

## **Regular Meeting (Wednesday, April 6, 2022)**

*Generated by Julie Marynok on Thursday, April 7, 2022*

### **Members present**

Barbara Reynolds, Diane Swenson (7:14), Eric Commodore, Eric Olson, Jeffrey Raymond, John Columbus, John Mollica, Mary Barclay, Melanie Weeks, Michael Hurley, Peter Capone, Robert Campbell, Ronald Tourigny, Ross Barber, Whitney Marshall

### **Members absent**

Edward Simms, Jeanne Bartlett, James Boone, James Cournoyer, Kathleen Airoidi, William Brassard

### **Officers of the School Committee Present**

Dr. Sheila Harrity

### **School district personnel present**

Thomas Browne, Principal, Dayana Carlson, Assistant Principal, Ryan Rege, Director of Vocational Programs, Donald Kitzmiller, Director of Technology, Tammy Crockett, Business Manager, Michael Gormley, Facilities Director, Victoria Zarozinski, Student Support Services, and Julie Marynok, Recording Secretary

### **Meeting called to order at 7:02 PM**

#### 1. Opening Items

Procedural: A. Call to Order

Procedural: B. Pledge of Allegiance

Procedural: C. Introduction of Guests and Visitors

Chairman Olson welcomed Michael Hurley, the newly appointed Fitchburg representative.

Procedural: D. Public Comment

Brian Walker thanked everyone for their support over his last 16 years on the committee.

Action, Minutes: E. Approval of Minutes

**MOVE THAT THE DISTRICT COMMITTEE VOTES TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF MARCH 2, 2022 AS PRESENTED.**

Motion by Mary Barclay, second by Barbara Reynolds.

Final Resolution: So Voted

Aye: Barbara Reynolds, Eric Commodore, Eric Olson, Jeffrey Raymond, John Columbus, John Mollica, Mary Barclay, Melanie Weeks, Michael Hurley, Peter Capone, Robert Campbell, Ronald Tourigny, Ross Barber, Whitney Marshall

#### 2. Superintendent-Director's Report

Information: A. Superintendent-Director Update

- Dr. Harrity reviewed the weekly level of community transmission COVID-19 data.
- Monty Tech Freight Farm - Awarded \$176,600 to establish a Freight Farm on the campus
  - All produce will be used in school cafeteria and by students in the school's Culinary Arts program.
  - Students will learn important farm-to-table concepts.
  - Establish a Free Pantry at the school for students in need.

- Host no-cost educational courses on how to prepare healthy foods.
- Provide free produce to all class participants.
- Offer CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) boxes/memberships to faculty & staff.
- **FY22 Grant Summary:**

Grant Program	Amount Applied For	Amount Awarded	Status
Safe and Supportive Schools	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	Awarded
Skills Capital Grant - Dental	\$240,062.00	\$150,000.00	Awarded
Career Technical Initiative (CTI), Round 5	\$599,970.00		Under Review
FY22 Food Security Infrastructure Grant Program (Freight Farm)	\$180,300.00	\$176,600.00	Awarded
American Rescue Plan Act - City of Fitchburg (Freight Farm)	\$180,300.00	-	Not Awarded
Skills Capital Grant - HVAC & Property Maintenance	\$399,000.00		Under Review
Mass Life Science Grant	\$109,734.00		Under Review
<b>TOTAL WRITTEN &amp; AWARDED 2021-2022</b>	<b>\$1,719,366.00</b>	<b>\$336,600.00</b>	

