



Marlborough Public Schools

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

Call to Order

August 30, 2022

1. Vice-Chair Bodin-Hettinger called the special 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, and Denise Ryan. 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 was 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 shared the district enrollment as of August 25, 2022. Sixteen additional students have enrolled since the time of her report.

Superintendent Murphy updated the committee on MPS staffing. There are currently 65 open positions in the district. Mrs. Murphy broke down the categories of the positions. She noted that there are many more open paraeducator positions than there have been in previous years.

Committee members discussed their concern for the class sizes with Superintendent Murphy.

The Superintendent attached the updated PreK-8 Student Handbook for the committee's review. She noted that the bullying information in the handbook has been updated, which public participant Mr. Maccioli requested at the previous School Committee meeting. Numerous other policies have been updated in the handbook as well. Each PreK-8 school will provide families with a handbook specific to their child/children's school.

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The logistics of policies listed in the handbook was discussed by various committee members and Superintendent Murphy.

A. Director of Finance & Operations Report

Mr. Dias, the Director of Finance and Operations, reminded MPS families that school breakfast & lunches are free for students. He reported that the district was formally approved into the community eligibility provision (CEP) for another four years.

Mr. Dias explained that there is new furniture in the classrooms for students to utilize this year. He thanked Andy White, Graciela Kelly, the custodians, the facilities staff, and the church volunteers for their efforts.

Mr. Dias reminded the committee that the Richer Statement of Interest (SOI) was submitted to the MSBA this past spring. The MSBA invited the district to move on to the next stage of the process and will be visiting Richer Elementary School.

Mr. Dias updated the committee and viewers on the transportation services for this school year. He explained that there is a national shortage of CDL drivers; other districts in MA are struggling to run all of their bus routes as well. Mr. Dias and Steve Phalen have been meeting weekly with NRT since the start of August. There have been many incentives that the district and NRT has created to try to fill the shortage.

Mr. Dias noted that 8 out of 33 Marlborough routes do not have a permanent bus driver. He explained some of the other challenges that the district is facing due to this shortage, such as students arriving late to school.

Mr. Dias outlined the recruitment pipeline for Marlborough; he encouraged individuals to reach out to anyone that would be willing to work as a driver.

Mrs. Hennessy and Mrs. Ryan inquired about potential solutions to these transportation problems.

7. Acceptance of Minutes: None.

8. Public Participation:

Kelly Maccioli, who lives at 58 Ridge Road, reiterated her and her husband's suggestions for the bullying policy that will be presented tonight.

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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. Policy for Removal

1. Policy 8.110 Student Advisory Committee

Motion made by Mrs. Hennessy, seconded by Mrs. Bodin-Hettinger to remove Policy 8.110 Student Advisory Committee.
Motion passed 4-0-0.

B. Policies for Acceptance

1. Policy 1.010 Mission Statement

Motion made by Mrs. Hennessy, seconded by Mrs. Bodin-Hettinger to approve this policy.
Motion passed 4-0-0.

2. Policy 1.200 Prayer in School (Name Change: constitutionally protected Religious Expression/Prayer)

Motion made by Mrs. Hennessy, seconded by Mrs. Bodin-Hettinger to approve this policy.
Motion passed 4-0-0.

3. Policy 1.300 Bullying

Motion made by Mrs. Hennessy, seconded by Mrs. Bodin-Hettinger to table this policy.
Motion passed 4-0-0.

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4. Policy 2.223 Student Advisory Committee

Motion made by Mrs. Hennessy, seconded by Mrs. Bodin-Hettinger to approve this policy.
Motion passed 4-0-0.

5. Policy 8.015 DNR/Comfort Care

Motion made by Mrs. Hennessy, seconded by Mrs. Bodin-Hettinger to approve this policy.
Motion passed 4-0-0.

6. Policy 8.130 Student Discipline

Motion made by Mrs. Hennessy, seconded by Mrs. Bodin-Hettinger to approve this policy.
Motion passed 4-0-0.

7. Policy 8.140 Student Conduct

Motion made by Mrs. Hennessy, seconded by Mrs. Bodin-Hettinger to approve this policy.
Motion passed 4-0-0.

8. Policy 8.145 Hazing

Motion made by Mrs. Hennessy, seconded by Mrs. Bodin-Hettinger to approve this policy.
Motion passed 4-0-0.

9. Policy 8.450 Foster Care Education

Motion made by Mrs. Hennessy, seconded by Mrs. Bodin-Hettinger to approve this policy.
Motion passed 4-0-0.

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10. Policy 8.600 Student Dress Code

Motion made by Mrs. Hennessy, seconded by Mrs. Bodin-Hettinger to approve this policy.
Motion passed 4-0-0.

11. Policy 9.700 Homeless Education (new number 8.350)

Motion made by Mrs. Hennessy, seconded by Mrs. Bodin-Hettinger to approve the amended version of this policy.
Motion passed 4-0-0.

10. Reports of School Committee Sub-Committees:

Mrs. Hennessy shared that there will be another Policy Sub-Committee meeting, but the date is unknown.

11. Members' Forum:

Mrs. Hennessy wished everyone a great start to the school year.
Dr. Skaza expressed his gratitude and his excitement for the upcoming school year.

12. Adjournment:

Motion made by Mrs. Hennessy seconded by Mrs. Bodin-Hettinger to adjourn at 8:47 p.m.
Motion passed 4-0-0.

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 September 13, 2022

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