

Report on Resolutions 2018

The following is a report on actions taken on the resolutions that were considered by the Delegate Assembly at the annual meeting in Hyannis on Friday, November 9. There were 99 districts represented at the Assembly.

Resolution 1: Rejecting the Arming of Educators *(Submitted by the MASC Board of Directors)*

BE IT RESOLVED that the Massachusetts Association of School Committees rejects the notion of providing firearms to any educators.

The resolution was approved on a unanimous voice vote.

Resolution 2: Small and Rural Districts *(Submitted by the MASC Board of Directors)*

BE IT RESOLVED that MASC call for the creation of a working group to advise the legislature on the best public policy solutions to support small and rural school districts; and further

That this working group propose modifications to the Foundation Budget and other elements of the Chapter 70 financial assistance program; designate specific instances where excessive regulation interfere with the ability of school leaders to direct the academic improvement of children; identify and advise on eligibility for state and federal programs to support public education; and find strategies to ameliorate the impact of forces that jeopardize the growth, stability and success of these school districts; and further

That MASC oppose legislation or unlegislated regulations that would attempt to undermine the right of any city, town or regional district to have imposed upon it a mandate to restructure, expand, regionalize, or dissolve its school district without its consent.

A motion was made to divide the resolution into two parts, with Part 2A to consist of the above paragraphs one and two reading as follows:

BE IT RESOLVED *that MASC call for the creation of a working group to advise the legislature on the best public policy solutions to support small and rural school districts; and further*

That this working group propose modifications to the Foundation Budget and other elements of the Chapter 70 financial assistance program; designate specific instances where excessive regulation interfere with the ability of school leaders to direct the academic improvement of children; identify and advise on eligibility for

state and federal programs to support public education; and find strategies to ameliorate the impact of forces that jeopardize the growth, stability and success of these school districts

and Part 2B to consist of the concluding paragraph:

BE IT RESOLVED *that MASC oppose legislation or unlegislated regulations that would attempt to undermine the right of any city, town or regional district to have imposed upon it a mandate to restructure, expand, regionalize, or dissolve its school district without its consent.*

The motion to divide the resolution into two parts (2A and 2B) was approved by a show of hands.

A motion was made to adopt the reconfigured Part 2A.

The motion to adopt Part 2A was approved by a show of hands.

A motion was made to adopt the reconfigured Part 2B.

The motion to adopt Part 2B was approved by a show of hands.

Resolution 3: Elimination of the Federal Department of Education *(Submitted by the MASC Board of Directors)*

BE IT RESOLVED that: the Massachusetts Association of School Committees works with the federal delegation to reject any notion of combining the U.S. Department of Education with other government departments.

A motion was made for a technical correction to add the words "Rejecting the" to the title of the resolution so as to read:

Resolution 3: *Rejecting the* elimination of the Federal Department of Education

The motion to add the new language was adopted on a voice vote.

The resolution, as amended, was adopted on a voice vote.

Resolution 4: Regional School Transportation *(Submitted by the MASC Board of Directors)*

For clarity, the complete text of the resolution as originally submitted appears below.

WHEREAS: Among the transportation cost concerns for **regional** school districts is the lack of competition for bus contracts for regular day ("yellow bus") services, as

well as the steadily mounting cost for special education transportation; and

WHEREAS: M.G.L. c. 71, § 7C prohibits certain uses of **regional** transportation authorities to provide school district transportation services; and

WHEREAS: Elimination of M.G.L. c. 71, § 7C would free the **regional** school districts and Regional Transportation Authorities to collaborate on plans to provide safe and efficient transportation alternatives that lessen the financial impact on the both the districts and the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS: The lack of bidders on school transportation contracts requires a deeper analysis by the appropriate state officials;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that: To promote greater competition for bus service contracts, the Legislature should eliminate M.G.L. c. 71, § 7C, and authorize a deeper analysis of the lack of bidders on school transportation contracts.

An amendment was proposed to remove the word "regional" from the language of the resolution (**see the four instances above in bold-face italics**).

The amendment failed to pass on a voice vote.

An amendment was proposed to include the following language (italics) at the end of the resolution such that the final paragraph would read:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that: To promote greater competition for bus service contracts, the Legislature should eliminate M.G.L. c. 71, § 7C, and authorize a deeper analysis of the lack of bidders on school transportation contracts *and that reimbursements will be provided to communities greater than 20 square miles in area.*

The amendment failed to pass on a voice vote.

A motion was made to refer the resolution back to the original sponsor for further work.

The motion to refer the resolution back to the sponsor was approved on a vote of 62-37.

Resolution 5: Reporting and Accountability Standards
(Submitted by the MASC Board of Directors)

BE IT RESOLVED that: the Massachusetts Association of School Committees works with the legislature and Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to ensure that all students or persons in schools that receive

public funds under the authority of the MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education or a local public school district are held to the same standards and requirements in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

The resolution passed, as written, with one abstention.

Resolution 6: Reproductive Health Education
(Submitted by the MASC Board of Directors)

BE IT RESOLVED that: the Massachusetts Association of School Committees supports evidence-based reproductive health curricula. Further, we call upon the U.S. Department of Education and the Executive Branch to stop their support of abstinence-only education.

A motion was to divide the resolution into two parts, with Part 6A to consist of the first sentence of the paragraph above reading as follows:

BE IT RESOLVED that: the Massachusetts Association of School Committees supports evidence-based reproductive health curricula.

and Part 6B to consist of the second sentence of the paragraph above:

We call upon the U.S. Department of Education and the Executive Branch to stop their support of abstinence-only education.

The motion to divide the resolution into two parts (6A and 6B) was approved by a show of hands, with one abstention.