- FY22 has presented more opportunities for competitive grants than ever before. With a record-breaking \$1.7M submitted in proposals, we remain grateful for the continued support we receive from programs such as Skills Capital and MLSC.  
***We are awaiting word on 3 grants still under review, totaling: \$1,108,704.***  
*NOTE: On average, over the past ten years, we have received approximately \$390,000 a year in competitive grants.*
- Open House 2022 - Thursday, March 10<sup>th</sup> we opened our doors to the community, and hosted an extremely well-attended Open House event. All vocational shops proudly displayed student work. Student translators were on hand. Athletic programs had student-athletes available to answer questions and share experiences with prospective students, and student clubs were also on hand to share ways all students can get involved here at Monty Tech.
- Co-Op Program - There are currently 49 Juniors and 131 Seniors participating in the school's popular Co-Op program. Students are working and learning in area businesses, earning \$13 - \$25/hr. We are pleased to report new school-to-business partnerships with 37 new employers supporting our students.
- Budget Presentations - The FY23 Preliminary Budget has been presented before the following City/Town Finance Committees:
  - Holden – March 3 - *Toured the school on March 17*
  - Sterling – March 16
  - Templeton – March 16
  - Lunenburg – March 23
  - Phillipston – March 31
  - Gardner – April 5 - *Toured the school on April 5*
  - Winchendon – April 12
- Community services - Monty Tech MCJROTC presented the flags at the Vietnam Veterans' Day Ceremony on March 29  
Early Childhood Education students hosted a baby shower for MOC (Making Opportunity Count), donating to mothers in need.  
Students build Habitat for Humanity house in Hubbardston to go to grateful family.  
HVAC students installed a high-efficiency HVAC system at the MA State Police barracks in Leominster.

Action, Information: B. School Choice

**MOVE THAT THE DISTRICT COMMITTEE VOTES TO ACCEPT SCHOOL CHOICE STUDENTS FOR THE 2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR FOR GRADES 10, 11, AND 12 ONLY.**

Motion by Mary Barclay, second by Jeffrey Raymond.

Final Resolution: So Voted

Aye: Barbara Reynolds, Diane Swenson, Eric Commodore, Eric Olson, Jeffrey Raymond, John Columbus, John Mollica, Mary Barclay, Melanie Weeks, Michael Hurley, Peter Capone, Robert Campbell, Ronald Tourigny, Ross Barber, Whitney Marshall

Action, Information: C. Out of State Field Trip CAD/Drafting and Design

MOVE THAT THE DISTRICT COMMITTEE VOTES TO APPROVE AN OUT-OF-STATE TRIP FOR 9 CAD/DRAFTING AND DESIGN STUDENTS TO TRAVEL TO NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND TO ATTEND THE MANSIONS TOUR ON MAY 6, 2022.

Motion by Mary Barclay, second by Jeffrey Raymond.

Final Resolution: So Voted

Aye: Barbara Reynolds, Diane Swenson, Eric Commodore, Eric Olson, Jeffrey Raymond, John Columbus, John Mollica, Mary Barclay, Melanie Weeks, Michael Hurley, Peter Capone, Robert Campbell, Ronald Tourigny, Ross Barber, Whitney Marshall

Action, Information: D. Out of State Field Trip Auto Body

MOVE THAT THE DISTRICT COMMITTEE VOTES TO APPROVE AN OUT-OF-STATE TRIP FOR 13 AUTO BODY STUDENTS TO TRAVEL TO EPPING, NEW HAMPSHIRE TO ATTEND THE NEW ENGLAND DRAGWAY NHRA YOUTH EDUCATION SERVICES PROGRAM ON JUNE 3, 2022 FROM 8:00 AM TO 2:00 PM AT NO COST TO STUDENTS.

Motion by Mary Barclay, second by Jeffrey Raymond.

Final Resolution: So Voted

Aye: Barbara Reynolds, Diane Swenson, Eric Commodore, Eric Olson, Jeffrey Raymond, John Columbus, John Mollica, Mary Barclay, Melanie Weeks, Michael Hurley, Peter Capone, Robert Campbell, Ronald Tourigny, Ross Barber, Whitney Marshall

### 3. Principal's Report

Information: A. Student Representative's Monthly Report

Student Council

- Is currently sponsoring a spring spirit week this week. Themes are Dress like a teacher day, tourist day, country vs. rock, red nose day (child poverty) and purple and gold day.
- Athletics - Spring sports seasons are underway.
- NHS - Just wrapped up and delivered their daffodil bouquets for their annual fundraiser to support the American Cancer Society.
- JROTC - Cadets have started selling raffle tickets to help cover the cost of their annual leadership trip. For this year's trip, cadets are spending a week in June at the Prince William Forest in Virginia.
- Drama Club - Congratulations to the cast and crew of *Freaky Friday* who just finished with their three performances this past weekend. Special thanks to the drama club advisors, Mrs. Johnson and Mr. Freel for all of their efforts to make the show a success.

