



Marlborough Public Schools

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

Call to Order

December 12, 2023

1. Chairman Vigeant called the regular meeting of the Marlborough School Committee to order at 7:30 p.m. at 17 Washington Street, Marlborough, MA. Members present included Michelle Bodin-Hettinger, Daniel Caruso, Earl Geary, Katherine Hennessy, Heidi Matthews, and Denise Ryan. Also present were Superintendent Mary Murphy, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning, Robert Skaza, and Assistant Superintendent of Student Services and Equity, Jody O'Brien. Student Advisory Representative Risha Khanderia was also present.

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

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

3. **Presentation:**

- A. **MHS Student Advisory Committee**

Atul Modur, the sophomore class representative, discussed the MCAS question on the ballot. He shared some concerns regarding this standardized tests.

Taylor Cronis, one of the freshman class representatives, spoke about the petition to remove MCAS as a graduation requirement.

Katalina Cartes Guzman, the junior class representative, shared how the MHS exterior grounds could be brightened to be more welcoming.

Tayla Stempson, one of the freshman class representatives, discussed the various opportunities in the MHS Music Department.

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

5. **Communications:** None.

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6. Superintendent's Report:

Superintendent Murphy shared that Marlborough Athletic Director, Jeff Rudzinsky, was awarded the MSSADA District 3 Athletic Director of the Year award on December 4th.

Superintendent Murphy discussed that there will not be any delayed openings due to snow unless all routes are staffed and on regular schedules since transportation has been an ongoing challenge this year.

Superintendent Murphy thanked Mayor Vigeant for supporting MPS throughout his time in office.

A. Director of Finance & Operations Report

Superintendent Murphy shared Mr. Lafleur's report.

MPS continues to work with the MSBA to certify projected elementary enrollment. The School Committee's request for feasibility study funding is being reviewed by the City Council Finance Committee. MPS remains on track to complete all eligibility period deliverables by February 26, 2024.

An update on food services participation in the district was provided.

The district issued a Request for Bids on December 6th for a second vendor to provide four buses to supplement NRT. Bids are scheduled to open on December 21st.

B. Assistant Superintendent of Student Services & Equity

Mrs. O'Brien, the Assistant Superintendent of Student Services and Equity, provided detailed charts on the McKinney-Vento Enrollment breakdown as of December 6, 2023. These charts are in her report.

C. Assistant Superintendent of Teaching & Learning Report

Dr. Skaza, the Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning, presented the field trip that he and MHS band teacher Jimmy Verdone took freshman student Yanira Uribe Rosa and sophomore Nicholas Andrade on. The four of them went to a leadership summit at the Auerbach Center in Boston on December 2nd to learn about the Playbook Initiative.

Dr. Skaza introduced Heather Russo, the Supervisor of Mathematics 6-12, to update the committee on the math courses offered in middle school and high school.



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7. Acceptance of Minutes:

A. Minutes of the November 28, 2023 School Committee Meeting

Motion made by Mrs. Matthews, seconded by Chairman Vigeant to accept these minutes as amended.

Motion passed 7-0-0.

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. Foster Care Transportation Reimbursement

Mrs. O'Brien requested for the School Committee to approve forwarding the MOU to the Mayor's Office to send it to City Council to give them permission for the Superintendent to sign the MOU.

Motion made by Mrs. Bodin-Hettinger, seconded by Chairman Vigeant to approve this request.

Motion passed 7-0-0.

B. Acceptance of Donations and Gifts

Bright Funds. Kane Elementary School received \$475.00 from Bright Funds.

Motion made by Mrs. Matthews, seconded by Chairman Vigeant to approve this donation.

Motion passed 7-0-0.

Donor's Choose. Ms. Rivera's class at Kane Elementary School received \$982.16.

Motion made by Mrs. Matthews, seconded by Chairman Vigeant to approve this donation.

Motion passed 7-0-0.

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Staples. Kane Elementary School received \$400.00 from Staples.

Motion made by Mrs. Matthews, seconded by Chairman Vigeant to approve this donation.

Motion passed 7-0-0.

Hannaford Helps Program. Hannaford Helps Program donated \$255.00 to Kane Elementary School, \$261.00 to Whitcomb Middle School, and \$261.00 to MHS.

Motion made by Mrs. Matthews, seconded by Chairman Vigeant to approve these donations.

Motion passed 7-0-0.

Global Montello Group Corp. MHS received \$375.00 from Global Montello Group Corp.

Motion made by Mrs. Matthews, seconded by Chairman Vigeant to approve this donation.

Motion passed 7-0-0.

Ohiopyle Prints, Inc. MHS received \$66.88 from Ohiopyle Prints, Inc.

Motion made by Mrs. Matthews, seconded by Chairman Vigeant to approve this donation.

Motion passed 7-0-0.

MA DESE FY24 FCo274 Grant. MPS received \$33,208.00 from this grant.

Motion made by Mrs. Matthews, seconded by Chairman Vigeant to approve this donation.

Motion passed 7-0-0.

10. Reports of School Committee Sub-Committees:

Mrs. Hennessy shared that the Policy sub-committee will hold a meeting on December 20th.

Mrs. Matthews shared that the Negotiations sub-committee was trained for IBB. Negotiations will begin in January.

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11. Members' Forum:

Mrs. Ryan reminded everyone that the MHS winter concert will be held on December 14th at 7pm at Whitcomb.

Mrs. Bodin-Hettinger requested for Mr. Reyes to attend a School Committee meeting and share the civics projects his students work on throughout the year.

Mrs. Matthews has reviewed and signed the warrant.

Mrs. Matthews thanked Chairman Vigeant for his 12 years in office.

12. Adjournment:

Motion made by Mrs. Matthews, seconded by Chairman Vigeant to adjourn at 8:36 p.m.

Motion passed 7-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Heidi Matthews
Secretary, Marlborough School Committee

HM/jm

Approved January 23, 2024