

Regular Meeting (Wednesday, March 2, 2022)

Generated by Julie Marynok on Thursday, March 3, 2022

Members present

Barbara Reynolds, Brian Walker, Diane Swenson, Eric Commodore, Eric Olson, James Boone, James Cournoyer, Jeanne Bartlett, Jeffrey Raymond, John Columbus, John Mollica, Kathleen Airoidi, Mary Barclay, Maureen Ward, Melanie Weeks, Peter Capone, Robert Campbell, Ronald Tourigny, Ross Barber, Whitney Marshall, William Brassard

Members absent

Edward Simms

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, Katy Whitaker, Development Coordinator, Christina Favreau, Director of Academic Programs, Michael Gormley, Facilities Director, Victoria Zarozinski, Student Support Services, and Julie Marynok, Recording Secretary

Meeting called to order at 7:03 PM

1. Opening Items

Procedural: A. Call to Order

Procedural: B. Pledge of Allegiance

Action, Discussion, Information: C. Public Hearing - Business Manager, Tammy Crockett, presented the FY23 Budget.

Procedural: D. Public Comment

Procedural: E. Introduction of Guests and Visitors

Action, Minutes: F. Approval of Minutes

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

Motion by Mary Barclay, second by Kathleen Airoidi.

Final Resolution: So Voted

Aye: Barbara Reynolds, Brian Walker, Eric Olson, James Boone, Jeanne Bartlett, Jeffrey Raymond, John Columbus, John Mollica, Kathleen Airoidi, Mary Barclay, Maureen Ward, Melanie Weeks, Peter Capone, Robert Campbell, Ronald Tourigny, Ross Barber, Whitney Marshall, William Brassard

Abstain: Diane Swenson, Eric Commodore, James Cournoyer

Action: G. Approval of Special Meeting Minutes

MOVE THAT THE DISTRICT COMMITTEE VOTES TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF FEBRUARY 16, 2022 AS AMENDED.

Motion by Mary Barclay, second by Brian Walker.

Final Resolution: So Voted

Aye: Barbara Reynolds, Brian Walker, Diane Swenson, Eric Olson, James Cournoyer, Jeanne Bartlett, Jeffrey Raymond, John Columbus, John Mollica, Kathleen Airoidi, Mary Barclay, Maureen Ward, Melanie Weeks, Peter Capone, Robert Campbell, Ross Barber, Whitney Marshall

Nay: James Boone

Abstain: Eric Commodore, Ronald Tourigny, William Brassard

2. Superintendent-Director's Report

Information: A. Superintendent-Director Update

- Dr. Harrity reviewed the weekly level of community transmission COVID-19 data.
- Temporary Suspension of Mask Mandate

Based on the determination of both state and local health and educational leadership, and as authorized by the district's mask policy, the current indoor mask mandate has been temporarily suspended on Monday, February 28, 2022.

Indoor masking is no longer required of all employees, students and guests but, instead, will simply be recommended as an ongoing mitigation effort to prevent the transmission of COVID-19. Students, staff and parents/guardians have been notified that this temporary suspension of the policy will be brought to a vote of the full School Committee here this evening.

Data that has impacted our decision to temporarily suspend the mask mandate includes:

- **Number of Positive Individuals Since January 7, 2022** –

	1/7/22	1/14/22	1/21/22	1/28/22	2/4/22	2/11/22	2/18/22
# of Positive Cases	95	91	44	27	15	16	7

- **Total # of Monty Tech Students Vaccinated (Based on MA Immunization Information System)**

– 929 out of 1391 students

- **Total # of Monty Tech Students, Faculty and Staff Participating in the DESE At-home Testing Kit and Symptomatic Testing Program**

– 829 faculty, staff and students

- Safe & Supportive Schools
In Year #1: With an overarching focus on **the impact of equity on creating safe and supportive learning environments**, the SaSS Team completed the DESE Self-Reflection Tool, and made recommendations to school leaders for noted areas of improvement. Their suggestions have been embedded into the 2021-2024 District Improvement Plan.
The SaSS Team is in Year #2 of its work. They have identified core values and beliefs about learning, and proposed a new mission statement that they feel better aligns with those beliefs. Next, they will update action steps and break into subcommittee groups to address priorities identified in Year #1 surveys and reflection analysis.

