



Marlborough Public Schools

School Committee

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

Call to Order

August 29, 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, Katherine Hennessy, Heidi Matthews, and Denise Ryan. Also present were Chairman Vigeant, 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 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:** None.

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

5. **Communications:** None.

6. **Superintendent's Report:**

Superintendent Murphy shared the current district enrollment numbers as of August 24, 2023. A chart is provided in her report and broken down by school.

Superintendent Murphy reported that there are 54 open staff positions as of August 24th as well. Nine of these open positions are MEA positions.

Superintendent Murphy thanked all of the school and custodial staff that helped prepare the schools for the first day. She recognized countless individuals for their dedication and efforts in making Opening Day for staff successful.

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A. Director of Finance & Operations Report

Mr. Lafleur, the Director of Finance and Operations, reminded MPS students and families of the free breakfast/lunch program for all students in the district.

Mr. Lafleur reported on the various facilities updates at different schools throughout the district. He recognized Doug Dias for planning so well and handing off these projects in a way that set them up for success. He thanked Rob Quinn, Dan Jackson, Andy White, the facilities and custodial staff, and the Jaworek staff as well.

Mr. Lafleur shared that only four routes are impacted by the shortage of bus drivers this year. There are drivers in the process of being trained, one of which should be licensed around September 15th.

7. Acceptance of Minutes:

A. Minutes of the June 27, 2023 School Committee Meeting

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

Motion passed 6-0-0.

B. Minutes of the August 2, 2023 School Committee Meeting

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

Motion passed 6-0-0.

8. Public Participation: None.

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

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9. Action Items/Reports

A. Policy Updates

Motion made by Mrs. Hennessy, seconded by Chairman Vigeant to suspend the rules and vote on the following three policies.

Motion passed 6-0-0.

1. Policy 2.442 Order of Business

The 'Public Participation' section of the School Committee meeting agenda would be renamed to 'Public Comment.'

Motion made by Mrs. Hennessy, seconded by Chairman Vigeant to approve this policy.

Motion passed 6-0-0.

2. Policy 2.450 Public Participation and School Committee meetings

The 'Public Participation' section of the School Committee meeting agenda would be renamed to 'Public Comment.'

Motion made by Mrs. Hennessy, seconded by Chairman Vigeant to approve this policy.

Motion passed 6-0-0.

3. Policy 8.001 Student Welfare Plans

This policy would be renamed as Student Welfare Plans/Mandated Reporting.

Motion made by Mrs. Hennessy, seconded by Chairman Vigeant to approve this policy.

Motion passed 6-0-0.

B. Surplus Textbooks

Mr. Lafleur shared that Literature is the new core curriculum for ELA in grades 6 through 10. Therefore, the Prentice Hall and Holt McDougall textbooks are no longer needed.

Motion made by Mrs. Matthews, seconded by Chairman Vigeant to allow the 6-12 Humanities supervisor to discard the textbooks.

Motion passed 6-0-0.

C. Acceptance of Donations and Gifts

Doble Engineering – 60 stackable chairs. MPS received \$3,000.00 for 60 stackable chairs from Doble Engineering.

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

Motion passed 6-0-0.

O'Connor Portraiture, Inc. O'Connor Portraiture, Inc donated \$629.50 to the Early Childhood Center and \$1,928.72 to Goodnow Brothers Elementary School.

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

Motion passed 6-0-0.

O'Connor Portraiture, Inc. O'Connor Portraiture, Inc donated \$1,199.16 and \$82.95 to Kane Elementary School.

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

Motion passed 6-0-0.

Comprehensive School Health Services Renewal. MPS received \$95,000.00 from Comprehensive School Health Services Renewal.

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

Motion passed 6-0-0.

First Congregational Church. MPS received \$3,500.00 from the First Congregational Church.

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

Motion passed 6-0-0.

Henry Schein Inc. MPS received \$2,500.00 from Henry Schein Inc.

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

Motion passed 6-0-0.



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DESE FC729 Address Student Cell Phone Use Pilot Grant. MPS-Whitcomb School received \$24,080.00 through this grant.

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

Motion passed 6-0-0.

DESE FC599 Open Sci Ed Grant. MPS received \$26,900.00 through this grant.

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

Motion passed 6-0-0.

10. Reports of School Committee Sub-Committees:

Mrs. Hennessy shared that the Policy Sub-Committee will meet on September 5th.

11. Members' Forum:

Mrs. Matthews formally welcome new MEA Representative, Elton Thomas.

Chairman Vigeant shared an update on homeless families at the Holiday Inn. He shared that Superintendent Murphy and her team held some English classes at the Holiday Inn for some of these families.

12. Adjournment:

Motion made by Mrs. Matthews, seconded by Chairman Vigeant to adjourn at 8:06 p.m.

Motion passed 6-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Heidi Matthews', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Heidi Matthews
Secretary, Marlborough School Committee

HM/jm

Approved September 12, 2023

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