

Regular Meeting (Wednesday, January 4, 2023)

Generated by Julie Marynok on Thursday, January 5, 2023

Members present

Diane Swenson, Eric Commodore, Eric Olson, James Boone, Jeffrey Raymond, Jessica Schanz, John Columbus, John Mollica, Melanie Weeks, Michael Hurley, Peter Capone, Ronald Tourigny, Ross Barber, Tamarah Estes, William Brassard

Members absent

Barbara Reynolds, Donna Lafayette, James Cournoyer, Jeanne Bartlett, Petersham Vacant, Robert Campbell, Whitney Marshall

Officers of the School Committee Present

Thomas Browne

Student Representative to the School Committee (Non-Voting)

Absent

School district personnel present

Dayana Carlson, Principal, Kathryn Schmidt, Assistant Principal, Ryan Rege, Director of Vocational Programs, Tammy Crockett, Business Manager, Katy Whitaker, Development Coordinator, Michael Gormley, Facilities Director, and Julie Marynok, Recording Secretary

Legal Counsel

Colleen Shea, Stoneman, Chandler & Miller LLP

Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM

1. Opening Items

Procedural: A. Call to Order

Procedural: B. Pledge of Allegiance

Information: C. Introduction of Guests and Visitors

Information: D. Public Comment

Action, Minutes: E. Approval of Minutes

MOVE THAT THE DISTRICT COMMITTEE VOTES TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF DECEMBER 7, 2022 AS PRESENTED.

Motion by Diane Swenson, second by Jeffrey Raymond.

Final Resolution: So Voted

Aye: Diane Swenson, Eric Commodore, Eric Olson, James Boone, Jeffrey Raymond, Jessica Schanz, Melanie Weeks, Michael Hurley, Ronald Tourigny, Ross Barber, Tamarah Estes, William Brassard

Abstain: John Columbus, John Mollica, Peter Capone

2. Superintendent-Director's Report

Information: A. Superintendent-Director Update

- As of December, all the Health Occupations seniors who took the Certified Clinical Medical Assistant Exam passed.
- Update on 270 Westminster Street - Superintendent Browne reported that Monty Tech has come to a lease agreement with 270 Westminster Street LLC with the following highlights:
 - Base Lease Rate – \$11.00/square foot
 - Base Rent Escalator
 - 5% for initial five year term
 - 4% for each subsequent term
- Initial 5 year term
 - Starting date: February 1, 2023
 - Ending date: July 31, 2028
 - Monty Tech will seek a property tax abatement from the City of Fitchburg
 - Monty Tech will be submitting an After Dark Approval Application by 3/10/2023
- DESE Admissions Response Letter - Monty Tech submitted a response to DESE's December 7, 2022 inquiry regarding admissions practices.
 - Monty Tech Administrators have met several times with DESE Representatives, virtually and in-person, in order to discuss admissions-related data. DESE confirmed during a November 17, 2022 ZOOM meeting that they would assess and review data from the full district as opposed to individual communities.
- Monty Tech reminded DESE about the recent changes that were implemented this year to admission scores including:
 - Expanding the score range of academic grades
 - Expanding the score range of allowable unexcused absences
 - Revised the scoring rubric for Discipline/Conduct Rating, removing all reference to minor incidents/infractions, only including out-of-school Chap. 37H½ suspensions.
 - Removed the cutoff score so that all students, no matter their application's cumulative score, would be considered acceptable candidates.
- Monty Tech further shared changes to our admission practices;
 - Expanded targeted outreach efforts, to include visits to ESL and Special Education classrooms
 - Student translators (current and former ELL students) were available at recruiting events in local middle schools
 - Marketing materials were newly updated and translated
 - Student translators were made available at summer camps and after-school V.I.P. (Vocational Interest Programs)
 - Faculty/staff translators were available at the annual Tour Day event
 - Monty Tech was one of only 8 regional vocational districts who hired a Community Outreach Specialist
 - The Dean of Admissions attended training in bias, equity and access
 - Data review and analysis is a common practice among school administrators

Committee members affirmed that the letter submitted to DESE on December 21, 2022 accurately represented the position of the committee and approved district policies.

- Administration is awaiting a response from DESE regarding our submission

3. Principal's Report

Information: A. Student Representative's Monthly Report - NONE

Information: B. Principal's Monthly Report

- VIP Session # 2 ran from December 1st through December 22nd.
 - Participating towns: Barre, Hubbardston, Harvard, Holden, Princeton, Sterling, Lunenburg
 - Total students participating in Session 2 - 217
- NHS Induction Ceremony - On December 12th fifty-five new members into the National Honor Society.
- Professional Development Day- Monty Tech held a PD day on December 16th and offered a wide variety of learning opportunities
- SkillsUSA Local Competition Awards Ceremony - On December 23rd Monty Tech hosted their annual SkillsUSA award to recognize all local winners who will be moving on to the District Competitions at Bay Path Regional on March 15th.

