



Town of Reading Meeting Minutes

Board – Committee – Commission – Council:

School Committee

Date: 2022-06-22

Time: 7:00 PM

Building: Reading Memorial High School

Location: Library

Address: 62 Oakland Road, Reading, MA

Members Present: - Tom Wise, Shawn Brandt, Erin Gaffen, Carla Nazzaro, Chuck Robinson, Sarah McLaughlin

Others Present: Superintendent Tom Milaschewski, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services Jen Stys, Director of Finance & Operations Susan Botta, Director of Human Resources, Michelle Roach

Minutes Respectfully submitted: Susan E Brown on behalf of the chairperson

A. Call to order – Tom Wise opened session at 7:00 pm and reviewed the agenda.

Mr. Brandt motioned to take out of order E1, seconded by Ms. Nazzaro, vote passed 5-0.

E. New Business –

Presentation from SEPAC, Maria Morgan

Ms. Morgan presented on behalf of the SEPAC executive board, the SEPAC 2021-2022 year in review. This year was a year in transition with a new board being transitioned in during the month of January, the SEPAC committee no longer must adhere to Open Meeting Law, under Massachusetts law because they are not a decision-making body, they then updated their bylaws as well...for further details, please see the presentation it's in entirety on the link below.

B. Public Comment – No public comment

Consent Agenda – Mr. Brandt Motioned to approve consent agenda, seconded by Mr. Robinson.

Corrections on the minutes 6/09/22 – Section 3 New Business, K-2 not K-1 for next year's illustrative math, presentation in its entirety is written 2x, delete the repeated sentence.

Personnel sec C2, change to "voting that Juneteenth will now be a holiday for paraprofessionals"

6/15/22 – Add "On behalf of the chairperson"

Vote passes 6-0 as amended

Reports

Dr. Stys presented that on Friday June 10th Reading hosted its own Special Olympics, and thanked Tara Herlihy for the planning and execution of the day's events.

Ms. Bottan – presented on the update on stated of Killam’s MSBA eligibility schedule of deliverables, there is a graphic table outlining the deliverables that are due, between now and February 2023. To date, several deliverables have been accomplished and in progress at this time. Please see SC Packet for details.

Ms. Bottan also presented on the Turf 1 update regarding finishing the project, it is with in the timeline as well as budget that was outlined. The scoreboard will be delivered later in the fall and will be dedicated at that time and decommission the old scoreboard at that time.

Dr. Milaschewski – thanked the entire community, faculty, staff and especially students for all their hard work in making this year a success.

Liaison and Subcommittee updates

Ms. Nazzaro reported on there was a Board of Library Trustees meeting, June 12 they did a reorganization. Also, on June 15 there was a Bylaw and Rules Committee Meeting, which was a successful and productive meeting.

Mr. Brandt – reported that he and Mr. Wise attended the last ARPA funding meeting, there were some final requests in which to use the remaining ARPA funding.

Mr. Wise reported that the warrant article for the provided to the Select Board by September 27th, there are 2 meetings on the schedule to allow for review of the warrant prior to presenting it to select board approval. August 11th meeting will be an education review.

The permanent building committee met to go over the renewals of the committee and approved the nomination of Sarah McLaughlin and Carla Nazzaro and the staff member representative from Killam being Sarah McGinty.

C. Personnel

Ms. Roach presented on the FY2022 Personnel Update – we are currently at 985 for the district, over 300 people have been hired, the sub rate has increased to 50%, the long-term sub, para rate has also gone up. For this year, our resignation rate has gone down, and we now have an exit survey and exit interview in place for when staff leaves Reading Public Schools, there will be a report of those results at the next update. We have established and are continuing to create welcome gifts, staff/employee recognition for anniversary’s etc. The presentation in its entirety is available on the website.

