



Marlborough Public Schools

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

Call to Order

February 27, 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 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:** None.

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

5. **Communications:** None.

6. **Superintendent's Report:**

Superintendent Murphy shared that about 40 members for the Influence 100 cohort will be meeting with the MPS central office team and selected school leaders on March 1st. Superintendent Murphy attached a report of the donations, gifts, and grants to the School Department through February 13, 2024.

A. Director of Finance & Operations Report

Mr. Lafleur, the Director of Finance and Operations, reported that since January 2023 the district's breakfast participation has risen by 7% while lunch participation has risen by 9%.

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Mr. Lafleur shared that the district is working with North Reading Transportation (NRT) regarding bus driver staffing. Two routes do not have an assigned driver, a third driver resigned, and a fourth driver is on medical leave. There are 4 drivers currently in training for NRT; these drivers will be assigned to Marlborough once they are licensed.

Mr. Lafleur mentioned that the district is tracking in line with the FY2024 financial plan with no issues at the time. A copy of the latest Year to Date Budget report is attached to his report.

B. Assistant Superintendent of Teaching & Learning

Dr. Skaza, the Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning, stated that March 5th is the district's next professional development day. The keynote speaker, Marceline DuBose, will present on Anti-Bias/Anti-Racism in the morning session, and then Marlborough Educators Association (MEA) members will choose their training(s) for the afternoon session. Dr. Skaza shared that the Joint Professional Development (PD) Committee met on February 12th and has been sifting through feedback and planning the PD offerings for the 2024-2025 school year.

Dr. Skaza shared that proposals for spring and summer mini-courses are still being accepted.

Dr. Skaza mentioned that district-wide Title I Nights will be held on March 21st and March 28th from 6-7:30pm at Whitcomb Middle School to discuss the impact of social media on youth mental health for parents/guardians of students in grades K-8. Jane M. Hardin will be the presenter for these nights. Free childcare and pizza will be available at these events, along with interpretation services for the March 28th presentation.

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. Acceptance of Donations and Gifts

SEEDS Inc. Kane School 5th grade classrooms received \$6,100.00 from SEEDS Inc. Motion made by Mrs. Matthews, seconded by Chairman Dumais to approve this donation.

Motion passed 7-0-0.

Kids in Need Foundation. Richer School received \$500.00 from the Kids in Need Foundation.

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

Motion passed 7-0-0.

10. Reports of School Committee Sub-Committees:

Mrs. Hennessy shared that the Policy sub-committee is working on determining meeting dates.

11. Members' Forum:

Mrs. Matthews has reviewed and signed the warrant.

Mrs. Hennessy shared that the Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC) is having their next meeting Thursday, 2/29 from 7-8:30pm in Whitcomb Commons.

Mrs. Hennessy gave a shoutout to the Citizens Scholarship Foundation (CSF) organization, which is a group that provides scholarship to students. They ran a fundraising night called Casino Night, which was successful.

Mrs. Hennessy mentioned that the Whitcomb Shrek musical will be held on March 8, 9, and 10th. The MHS musical, the Little Shock of Horrors, will be held on March 22, 23, and 24th.



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12. Adjournment:

Motion made by Mrs. Matthews, seconded by Chairman Dumais to adjourn at 7:44 p.m.
Motion passed 7-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Heidi Matthews
Secretary, Marlborough School Committee

HM/jm

Approved March 12, 2024

List of documents and other exhibits used at the meeting:

- City of Marlborough Posting for the Marlborough Public Schools School Committee for February 27, 2024, including Agenda and Attachments
- YTD Accepted Grants and Donations listing
- Transfer to Balance Report 2/20/24
- YTD Budget Report 2/20/24
- Listing of Grants & donations to be accepted
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