



Town of Reading Meeting Minutes

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Board - Committee - Commission - Council:

School Committee

Date: 2023-09-07

Time: 7:00 PM

Building: School - Memorial High

Location: School Library

Address: 62 Oakland Road

Session: Open Session

Purpose: Open Session

Version: Final

Attendees: **Members - Present:**

Shawn Brandt, Carla Nazzaro, Erin Gaffen, Tom Wise, and Sarah McLaughlin

Members - Not Present:

Charles Robinson

Others Present:

Superintendent Dr. Thomas Milaschewski

Minutes Respectfully Submitted By: Olivia Lejeune on behalf of the chairperson.

Topics of Discussion:

A. **Call to Order** – Mr. Wise called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. to review the agenda.

B. **Public Comment** – None

Consent Agenda

1. Minutes (08-24-2023)
2. Friends of RMHS Cheer Donation
3. Pegasus Springs Foundation Sense of Belonging Donation
4. Surplus Property

Warrant Reports

1. 08-24-2023
2. 08-31-2023

Mrs. Gaffen motioned to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Mr. Brandt, and the vote passed 5-0.

E. **New Business**

1. MBTA Communities Presentation & Discussion

Community Development Director, Mr. Andrew MacNichol, and Senior Planner, Ms. Mary Benedetto, presented on the MBTA Communities Law. The Town of Reading must reach compliance with the law by December 2024. The ultimate goal is to amend the zoning in Reading in order to adhere to compliance. Communities that do not comply with the law will not be eligible for funds from multiple grant programs.

A survey was conducted over the summer which received over 750 responses. The survey will help craft what the community wants to see going forward and what questions can be answered. A top written-in concern was school enrollment and the impact we could see.

School Committee members asked questions and brought the conversation back to the impact on the schools. Looking at future enrollment projections will be an important factor. The committee stressed that pure enrollment isn't as much of a factor as student need is and they provided examples of how classrooms and other spaces are used for different programming based on need. They asked if there was a way to partner to try to determine or forecast needs in alignment with the DESE High Need categories of students – Multi-Language Learners, Low-Income Learners, and Special Education.

2. RMHS Student Handbook Review & Approval (A)

Interim RMHS Principal, Mrs. Jessica Callanan, provided a memo within the packet that summarizes the changes to the RMHS student handbook. A document tracking changes made was also provided in the packet and once approved, Ms. Callanan will correct each change in the document. Many of the changes are self-explanatory such as language clean up, grammar, changing names, references, etc.

Mrs. Gaffen motioned to approve the 2023-2024 Reading Memorial High School Student Handbook, seconded by Mrs. Nazzaro. There are some items not reflective of current practice and it was noted the School Council will work on this throughout the year. Mrs. Callanan's goal is to present an updated handbook to the School Committee in June for approval for the 2024-2025 school year. Mr. Wise reviewed some of the items he previously reviewed with Mrs. Callanan which she agreed would be corrected before the Handbook was published. The vote passed 5-0.

C. Personnel

1. Review Draft Superintendent Goals for FY23-24

Dr. Milaschewski reviewed the draft Superintendent Goals as provided in the packet. Many of the goals are challenging and the measurability of the goals is straightforward making them easier to measure. With this, it would be helpful for the committee to consider a rating scale given the specificity of the goals.

E. New Business

3. Meeting Management & Presentation Protocol Discussion

At the end of the last fiscal year, Mr. Brandt and Ms. McLaughlin asked to discuss meeting management and presentation protocols in a future meeting. Mr. Brandt and Ms. McLaughlin walked through some of their ideas as ways to improve efficiency such as written reports, a hard cap on discussions, when to table a discussion for the next meeting, prioritizing important agenda items, and creating ground rules for presenters with clear objectives and stringent deadlines for submitting presentations.

After some discussion, the committee agreed that normally written reports by the Administration and for Liaison/Sub Committee updates are not preferable as it is nice to keep the reports more celebratory. Liaison/Sub Committee updates should primarily be focused on school-related impacts.

B. Reports

1. Superintendent – Dr. Milaschewski thanked the staff for a smooth first week of school even with the heat.
2. Liaison/Sub-Committee
 - a. Mrs. Nazzaro – The Killam School Building Committee has submitted the ad for a request for services for the designer. The ad will hit the central registrar next Wednesday as scheduled.
 - b. Mr. Brandt – No Report
 - c. Ms. McLaughlin – No Report
 - d. Mrs. Gaffen – No Report
 - e. Mr. Wise – The Fall Street Faire is this Sunday, September 10th from 12-5 pm.

Mrs. Gaffen motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Brandt, and the vote passed 5-0.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KuUCGb9NFGk>

Meeting Adjourned 8:27pm