



Town of Reading Meeting Minutes

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2023 NOV 20 AM 8:52

Board - Committee - Commission - Council:

School Committee

Date: 2023-10-19

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:**

Carla Nazzaro, Erin Gaffen, Tom Wise, Sarah McLaughlin and Charles Robinson

Members - Not Present:

Shawn Brandt

Others Present:

Assistant Superintendent Dr. Sarah Hardy, Director of Finance and Operations Dr. Derek Pinto, Superintendent Dr. Thomas Milaschewski and Principal Mrs. Jessica Callanan

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 7:03 p.m. to review the agenda.

B. **Public Comment**

Focus on Excellence

1. Recognition of Class of 2024 National Merit Scholars – Interim High School Principal, Mrs. Jessica Callanan, recognized the following students for being named National Merit Commended students: Ruby R. Allen, Caylyn P. Heroux, Brendan Hoffman, Maureen Manning, Vedant S. Narayan, William C. O'Connor, Lily A. Powell, and Hannah Wiggins and Yiyang "Ian" Xiao who was named as a National Merit Semifinalist.

2. 2023-2024 Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents Certificate of Academic Excellence – Dr. Milaschewski congratulated and recognized students Isabella Ring and Mark Malley who are 2023-2024 recipients of the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents Certificate of Academic Excellence.

Consent Agenda

1. Friends of RMHS Cheer Donation
2. Friends of Reading Field Hockey Donation
3. Friends of Reading Football Donation (5)
4. Reading Parents Supporting Student Theatre Donation (3)

Warrant Reports

1. 10-05-2023
2. 10-12-2023

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

Reports

1. Student – Interim High School Principal, Mrs. Jessica Callanan, reported on behalf of student Emily Goodhue giving the following updates:
 - Over 450 students took the PSAT. Mrs. Callanan gave a shout out to Director of Counseling, Ms. Lynna Williams, for organizing the day of testing as it was the first time conducted online.
 - Next week, RMHS will host several Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) at the school and students will have the opportunity to attend a panel discussion where they will hear from admissions counselors. Students also have the opportunity to attend the HBCU College Fair at the Reggie Lewis Center followed by a lunch at the METCO Headquarters.
 - We are excited to celebrate student athletes. The athletic teams are doing well and these students are held to a high standard as participating in sports is a privilege. Along with our athletic teams, we have 45 active clubs keeping students involved.
 - We are also excited about the expansion of Robockets, the dance team debut, and the upcoming national honor society induction.
2. Assistant Superintendent of Teaching & Learning – Dr. Hardy reported on the roll out of the K-8 math coaches. These clear job descriptions have set the coaches up for success. Teachers are inviting coaches into their classrooms and we are tracking data to be able to show how much the coaches expertise are being utilized by teachers. We hope to continue to report good news on this initiative and share more at the end of the school year.
3. Director of Finance & Operations – Dr. Pinto provided an update on the collaboration between the food service department and METCO Program as we celebrated Hispanic Heritage month with a cafeteria collaboration inviting a Dominican Restaurant in to help prepare meals for our community to enjoy.
4. Superintendent – Dr. Milaschewski thanked our two Rocket Ambassadors who joined us last week. We are excited to announce the return of Lego League and want to give a big thanks to Director of Community Education, Mr. Chris Nelson and his team for getting this back up and running. There will be more information provided in the district newsletter tomorrow.
5. Liaison/Sub-Committee
 - a. Mr. Robinson – The Charter Review Committee held their first meeting and will eventually come to this committee with recommendations. It will be a long process and this committee will continue to be updated. SWEC also met to discuss a potential dog park and pickleball as we prepare for Town Meeting. SWEC has received responses to the RFI which the committee is pleased about and continues to create discussion.
 - b. Mrs. Nazzaro – The Killam School Building Committee received request for services and four bids from designers are under review.

