



Marlborough Public Schools

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

Call to Order

November 8, 2022

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, 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, Student Advisory Representative Jessica Rosenzweig was 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 updated a committee on the district's current enrollment. The total number of students enrolled in MPS as of November 2nd, 2022 is 4,869.

Superintendent Murphy reported that schools will need to be in compliance with an amended version of M.G.L. 1. c. 71, § 37H ¾. Under this new version, administrators will need to use alternatives to removal prior to suspending or expelling a student. This means that restorative justice, mediation, and more must be utilized and the results documented. There are certain offenses that would not fall under this new regulation though. School leaders in the district are being trained on this matter, and forms and resources are being updated as well.

Superintendent Murphy updated the committee on current open positions and recruitment efforts in the district. Currently, MPS has 53 regular positions open. Patty Brown and the HR team have held job fairs and other events in efforts to recruit applicants.

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A. Assistant Superintendent of Student Services & Equity Report

Mrs. O'Brien, the Assistant Superintendent of Student Services and Equity, outlined the October 1st, 2022 data in her report and provided chart comparisons to October 1st data from previous years. This data looks at enrollment, homeschooled students, EL students, special education students, students in foster care, and McKinney-Vento students. Mrs. O'Brien noted that there has been a steady increase in the number of EL students in the district over the past two years. There has also been an increase in the number of homeless families and the number of MPS students placed into foster placements in other towns/districts.

7. Acceptance of Minutes:

A. Minutes of the October 25, 2022 School Committee Meeting

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

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

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.

9. Action Items/Reports

A. FY24 Budget Calendar

Mr. Dias explained that the FY24 Budget would be presented to the committee on February 14th, 2023. He outlined the timeline for this proposal in the calendar.

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

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

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B. Acceptance of Donations and Gifts

FC216 Teacher Diversification Pilot Grant. MPS received this \$7,644.00 grant. Motion made by Mrs. Ryan, seconded by Chairman Vigeant to approve this donation. Motion passed 6-0-0. Roll call vote was taken. Yes: Bodin-Hettinger, Caruso, Geary, Matthews, Ryan, and Vigeant.

10. Reports of School Committee Sub-Committees:

Mr. Geary reported on behalf of Mrs. Hennessy; there will be a Policy Sub-Committee meeting coming up.

11. Members' Forum: None.

12. Adjournment:

Motion made by Mrs. Bodin-Hettinger, seconded by Chairman Vigeant to adjourn at 7:58 p.m. Motion passed 6-0-0. Roll call vote was taken. Yes: Bodin-Hettinger, Caruso, Geary, Matthews, Ryan, and Vigeant.

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 22, 2022

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