

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THE
MELROSE SCHOOL COMMITTEE
October 27, 2009**

A meeting of the Melrose School Committee was held this date in the Aldermanic Chamber of Melrose City Hall with the following members present: Mr. Lehman, Ms. Thorp, Mr. Spinale, Mr. Constantine, Ms. Driscoll, Mayor Dolan and Ms. Casatelli.

Also in attendance were Superintendent Joe Casey and Business Manager Greg Zammuto.

Ms. Casatelli called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Thorp moved, Mr. Lehman seconded and it is was unanimously

VOTED: To approve School Committee Minutes of October 13, 2009 with changes

Public Participation

Ms. Thorp moved, Ms. Driscoll seconded and it was unanimously

VOTED: To open Public Participation

Gerry Mroz, 62 Mt. Vernon Street spoke of the importance of having an open dialogue on matters of MPS education including new initiatives and sighted many examples;
Carol Nadeau, 51 Cottage Street spoke affirmatively about open discussions particularly meeting the needs of all learners and the district's support of that matter.

Mayor Dolan moved, Ms. Thorp seconded and it was unanimously

VOTED: To close Public Participation

Report of the Student Representatives

Student Representatives Leanne Hogan and Joe LiCausi reported as follows: Congratulations to students who were identified as Adams, ACT, Merit and AP Scholars; the Senior Halloween Dance on Sunday, Oct. 25th was successful; teachers are finished with the first round of core and open response questions; Nov. 4, 5, 6 are English MCAS for sophomores and Nov 9 is Math MCAS for sophomores; 1st marking quarter ends Nov. 6th; SAT's are scheduled for Nov. 7; Freshman and Junior Student Government are collecting class dues until Friday; and Spirit Week plans are underway.

Announcements – Superintendent of Schools

Recognition of MPS 2009 Retiree – Superintendent and School Committee Chair recognized Ms. Peg Sheerin for her years of service to MPS.

Superintendent's Academic Excellence Award Presentation – Superintendent and School Committee Chair recognized MHS Seniors Ethan McCoy and Scott Mendelssohn for their academic achievement at MHS.

Parent Presentation on Cyber Safety – The Superintendent notified the public of November 5th Cyber Safety parent workshop sponsored by MPS in partnership with the Middlesex Partnership for Youth.

December Meeting Schedule – As the regularly scheduled meeting date of December 8th conflicts with the state election, the committee discussed moving the meeting to Wednesday, December 9th, pending chamber availability and further discussion at the Nov. 10th meeting.

MASC Delegate Vote – Ms. Casatelli asked for member volunteers to serve as voting delegate and alternate at the MASC Conference in November. Mr. Lehman and Ms. Thorp volunteered to be the voting member and alternate member respectively.

Ms. Thorpe moved, Mr. Lehman seconded and it was unanimously

VOTED: To appoint Mr. Lehman as MASC voting delegate and Ms. Thorp as the alternate.

The Mayor left at 7:49 p.m.

MAAV Annual Walk – The Superintendent and Ms. Driscoll thanked the community for their support and recognized the number of students who also supported the cause.

The Mayor returned at 7:51 p.m.

Mr. Constantine moved, Ms. Thorp seconded and it was unanimously

VOTED: To move the orders of the day to allow the Ripley School Area Transportation Update to be brought forward.

Finance & Facilities – Don Constantine

Ripley School Area Transportation Update – Eileen Powers, Michael Rosign and Alderman Forbes addressed the committee asking, despite these tough economic times, for support and the continuation of the bus service until April 1, 2010, citing rural neighborhood conditions, safety and additional time to research other alternatives. Mayor Dolan proposed using free cash to extend the busing until April 1st and encouraged parents to continue looking at alternatives.

Mayor Dolan motioned, Mr. Spinale seconded to have Superintendent continue to Ripley bus until April 1st contingent upon funding

Discussion ensued with Ms. Thorp and Ms. Driscoll opposing, citing no firm end date and district-wide financial student inequities this presents. The remaining committee members, reluctant to support the motion due to financial uncertainties, did offer support of the motion. Ms Thorp asked for a definition of free cash making clear that it is one-time money offered and it is to be used only for busing.