Information: B. Principal's Monthly Report

- Annual Open House – March 10
  - For the first time in three years, Monty Tech was able to welcome hundreds of prospective students, their families and numerous guests back to the building as part of our annual Open House.
  - For the first time, in order to support families who had very little understanding of Monty Tech, we opened the evening with a presentation from the Dean of Admissions in the PAC for the purposes of introducing the essentials in terms of student expectations, the exploratory

process and what supports and extracurricular opportunities are available to students. Due to the overwhelming turnout, this will become a fixture for Open House events in the future.

- An additional change was that, rather than spreading them out around the building, we gathered all academic departments in the cafeteria so that parents and students could get “one-stop-shopping” and learn about course offerings all at the same time.
- Two student volunteers who served as translators for our Spanish-speaking guests throughout the evening.
- Student athletes and coaches were stationed in the main gym to answer questions regarding our athletic teams and expectations.
- ½ Professional Development Day – March 11
  - For the final Professional Development Day of the year, once again, teachers were provided with a variety of offerings.
- SkillsUSA District Competitions – March 16
  - Overall, Monty Tech earned 27 medals – 14 Gold, 6 Silver and 7 Bronze.
- Spring VIP Session – March 17
  - A total of 226 students participating in the Spring Session.
  - Priority was given to 8<sup>th</sup> grade participants, as they did not have a chance to participate in VIP last year.

<u>Sending Town</u>	<u>Number of Students</u>
Ashby	15
Athol	46
Fitchburg	121
Petersham	7
Private/Homeschool/Misc.	31
Royalston	6

- ELA Next Generation MCAS Administration – March 22-23
  - Prior to the MCAS administration, teachers recommended specific students to participate in a specific review program. The ELA MCAS review consisted of MCAS Review Information, Analysis Writing Review, Multiple Choice Review, Multiple Choice Review, RAFT & Persuasive Writing Review, and Figurative Language and Literary Terms Quiz.
  - Our goal is to help reinforce the critical concepts these students need to know to pass the MCAS test.
  - On the testing days, 352 Sophomores participated in the MCAS exam for English Language Arts. All Academic, Special Education, Paraprofessional, and Guidance staff went through proctor training sessions to become familiar with the test administration process, as well as the specific online tools that are available to students during the test.

Information: C. Enrollment/Withdrawal/New Entry Report/Attendance Report - In the packet for perusal.

Information: D. Graduation/Drop Out Rate

- Principal Browne reviewed the graduation/drop-out rate for school year 2021.

Information: E. Program Advisory Notes were in the packet for perusal.

#### 4. Personnel

Information: A. Retirement

Norman LeBlanc, District Treasurer, will retire on June 30, 2022, after 36 years.

Information: B. Resignation

Paul Baglio, an evening custodian, has resigned effective April 7, 2022.

Information: C. Appointment

The spring coaches list for 2022 was in the packet for perusal.

5. Reports by Subcommittees

Action, Information: A. Policy

MOVE THAT THE DISTRICT COMMITTEE APPROVES FOR A SECOND READING, SECTION I: INSTRUCTION: IA, IB, IC-ICA, IHAM, IHAMB, IJ, IJL, IJL-E, AND REMOVAL OF OUTDATED, REDUNDANT, OR DIFFERENTLY INCORPORATED POLICIES: IAB, IHAG.

Motion by Diane Swenson, second by Mary Barclay.

