



Marlborough Public Schools

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

Call to Order

October 24, 2023

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, Earl Geary, 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, Tom Lafleur. MEA Representative Elton Thomas and Student Advisory Representative Risha Khanderia were also present.

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

2. **Pledge of Allegiance:** Michelle 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 that she is requesting approval from the School Committee for her FY24 Superintendent Goals.

Superintendent Murphy thanked the Whitcomb School Akiruno Faculty Advisor Ms. Roach, Mrs. Barnum, and the chaperones that helped make the Akiruno student and chaperone visits a success.

The Superintendent mentioned that the Whitcomb School implemented Yondr Pouches last week. Students keep their phones on their person, but the pouch prevents them from using their devices throughout the school day.

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A. Assistant Superintendent of Teaching & Learning

Dr. Skaza, the Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning, reported that as of this month, there are less Marlborough students being homeschooled than there was in the previous school year.

Dr. Skaza congratulated MHS students on their AP Scholar Awards. The full list of students and their respective awards are in his report.

B. Director of Finance & Operations Report

Mr. Lafleur, the Director of Finance and Operations, reported on the potential rise in special education private school tuition from the Operational Services Division at the State's Executive Office for Administration and Finance.

Mr. Lafleur stressed the importance and benefits of participation in MPS food services. The district aims for 75% of students to participate in school lunch.

Mr. Lafleur spoke about the bus transportation issues that remain in the city due to a lack of drivers. There continues to be delays and coverage needs for routes. MPS communicates daily with NRT at 6:00am to be able to communicate delays to families as early as possible. The HR department at MPS is helping NRT recruit drivers.

7. Acceptance of Minutes: None.

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.

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9. Action Items/Reports

A. 2025 Music Festival

Mr. Rosenthal requested approval for the MHS Music Festival trip to Hershey Park, PA from May 2nd, 2025 through May 4th, 2025.

Motion made by Mrs. Hennessy, seconded by Mrs. Bodin-Hettinger to approve the 2025 Music Festival trip.

Motion passed 5-0-0.

B. FY24 Operating Budget Transfers

Mr. Lafleur outlined various budget transfers in the attached document.

Motion made by Mrs. Hennessy seconded by Mrs. Bodin-Hettinger to approve the operating budget transfers.

Motion passed 5-0-0.

C. FY24 Superintendent Goals

Superintendent Murphy shared her FY24 Superintendent goals.

Motion made by Mrs. Ryan, seconded by Mrs. Bodin-Hettinger to approve the FY24 Superintendent Goals as presented.

Motion passed 5-0-0.

D. Acceptance of Donations and Gifts

Shaw's Supermarket. Richer Elementary School received \$28.00 from Shaw's Supermarket.

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

Motion passed 5-0-0.



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

11. Members' Forum:

Mrs. Bodin-Hettinger, Superintendent Murphy, Mr. Thomas, and Risha Khanderia spoke about the Yondr Pouches.

Mr. Caruso discussed his experience at the MHS Reality Fair.

Mrs. Ryan highlighted the Horribles Parade on Thursday night and final regular season football game at MHS on Friday night.

12. Adjournment:

Motion made by Mrs. Hennessy, seconded by Mrs. Bodin-Hettinger to adjourn at 8:03 p.m.

Motion passed 5-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Heidi Matthews', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Heidi Matthews
Secretary, Marlborough School Committee

HM/jm

Approved 11/14/2023

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