A motion was made to adopt the reconfigured Part 6A.

The motion to adopt Part 6A was approved by a show of hands.

A motion was made to adopt the reconfigured Part 6B.

The motion to adopt Part 6B was approved by a show of hands.

Resolution 7: Gender Identity Inclusive Athletic Participation Policy
(Submitted by the Framingham School Committee)

BE IT RESOLVED that: MASC help file legislation which would have the effect of protecting LGBTQ students from discrimination, harassment and bullying by that schools should treat students based on their gender identify, protecting their privacy, providing access to **gender-neutral** restrooms, locker rooms and private stall showers, using their **preferred** pronouns, embed-

ding sensitivity training in professional development and providing uniform accommodations.

A motion was made to amend the language of the resolution by removing the phrase "gender-neutral" in the above paragraph.

The motion to remove the phrase passed on a voice vote.

A motion was made to amend the language of the resolution by removing the word "preferred" in the above paragraph.

The motion to remove the word "preferred" failed on a voice vote.

A motion was made to add the following language at the end of the resolution so as to read:

BE IT RESOLVED that: MASC help file legislation which would have the effect of protecting LGBTQ students from discrimination, harassment and bullying by that schools should treat students based on their gender identify, protecting their privacy, providing access to restrooms, locker rooms and private stall showers, using their preferred pronouns, embedding sensitivity training in professional development and providing uniform accommodations *and to support accountability standards be put in place by MIAA to ensure that the standards of protection are adhered to.*

The motion to amend the resolution by adding the above italicized language was adopted on a voice vote.

A motion was made to amend the final paragraph to read as follows (revised language in bold face italics):

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that: MASC help file legislation which would have the effect of protecting LGBTQ students from discrimination, harassment and bullying by that schools should treat students based on their gender identify, by protecting their privacy, providing access to restrooms, ***instituting reasonable accommodations to provide*** locker rooms and private stall showers, using their preferred pronouns, embedding sensitivity training in professional development and providing ***necessary*** ~~uniform~~ accommodations.

The motion to amend the language of the resolution as indicated in the paragraph above failed on a voice vote.

The motion to pass the resolution, as otherwise amended, passed on a voice vote with two abstentions.

Resolution 8: Sports Wagering (Submitted by the MASC Board of Directors)

BE IT RESOLVED that: the Massachusetts Association of School Committees requests that, should the General Court enact legislation to legalize wagering on sporting events, the General Court, shall commit a portion of the revenues generated from sports wagering to public education.

The resolution passed, as presented, on a vote of 52-44.

Resolution 9: Access to Information for Parents and Students Who Are Clients of Special Education (Submitted by the MASC Board of Directors)

BE IT RESOLVED that: MASC urges the legislature to amend state law to require that parents and students be provided with a copy via email or mail of all the assessments that are performed for students in the families' preferred language, at least five days prior to any meeting at which parents and students will review a proposed Individual Education Plan (IEP).

A friendly amendment was proposed to add the word "school" to the above language to read as follows:

at least five **school** days prior to any meeting at which parents and students will review a proposed Individual Education Plan (IEP).

The friendly amendment was accepted by the sponsor.

An amendment was proposed to replace the word "school" with the word "business" to read as follows:

at least five **business** days prior to any meeting at which parents and students will review a proposed Individual Education Plan (IEP).

The amendment, as proposed, was passed on a voice vote.

An amendment to replace the language of the resolution in whole was proposed. The proposed language follows:

BE IT RESOLVED that: MASC urges the legislature to amend state regulation 603 CMR 28.04(2)(c) to require that:

(a) parents, guardians, educational surrogate parents, court-appointed resources and students receive completed reports meeting the requirements of 603 CMR et al. and related federal regulations, as well as the assessments and evaluations, and all supporting documentation; and

(b) documents will be received at a minimum of five business days prior to any meeting at which parents, guardians, educational surrogate parents, court-appointed resources and students will determine eligibility and/or propose an Individual Educational Plan (IEP); and

(c) documents will be made available in the preferred and/or native language of the parents, guardians, educational surrogate parents, and students; and

(d) all documents listed in (a) will be provided to the parents, guardians, educational surrogate parents, court-appointed resources and student and not require that such be requested; and

(e) the items specified above will be provided to the parent in hard copy and/or electronically free of charge.

The motion to substitute the above language for the original language of the resolution failed to pass on a vote of 57-28, with 1 abstention.

The resolution, as otherwise amended, was adopted on a voice vote.

PROPOSAL TO AMEND THE MASC BY-LAWS

The Board of Directors of the Association has recommended to members that the by-laws of the Association be amended as follows:

The following change to Article IX–Meetings of the Association, Subsection 1. Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the Association, to be known as the Delegate Assembly, shall be held at such hour on such business day, not earlier than September 20 nor later than November 30, in each year and at such place within Massachusetts as the Board of Directors shall determine. Resolutions and other purposes for which an annual meeting is to be held additional to those proscribed by law, by the agreement of the association, and by these by-laws may be specified by the Board of Directors and by written application made to the Secretary-Treasurer **not later than July 1** in any year by at least five active members located in at least two Divisions. Resolutions submitted by a single school committee may be presented to the Delegate Assembly upon approval by the Board of Directors, on the recommendation of the Resolutions Committee. If an annual meeting is not held within the dates specified above, a special meeting may be held upon call by the Board of Directors with all the force and effect of an annual meeting.

The Board asks to amend the by-law by changing the July 1 date (noted in the text in bold face) to no later than June 1.

The request to amend the by-law as indicated above was approved on a voice vote.

A motion was made to reconsider Resolution 4.

The motion to reconsider was not approved by the Assembly.