



Marlborough Public Schools

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

Call to Order

September 27, 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. 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:**

- A. **NSIP Presentation**

Kevin Courtney serves as Superintendent Murphy's coach in the New Superintendent Induction Program (NSIP). He provided an overview on the program; NSIP is a collaboration between MA Association of School Superintendents, the Department of Education, and the MA Association of School Committees. It is a 3-year program with 1:1 coaching and content days.

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

5. **Communications:** None.

6. **Superintendent's Report:**

Superintendent Murphy reported the current elementary enrollment data, which is outlined in her report.

Superintendent Murphy shared that she and Mrs. O'Brien attended their first Urban Superintendents Network meeting on September 16th. Mrs. Murphy described how the district has been eligible to participate in the urban network.

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The Superintendent included a draft of her goals for the committee's review and feedback. She will request the committee to accept her goals at the next scheduled meeting. Mrs. Murphy submitted the final copy of her entry plan, which is attached to her report.

A. Assistant Superintendent of Student Services & Equity

Mrs. O'Brien, The Superintendent of Student Services and Equity, reported on the Supervisor of Health Services, COVID-19 procedures for the 2022-2023 school year, and wrap-around services.

Mrs. O'Brien shared that Christine Harrington, the Supervisor of Health Services, filled the position, which was vacant for three years. Ms. Harrington is reviewing existing practices and procedures to identify needed changes. She met with school nurses on September 21st as well. Judy Styer, an experienced administrator, will coach Ms. Harrington in her first year.

Mrs. O'Brien shared an update that school nurses will not be conducting COVID testing of individuals this year. Students with symptoms will be sent home along with information on how families can handle situations. At-home self-test kits will be sent home with students if necessary. It should be noted that DESE and the Board of Health will not receive reporting of COVID positive cases this year.

Mrs. O'Brien invited Kayla Flaherty-Dawson to present information on wraparound services provided to Marlborough families in the past year.

Kayla Flaherty-Dawson attached her PowerPoint presentation on 2021-2022 wraparound services data to Mrs. O'Brien's report. Ms. Flaherty-Dawson mentioned the services and supports that she and Raphael Silva have been able to provide students and families.

Mrs. Bodin-Hettinger, Mrs. Hennessy, and Ms. Flaherty-Dawson discussed mental health supports for students.

B. Director of Finance & Operations Report

Mr. Dias, the Director of Finance and Operations, reported on the Richer Elementary Statement of Interest (SOI). The district submitted the SOI to the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) in Spring 2022. On September 1st, the MSBA

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visited MPS for a “senior study” to (1) evaluate the physical condition of building, (2) assess capacity issues, design issues, and site consideration, and (3) evaluate the maintenance of the school. This “senior study” is the first step for any SOI receiving funding by the MSBA. Mr. Dias then outlined the next steps of this process, which are detailed in his report.

Mr. Dias explained that transportation services remain impacted by the national bus driver shortage. Seven drivers are currently training for their CDL licenses, and three other candidates are in the background screening portion of the employment process. He attached a “route matrix” to his report to display how 95% of routes are being run on time in the district. Mr. Dias pointed out that a few buses are running routes later than typically scheduled. He stressed the continued communication with NRT and their plans to fulfill the district’s open positions and routes. The district is also making sure to communicate any schedule/route changes with families as soon as possible.

7. Acceptance of Minutes:

A. Minutes of the September 13, 2022 School Committee Meeting

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

Motion passed 5-0-0.

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.

9. Action Items/Reports

A. MHS Staggered Openings for 2022-2023

John Travers, the Assistant Principal of MHS, presented on the MHS staggered openings for 2022-2023 on behalf of Principal Riley. These staggered openings revolve around PSAT, SAT, and MCAS testing; the dates are outlined in a document attached to Dr. Riley’s recommendation.

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Motion made by Mr. Caruso, seconded by Mrs. Bodin-Hettinger to approve the 2022-2023 staggered opening schedule.
Motion passed 5-0-0.

B. Collective Bargaining Agreement, 2022-2025, between the Marlborough School Committee and Cafeteria Workers, SEIU, Local 888

Motion made by Mrs. Ryan, seconded by Mrs. Bodin-Hettinger to approve this agreement.
Motion passed 5-0-0.

C. Collective Bargaining Agreements between the Marlborough School Committee and the Marlborough Behavior Technicians, SEIU, Local 888

Motion made by Mrs. Ryan, seconded by Mrs. Bodin-Hettinger to approve this agreement.
Motion passed 5-0-0.

D. Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Marlborough School Committee and the Custodians/Houseworkers AFL-CIO, State Council 93, Local 1709

Motion made by Mrs. Ryan, seconded by Mrs. Bodin-Hettinger to approve this agreement.
Motion passed 5-0-0.

E. Acceptance of Donations and Gifts

Staples. MPS Summer Program and Richer Elementary School received \$5,140.00 from Staples.

Motion made by Mrs. Ryan, seconded by Mrs. Bodin-Hettinger to approve this donation.
Motion passed 5-0-0.

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FY23 FC240 IDEA Federal Special Ed Entitlement Grant. MPS received \$1,505,994.00 from this grant.

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

Motion passed 5-0-0.

FY23 FC262 Early Childhood Federal Entitlement Grant. MPS received \$69,706.00 from this grant.

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

Motion passed 5-0-0.

F. School Committee Remote Meeting Options

This request stems from a request by Mrs. Matthews regarding whether the School Committee could utilize a remote meeting options for committee members unable to physically attend meetings.

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

Motion passed 5-0-0.

10. Reports of School Committee Sub-Committees:

Mrs. Hennessy reported that parents/guardians and community members reached out to the Policy Sub-Committee regarding the homework policy. She clarified that homework is allowed and may be assigned to students. If families have concerns around the amount or level of homework, then they should communicate that to teachers and administrators. Mrs. Hennessy clarified that there is not a no-homework policy in existence.

11. Members' Forum:

Mrs. Bodin-Hettinger mentioned that Mrs. Matthews did review the warrant and needs another member to sign it.

Mrs. Bodin-Hettinger shared that she had the opportunity to join the leadership team at the Teacher of the Year ceremony. Mr. Verdone was selected as the Teacher of the Year.

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12. Adjournment:

Motion made by Mrs. Ryan, seconded by Mrs. Bodin-Hettinger to adjourn at 8:45 p.m.
Motion passed 5-0-0.

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 October 11, 2022