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

4. Personnel

Information: A. Retirement

Information: B. Resignation

Information: C. Appointment

Erica Shorts, Fitchburg, LPN Financial Aid/Program Manager at a salary of \$26.88/hour.

Angie Moux has moved from Receptionist/Attendance Assistant to Assistant to the Dean of Students at a salary of \$28.01/hour.

5. Reports by Subcommittees

Action, Information: A. Policy - Diane Swenson Chair

MOVE THAT THE DISTRICT COMMITTEE APPROVE FOR A FIRST READING, AA SCHOOL DISTRICT LEGAL STATUS, AND AA-E SCHOOL DISTRICT LEGAL STATUS SEAL, AS PRESENTED.

Motion by Diane Swenson, second by Jeffrey Raymond.

Final Resolution: So Voted

Aye: Diane Swenson, Eric Commodore, Eric Olson, James Boone, Jeffrey Raymond, Jessica Schanz, John Columbus, John Mollica, Melanie Weeks, Michael Hurley, Peter Capone, Ronald Tourigny, Ross Barber, Tamarah Estes, William Brassard

Action, Information: B. Policy 2

MOVE THAT THE DISTRICT COMMITTEE APPROVE FOR A FIRST READING, AD STATEMENT OF PHILOSOPHY, AS PRESENTED.

Motion by Diane Swenson, second by Jeffrey Raymond.

Final Resolution: So Voted

Aye: Diane Swenson, Eric Commodore, Eric Olson, James Boone, Jeffrey Raymond, Jessica Schanz, John Columbus, John Mollica, Melanie Weeks, Michael Hurley, Peter Capone, Ronald Tourigny, Ross Barber, Tamarah Estes, William Brassard

Action, Information: C. Capital Improvements - Diane Swenson Chair

MOVE THAT THE DISTRICT COMMITTEE APPROVE A 5-YEAR LEASE, AS PRESENTED, FOR THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 270 WESTMINSTER STREET, FITCHBURG WITH 270 WESTMINSTER STREET LLC, FOR THE PURPOSE OF IMPLEMENTING A PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM.

Motion by Diane Swenson, second by Jeffrey Raymond.

Final Resolution: So Voted

Aye: Diane Swenson, Eric Commodore, James Boone, Jeffrey Raymond, Jessica Schanz, John Columbus, John Mollica, Michael Hurley, Peter Capone, Ronald Tourigny, Ross Barber, Tamarah Estes, William Brassard

Abstain: Eric Olson, Melanie Weeks

Information: D. Workforce - Eric Olson Chair

Information: E. Student Advisory - Melanie Weeks Chair

Information: F. Scholarship (Ad hoc) - Barbara Reynolds Chair

Information: G. Meeting recording (Ad Hoc) - William Brassard Chair

Information: H. Financial Planning - Eric Olson Chair

6. Financial

Information: A. Financial Statements

Action, Discussion: B. Acceptance of Donation - Nails by Ashley

MOVE THE COMMITTEE ACCEPT A DONATION OF NAIL EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES WITH AN APPROXIMATE VALUE OF \$300 TO BENEFIT THE COSMETOLOGY PROGRAM FROM ASHLEY ALBERT, NAILS BY ASHLEY, LEOMINSTER, MA.

Motion by Diane Swenson, second by James Boone.

Final Resolution: So Voted

Aye: Diane Swenson, Eric Commodore, Eric Olson, James Boone, Jeffrey Raymond, Jessica Schanz, John Columbus, John Mollica, Melanie Weeks, Michael Hurley, Peter Capone, Ronald Tourigny, Ross Barber, Tamarah Estes, William Brassard

Action, Discussion: C. Acceptance of Grant - FY23 CTE Equitable Access Grant

MOVE THE DISTRICT COMMITTEE ACCEPT THE FY23 CTE EQUITABLE ACCESS GRANT FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$40,000 TO PROVIDE SUPPLEMENTAL SUPPORTS TO SPECIAL POPULATIONS.

Motion by Diane Swenson, second by James Boone.

Final Resolution: So Voted

Aye: Diane Swenson, Eric Commodore, James Boone, Jeffrey Raymond, Jessica Schanz, John Columbus, Melanie Weeks, Michael Hurley, Peter Capone, Ronald Tourigny, Ross Barber, Tamarah Estes, William Brassard

Abstain: John Mollica

Not Present at Vote: Eric Olson

7. Communications

Information: A. Teacher's Information or Proposals

Information: B. School Committee Chairman Report

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. Closing Items

Action, Information: A. Adjournment

MOVE TO ADJOURN

Motion by Peter Capone, second by Michael Hurley.

Final Resolution: So Voted

Aye: Diane Swenson, Eric Commodore, James Boone, Jeffrey Raymond, Jessica Schanz, John Columbus, John Mollica, Melanie Weeks, Michael Hurley, Peter Capone, Ronald Tourigny, Ross Barber, Tamarah Estes, William Brassard

Not Present at Vote: Eric Olson

Meeting adjourned at 8:28 PM