3. Principal's Report

Information: A. Student Representative's Monthly Report

- Athletics-Congratulations to all of our winter athletes who have qualified for post-season play. Boys Ice Hockey will play @ Dedham HS on Saturday. Both Boys Basketball and Girls basketball played on Tuesday. The girls team defeated John D. O'Bryant School and will face Norwell on Friday night. The boys were defeated by Greater New Bedford Voc-Tech to end their season. Spring sport sign-ups have begun and meet the coaches night will take place on 3/15/22.

- SkillsUSA- Is sponsoring a Dodgeball Tournament that will be held on March 9th. The students who have qualified for Districts are busy preparing for the competition that will be held on March 16th.
- Drama Club-Has been busy rehearsing and will be performing Freaky Friday April 1-3.

Information: B. Principal's Monthly Report

- MCAS Retest Information – Feb. 2-3
 - The month began with the administration of the MCAS Biology retest for 17 members of the Class of 2023. It should be noted that many of these students were transfer students who had yet to sit for the Biology exam.
 - DESE released the results of the November retest exams. The current status for our upperclassmen in terms of MCAS is –
 - Seniors – Members of the Class of 2022 were able to earn their competency determination by receiving a passing grade in the academic course.
 - Juniors – Members of the Class of 2023 were not allowed MCAS waivers and must pass the exam in order to attain the competency determination.
 - As a result of the November retest exam for Math and English Language Arts, there are only two Juniors who still need to pass one of those exams. All other Juniors have earned their competency determination.
- Advisory Dinner – Feb. 9
 - Monty Tech hosted our community and business partners at our annual Winter Advisory Dinner and Meeting. Due to lingering COVID concerns, the meetings were held in a hybrid model as 8 programs opted to hold their meeting via Zoom.
 - The Special Education PAC met on Wednesday, February 16, 2022.

Information: C. Enrollment/Withdrawal/New Entry Report in the packet for perusal.

Action, Discussion, Information: D. Enrollment Quota for the Class of 2026

MOVE THAT THE DISTRICT COMMITTEE VOTES TO APPROVE SETTING THE ENROLLMENT QUOTA FOR THE CLASS OF 2026 AT 370 STUDENTS.

Motion by Mary Barclay, second by Kathleen Airoldi.

Final Resolution: So Voted

Aye: Barbara Reynolds, Brian Walker, Diane Swenson, Eric Commodore, Eric Olson, James Boone, James Cournoyer, Jeanne Bartlett, Jeffrey Raymond, John Columbus, John Mollica, Kathleen Airoldi, Mary Barclay, Maureen Ward, Melanie Weeks, Peter Capone, Robert Campbell, Ronald Tourigny, Ross Barber, Whitney Marshall, William Brassard

Information: E. Freshmen Placement in packet for perusal.

4. Personnel

Information: A. Retirement

Stephen Ricciardi, Special Education Paraprofessional, will retire in June 2023, after 12 years.

Nils Anderson, Science Teacher, will retire at the end of the 2021-2022 school year, after 18 years.

Information: B. Resignation

None

Information: C. Appointment

Patricia Woodliff, of Ashburnham, has been appointed to the position of Director of Adult Education and Workforce Development at a salary of \$80,000.00

Sean Lowe, of Sterling, has been appointed to the position of Culinary Arts Instructor at a salary of \$80,991.00

1stSgt Jeremy Mickelson, of Marlow New Hampshire, has been appointed to the position of Marine JROTC Instructor at a salary of \$87,665.00

David Fiandaca, Property Maintenance at a salary of \$70,000.00

5. Reports by Subcommittees

Action, Information: A. Policy

MOVE THAT THE DISTRICT COMMITTEE APPROVE THE MONTY TECH FACE COVERINGS POLICY EBCFA AS UPDATED AND AMENDED FOR A FIRST AND SECOND READING SUBSEQUENTLY TEMPORARILY SUSPENDING POLICY BGA.

Motion by Diane Swenson, second by Kathleen Airoidi.