The motion was repeated and with five (5) votes in the affirmative (Mayor Dolan, Mr. Constantine, Mr. Spinale, Ms. Casatelli, Mr. Lehman) and two (2) in the negative (Ms. Thorp, Ms. Driscoll) it was

VOTED: To extend Ripley busing until April 1st contingent upon funding.

Ms. Thorp moved, Mr. Lehman seconded and it was unanimously

VOTED: To return to the order of the day

October 27, 2009

Educational Programs & Personnel – Margaret Driscoll

NEASC Update presented by Principal Dillon, John Buxton & Paula Conis included a detailed account of where we are to date in the process; a review of the schedule moving forward; the theme of student achievement; teaching and learning; and supporting collection of data.

Ms. Driscoll left at 8:30 and returned at 8:32

MHS Guidance Dept. Update presented by John Buxton and Principal Dillon included the Senior Parent Breakfast/Senior Class Awards Assembly; Financial Aid Night; 8th Grade Parent Night; Naviance; Guidance curriculum; on-the-spot college admissions; the development of a Guidance Dept. survey; Guidance and Social and Civic expectations; and Guidance professional development.

Mr. Constantine left the meeting at 9:28 p.m. and returned at 9:29 p.m.

Youth Risk Behavior Survey presented by Pat Muxie, Pat Ruggiero, Jeanne Keefe, and Tami Gouveia-Vigeant from Northeast Center for Healthy Communities included results of YRBS given to students in grades 7-12 including the purpose, methods, validity & reliability, areas of encouragement; focused efforts; district-wide recommendations

Mayor Dolan left at 9:50 p.m.

MCAS Update presented by Pat Muxie included the 2009 MCAS and AYP performance rating highlighting the data that is examined, the purpose of MCAS, result highlights and district-wide goals for 2009-2010

Mayor Dolan returned at 9:56 p.m.

Mr. Spinale left at 10:21 p.m. and returned at 10:23 p.m.

Finance & Facilities – Don Constantine

Ms. Thorp moved, Mr. Lehman seconded and it was unanimously

VOTED: For the second time, to accept the Monthly Cafeteria Report

Ms. Thorp moved, Mr. Lehman seconded and it was unanimously

VOTED: For the second time, to accept the Monthly Budget Summary

Policy & Planning – Kristin Thorp

Ms. Thorp moved, Ms. Driscoll seconded and with five (5) votes in the affirmative (Mr. Lehman, Ms. Thorp, Mr. Spinale, Mr. Constantine, Ms. Driscoll) and two (2) votes in the negative (Mayor Dolan and Ms. Casatelli) it was

VOTED: For the second time, to accept Policy #1501 – School Committee Meeting

Ms. Thorp moved, Ms. Driscoll seconded and it was unanimously

VOTED: To remove tabled Policy #6506.01 - Requests to be Included on the Agenda

Mr. Lehman presented his revised draft of Section #6506.01 for Committee review

Ms. Thorp moved, Ms. Driscoll seconded and it was unanimously

VOTED: To accept revised Policy #6506.01, as read

Melrose School Committee

Ms. Thorp moved, Ms. Driscoll seconded and it was unanimously

VOTED: To remove tabled MSC By-laws Changes 1.3 Agenda, 1.4 Public Participation

Mr. Lehman presented his revised draft of MSC By-laws Changes 1.3 Agenda, 1.4 Public Participation for Committee review

Ms. Thorp moved, Ms. Driscoll seconded and it was unanimously

VOTED: To accept revised MSC By-laws 1.3 Agenda, 1.4 Public Participation

Ms. Thorp identified two (2) policies for discussion at the November 10th meeting – Policy #5300.01 – Elementary School Class Size and Policy #5301 – Elementary School Assignment

Ms. Thorp moved, Ms. Driscoll seconded and it was unanimously

VOTED: To adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 10:50 p.m.