



Georgetown School Committee
Thursday, March 12, 2020 6:30PM
Town Hall 3rd Floor Meeting Room
Regular Session Minutes

Barbie Linares, Chairman
Michael Hinchliffe, Vice Chairman
Cheryl Lachendro, Clerk
Pamela Lundquist
Suzanne MacDonald

In Attendance:

Barbie Linares	Superintendent Jacobs	Dan Richards
Michael Hinchliffe	Suzanne Sutherland	Margaret Maher
Cheryl Lachendro	Jack Tiano	
Pam Lundquist	Collin MacDonald	
Suzanne MacDonald		

Chairman Linares called the meeting to order at 6:34PM. All recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Call To Order:

Barbie Linares - present
Michael Hinchliffe - present
Suzanne MacDonald - present
Cheryl Lachendro - present
Pamela Lundquist - present

2. Consent Agenda

Chair Linares read the items included in the Consent Agenda for March 12, 2020 which were the Regular Session Minutes of 2/13/20 and Acceptance of Warrants #34P20, #36P20, #35V20 and #37V20.

MOTION: Suzanne MacDonald (P. Lundquist second) to approve the consent agenda as presented. So voted (5-0). Motion carried.

3. Student rep:

There was no student rep in attendance for tonight's meeting.

Chair Linares and the members commented on how well the basketball teams played this season, in particular the boy's team that went on to the tournament. The Superintendent announced that the MIAA announced that spring sports has been delayed due to the COVID pandemic and tryouts will not be until March 31st and games would begin April 7th.

4. Audiences:

c) Other

- Pakistan Memory Project, Debbie Gray, Lilly Anderson & Alaya Shah

The Superintendent introduced MHS Art Teacher Debbie Gray, who explained what the Memory Project is. She said that this project is a youth arts nonprofit. This program has invited art teachers and their students throughout the United States to create portraits of children from around the world. These children have faced substantial

challenges such as neglect, abuse, loss of parents and extreme poverty and are living in orphanages, refugee camps, and similar situations. These portraits are given to the children as special gifts. Ms. Gray introduced Alaya Shah (12th grade) and Lilly Anderson (8th grade) who both created portraits from photographs featuring children from Pakistan using digital painting techniques that were included in this program. Ms. Gray also announced the upcoming art events:

- Congressional Art Show featuring 6 students March 14-21 at Montserrat College of Art
- GEF Spring Fling March 28th will be displaying art from the middle and high school
- Spring Art Show at the Middle High School, date to be determined

5. Administrative Reports:

a) Superintendent's Report

- Superintendent Jacobs gave an update on Covid-19. She explained that she will be on a call tomorrow with the Superintendent Associations who will be joined by the Department of Health and the Commission of Education regarding the Covid-19 pandemic. She is also working with Deb Rogers from the Georgetown Board of Health and she is following the advice from the CDC and the Board of Health. Superintendent Jacobs explained that there is a 211 line open to the public 24/7 for any questions or concerns regarding the virus. She said that all the area Superintendents have agreed to the recommendation that all non-essential events should be postponed or cancelled and then will be re-evaluated after April vacation. The Superintendent said she would continue to update the public and Committee as information becomes available.
- The Superintendent gave a quick update on the recent fire alarm that was sounded at the Penn Brook. Principal Maher explained that there was an alarm light that sounded concern. Principal Maher pulled the fire alarm for fear of a gas leak. The police and fire department responded and found that there was no leak, but a defect in one of the sensors. Since this happened after school, there were only extended day, enrichment and MCAS tutoring students in the building. Once the fire department inspected the building, they allowed everyone back in the building.

b) School Reports

- Report on Diversion Program – Dan Richards

Principal Richards reported that the MHS has implemented a diversion program in lieu of reduced discipline for several offenses. Principal Richards provided a summary of what they are offering and how it is working. The Assistant Principals are assisting in collecting additional data.

- Accreditation Update Report – Dan Richards

Principal Richards will be compiling the first two year report which is due to the Commission that oversees NEASC this coming October. Principal Richards highlighted the process he continues to use to ensure that the Commission recognizes that the school is making reasonable progress.