Final Resolution: So Voted

Aye: Barbara Reynolds, Diane Swenson, Eric Commodore, Eric Olson, Jeffrey Raymond, John Columbus, John Mollica, Mary Barclay, Melanie Weeks, Michael Hurley, Peter Capone, Robert Campbell, Ronald Tourigny, Ross Barber, Whitney Marshall

Action, Information: B. Policy 2

MOVE THAT THE DISTRICT COMMITTEE APPROVES FOR A FIRST READING, SECTION I: INSTRUCTION: IE, IHAO, AND IKFB AND REMOVAL OF OUTDATED, REDUNDANT, OR DIFFERENTLY INCORPORATED POLICY: IGC.

Motion by Diane Swenson, second by Jeffrey Raymond.

Final Resolution: So Voted

Aye: Barbara Reynolds, Diane Swenson, Eric Commodore, Eric Olson, Jeffrey Raymond, John Columbus, John Mollica, Mary Barclay, Melanie Weeks, Michael Hurley, Peter Capone, Robert Campbell, Ronald Tourigny, Ross Barber, Whitney Marshall

Information: C. Capital Improvements

Action, Information: D. Workforce

MOVE THAT THE DISTRICT COMMITTEE ACCEPT THE EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT-DIRECTOR, THOMAS BROWNE.

Motion by Mary Barclay, second by Ross Barber.

Final Resolution: So Voted

Aye: Barbara Reynolds, Diane Swenson, Eric Commodore, Eric Olson, Jeffrey Raymond, John Columbus, John Mollica, Mary Barclay, Melanie Weeks, Michael Hurley, Peter Capone, Robert Campbell, Ronald Tourigny, Ross Barber, Whitney Marshall

Discussion, Information: E. Workforce - 2 - Superintendent-Director Timeline was presented.

Information: F. Student Advisory

Information: G. Scholarship (Ad hoc)

Information: H. Superintendent Search Ad-hoc

Melanie Weeks to ask the Chairperson to dissolve the Committee since their work is done and a contract is pending.

Motion by Mary Barclay, second by Barbara Reynolds to dissolve the Committee since their work is done and a contract is pending.

Final Resolution: So Voted

Aye: Barbara Reynolds, Diane Swenson, Eric Commodore, Eric Olson, Jeffrey Raymond, John Columbus, John Mollica, Mary Barclay, Melanie Weeks, Michael Hurley, Peter Capone, Robert Campbell, Ronald Tourigny, Ross Barber, Whitney Marshall

Information: I. Financial Planning

## 6. Financial

Information: A. Financial Statements

Action, Discussion: B. Surplus Equipment

THE DISTRICT COMMITTEE CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING ITEMS SURPLUS TO BE AUCTIONED

- (2) Jet Metal Lathes and (1) Metal Cutting Chop Saw

Motion by Mary Barclay, second by Ross Barber.

Final Resolution: So Voted

Aye: Barbara Reynolds, Diane Swenson, Eric Commodore, Eric Olson, Jeffrey Raymond, John Columbus, John Mollica, Mary Barclay, Melanie Weeks, Michael Hurley, Peter Capone, Robert Campbell, Ronald Tourigny, Ross Barber, Whitney Marshall

Information: C. Audit Report - The Audit Report was in the packet for review.

## 7. Communications

Information: A. Teacher's Information or Proposals

Action, Information: B. School Committee Chairman Report

John Columbus moved to pass over 7B as there was no description on the city and town postings, Barbara Reynolds seconded. Discussion ensued. It was determined that the Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School website is the official site for postings and the public does have access to the website that has the detailed postings, the topic could be taken up at the meeting.

Motion by John Columbus, second by Barbara Reynolds.

Final Resolution: Motion fails

Nay: Barbara Reynolds, Diane Swenson, Eric Commodore, Eric Olson, Jeffrey Raymond, John Columbus, John Mollica, Mary Barclay, Melanie Weeks, Michael Hurley, Peter Capone, Robert Campbell, Ronald Tourigny, Ross Barber, Whitney Marshall

Nominations for Chairperson - Diane Swenson nominated Eric Commodore. Robert Campbell nominated John Columbus.