Final Resolution: So Voted

Aye: Barbara Reynolds, Brian Walker, Diane Swenson, Eric Commodore, Eric Olson, James Boone, James Cournoyer, Jeanne Bartlett, Jeffrey Raymond, John Columbus, John Mollica, Kathleen Airoidi, Mary Barclay, Maureen Ward, Melanie Weeks, Peter Capone, Robert Campbell, Ronald Tourigny, Ross Barber, Whitney Marshall, William Brassard

Information: B. Capital Improvements

Information: C. Workforce

Information: D. Student Advisory

Information: E. Scholarship (Ad hoc)

Discussion, Information: F. Superintendent Search Ad-hoc - A. Discussion ensued regarding candidates for the position of Superintendent-Director of Schools.

Action, Information: G. Superintendent Search Ad-Hoc - B. Appointment of Superintendent of Schools. MOVE THAT THOMAS BROWNE BE APPOINTED AS SUPERINTENDENT-DIRECTOR FOR THE MONTACHUSETT REGIONAL VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL SCHOOL SUBJECT TO THE SUCCESSFUL NEGOTIATIONS OF A CONTRACT OF EMPLOYMENT MUTUALLY AGREEABLE TO THE CANDIDATE AND THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE AND SIGNED BY BOTH PARTIES OR THEIR DESIGNEES.

Motion by Diane Swenson, second by Mary Barclay.

Final Resolution: So Voted

Aye: Barbara Reynolds, Brian Walker, Diane Swenson, Eric Commodore, Eric Olson, Jeanne Bartlett, John Columbus, Kathleen Airoidi, Mary Barclay, Maureen Ward, Melanie Weeks, Peter Capone, Robert Campbell, Whitney Marshall, William Brassard

Nay: James Boone, James Cournoyer, Jeffrey Raymond, Ronald Tourigny, Ross Barber

Abstain: John Mollica

Action, Information: H. Financial Planning - FY23 Budget

THE DISTRICT COMMITTEE APPROVE THE PRELIMINARY FY23 BUDGET PLAN AS FOLLOWS: TOTAL BUDGET \$30,796,896 LESS REVENUES OF \$19,444,478 WITH TOTAL ASSESSMENTS OF \$11,352,418.

Motion by Maureen Ward, second by William Brassard.

Final Resolution: So Voted

Aye: Barbara Reynolds, Brian Walker, Diane Swenson, Eric Commodore, Eric Olson, James Boone, Jeanne Bartlett, Jeffrey Raymond, John Columbus, John Mollica, Kathleen Airoidi, Mary Barclay, Maureen Ward, Melanie Weeks, Peter Capone, Robert Campbell, Ronald Tourigny, Ross Barber, Whitney Marshall, William Brassard

Abstain: James Cournoyer

Action, Discussion: I. Financial Planning - OPEB Trust Vendor

That the District Committee vote to utilize the vendor PARS (Public Agency Retirement Services) to establish, manage and oversee the District's Post-Retirement Health Care Plan Section 115 approved Trust (the "OPEB Fund"), to fund post-employment benefits for its employees as specified in the District's policies and/or applicable collective bargaining agreements; and appoint the District's Treasurer or their designee as the District's Plan Administrator.

Motion by Maureen Ward, second by Mary Barclay.

Final Resolution: So Voted

Aye: Barbara Reynolds, Brian Walker, Diane Swenson, Eric Olson, James Boone, James Cournoyer, Jeanne Bartlett, Jeffrey Raymond, John Columbus, John Mollica, Kathleen Airoidi, Mary Barclay, Maureen Ward, Melanie Weeks, Peter Capone, Robert Campbell, Ronald Tourigny, Ross Barber, Whitney Marshall, William Brassard

Not Present at Vote: Eric Commodore

6. Financial

Information: A. Financial Statements

Action, Information: B. Acceptance of Bus Bid #2022-04

MOVE THAT THE DISTRICT COMMITTEE AWARD THE THREE (3) YEAR CONTRACTS TO THE FOLLOWING COMPANIES WITH THE LOWEST BIDS AS FOLLOWS: JP MCCARTHY THREE YEAR TOTAL \$4,051,440 FOR ROUTES: 2,3,4,5,6,7,12,13,14,15,16,17,18,19,20,21,22 AFFILIATIONS, ATHLETICS AND LATE BUS RUNS; DEE BUS COMPANY THREE YEAR TOTAL \$2,042,100 FOR ROUTES: 1,23,24,25,26,27,28,29,30,31; AA TRANSPORTATION THREE YEAR TOTAL \$990,720 FOR ROUTES 8, 9, 10, 11

Motion by Mary Barclay, second by William Brassard.