E. New Business

Special Education & Student Services Year End Update

Dr. Stys and Ms. Wright presented on the Student Services Department, follow-up presentation to the previous meeting. The department is ensuring that all needs are being met across the district, having consistent communication, ensuring everyone is safe, engaged and making progress.

Mathematic Best practices partnering with Crafting Minds, to have a class for SPED instructors at the Middle School levels, hoping to include gen ed staff as well.

Creating a rubric for math similar to that of reading and writing program for students with learning disabilities.

The SPED team is also conducting program reviews.

There are reviews being done about the number of absences at the high school and 8th grade level. Post pandemic the number of absences has gone up considerably. Currently working with the Bright Project on that data.

The presentation in its entirety is available on the website.

2022 Year End Update and Budget Transfer

Ms. Bottan reported of the 49.7-million-dollar appropriation we are expected to meet all financial obligations and end the year with a balance of 55k. We have been able to identify early on projected savings to be able to allocate to areas to support our students and have positioned ourselves for next year. The full presentation in its entirety is available on the website.

Motions - Mr. Brandt motioned to approve \$937,448 from Special Ed Cost Center to Regular Day Cost Center, seconded by Mr. Robinson, vote passed – 6-0.

Mr. Brandt motioned to approve \$4,459 from District-Wide Technology cost center to the Regular Day Cost Center, seconded by Ms. Nazzaro, vote passed – 6-0.

School Calendar 2022-2023 approval

Dr. Milaschewski requested on behalf of Dr. Hardy a change to add early release date to the calendar due to there being one less early release due to Veteran's Day falling on a day that would normally be early release.

Mr. Brant motioned to approve the 2022-2023 School Calendar as updated in the packet, seconded by Mr. Robinson, vote passed - 6-0.

G. Executive Session

Mr. Wise Called meeting back to order 10:16 from executive session.

Mr. Brandt motioned to approve \$195,700 salary for Dr. Milaschewski for 2022-2023 contract year also to amend section 9 in the contract to remove the tuition reimbursement and provide a \$2000 for local travel, and update section 8 to eliminate redundancies with the new section 9. Seconded by Ms. McLaughlin, vote passed-6-0.

E. School Committee Reorganization

Dr. Milaschewski took over the running of the meeting to facilitate the nominations for the new chairperson, vice chairperson following the Policy BDA.

Ms. Gaffen nominated Mr. Brandt; Ms. Nazzaro nominated Mr. Wise

Roll Call Vote Mr. Brandt–Ms. Gaffen–Yes, Ms. McLaughlin–Nay, Mr. Robinson–Yes, Ms. Nazzaro–Nay, Mr. Wise–Nay, Mr. Brant–Yes

Roll Call Vote for Mr. Wise, Ms. Gaffen–Nay, Ms. McLaughlin–Yes, Mr. Robinson–Nay, Ms. Nazzaro–Yes, Mr. Wise–Yes, Mr. Brant–Nay.

Dr. Milaschewski opened for nominations a second time, Ms. Gaffen nominated Mr. Brandt, Ms. Nazzaro nominated Mr. Wise.

The session is opened for discussion of the school committee. Some discussion was made, and Mr. Wise withdrew his name from the nomination process.

Roll Call Vote – Roll Call Vote for Mr. Brandt, Ms. Gaffen–yes, Ms. McLaughlin–yes, Mr. Robinson–yay, Ms. Nazzaro–nay, Mr. Wise-Yes, Mr. Brant-Yes.

Vote was passed 5-1.

Mr. Brandt took over the meeting as the new Chairperson of the School Committee, nominations for Vice Chair.

Mr. Wise nominated Ms. Nazzaro; vote passed for Ms. Nazzaro as Vice Chair – 6-0.

Liaison and Subcommittee Discussion – Discussion of School Committee representation on various subcommittees, appointments will be made at a future meeting once the committee members have relayed their requests.

Mr. Wise motioned to adjourn, seconded by Ms. McLaughlin.

Meeting adjourned 10:40pm