

DELEGATE ASSEMBLY 2023: REPORT ON ACTIONS TAKEN

MASC's 78th annual meeting was held at the start of the annual conference in Hyannis, Wednesday, November 8. A total of 108 delegates representing school districts across the state were registered and participated in the deliberations.

The meeting was led by MASC President Stacey Rizzo (Revere). The Association's Financial Report was presented by Vice President Jason Fraser (Plympton and Silver Lake Reg.). MASC Executive Director Glenn Koocher and Acting General Counsel Patrick Francomano, Esq. served as Parliamentarian and Legal Counsel for the event.

Approved for Life Membership were: Don Erickson (Bay Path Vocational Technical), Jack Foley (Worcester), and Kim Savery (Plymouth).

Elected to the 2024 MASC Board of Directors were: as President-Elect, Jason Fraser (Plympton and Silver Lake Reg.); as Vice President, Denise Hurst (Springfield); as Secretary-Treasurer, Beverley Griffin-Dunne (Peabody and Essex Tech.).

Mildred Lefebvre (Holyoke) who is the 2023 President-Elect becomes President on January 1, 2024.

Current President Stacey Rizzo (Revere) becomes Immediate Past President at the same time.

Following are the actions taken on the eight proposed resolutions, as well as on the proposed amendment to the MASC By-Laws. The full texts of the resolutions and proposed amendment are printed in the 2023 Delegate Manual and posted on the MASC website.

In the interest of expediting discussion and allowing more time for resolutions of a more controversial nature, a special procedural action was adopted that allowed delegates to vote on resolutions considered non-controversial as a group. Each resolution was presented and delegates identified those that they wished "held" for further discussion. Those resolutions not held, would be voted and approved as a single slate.

This year, all but one of the resolutions (Resolution 2: Regarding Investigations and Recommendations for Transportation Bidding Procedures) were held for further discussion.

RESOLUTION 2 passed, as presented, without debate, on a voice vote.

Following are the actions taken on the seven remaining resolutions that the delegates held for in-depth discussion.

RESOLUTION 1: FULL, STABLE FUNDING FOR METCO
(Sponsored by the Arlington School Committee)

BE IT RESOLVED that the Massachusetts Association of School Committees calls upon the Governor and the Legislature to create a stable funding structure to support METCO and its partner districts that fully funds the

support provided by METCO, and the cost of providing services delivered by METCO's partner districts.

The resolution passed, as presented, on a vote of 92-3, with no abstentions.

RESOLUTION 3: REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION
(Sponsored by the Hampden-Wilbraham Regional School Committee)

BE IT RESOLVED that in such case where a pupil resides greater than one and one-half mile from the school of attendance, measured by a commonly traveled route, and the commonwealth reimbursement does not fully cover the amounts expended for such transportation, the regional school district may allow pupils to opt out of such transportation or may charge a fee that in aggregate may not exceed the differential between the amounts expended for furnishing transportation and the commonwealth reimbursement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the MASC encourage the Legislature to modify M.G.L. Title XII c. 71, § 16C, with the aforementioned proposed language (or alternative and re-move the period) to provide regional districts the ability if so desired to charge a transportation fee that in aggregate can-not exceed the differential between the and that the Commonwealth reimbursement and the regional school district transportation expense for any pupil that resides greater than one and one-half mile from the school of attendance measured by a commonly traveled route. Pupils may opt out of transportation and not be subject to a transportation fee.

Following much discussion, the resolution failed to pass on a vote of 53 (opposed) to 27 (in favor). There were 12 abstentions.

RESOLUTION 4: DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION
(Submitted by Division X; amended by the Resolutions Committee)

BE IT RESOLVED that MASC recommends that all districts adopt the position of DEI coordinator to work towards an anti-racist school system.

After much vigorous discussion and several failed amendments, the assembly voted to table the resolution on a vote of 47 (in favor) and 34 (opposed).

RESOLUTION 5: MA SCHOOL BUILDING AUTHORITY
(Submitted by the Wachusett Regional School Committee)

BE IT RESOLVED that the Massachusetts Association of School Committees calls upon the Massachusetts Legislature to amend MGL ch.70B, section 7 by removing the \$1,200,000,00 cap; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Massachusetts Association of School Committees calls upon the Massachusetts School Building Authority to reinstate the Accelerated Repair program for 2024 applications; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Massachusetts Association of School Committees calls upon the Massachusetts Legislature to allow public preschools to be included in the Accelerated Repair Program and Core Program.

After much discussion, including debate of a proposed amendment from Worcester that failed to pass, the resolution passed as presented although the language was updated to reflect the increase of the cap from \$800,000,000 to \$1,200,000,000.

RESOLUTION 6: SCHOOL BUS STOP ARM SURVEILLANCE ACT AND ENFORCEMENT AND PENALTIES
(Submitted by the Peabody and Marlboro School Committees)

BE IT RESOLVED that the Massachusetts Association of School Committees calls on the Massachusetts Legislature to enact legislation to pass into law the ability for cities and towns to install on all school buses live digital video detection monitoring systems for the purpose of enforcing violations against the owner of a motor vehicle whose vehicle failed to stop for a school bus when required to do so by law.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Massachusetts Association of School Committees calls on the Massachusetts Legislature to enact legislation raising the fine for passing a stopped school bus to a significant schedule of fines as penalty whether witnessed by a police officer or recorded by a digital video detection monitoring system.

After considerable debate, a motion was made to table the resolution.

The resolution was tabled on a voice vote.

RESOLUTION 7: RELATED TO MCAS
(Submitted by the Framingham School Committee)

BE IT RESOLVED:

- that MASC urges Massachusetts to develop a wider, more consensus-built strategy for an evaluation system with meaningful input from legitimate stakeholders.
- that MASC urges the state Legislature to launch a comprehensive evaluation to investigate the extent of biases pertaining to MCAS testing and make these results public.
- that MASC urges Massachusetts to enact a moratorium on MCAS testing effective immediately.
- that MASC urges Massachusetts to develop an alternative to the high-stakes MCAS tests.

A motion was made to table this resolution.

The resolution was tabled on a voice vote.

RESOLUTION 8: SAFE STORAGE OF FIREARMS
(Submitted by the Framingham School Committee)

BE IT RESOLVED that MASC recommends all districts to urge their Superintendent and staff to create an appropriate communication to parents and guardians that explains the importance of secure firearm storage to protect children and teens from unauthorized access to unsecured firearms, and their legal obligations consistent with Massachusetts safe storage law.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that MASC urges other communities to work with their local law enforcement agencies, health agencies and non-profit organizations to collaborate and increase efforts to inform District parents and guardians of their obligations regarding secure storage of firearms in their homes and vehicles.

Following discussion, a motion was made to table the resolution.

The resolution was tabled on a voice vote.

PROPOSAL TO AMEND THE MASC BY-LAWS

(Submitted by the MASC Legislative Committee)

IT WAS PROPOSED THAT the following paragraph be added after the final sentence of By-Laws Article IX, Section 1.

Resolutions will expire at the conclusion of the Delegate Assembly three years after their adoption. The MASC Legislative Committee shall provide a list of expiring resolutions to the membership no later than March 1st of the year in which they expire. Readoption of an expiring resolution can be accomplished under the method proscribed in ARTICLE IX, section 1.

The amendment to the By-Laws, Article IX, Section 1, was approved as proposed.