Final Resolution: So Voted

Aye: Barbara Reynolds, Brian Walker, Diane Swenson, Eric Commodore, Eric Olson, James Boone, James Cournoyer, Jeanne Bartlett, John Columbus, John Mollica, Kathleen Airoidi, Mary Barclay, Maureen Ward, Melanie Weeks, Peter Capone, Robert Campbell, Ronald Tourigny, Ross Barber, Whitney Marshall, William Brassard

Abstain: Jeffrey Raymond

Action, Discussion, Information: C. Acceptance of Donations

MOVE THAT THE DISTRICT COMMITTEE ACCEPT A DONATION OF TOOLS/NAILS WITH A VALUE OF \$300 FROM AUBUCHON HARDWARE, GARDNER TO BENEFIT THE HOUSE CARPENTRY PROGRAM

Motion by Mary Barclay, second by Maureen Ward.

Final Resolution: So Voted

Aye: Barbara Reynolds, Brian Walker, Diane Swenson, Eric Commodore, Eric Olson, James Boone, James Cournoyer, Jeanne Bartlett, Jeffrey Raymond, John Columbus, John Mollica, Kathleen Airoidi, Mary Barclay, Maureen Ward, Melanie Weeks, Peter Capone, Robert Campbell, Ronald Tourigny, Ross Barber, Whitney Marshall, William Brassard

Action, Information: D. Surplus Equipment - 2008 Thomas Built 71-passenger bus
MOVE THAT THE DISTRICT COMMITTEE CONSIDER A 2008 THOMAS BUILT 71-PASSENGER BUS AS SURPLUS TO BE AUCTIONED.

Motion by Mary Barclay, second by Maureen Ward.

Final Resolution: So Voted

Aye: Barbara Reynolds, Brian Walker, Diane Swenson, Eric Commodore, Eric Olson, James Boone, James Cournoyer, Jeanne Bartlett, Jeffrey Raymond, John Columbus, John Mollica, Kathleen Airoidi, Mary Barclay, Maureen Ward, Melanie Weeks, Peter Capone, Robert Campbell, Ronald Tourigny, Ross Barber, Whitney Marshall, William Brassard

7. Communications

Information: A. Teacher's Information or Proposals

Information: B. School Committee Chairman Report

Action, Information: MOVE THAT THE DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEET IN PERSON BEGINNING IN APRIL AND CONTINUE WHEN WE CAN.

Motion by Eric Olson, second by Jeffrey Raymond.

Final Resolution: So Voted

Aye: Barbara Reynolds, Brian Walker, Diane Swenson, Eric Commodore, Eric Olson, James Boone, James Cournoyer, Jeanne Bartlett, Jeffrey Raymond, John Columbus, John Mollica, Kathleen Airoidi, Mary Barclay, Maureen Ward, Melanie Weeks, Peter Capone, Robert Campbell, Ronald Tourigny, Ross Barber, Whitney Marshall

Nay: William Brassard

Subcommittees to remain remote for now.

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: A. Adjournment

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Motion by Peter Capone, second by Maureen Ward.

Final Resolution: So Voted

Aye: Barbara Reynolds, Brian Walker, Diane Swenson, Eric Commodore, Eric Olson, James Boone, James Cournoyer, Jeanne Bartlett, Jeffrey Raymond, John Columbus, John Mollica, Kathleen Airoidi, Mary Barclay, Maureen Ward, Melanie Weeks, Peter Capone, Robert Campbell, Ronald Tourigny, Ross Barber, Whitney Marshall, William Brassard

Meeting adjourned at 10:27 PM