- Club Info – Dan Richards

Principal Richards came before the Committee to share information he has started collecting regarding the various clubs that the MHS will be offering. Principal Richards explained that all clubs are aligned with GMHS core values and beliefs. He said that before a club is established, there must be a minimum of 10 students, there must be a written description of the club, there should be an advisor assigned and meeting times and dates are to be established. Some of the information he has collected, which was never done in the past, include the number of participants, how often they meet and the purpose of the club. This information will become useful next year for budget purposes and when any new club's stipend needs to be adjusted and negotiated.

7. Financial Report

a) 2nd Quarter Financial Report

Suzanne Sutherland presented the second quarter report. She announced that at this time, there is no need for a freeze and the finances are in a sufficient place. She added there were some extra repair costs to report. Circuit break was as planned. She is concerned about the athletic revolving account. They are waiting to see what happens with spring sports and at this point they are not sure what will happen. The preschool revolving account is doing well at this time. There were new rolling admissions and numbers look pretty significant. School choice has not changed and it will depend on what the School Committee decides for next year. As far as school lunch, they are doing well. The state offered an equipment grant that we received and with that we were able to acquire 2 new steamers for the Penn Brook and Middle High School cafeterias. Unfortunately, outstanding balances are still high.

MOTION: Pam Lundquist (M. Hinchliffe second) to approve the second quarter financial report, as presented. So voted (5-0). Motion carried.

b) Line Item Transfers

Suzanne Sutherland, Director of Budget & Finance, reported that there is a need for several line item transfers. Member Hinchliffe asked questions regarding large items that were moved.

MOTION: Cheryl Lachendro (M. Hinchliffe second) to approve Line Item Transfers #167-#187 dated 3/12/2020 in the amount of \$59,586.84, as presented. So voted (5-0). Motion carried.

9. Old Business

a) Adoption of the 2020-2021 School Calendar

At the 2/6/20 School Committee meeting, the Committee approved the first and last day of school. The final calendar including all holidays, vacations and professional development days is now being presented for approval.

MOTION: Michael Hinchliffe (C. Lachendro second) to approve the 2020-2021 School Calendar, as presented. So voted (5-0). Motion carried.

10. New Business

a) Preschool 2020-2021

Superintendent Jacobs explained that there is a Preschool Team that meets. They discussed continuing the 2 ½ classes, but want to change the timeline for application process. This year they decided to move up the application process and sent out information to families at the end of October and began a rolling admission process rather than wait until the lottery process which took place at the beginning of March. This would allow families to secure a seat rather than wait and possibly not find an open seat at another preschool if they were not chosen. The rolling admission is going well and at this time, we are requesting 5 full days. Principal Maher added that if we do not open another session, we will start the year full. If any child then comes out of Early Intervention, we wouldn't have the room for them. The concern is that we do not want to add the extra day for one year, but the Superintendent said that with the research they have done, they feel they can fill the slots going forward.

MOTION: Cheryl Lachendro (S. MacDonald second) to approve the increase in preschool tuition rates by 5% over 2019-2020. So voted (5-0). Motion carried.

b) Acceptance of donation from an anonymous donor for school lunch program

Chair Linares has announced that we have received a donation in the amount of \$53,00 to support the school lunch program from an anonymous donor.

MOTION: Suzanne MacDonald (M. Hinchliffe second) to accept the donation from an anonymous donor in the amount \$53.00, with gratitude. So voted (5-0). Motion carried.

c) Acceptance of donation from Georgetown PTA for 5th Grade Field Trip

The Georgetown PTA has made a donation in the amount of \$1,000 to be used towards the 5th grade field trip. Since all field trips have been temporarily cancelled, there has been a decision to table this acceptance.

d) Acceptance of donation from the Class of 2026 for Penn Brook Picnic Table

The class of 2026 would like to gift a seating area under the pergola for the Penn Brook School and have generously donated \$829.00 for the purchase of this picnic table.

MOTION: Cheryl Lachendro (M. Hinchliffe second) to accept the donation from the Class of 2026 in the amount of \$829.00 for the purchase of a picnic table for the Penn Brook School. So voted (5-0). Motion carried.

Member Lundquist mentioned there was a SEPAC meeting scheduled for March 18th, but since the school is restricting meetings at this time, she is not sure whether the meeting will be cancelled and rescheduled at a later date. She will confirm with SEPAC and the public will be update.

MOTION: Michael Hinchliffe (S. MacDonald second) motion to adjourn at 8:44PM. So voted (5-0). Motion carried.

*Respectfully Submitted,
Nancy Weiss, School Committee Secretary*