Barbara Reynolds - Eric Commodore

Eric Commodore - Abstain

Jeffrey Raymond - Eric Commodore

John Mollica - John Columbus

Melanie Weeks - Eric Commodore

Peter Capone - Eric Commodore

Ronald Tourigny - John Columbus

Whitney Marshall - Eric Commodore

Diane Swenson - Eric Commodore

Eric Olson - Eric Commodore

John Columbus - John Columbus

Mary Barclay - Eric Commodore

Michael Hurley - John Columbus

Robert Campbell - John Columbus

Ross Barber - John Columbus

Final resolution: Eric Commodore - 8

John Columbus - 6  
Abstentions - 1

Nominations for Vice-Chairperson - Diane Swenson nominated Whitney Marshall. Jeffrey Raymond nominated John Columbus.

Barbara Reynolds - Whitney Marshall  
Eric Commodore - Whitney Marshall  
Jeffrey Raymond - John Columbus  
John Mollica - John Columbus  
Melanie Weeks - Whitney Marshall  
Peter Capone - Whitney Marshall  
Ronald Tourigny - John Columbus  
Whitney Marshall - Whitney Marshall

Diane Swenson - Whitney Marshall  
Eric Olson - Whitney Marshall  
John Columbus - John Columbus  
Mary Barclay - John Columbus  
Michael Hurley - John Columbus  
Robert Campbell - John Columbus  
Ross Barber - John Columbus

Final resolution: John Columbus - 8  
Whitney Marshall - 7

**MOVE THAT THE DISTRICT COMMITTEE REORGANIZE FOR THE ENSUING YEAR AND ELECT ERIC COMMODORE CHAIRPERSON, JOHN COLUMBUS VICE-CHAIRPERSON, SHEILA HARRITY SECRETARY, JULIE MARYNOK RECORDING SECRETARY, NORMAN LEBLANC TREASURER, BARBARA REYNOLDS ASSISTANT TREASURER.**

Motion by Eric Olson, second by Mary Barclay.

Final Resolution: So Voted

Aye: Barbara Reynolds, Diane Swenson, Eric Commodore, Eric Olson, Jeffrey Raymond, John Columbus, John Mollica, Mary Barclay, Melanie Weeks, Michael Hurley, Peter Capone, Robert Campbell, Ronald Tourigny, Ross Barber, Whitney Marshall

Information: C. School Committee Information or Proposals

Information: D. School Committee Comments

Information: E. Correspondence/Reports

8. Other Items Not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chair Forty-Eight Hours Before the Meeting

9. Executive Session

Action: A. Pursuant to MGL Chapter 30A Section 21a ss 2. To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel.

**MOVE THAT THE DISTRICT COMMITTEE ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO MGL CHAPTER 30A, SECTION 21(A)(2) TO CONDUCT STRATEGY SESSIONS IN PREPARATION FOR NEGOTIATIONS WITH NONUNION PERSONNEL OR TO CONDUCT COLLECTIVE BARGAINING SESSIONS OR CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS WITH NONUNION PERSONNEL.**

Motion by Mary Barclay, second by Diane Swenson.

Final Resolution: So Voted

Aye: Barbara Reynolds, Diane Swenson, Eric Commodore, Eric Olson, Jeffrey Raymond, John Columbus, John Mollica, Mary Barclay, Melanie Weeks, Michael Hurley, Peter Capone, Robert Campbell, Ronald Tourigny, Ross Barber, Whitney Marshall

Adjourned to Executive Session at 8:21 PM

Returned to Open Session at 8:47

10. Closing Items

Action: A. Adjournment

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Motion by Peter Capone, second by Diane Swenson.

Final Resolution: So Voted

Aye: Barbara Reynolds, Diane Swenson, Eric Commodore, Eric Olson, Jeffrey Raymond, John Columbus, John Mollica, Mary Barclay, Melanie Weeks, Michael Hurley, Peter Capone, Robert Campbell, Ronald Tourigny, Ross Barber, Whitney Marshall

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM