



# Marlborough Public Schools

---

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

## Call to Order

**February 13, 2024**

1. Chairman Dumais 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, 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. Student Advisory Representative Risha Khanderia was 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:** None.

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

5. **Communications:** None.

6. **Superintendent's Report:**

Superintendent Murphy has met with teachers, administrators, parents, and community members in recent weeks to discuss information, data, and potential focus areas for the upcoming Student Opportunity Act Plans.

Superintendent Murphy provided an update on student cellphone usage in the district, the Yondr pouches, and cellphone expectations in schools.

Superintendent Murphy shared the mid-year update to her FY25 goals, which is attached to her report.

Superintendent Murphy also attached the FY23 Assabet Valley Collaborative Annual Report to her report.

[www.mps-edu.org](http://www.mps-edu.org)

*It is the policy of the Marlborough Public Schools not to discriminate on the basis of race, gender, religion, national origin, color, homelessness, sexual orientation, gender identity, age or disability in its education programs, services, activities or employment practices.*

## **A. Assistant Superintendent of Student Services**

Mrs. O'Brien, the Assistant Superintendent of Student Services, discussed Kindergarten registration for fall 2024. Families should ideally register students for Kindergarten by June 30<sup>th</sup>, which can be done online. However, the Registration & Parent Outreach Center (RPOC) will have extended hours on designated dates to provide support in this process.

Mrs. O'Brien shared that the January 25<sup>th</sup> Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC) meeting was successful. Forty families attended this meeting, which was the first to be held in over four years; fourteen parents volunteered to be part of an interim team that will meet with the support of John Fletcher, the Director of Special Education. Heather Mendonca serves as the Interim President. The next meeting will be held on February 29<sup>th</sup> at 7pm in the Whitcomb Commons. Members of the SEPAC will present at a future school committee meeting.

Motion made by Mrs. Matthews, seconded by Chairman Dumais to table the Student Advisory Presentations (Agenda Item 3A).

Motion passed 7-0-0.

## **7. Acceptance of Minutes**

### **A. Minutes of the January 23, 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.

## **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](mailto: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 Robotics Overnight Trip to Championship**

The MHS Robotics team requested permission to attend a regional event (qualifier for the world championship) held from February 25<sup>th</sup> through February 27<sup>th</sup> in Bridgeport, Connecticut.

Motion made by Mrs. Matthews, seconded by Chairman Dumais to approve the MHS Robotics overnight trip.

Motion passed 7-0-0.

### **B. Voices ReChaired Out of State Field Trip**

Voices ReChaired requested permission to travel back to NYC from April 26<sup>th</sup> through April 28<sup>th</sup>. The group plans to view a Broadway show, tour the Broadway museum, and watch the International Competition of Collegiate A Cappella (ICCA) Finals at The Town Hall.

Motion made by Mrs. Matthews, seconded by Chairman Dumais to approve the Voices ReChaired out of state field trip.

Motion passed 7-0-0.

### **C. MHS Program of Studies**

Dr. Riley presented an amended MHS program of studies and provided a copy to each School Committee member.

Motion made by Mrs. Matthews, seconded by Chairman Dumais to approve the Program of Studies as amended.

Motion passed 7-0-0.

### **D. Updated FY25 Budget Calendar**

Mr. Lafleur presented the updated FY25 Budget Calendar.

Motion made by Mrs. Matthews, seconded by Chairman Dumais to change the date of the Budget workshop to March 26, 2024 from 4 – 6 pm.

Motion passed 7-0-0.

Motion made by Mrs. Matthews, seconded by Chairman Dumais to accept this budget calendar as amended.

Motion passed 7-0-0.

### **E. FY25 School Calendar DRAFT**

Superintendent Murphy presented the first draft of the FY25 School Calendar. There are only three early release days on this proposed calendar due to MCAS testing.

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

Motion made by Mrs. Matthews, seconded by Chairman Dumais to table the proposed calendar.

Motion passed 7-0-0.

**F. Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the Marlborough School Committee and the Behavior Technicians, SEIU, Local 888**

Mrs. Matthews shared that in Executive Session this evening, the School Committee voted on a MOA between the committee and the Behavior Techs.

Motion made by Mrs. Bodin-Hettinger, seconded by Chairman Dumais to approve this MOA.

Motion passed 7-0-0.

**G. Acceptance of Donations and Gifts**

**Immaculate Conception.** MPS received \$1,000.00 from Immaculate Conception.

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

Motion passed 7-0-0.

**Hope & Comfort.** MPS received \$1,500.00 from Hope & Comfort.

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

Motion passed 7-0-0.

**FY24 FC344 Homeless Emergency Support.** MPS received \$55,000.00 through this grant.

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

Motion passed 7-0-0.

**FY24 FC125 Math Acceleration.** MPS received \$62,700.00 through this grant.

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

Motion passed 7-0-0.

**ESSER III Set Aside (CFDA 84.42U).** MPS received \$10,000.00 through this grant.

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

Motion passed 7-0-0.



# Marlborough Public Schools

---

## **School Committee**

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

### **10. Reports of School Committee Sub-Committees:**

Mrs. Matthews shared that the Negotiations Sub-Committee is in negotiations with the teacher's union. They will hold their third meeting tomorrow night. They will also be meeting with the paraprofessionals in early March.

### **11. Members' Forum:**

Mrs. Matthews has reviewed and will sign the warrant.

Risha Khanderia shared that the MHS Student Council and Best Buddies club participated in the Polar Plunge and raised over \$5,000.00.

Mrs. Hennessy shared that she participated in the website group meeting.

### **12. Adjournment:**

Motion made by Mrs. Matthews, seconded by Chairman Dumais to adjourn at 8:24 p.m.

Motion passed 7-0-0.

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 March 12, 2024

[www.mps-edu.org](http://www.mps-edu.org)



# Marlborough Public Schools

---

## **School Committee**

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

### List of documents and other exhibits used at the meeting:

- City of Marlborough Posting for the Marlborough Public Schools School Committee for February 13, 2024, including Agenda and Attachments
- Superintendent Goals FY2024 Mid-Year Update
- Assabet Valley Collaborative 2023 Annual Report
- MPS Registration Workshops for Kindergarten Fall 2024 Information
- Draft of School Committee minutes for January 23, 2024
- MHS Robotics Agenda/Itinerary for Regional Competition
- MHS Voice ReChaired Agenda/Itinerary/Budget for New York City Trip
- MHS 2024-2025 Program of Studies and proposed changes
- MPS Revised Budget Calendar
- MPS Draft 2024-2025 School Calendar
- MOA between the School Committee and the Behavior Techs
- Listing of Grants & donations to be accepted

[www.mps-edu.org](http://www.mps-edu.org)

*It is the policy of the Marlborough Public Schools not to discriminate on the basis of race, gender, religion, national origin, color, homelessness, sexual orientation, gender identity, age or disability in its education programs, services, activities or employment practices.*