

**MARLBOROUGH BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Business Meeting Minutes
Thursday, September 22, 2022
Elmer Thienes-Mary Hall Elementary School –Library
6:00 p.m.**

1. Call to Order and Roll Call by Chairperson Wes Skorski

Wes Skorski Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm

BOE Members Present: Wesley Skorski, Ruth Kelly, Louise Concodello, Patrick Pabouet, Angela Colantonio, Kerri Barella, and Anna Holden

Administration Present: Dr. Holly Hageman, Superintendent
Dan White, Principal
Kim Kelley, Assistant Principal

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Celebrations

- School Opening– Kim Kelly showed a video of September happenings.

4. Public Comment

Wes Skorski read a letter from Ken Hjulstrom, 181 South Main Street, a BOF member but speaking as an individual. The letter stated Mr. Hjulstrom was in support of engaging an SRO at Marlborough Elementary School. He encourages the BOE in conjunction with the superintendent, to take the necessary steps to encourage the Board of Selectmen to advance the goal of hiring an SRO as soon as possible. He also stated that he would like to see the BOE utilize the new equipment to conduct hybrid BOE meetings in the near future.

Angela Colantonio, 65 Victoria Lane, a member of BOE but speaking as an individual, read a piece written by her then third grader titled, “Bad Homework” in which he expressed his dislike of homework.

5. Additions to the Agenda

Wes Skorski made a motion to discuss and review the SRO presentation made by Dr. Hageman on Tuesday, September 20, 2022 to the Board of Selectmen as Unfinished Business 8.1. Seconded by Kerri Barella. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

6. Consent Agenda

- 6.1 Minutes of 8/25/22 Regular Business meeting and the 8/25/22 Policy Committee meeting
- 6.2 Personnel Actions – none;
- 6.3 Reports – receive and file the following document: monthly enrollment report
- 6.4 Grants – none;

- 6.5 Approval of Policy Revisions
- 6.6 Flexibilities for Implementing the CT Guidelines for Educator Evaluation for the 2022-2023 SY

R Kelly moved to approve the consent agenda, seconded by L Concodello. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

7. Oral Reports

7.1 Advisory Groups

- PTO – Dan White reported PTO had a meeting on 9/14/22. Topics discussed were: Introduction of new officers; Melanie Trzcienski, Co-Treasurer and Carmen Howe, Co-President; happenings over the summer; staff lounge spruce up and stock up of snacks and drinks for staff on first day of school and day after Open House; new Konstella app; reimbursements for teachers of \$150; PTO's current balance is approximately \$23,000 before they generously donate \$8500 for classroom carpets. Trunk or Treat event on Oct 28th with the 6th grade Haunted House and food trucks as part of the celebration.
- Operations, Wellness & Safety – Dan White reported they had a meeting and that nurse Mecca informed the group as of 9/12/2022 there were no incidents or accidents. Building updates were discussed: 4 of the 5 doors have arrived; installation is scheduled to start on Sept 30th. A meeting on 9/27/22 will be held to discuss the elevator refurbishment project. Security Camera upgrade was started and Fire Panel upgrades are scheduled to take place on 10/7/22. Gym Floor, 3rd coat was completed and the floor is in great condition—it is due for a sand/refinish which typically should occur every 10 years and has not happened in at least 10 years.
- SAC – Kim Kelly stated SAC had a meeting today. They discussed: Summer happenings, building projects, cafeteria tables to be in soon (Dec), and discussed ideas as how to get parents to bring ideas and issues to SAC. Kerri Barella mentioned that they spoke about how the school is running the way it was before COVID.
- AHM – Kerri Barella reported that AHM had a meeting on 9/7/2022. They discussed looking for youth group representatives; there are 3 open positions and one open position on the Youth Board. Coffee With a Cop went well. On 10/29/22 they have a National Take Back event at RHAM High School from 10-2.
- Board of Finance Liaison – Louise Concodello stated the BOF had a meeting last night and they reviewed year of transfers for the Town. BOF will have a Budget Kickoff meeting 10/19/2022 at 7:00pm with RHAM and Marlborough Superintendents and BOE members of both entities are to attend to discuss goals and objectives for the next fiscal year. Town Library project came in over budget; sinkholes are being repaired in town; the Finance Director Position for the Town remains unfilled, All Boards Meeting will be on 10/24/2022 at the Senior Center held by BOS.

7.2 Subcommittees

- Policy – Louise Concodello stated there was not a Policy Subcommittee meeting this month.
- Ad Hoc Communications – Dr. Hageman reported on behalf of Sue Stolfi. The committee met to plan the upcoming Community Forum. Upon Board discussion, the Community Forum will be held on 10/27 at 7:00 PM after the Regular Board Meeting. The Board received the flier and a preview of the informational handouts.

7.3 Chairperson

- Timeline for Appointment of Member to Policy Committee – Wes Skorski informed the Board that the vacancy on the Board will be open until it is filled by the Town and the BOE shall wait for this position to be filled before assigning a member to the Policy Committee vacancy. Wes Skorski also encouraged Board members to continue to express their opinions and to vote how they wish-that members should not be subject to intimidation and bullying.

