



# Marlborough Public Schools

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

## Call to Order

**December 13, 2022**

1. Chairman Vigeant 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, Katherine Hennessy, Heidi Matthews, and Denise Ryan. Also present were 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, Student Advisory Representative Jessica Rosenzweig was present.

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

2. **Pledge of Allegiance:** Chairman Vigeant led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. **Presentation:**

- A. **MHS Student Advisory Committee**

The senior class representative, Rachel Scooler, presented on the AP course options. There were 20 different AP courses offered to students (sophomores to seniors); 155 students enrolled in these classes. Rachel shared some student testimonials to highlight the benefits of AP courses. Students have shared their feedback on this program to teachers, counselors, and Dr. Riley.

The junior class representative, Risha Khanderia, spoke about inclusion within MHS. Risha highlighted two organizations: Best Buddies and Special Olympics. She also mentioned different fundraising events, such as Penny Wars. This year, \$1500 was raised from Penny Wars for Special Olympics. Unified Bocce and Polar Plunge are some upcoming events.

The sophomore class representative, Sarah Garner, described the Home for the Holidays program at MHS. This is an annual celebration where the Christmas tree is lit on the Marlborough Common. The MHS String and Jazz ensembles performed at this event for the first time since 2019.

The freshman class representative, Atul Modur, discussed underclassmen sports teams. He surveyed the freshman class on what was going well at MHS and what could be improved. His classmates noted that sports teams, aside from football, do not receive much recognition. Atul met with Dr. Riley and Mr. Rudzinsky to brainstorm ways to recognize all sports.

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## **B. Communication Coordinator Update**

Jill Morin, the Communications Coordinator, presented an overview of recent school events and highlighted some upcoming events as well. She went over public engagement on various social media platforms, district hiring efforts, and the MPS digital library. Ms. Morin spoke about involving students more within the communications process going forward. She currently has an MHS senior intern, Sean Deneen, who assists her with videography. Her PowerPoint presentation slides are attached to this update within the agenda.

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

**5. Communications:** None.

## **6. Superintendent's Report – Presentation 3B**

Superintendent Murphy's report is replaced with the Communication Coordinator report.

### **A. Director of Finance & Operations Report**

Mr. Dias, the Director of Finance and Operations, reported that the Food Service staff is still pushing to reach the 75% lunch participation district wide. So far, Whitcomb, MHS, and Richer Elementary School have reached this benchmark. Mr. Dias thanked kitchen managers Deb Dallamora, Julie Whapham, and Laurel Butler.

Mr. Dias shared that his office has issued an Invitation for Bids (IFB) focused on large yellow bus transportation. The IFB raised the minimum pay rate for drivers in hopes of attracting more applicants. The District received one bid from NRT, and he will later be asking the committee to approve the new contract that would begin on January 1, 2023 and end on June 30, 2025.

### **B. Assistant Superintendent of Student Services & Equity**

Mrs. O'Brien, the Assistant Superintendent of Student Services and Equity, shared that the district held a virtual parent workshop – Basic Rights: Evaluation & Eligibility – on November 28<sup>th</sup>, which was presented by The Federation for Children with Special Needs. Sixteen parents participated and the workshop received great feedback.

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Numerous parents in attendance suggested that they would like to help re-establish the Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC) and would appreciate more virtual workshops being held throughout the year.

Mrs. O'Brien described the Special Education Pathways Program and the new data collection system (ACE ABA Software System) that the district invested in this academic year. ACE also has a comprehensive curriculum that is customizable for BCBA's and special educators to utilize. Mrs. O'Brien shared that the district purchased 60 mini-iPads for the Pathway teachers and behavior technicians to help implement the ACE program effectively. This will enable staff to directly input data into an electronic device/system.

Mrs. O'Brien shared that the virtual parent workshop had translators available, so when parents signed in, they chose their preferred language and were directed to the corresponding presentation.

## **7. Acceptance of Minutes:**

### **A. Minutes of the November 22, 2022 School Committee Meeting**

Motion made by Mrs. Matthews, seconded by Chairman Vigeant to approve these minutes.

Motion passed 6-0-0.

## **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](mailto: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. Akiruno Exchange Program**

Heather Roach, a guidance counselor at Whitcomb, is the new Akiruno Exchange Program Coordinator. The program is hopefully going to be rebooted in the Fall of 2023. Whitcomb students would travel to Akiruno from September 8<sup>th</sup> to September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Akiruno would send their students to Whitcomb from October 12<sup>th</sup> to October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

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Motion made by Mrs. Matthews, seconded by Chairman Vigeant to approve this exchange program dates.

Motion passed 6-0-0.

