



Marlborough Public Schools

School Committee

*District Education Center
25 Union Street, Marlborough, MA 01752
(508) 460-3509*

Call to Order

January 9, 2024

1. Chairman Dumais called the regular meeting of the Marlborough School Committee to order at 7:33 p.m. at 17 Washington Street, Marlborough, MA. Members present included Michelle Bodin-Hettinger, Daniel Caruso, Earl Geary, and Denise Ryan. Also present were Chairman Dumais, Superintendent Mary Murphy, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning, Robert Skaza, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services and Equity, Jody O'Brien, and Director of Finance and Operations, Tom Lafleur. MEA Representative Elton Thomas and Student Advisory Representative Risha Khanderia were also present.

This meeting is being recorded by local cable, WMCT-TV, and is available for review.

2. **Pledge of Allegiance:** Chairman Dumais led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. **Presentation:** None.

4. **Committee Discussion/Directives:** None.

5. **Communications:** None.

6. **Superintendent's Report:**

Superintendent Murphy shared that the district will submit a Student Opportunity Act (SOA) plan to the School Committee for approval in March to then submit to DESE for April 1, 2024.

Superintendent Murphy will send out invitations to parents/guardians to join her and her leadership tea on February 8, 2024 for morning coffee at 10am and afternoon tea at 4pm in the Superintendent's conference room. Two areas of focus for discussions at those times will be Student Opportunity Act priority areas and feedback on current cell phone rules/procedures.

Superintendent Murphy attached a copy of the Assabet Valley Collaborative's (AVC) FY23 final audit report and community cover letter.

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A. Assistant Superintendent of Student Services & Equity

Mrs. O'Brien, the Assistant Superintendent of Student Services and Equity, reported that DESE has been working on updating the IEP form over the past few years. The new form will be rolled out for the 2024-2025 academic year.

Mrs. O'Brien also shared that MPS has not had an active Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC) for several years due to lack of participation by parents. The district has been working with the Federation for Children organization to reactive this council.

Mr. Fletcher, the Director of Special Education, presented more on these two topics.

7. Acceptance of Minutes: None.

8. Public Comment: None.

It should be noted that members of the public may provide comment via email before the meeting to superintendent@mps-edu.org. Public comment is a time for your comments to be heard by the committee; it is not a question-and-answer session.

9. Action Items/Reports

A. MHS Student Council Conference Attendance Approval

Ms. Klein requested permission for the MHS Student Council to attend the MASC Annual Conference during March 6-8th in Hyannis, MA.

Motion made by Mrs. Bodin-Hettinger, seconded by Mrs. Ryan to approve this donation.

Motion passed 5-0-0.

B. Policy for First Read

1. Policy 3.410 Budget Authority (update from Adjustments and Transfers to Budget)

This policy was presented for first read.

Motion made by Mr. Caruso, seconded by Mrs. Bodin-Hettinger to accept this first read.

Motion passed 5-0-0.

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C. Director of Finance & Operations Interview Committee and Timeline

Superintendent Murphy shared that the Director of Finance and Operations position will be vacant as of July 1, 2024 as Mr. Lafleur will be retiring. Therefore, an interview committee and timeline needs to be discussed to work on filling this future opening. Patty Brown shared that interviews will be held between January 16-19th. References will be checked between January 19th-22nd. At the January 23rd School Committee meeting, Superintendent Murphy will make her recommendation for the candidate to potentially be approved by the committee. Salary negotiation will be held on January 26th. This position has already been posted and she and Superintendent Murphy are currently reviewing applications.

The interview committee will consist of Patty Brown, Superintendent Murphy, Dr. Skaza, Mrs. O'Brien, 1-2 School Committee members, and Mr. Lafleur. Mr. Geary and Mrs. Bodin-Hettinger expressed their interest in being on the interview committee. The members will check with Mrs. Hennessy and Mrs. Matthews since they are absent.

D. Acceptance of Donations and Gifts

O'Connor Studios. Kane Elementary School received \$1,296.35, Richer Elementary School received \$1,291.24, Whitcomb School received \$1,367.56, and Jaworek Elementary School received \$1,844.22 from O'Connor Studios.

Motion made by Mrs. Ryan, seconded by Chairman Dumais to approve these donations.

Motion passed 5-0-0.

Brigham Family Trust. The MHS Panther Den received \$5,063.00 from Brigham Family Trust.

Motion made by Mrs. Ryan, seconded by Chairman Dumais to approve this donation.

Motion passed 5-0-0.

Samantha Perlman. MPS received \$400.00 from Samantha Perlman.

Motion made by Mrs. Ryan, seconded by Chairman Dumais to approve this donation.

Motion passed 5-0-0.



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Boston Scientific. MPS received \$750.00 from Boston Scientific.

Motion made by Mrs. Ryan, seconded by Chairman Dumais to approve this donation.

Motion passed 5-0-0.

Marlborough Rotary Club. MPS received \$2,000.00 from Marlborough Rotary Club.

Motion made by Mrs. Ryan, seconded by Chairman Dumais to approve this donation.

Motion passed 5-0-0.

Boston Scientific. MPS received \$125.00 from Boston Scientific.

Motion made by Mrs. Ryan, seconded by Chairman Dumais to approve this donation.

Motion passed 5-0-0.

Hannaford Supermarkets. Richer Elementary School received \$264.00 from Hannaford Supermarkets.

Motion made by Mrs. Ryan, seconded by Chairman Dumais to approve this donation.

Motion passed 5-0-0.

Box Tops for Education. Whitcomb School received \$107.50 and Kane Elementary School received \$60.30 from Box Tops for Education.

Motion made by Mrs. Ryan, seconded by Chairman Dumais to approve these donations.

Motion passed 5-0-0.

O'Connor Studios. Early Childhood Center received \$716.20 and Goodnow Brothers Elementary School received \$2,049.99 from O'Connor Studios.

Motion made by Mrs. Ryan, seconded by Chairman Dumais to approve these donations.

Motion passed 5-0-0.

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10. Reports of School Committee Sub-Committees: None.

11. Members' Forum:

Mrs. Ryan has reviewed the warrant and signed it.

Mrs. Bodin-Hettinger shared that the Marlborough Education Foundation grants are due this Friday from teachers. She will propose moving the April 23rd, 2024 School Committee meeting to another date at the next meeting.

12. Adjournment:

Motion made by Mrs. Bodin-Hettinger, seconded by Chairman Dumais to adjourn at 8:15 p.m.

Motion passed 5-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Heidi Matthews', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Heidi Matthews
Secretary, Marlborough School Committee

HM/jm

Approved January 23, 2024