



Marlborough Public Schools

School Committee

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

Call to Order

January 23, 2024

1. Chairman Dumais called the regular meeting of the Marlborough School Committee to order at 7:36 p.m. at 17 Washington Street, Marlborough, MA. Members present included Michelle Bodin-Hettinger, Daniel Caruso, Earl Geary, Katherine Hennessy, Heidi Matthews, 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, 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 Dumais led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. **Presentation**

- A. **Marlborough Education Foundation (MEF) Grant Awards**

The president, vice president, and new board member of the MEF awarded multiple MPS teachers grants.

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

5. **Communications:** None.

6. **Superintendent's Report:**

Jillian Roberts, the Communication Coordinator, presented an overview of the variety of school events that her office has covered throughout the year thus far. She also reviewed how the district uses social media to market and showcase these events.

Superintendent Murphy reported that she, the School Committee, and Mr. Lafleur met for a workshop on November 2, 2023 to discuss the busing issue and discuss possible responses. Additionally, Superintendent Murphy provided an overview of the state-wide and district student attendance issues, along with the steps taken to address chronic absenteeism that was also discussed at the workshop.

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Superintendent Murphy shared that there will be a student art exhibition held at Kennedy's Restaurant from 4-6pm on January 24th to showcase 40 prints of student artwork for the Permanent Art Collection.

Superintendent Murphy provided an update on district and state attendance data. She noted that if a student has been out for five or more days, the district will reach out to families.

A. Director of Finance & Operations Report

Mr. Lafleur, the Director of Finance and Operations, updated the committee on the district's breakfast and lunch participation rates.

Mr. Lafleur discussed the district's collaboration with North Reading Transportation (NRT) regarding bus driver staffing. There are currently two routes without an assigned driver, but these should be covered shortly once drivers complete their training.

Mr. Lafleur mentioned that he will be proposing a budget transfer from Behavior Tech Salaries to Contracted Services.

B. Assistant Superintendent of Teaching & Learning

Dr. Skaza, the Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning, shared that Keyla Ann De Oliveira, an eighth grade Whitcomb student, has accepted the Project 351 Ambassador role. Dr. Skaza provided some background on this organization.

Dr. Skaza informed the committee that the two research-based programs the district uses are IntoReading and IntoLiterature. He did mention that the Foundations program for phonics-based instruction in grades K-3 is also used for students.

7. Acceptance of Minutes

A. Minutes of the December 12, 2023 School Committee Meeting

Motion made by Mrs. Matthews, seconded by Chairman Dumais to approve the minutes of the School Committee.

Motion passed 7-0-0.

B. Minutes of the January 9, 2024 School Committee Meeting

Motion made by Mrs. Matthews, seconded by Chairman Dumais to approve the minutes of the School Committee.

Motion passed 7-0-0.

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8. Public Comment: None.

It should be noted that members of the public may provide comment via email before the meeting to superintendent@mps-edu.org. Public comment 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 Business Professionals of America (BPA) State Leadership Conference

Mrs. Haley requested permission for the MHS BPA club to attend the State Leadership Conference in Norwood, MA.

Motion made by Mrs. Matthews, seconded by Chairman Dumais to approve the MHS BPA State Leadership Conference.

Motion passed 7-0-0.

B. MHS Program of Studies

Principal Riley presented the MHS Program of Studies to the School Committee to notify them of changes.

Motion made by Mrs. Matthews, seconded by Chairman Dumais to table the vote on the MHS Program of Studies until the next School Committee meeting.

Motion passed 7-0-0.

C. FY23 Operating Budget Transfers

Mr. Lafleur presented the budget transfers, which are detailed in his report.

Motion made by Mrs. Matthews, seconded by Chairman Dumais to accept these transfers.

Motion passed 7-0-0.

D. Additional Entitlement Funded Positions

Superintendent Murphy stated that she is requesting the addition of a Wrap Around Service Coordinator, EL para educator, and a translator.

Motion made by Mrs. Matthews, seconded by Chairman Dumais to approve this request.

Motion passed 7-0-0.

E. Policy for Approval

1. Policy 3.410 Budget Authority

Motion made by Mrs. Hennessy, seconded by Chairman Dumais to approve policy 3.410 Budget Authority.

Motion passed 7-0-0.

F. Change April Meeting Date

Motion made by Mrs. Bodin-Hettinger, seconded by Chairman Dumais to change the April 23, 2024 School Committee meeting to April 30, 2024.

Motion passed 7-0-0.

G. Appointment of Director of Finance & Operations

Superintendent Murphy would like to move forward with Matthew Wells for appointment as the Director of Finance and Operations effective July 1, 2024.

Motion made by Mrs. Matthews, seconded by Chairman Dumais to enter into negotiations with Mr. Wells for the Director of Finance and Operations position.

Motion passed 7-0-0.

H. Acceptance of Donations and Gifts

Cocotree Kids. MPS received \$880.00 from Cocotree Kids.

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

Motion passed 7-0-0.

Global Alliance. Whitcomb School received \$500.00 from Global Alliance.

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

Motion passed 7-0-0.

St. Gobain Foundation. Mr. Rodriquenz's engineering/technology classes received \$920.00 from the St. Gobain Foundation.

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

Motion passed 7-0-0.



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FY24 FC222 TAG. MPS received \$50,000.00 from FY24 FC222 TAG.

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

Motion passed 7-0-0.

Motion made by Mrs. Bodin-Hettinger, seconded by Chairman Dumais to suspend the rules.

Motion passed 7-0-0.

MEF Grants. MEF awarded \$5,727.68 to MPS on behalf of the teachers awarded the grant.

Motion made by Mrs. Bodin-Hettinger, seconded by Chairman Dumais to accept this grant.

Motion passed 7-0-0.

10. Reports of School Committee Sub-Committees: None.

11. Members' Forum:

Mrs. Matthews has reviewed and will sign the warrant.

12. Adjournment:

Motion made by Mrs. Matthews, seconded by Chairman Dumais to adjourn at 8:57 p.m.

Motion passed 7-0-0.

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 March 12, 2024

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List of documents and other exhibits used at the meeting:

- City of Marlborough Posting for the Marlborough Public Schools School Committee for January 23, 2024, including Agenda and Attachments
- MEF Grant Listing
- MPS Communications Update
- MPS Absenteeism Update
- Draft of December 12, 2023 minutes
- Draft of January 1, 2024 minutes
- Draft of January 9, 2024 minutes
- BPA Student Summary & Itinerary for State Leadership Conference
- Budget Transfer notification 1/17/2024
- Draft of Policy 3.410 Budget Transfer Authority
- Listing of Grants & donations to be accepted

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