DELEGATE ASSEMBLY 2022: REPORT ON ACTIONS TAKEN

MASC’s 77th annual meeting was held at the start of the annual conference in Hyannis, Wednesday, November 2. A total of 87 delegates representing school districts across the state were registered and participated in the deliberations.

The meeting was led by MASC President Andrea Wadsworth (lee). The Association’s Financial Report was presented by Secretary-Treasurer Jason Fraser (Plympton and Silver Lake Reg.). In the absence of Nominating Committee Chair Ellen Holmes, President-Elect Stacey Rizzo (Revere) presided over the board elections. Ms. Rizzo, who chaired the Resolutions Committee, introduced the six resolutions that were considered and voted on by the delegates.

Following is a summary of the actions taken on the resolutions and on the voting of Life Members and the incoming Board of Directors:

Approved for Life Membership were: Laura Fallon (Northampton); William Gaine (Keefe Tech.); and Daniel Hayes (Shutesbury).

Elected to the 2023 MASC Board of Directors were: as President-Elect, Mildred Lefebvre (Holyoke); as Vice President, Jason Fraser (Plympton and Silver Lake Reg.); as Secretary-Treasurer, Denise Hurst (Springfield). Stacey Rizzo (Revere) who is the 2022 President-Elect becomes President on January 1, 2023. Current President Andrea Wadsworth becomes Immediate Past President at the same time.

Following are the actions taken on the six proposed resolutions, the full texts of which are printed in the 2022 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 t hose 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: Increasing the Maximum Balance for SPED Reserve Funds) were held for further discussion.

Resolution 2 passed, as presented, on a voice vote.

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

**Resolution 1: Regarding Sanctuary Rights for Transgender Students**

(sponsored by the Lexington School Committee and co-sponsored by the Worcester, Somerville, Grafton, and Franklin School Committees)

BE IT RESOLVED that the Massachusetts Asso-
ciation of School Committees calls on the Great and General
Court to join with other states in the passage of so-called
“sanctuary” laws to ensure such children and their families
have “the power of enjoying, in safety and tranquility, their
natural rights and the blessings of life,” as guaranteed by the
Constitution of the Commonwealth.

An amendment was proposed by the delegate from Agawam to insert the following additional language within the resolution

(appearing below in red).

BE IT RESOLVED that the Massachusetts Association of School Committees calls on the Great and General
Court to join with other states in the passage of so-called
“sanctuary” laws to ensure such children and their families a safe environment of protections in the areas of HIPPA laws, discrimination, mental health, and medical care, which includes mental health support and resources for students and their families. Also,
~~have~~ “the power of enjoying, in safety and tranquility, their
natural rights and the blessings of life,” as guaranteed by the
Constitution of the Commonwealth.

The amendment carried on a voice vote.

An amendment was proposed by the delegate from Mashpee to add the words “to advocate for” immediately preceding *the passage of so-called “sanctuary” laws to ensure such children and their families
have “the power of enjoying, in safety and tranquility, their
natural rights and the blessings of life,” as guaranteed by the
Constitution of the Commonwealth*.

This amendment failed on a voice vote.

The resolution passed, as first amended, on a vote of 78-7.

**Resolution 3: Membership on the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education**

(Sponsored by the Arlington School Committee)

BE IT RESOLVED that the Massachusetts Association of School Committees calls for the enactment of
legislation to repeal the provision of Massachusetts law that
prohibits practicing educators and sitting school commit-
tee members from serving on the Board of Elementary and
Secondary Education;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Massachusetts Associ-
ation of School Committees calls for legislation to reconsti-
tute the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education by
including members with expertise as licensed educators
and members with expertise in public school governance.

A motion was made by the delegate from Pittsfield to split the resolution in two and vote separately on each of the BE IT RESOLVED paragraphs.

The motion failed on a vote of 40-40, with 5 abstentions.

A motion was made by the delegate from Worcester to add the following language at the conclusion of the final paragraph, as follows:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Massachusetts Associ-
ation of School Committees calls for legislation to reconsti-
tute the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education by
including members with expertise as licensed educators
and members with expertise in public school governance, and inclusive of geographic diversity.

The amendment passed on a voice vote.

An amendment to the amendment was proposed by the delegate from Grafton. The amendment would have added the phrase “the active members shall not be a voting majority” immediately following the prior amendment language.

The amendment to the amendment failed on a voice vote.

A motion was made by the delegate from Leominster to table the resolution.

The motion to table failed on a voice vote.

The main motion, as amended, passed on a voice vote.

**Resolution 4: Preserving Local Governance of Massachusetts Schools**

(Sponsored by the Arlington School Committee)

BE IT RESOLVED that the Massachusetts Asso-
ciation of School Committees calls on the Commonwealth of
Massachusetts to restore local governance and accountability
for the Lawrence, Holyoke, and Southbridge Public Schools
no later than July 1, 2023; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Massachusetts Associa-
tion of School Committees calls on the Massachusetts Legis-
lature to enact legislation to limit any future state takeovers to
a term of no more than three years.

An amendment was proposed by the delegate from Wilmington to change the term of future state takeovers to no more than five years.

The amendment failed on a voice vote.

The resolution passed unanimously, as originally presented.

**Resolution 5: Personal Financial Literacy Education**

(Sponsored by the Framingham School Committee)

BE IT RESOLVED that MASC file legislation that
would have the effect of ensuring that all students have ex-
posure to personal financial literacy curricula and, ultimately,
graduate from high school with the lifelong knowledge of
how to be fiscally responsible to avoid being deterred by fi-
nancial woes. This legislation should ensure that the students
at various levels would benefit from curriculum in Massachu-
setts’ public schools which would include content in personal
financial literacy.

The resolution was approved, as presented, on a voice vote.

Resolution 6: Establishment of a Regional School Assessment Reserve Fund

(Sponsored by the Silver Lake Regional School Committee

BE IT RESOLVED: that the Massachusetts Asso-
ciation of School Committees calls upon the Massachusetts
Legislature to enact or amend legislation which permits
municipalities to establish a Regional School Assessment
Reserve Fund.

Proposed language for legislation could include:
To amend M.G.L. Part l, Title Vll, Chapter 40, by inserting
Section 13F as follows:
Chapter 40, Section 13F
Regional School Assessment Reserve Fund for payments
towards future Regional Assessments
Any municipality which accepts this section by a majority
vote of the municipality’s legislative body may establish
and appropriate or transfer money to a reserve fund to be
utilized in the upcoming fiscal years, to pay for the Regional
Assessment in years when the Regional Assessment in-
creases by more than 3.5% over the previous year’s Region-
al Assessment. The balance in the reserve fund shall not
exceed 10 percent of the annual Regional Assessment for
the municipality.
 Funds shall only be distributed from the reserve funds
after a majority vote of the municipality’s legislative body
in years when the Regional Assessment is more than 3.5%
in order to bring the Regional Assessment down to no less
than 2.5% increase. The municipal treasurer may invest the
monies in the manner authorized in section 54 of chapter
44 and any interest earned thereon shall be credited to and
become part of the fund.

An amendment was proposed to add the following language to the proposed language for amending Chapter 40, Section 13F:

If a municipality belongs to two or more regional school districts, the annual regional assessment will be the aggregate of all regional assessments for a given year.

The motion to amend the proposed language failed on a voice vote.

The resolution passed, as presented, on a voice vote.