next summer.

Principal Kirton provided an update on summer programs. WES hosted the Inventors camp (60 students!) in August and PreK camp for 2 weeks in July.

Principal Kirton reviewed new personnel and personnel changes.

Maureen Nichols was designated the MASC/MASS Delegate on a motion from Bob Halla and a second from Katie Edwards. Approved 3-0-0.

Revisions to Policy EFD Meal Charge and Policy JFF Student Activity Accounts were reviewed. New MASC recommended policies JFABE – Educational Opportunities for Military Children and Policy JFABF – Educational Opportunities for Children in Foster Care were reviewed. On a motion from Katie Edwards, and a second from Maureen, revisions to Policy EFD and Policy JFF and new policies JFABE and FJABF were approved 3-0-0.

Whately Elementary School Student Activity accounts were discussed and procedures will be reviewed.

Katie Edwards welcomed Darius as Interim Superintendent and Krissy as our new Principal. She expressed her thanks to the hiring committee for all their hard work. She also thanked Louise Law and Kristin Gordon for all their assistance at the end of the year. Also, a thank you to Patti Cavanaugh for her good work for the district.

Bob Halla took a moment to remember the events of September 11, 2001.

Principal Kirton presented the Principal's Report. She spoke of the New School Year's Eve Ice Cream Social and how that was a great success with 89 students and their families attending. She also spoke of the receiving committee of local fire and police to cheer students as they begin their

new school year. There was discussion on changed the Reading Specialist position from .93 to a full time position. Funding for this year would come from the REAP Grant. The school's bus evacuation drill on September 5th was a success. Principal Kirton reviewed the 2017-2018 maintenance list.

She discussed the creation of the Instructional Leadership Team. The team will examine assessment and observational data to determine the instructional needs of the school.

Darius presented the Superintendent's Report. He spoke of the successful Opening Day and welcomed the new administrators to the district. He spoke of his Entry Plan and stated that the plan would be presented at the October meeting. He indicated that Kevin Courtney, longtime Superintendent at Pioneer Valley School District, is mentoring him. He noted that he, along with 7 school committee members, would be attending the annual MASC/MASS Joint Conference November 7th through the 10th. He spoke of the new accounting system, Infinite Visions, and how additional training is ongoing by the IT department. Lastly, he spoke of the file storage project due to the sale of Christian Lane.

On a motion from Bob Halla, and a second from Maureen Nichols, the meeting adjourned at 9:22 am. Approved 3-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Lesenski
Recording Secretary

Summary of Documents Presented:

1. Minutes of June 4, 2018
2. Monthly Financial Report
3. Revised School Committee Meeting Schedule
4. MASC Official Delegate Form
5. Policies EFD, JFJ, JFABE & JFABF
6. Principal's Report
7. Superintendent's Report
8. Employment List
9. Opening Day Enrollment