## **B. FY23 Operating Budget Transfers**

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

Motion made by Mrs. Matthews, seconded by Chairman Vigeant to approve these transfers.

Motion passed 6-0-0.

## **C. Recommendation to Award 2 1/2 Year Yellow Bus Contract**

Mr. Caruso recused himself from the room for this action item.

Motion made by Mrs. Matthews, seconded by Chairman Vigeant to approve this bus contract.

Motion passed 5-0-1.

## **D. Policies for First Read**

Mrs. Hennessy requested a suspension of the rules to vote on these first read policies before the 2023 year.

Motion made by Mrs. Hennessy, seconded by Chairman Vigeant to suspend the rules.

Motion passed 6-0-0.

### **1. Policy 2.450 Public Participation at School Committee Meetings**

Motion made by Mrs. Hennessy, seconded by Chairman Vigeant to approve this policy.

Motion passed 6-0-0.

### **2. Policy 6.600 Drug/Alcohol Free Workplace**

Motion made by Mrs. Hennessy, seconded by Chairman Vigeant to approve this policy.

Motion passed 6-0-0.

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**3. Policy 8.0125 Substance Abuse Prevention and Abuse Education**

Motion made by Mrs. Hennessy, seconded by Chairman Vigeant to approve this policy as amended.

Motion passed 6-0-0.

**4. Policy 8.030 Residency**

Motion made by Mrs. Hennessy, seconded by Chairman Vigeant to approve this policy as amended.

Motion passed 6-0-0.

**5. Policy 8.031 Non-Resident Students**

Motion made by Mrs. Hennessy, seconded by Chairman Vigeant to approve this policy as amended.

Motion passed 6-0-0.

**6. Policy 8.050 Moving Within Districts**

Motion made by Mrs. Hennessy, seconded by Chairman Vigeant to approve this policy.

Motion passed 6-0-0.

**7. Policy 8.300 Physical Restraint of Students**

Motion made by Mrs. Hennessy, seconded by Chairman Vigeant to approve this policy as amended.

Motion passed 6-0-0.

**E. Policy for Removal**

**1. Policy 9.310 Use of School Buildings**

Motion made by Mrs. Hennessy, seconded by Chairman Vigeant to remove this policy.

Motion passed 6-0-0.

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## F. Acceptance of Donations and Gifts

**Jewish Family Services.** MPS families received \$3,430.00 from Jewish Family Services.

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

Motion passed 6-0-0.

**MHS Student Fundraiser (Ava VanBuskirk).** MPS families received \$216.00 for this fundraiser.

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

Motion passed 6-0-0.

**Marlborough Rotary Club.** MPS students received \$1,000.00 from the Marlborough Rotary Club.

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

Motion passed 6-0-0.

**Toys for Tots.** MPS families received \$4,400.00 from Toys for Tots.

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

Motion passed 6-0-0.

**Donor's Choose.** Ms. Thresher's class in Goodnow Brothers Elementary School received \$378.85.

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

Motion passed 6-0-0.



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**Barbara Garnett.** The MPS Art Department received \$500.00 from Barbara Garnett.

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

Motion passed 6-0-0.

**Brigham Family Trust.** At the Whitcomb School, Mr. Rodriquenz's Engineering class received \$5,000.00 and Ms. Mahoney's Robotics class received \$3,000.00 from the Brigham Family Trust.

Motion made by Mrs. Matthews, seconded by Chairman Vigeant to approve these donations.

Motion passed 6-0-0.

**The Benevity Community (St. Gobain).** Mr. Rodriquenz's class at Whitcomb School received \$1,250.00 from the Benevity Community.

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

Motion passed 6-0-0.

**O'Connor School Portraiture.** Kane School received \$1,061.65 from O'Connor School Portraiture.

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

Motion passed 6-0-0.

**Hannaford Helps.** Whitcomb School received \$171.00 from Hannaford Helps.

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

Motion passed 6-0-0.

**Global Montello Group.** MHS received \$655.00 from Global Montello Group.

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

Motion passed 6-0-0.

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

**11. Members' Forum:**

Mrs. Matthews has reviewed and signed the warrant. She wished everyone a happy holiday season.

Mrs. Ryan reminded everyone that the MHS Winter Concert will be held at Whitcomb this Thursday night at 7pm.

Mrs. Hennessy expressed her appreciation for Mrs. Matthews continued effort and support throughout the time she was remote.

Chairman Vigeant wished everyone a happy holiday and new year!

**12. Adjournment:**

Motion made by Mrs. Matthews, seconded by Chairman Vigeant to adjourn at 8:41 p.m.

Motion passed 6-0-0.

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 January 10, 2023