- c. Mrs. McLaughlin – The RCTV Board had a meeting and the group plans to meet with Dr. Pinto to create a plan going forward as budget season unfolds to discuss teaching, materials, etc.
- d. Mrs. Gaffen – SEPAC held their first business meeting of the school year and elected a new board. Thank you to outgoing Board member Maria Morgan for her dedication to SEPAC. PAIR helped welcome the new Town Director for Equity and Social Justice, Mr. Albert Pless.
- e. Mr. Wise – The Student Advisory Committee met and will continue to try to meet every other month per MGL. At the Finance Committee meeting they voted on a 4% number for the operating budget perspective.

E. New Business

1. ARC K-2 Implementation Deep Dive including Hill for Literacy Training.

Dr. Hardy and Humanities Curriculum Coordinator, Ms. Erin Burchill, provided an overview of the ARC K-2 implementation plan. Dr. Hardy and Ms. Burchill will return in December to present to the committee on the early literacy screening and literacy intervention plan. To start, the process for adopting a new curricular resource was reviewed. Currently, grades K-2 are in the implementation phase while grades 3-5 are in the implement and monitor phase. Year one for grades K-2 is focused on targeted professional development, communication with families and community, ongoing monitoring of curriculum implementation, and responsive adjustment of implementation supports.

Targeted professional development means ARC coaches are visiting schools to provide 10 coaching visits per school which means 10 days of training/coaching with building leaders, collaborative workshops on Fridays and in service days, and participating in a network with school leaders in other districts utilizing ARC Core. The district is partnering with The Hill for Literacy for additional professional development opportunities.

The ARC Core Implementation Team is available to support and monitor implementation while also focusing on communication and feedback. Building leaders are collaborating on communication plans with families and the community. Principals have discussed their communication structures and meet once a month with the learning and teaching team.

In years one and two, ongoing monitoring of curriculum implementation will continue and adjustments are made to supports based on patterns and trends emerging from ongoing monitoring.

As for early observations, we are into the first seven weeks of school and seeing a 98% IRLA completion rate. It is positive to see strong routines and structures in place, grades 3-5 are continuing to build on instructional practices, and K-2 has jumped right in and is managing learning a new framework for instruction and assessment. The teachers have been phenomenal and are providing great feedback. Other districts are getting a push from their teachers to make this shift as there is growing interest and awareness.

2. FY23 End-of-Year Financial Update including Budget Transfer Vote (if necessary)

Dr. Pinto provided an update on the end-of-year financial update. In the packet, three reports have been provided. Overall, the School Department met all financial obligations for FY23. We are seeing favorable trends with regard to free cash and returned \$102,002 to the town's free cash reserve.

Dr. Pinto provided a Special Education Reserve Fund report which is a requirement that came out of the revised DBDA policy and is meant to provide for unanticipated or unbudgeted costs. This report shows \$175,000 has been transferred to the Special Education Reserve Fund.

Mr. Wise pointed out the difference between required net school spend and actual school spend and the difference we are seeing in this report which leads to a significant difference between the minimum and maximums spends.

Mrs. Gaffen motioned to transfer \$204,290 from regular day and transfer \$187,272 to special education, \$14,900 to administration and \$3,900 to athletics, seconded by Mrs. Nazzaro, and the vote passed 5-0.

G. Executive Session

Ms. Gaffen motioned to adjourn to Executive Session and not return to open session to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining on the bargaining position of the public body (Reading Teachers Association, Reading Paraeducators Association, and Reading Administrative Secretaries Association) as the chair declares an open meeting will have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the Reading School Committee, seconded by Mrs. McLaughlin.

Roll Call Vote – Roll Call Vote to adjourn to Executive Session, Mr. Robinson – yes, Mrs. Nazzaro – yes, Mrs. McLaughlin – yes, Mrs. Gaffen – yes, and Mr. Wise – yes. The vote passed 5-0.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q4Hk7okjA7Y>

Meeting Adjourned from regular session at approximately 8:33pm