



# Marlborough Public Schools

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

## Call to Order

**October 25, 2022**

1. Michelle Bodin-Hettinger 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 Daniel Caruso, Katherine Hennessy, Earl Geary, and Denise Ryan. Heidi Matthews joined the meeting remotely. Also present were 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, Douglas Dias. Additionally, MEA Representative Eileen Barry and Student Advisory Representative Jessica Rosenzweig were present.

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

2. **Pledge of Allegiance:** Mrs. Bodin-Hettinger led the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. **Presentation:** None.
4. **Committee Discussion/Directives:** None.
5. **Communications:** None.
6. **Superintendent's Report:**  
Superintendent Murphy reported that Whitcomb's School Principal, Angela House, will be taking a leave from early December through late February. Therefore, Rick Lacina, the current Kane School Assistant Principal, will take over Ms. House's position during her leave. Following this, Lauren Yurkus, the Kane School ETL, will take over Mr. Lacina's current position, and then Madeline VanBuskirk, the current school psychologist, will assume Ms. Yurkus' current position. These position changes will only be for the duration of Ms. House's leave; Whitcomb and Kane staff are aware of these upcoming shifts in leadership.

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Superintendent Murphy shared that she and Dr. Skaza hold a monthly WMCT show, “Superintendent’s Corner” to reach and communicate with more community members. Mrs. Murphy provided a brief overview of the October show for the committee; four staff members, Karen Riviera, Lindsay Castro, Michelle Smith-Packard, and Kayla Flaherty-Dawson, spoke on the show about the supports they provide to students, families, and staff. The November meeting will revolve around homework across all grade levels. Superintendent Murphy noted that episodes can be accessed after they air as well.

## **A. Assistant Superintendent of Teacher & Learning Report**

Dr. Skaza, the Assistant Superintendent of Teacher and Learning, provided an update on the district’s restorative justice training.

Dr. Skaza outlined the different tier supports within the training. Tier 1 focuses on community building, Tier 2 is for harm and conflict resolution, and Tier 3 targets high impact behaviors. Each tier is described in detail in Dr. Skaza’s report. He noted that the restorative justice trainings are provided by The Center for Restorative Justice at Suffolk University.

Dr. Skaza and Mr. Caruso discussed the logistics of the small circle concept in Tier 2. Dr. Skaza introduced Mr. Sanborn to discuss the next steps regarding the discontinuation of the Journeys resource and the transition to the program produced by Houghton Mifflin. Currently, grades 6-12 are piloting ELA curriculum resources; Mr. Reyes will join the committee at an upcoming meeting to report on this.

Mr. Sanborn, the Director of Elementary Curriculum and Instruction, highlighted the transition process from the Journeys resource. The Into Reading program will be the core ELA curriculum for reading and writing beginning the Fall of 2023.

Mrs. Bodin-Hettinger asked a few questions on behalf of Chairman Vigeant.

Superintendent Murphy articulated the rationale behind selecting the Into Reading program to take the place of Journeys.

## **B. Director of Finance & Operations Report**

Mr. Dias, the Director of Finance and Operations, reported that the Operational Services Division at the State’s Executive Office for Administration and Finance has authorized the increase in special education private schools’ tuition for FY24. This increase will impact the district’s FY24 operating budget. The specific potential impact is detailed in Mr. Dias’ report.

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Mr. Dias shared that the breakfast and lunch participation rates for FY23 have increased compared to the FY20 participation (pre-COVID). The district continues to strive for a 75% participation rate.

Mr. Dias provided a transportation services update, which is not much different than that of two weeks ago. There are six open routes, and one other route has a long-term absence. As of this afternoon, four drivers were supposed to take the CDL, but Mr. Dias received a notice that two drivers backed out right before the meeting. Therefore, there are only two drivers for Marlborough taking the CDL test this week.

Mrs. Bodin-Hettinger reminded the committee that the upcoming MASC conference will allow delegates to voice their concerns over the bussing issue to individuals in leadership positions that will be in attendance.

Committee members discussed the increase in special education private schools' tuition for FY24.

Mr. Dias discussed how the strike at our food supplier, Sysco, minimally impacted the district.

Mrs. Matthews noted that Sysco settled five days ago, so there is no longer a strike. In response to a question asked by Mr. Geary, Mr. Dias explained that the bus driver shortage is hitting Marlborough harder than some other districts for a few reasons.

## **7. Acceptance of Minutes:**

### **A. Minutes of the October 11, 2022 School Committee Meeting**

Motion made by Mrs. Ryan, seconded by Mrs. Bodin-Hettinger to approve these minutes.

Motion passed 6-0-0. Roll call vote was taken. Yes: Bodin-Hettinger, Caruso, Geary, Hennessy, Matthews, and Ryan.

## **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](mailto: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. Acceptance of Donations and Gifts

**Donor's Choose.** At Goodnow Elementary School, Ms. Sequenzia's classroom received \$470.54 and Ms. Thresher's classroom received \$253.03.

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

Motion passed 6-0-0. Roll call vote was taken. Yes: Bodin-Hettinger, Caruso, Geary, Hennessy, Matthews, and Ryan.

**Donor's Choose.** At Goodnow Elementary School, Ms. Holdman's classroom received \$264.33 and Ms. Sheets' classroom received \$55.88.

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

Motion passed 6-0-0. Roll call vote was taken. Yes: Bodin-Hettinger, Caruso, Geary, Hennessy, Matthews, and Ryan.

**MA DESE FY23 FC460 Early College Support.** MPS received \$40,200.00 through this grant.

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

Motion passed 6-0-0. Roll call vote was taken. Yes: Bodin-Hettinger, Caruso, Geary, Hennessy, Matthews, and Ryan.

**MA DESE FY23 FC175 Early College Full Expansion.** MPS received \$8,000.00 through this grant.

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

Motion passed 6-0-0. Roll call vote was taken. Yes: Bodin-Hettinger, Caruso, Geary, Hennessy, Matthews, and Ryan.



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**MA DESE FY23 FC209 Improving Ventilation & Air Quality.** MPS received \$954,408.00 through this grant.

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

Motion passed 6-0-0. Roll call vote was taken. Yes: Bodin-Hettinger, Caruso, Geary, Hennessy, Matthews, and Ryan.

## **10. Reports of School Committee Sub-Committees:**

Mrs. Hennessy reported that the Policy Sub-Committee has a few more policies to review before starting the process all over again. The committee should expect an email from them soon.

## **11. Members' Forum:**

Mrs. Matthews has reviewed the warrant and asked another member to sign it.

Mrs. Hennessy shared that MIAA is discussing the logistics of the seeding processes for tournaments.

Mrs. Bodin-Hettinger shared that she was able to attend the Reality Fair again. She mentioned that the Rotary Club made it more accessible to EL students this year too.

## **12. Adjournment:**

Motion made by Mrs. Ryan, seconded by Mrs. Bodin-Hettinger to adjourn at 8:43 p.m. Motion passed 6-0-0. Roll call vote was taken. Yes: Bodin-Hettinger, Caruso, Geary, Hennessy, Matthews, and Ryan.

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 November 8, 2022

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