7.4 Superintendent and Administrative Team

- SCIP Presentation – Dr. Hageman and Kim Kelly presented the 2021-22 student outcomes and 2022-23 Goals and Action Steps. Dr. Hageman referenced handouts: MES Vision for Teaching and Learning and also spoke to the updated version of the 2022-25 SCIP. Dr. Hageman mentioned that the MES website has been organized to house curriculum and instruction information and documents, including these, in one place.

8. Unfinished Business

8.1 Discussion regarding Dr.Hageman’s presentation to the BOS regarding placement of an SRO at MES. Dr.Hageman reiterated that the BOE voted to establish an SRO at MES at its last meeting with the understanding that the BOE would need to seek the approval and cooperation of the BOS due to the fact a school district cannot hire an SRO on its own. Dr.Hageman stated that the SRO is a better option than an ASSO because an SRO would be an additional Constable under the supervisory structure of the Town’s Public Safety division. In addition, unlike an SRO, an ASSO does not have to be an active, sworn officer and would not be supervised or trained by the Town. Dr. Hageman’s presentation was not followed by a discussion by the BOS. Dr. Hageman asked the BOS to have a decision by October 30th to help BOE plan accordingly. BOE members requested that the BOE Chair remind the BOS of this timeframe and to include this issue on an agenda during the month of October.

9. New Business

9.1 Receive, Review, Revise and Adopt FY 2023-2024 Budget Guiding Principles and Assumptions and Budget Timeline-

Dr. Hageman reviewed the Budget Guiding Principles and Assumptions and Budget Timelines. Louise Concodello asked to add the October 19th BOF Budget Kickoff Meeting to the timeline.

Wes Skorski moved to accept the FY 2023-2024 Budget Guiding Principles and Assumptions and Budget Timeline as presented, seconded by Louise Concodello. Unanimously Approved. MOTION CARRIED

9.2 Review September Financial Report – Dr. Hageman reviewed the financial report.

Bottom line of year end projection shows a positive of \$40,1333.99 due in part to a teacher going on an extended leave, part of which is unpaid and partially due to unfilled paraeducator positions. Dr.Hageman and Dan White reviewed how the paraeducator shortage is being handled through the efficient deployment of special education teachers and paraprofessionals to meet students’ IEP hours.

9.3 First Reading of Proposed Policy Revisions - Board reviewed proposed policy revisions in enclosure 9.3 to include: Electronic Board Meetings, Minimum Duty Free Lunch Periods for Teachers, Physical Exercise and Discipline of Students, Truancy, Reporting of Child Abuse, Sexual Abuse Prevention, Gifted and Talented, Curriculum, Indoor Air Quality and School Calendar.

Kerri Barella asked to make a motion to “fast track” policy # 9321.3 to approve tonight. Given some additional corrections needed for this policy per first read, this revised version of 9321.3 will go back to the policy committee to be corrected and brought forward at the October 27th Board meeting.. Kerri Barella withdrew her motion. Anna Holden asked to adjust typo’s in Policy # 5113.2 (Truancy; #4 adjust the grade from “eight” to “six” and the word “previously” changed to “previous” on page (b) and the 2nd paragraph on page (d) should be removed.) BOE decided to pull policy # 9321.3 and #5141.4 for corrections at the next Policy Subcommittee meeting.

9.4 Homework - Dr. Hageman indicated that a number of Board members wished to discuss homework and therefore it was included in the agenda. Angela Colantonio questioned the current homework guidelines and expressed a preference for no homework. Anna Holden expressed that homework should have a clear purpose and a researched based approach and believes that homework should be optional. Kerrie Barella feels that students are very active outside of school and that needs to be factored into the amount of time that homework takes. She added that if homework were to be optional, she would opt for her children to do homework. Ruth Kelley stated that homework should never be to the point where a child is crying and that homework does help students develop a habit and life skill of preparedness. She feels homework is a good thing as long as it is reasonable. Dr. Hageman agreed that homework should be purposeful and reasonable and that the development of executive functioning including being organized and prepared are important habits to cultivate. Dr. Hageman suggested reviewing the current guidelines with a representative group of the faculty for their input in reviewing and potentially updating the guidelines to bring back to the Board. The Board agreed with that approach.

10. Public Comment - Carmen Howe, 65 Emily Road, wanted to thank the BOE and teachers for all their hard work and appreciated seeing the BOE and administrations engage in their work.

11. Communications

11.1 Staff Vacancy Summary -submitted

12. Future Meetings & Topics - adjustments were made:

12.1 Policy Subcommittee meeting: BOE decided to hold the meeting at the regular time:
Thursday, October 27, 2022, 5:30 p.m.

12.2 Next Regular Business meeting was also returned back to the regular time, Thursday,
October 27, 2022, 6:00 p.m.

**Marlborough Board of Education
Meeting Minutes
September 22, 2022
UNAPPROVED DRAFT**

BOE discussed holding the next Regular BOE meeting a Hybrid format to increase public engagement as permitted by policy. All BOE members were in favor of making the next Regular BOE meeting (October) Hybrid.

12.3 Community Forum, Thursday, October 27, 2022, 7:00 p.m. (in-person, only)

Louise Concodello suggested adding the October 19th, 2022 BOF Budget Kickoff meeting and the October 24th All Boards meeting.

13. Adjournment-

Ruth Kelly motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:01pm, Angela Colantonio seconded the motion. Unanimously Approved. MOTION CARRIED.