

MARLBOROUGH BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Business Meeting Minutes
Thursday, September 26, 2024
Elmer Thienes-Mary Hall Elementary School –Library @ 6:00 p.m.

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call by Chairperson**

Sue Stolfi, Vice Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm

BOE Members Present: Sue Stolfi, Angela Colantonio, Linda Earley, Amy Kuhrt, Chip Morris and Jean Wilson.

Kerri Barella, joined remotely by phone.

Administration Present: Dr. Holly Hageman, Superintendent
 Paula Graef, Principal
 Kristen Trahan, Principal

2. **Pledge of Allegiance**

3. **Celebrations:**

Principals, Paula Graef and Kristen Trahan, announced the winner of the new mascot image contest and congratulated the top four runners up.

4. **Public Comment:**

Karen Pakulis-Paul, East Lake Road stated that she was thrilled with the new way the BOE prepares the monthly financial reports and expressed her gratitude.

5. **Additions to the Agenda:** None

6. Consent Agenda:

- 6.1 Minutes of 8/22/24 Regular Business meeting, the 8/22/24 Policy Committee meeting, and the 9/12/24 Communications Committee meeting;
- 6.2 Personnel Actions – none;
- 6.3 Reports – receive and file the following document: monthly enrollment report

A. Colantonio made a motion that the Board approve the following Consent Agenda items: 6.1 - 6.3, second by C. Morris. K. Barella voted Yes by phone. Unanimously approved by all present. MOTION CARRIED.

7. **Oral Reports**

7.1 **Advisory Groups**

- PTO – Kristen Trahan provided an update on PTO activities, including the Bookfair; an upcoming BMX assembly to promote school spirit and PBIS expectations; a planning committee being formed for 6th grade events; Trunk or Treat
- SAC – Kristen Trahan reported the SAC committee convened two weeks ago to review its purpose and goals. SAC plans to generate a parent survey about Open House.
- Operations, Wellness & Safety – Dr. Holly Hageman provided an update regarding the Architectural Study: The architectural firm recently presented a draft report to Dr. Hageman, John Mercier, Town Manager Mr. Porter and Town Planner Mr. Hughes. They provided feedback on the organization of the report, specifically requesting that the order of recommendations be prioritized based upon types of projects that make sense to propose together along with timing of eligibility for grants. Another draft will be prepared prior to a formal presentation to the BOE at its October 24th meeting.
- Board of Finance – Linda Early reported that at its most recent meeting, the BOF discussed budget guidelines, and the ideal for standardization across the three boards in how budgets are presented, referencing the MES school budget as a model. The Board of Education Budget tab on the MES website was highlighted by Karen Paul and she advocated for the other two boards to adopt a similar approach to ensure accurate information is provided to the public. Additionally, it was announced that the BOF Budget Kick-Off Meeting will be held on Monday, October 7th, at 7 PM in the MES library.
- AHM – Chip Morris shared AHM currently has immediate openings in its outpatient clinical program for youth ages 4-26. Interested individuals can contact the program at (860) 228-9488 ext. 10. Starting in mid-October, AHM will offer group mental health sessions. There are still available spots in various Health Matters and Family Resource programs. Finally, a free community presentation will be held by Stephen Hill, a renowned national speaker on mental health promotion and substance use prevention, on Thursday, October 24th, at 7 PM at AHM, located at 25 Pendleton Drive in Hebron.

7.2 **Subcommittees**

- Policy - Dr. Holly Hageman reported that four policies were reviewed during the Policy Subcommittee meeting earlier that evening. Three of these policies will be presented to the Board for a first reading at the next meeting. One policy is being held for further research which will be brought back again to the Policy Committee in November.
- Personnel - Dr. Holly Hageman informed the Board that both the Marlborough Education Association and the Marlborough Administrator Association bargaining units are due for negotiations this year. A tentative agreement has been reached with the MEA, while negotiations for the administrators are set to convene next week.
- Communications - The committee met to discuss social media strategies for the district. Further details will be addressed during agenda item 9.5.

7.3 **Chairperson:** None

7.4 **Superintendent and Administrative Team**

- First Month of School - Paula Graef reported that the first month of school has been wonderful and the children have transitioned smoothly back to school. Teachers have done an excellent job setting the tone for a successful year.

8. Unfinished Business

8.1 Setting Date(s) for Potential School District Budget Community Forum(s): The Board discussed potential titles for the Community Forum Meeting to attract more public input and attendance. The Board agreed upon *Community Conversations for the Marlborough Elementary School Budget*. It was also decided to hold this Special Meeting on November 7th at 6:30pm in the MES Library.

9. New Business

9.1 Review September Financial Report - Dr. Holly Hageman reviewed the monthly financial report as enclosed.

9.2 First Reading of Proposed Policy Changes - The Board reviewed and discussed on a first read basis the proposed policy revisions as presented by the Policy Subcommittee:
P# 3171.1 - Non-Lapsing Education Fund; P# 4000.1/4200.1/5145.44 - Sexual Harassment/Title IX; P# 4112.5 - Security Check, Fingerprinting, Criminal Justice Information

9.3 Fixed Asset Disposal Request - Dr. Holly Hageman presented a fixed asset disposal memorandum, along with a detailed list of the outdated and unsupportable technology items to be disposed of.

L. Earley made a motion that the Board approve the disposal of items as presented, seconded by A. Colantonio. K. Barella voted Yes by phone. Unanimously approved by all present. MOTION CARRIED.

9.4 Strategic Continuous Improvement (SCIP) Presentation - Dr. Holly Hageman, Paula Graef, and Kristen Trahan delivered a presentation highlighting the key action steps for the 2024-25 SCIP.

9.5 Communications: Discuss Establishment of School District Social Media Presence - Dr. Holly Hageman informed the Board that the Communications Committee is interested in establishing a Facebook page to get timely information out to the general public of Marlborough.

L. Earley made a motion that the Board of Education approve of the establishment of Marlborough School District social media presence as presented, seconded by S. Stolfi. Unanimously approved by all present. MOTION CARRIED. (K. Barella no longer on call)

9.6 Receive, Review, Revise and Adopt FY 2025-2026 Budget Guiding Principles and Assumptions and Tentative Budget Timeline - Dr. Holly Hageman reviewed the Budget Guiding Principles & Assumptions and Budget Timeline. Dr. Hageman went into detail regarding the preliminary enrollment projections for 2025-26, noting there is a likelihood that two class sections will need to be added due to a very substantial increase in the kindergarten enrollment projection,

R. Morris made a motion that the Board accept the FY 2025-2026 Budget Guiding Principles & Assumptions, and the Tentative Budget Timeline as presented, seconded by A. Kuhrt. Unanimously approved by all present. MOTION CARRIED.

10. Public Comment:

Hal Whitney, Ogden Lord Road - Asked where agenda enclosures are posted. He also commented on the new community form title and offered to donate \$50 for refreshments.

Karen Pakulis-Paul, East Lake Road - Shared that she informed the Board of Finance that there is the potential to add two additional classes for the upcoming year due to a projected increase in student enrollment.

11. Communications

11.1 Staff Vacancy Summary - Submitted

12. Future Meetings & Topics

- BOS All Boards Meeting, Monday, September 30, 2024, 7:00 p.m.
- BOF Budget Kick-Off Meeting, Monday, October 7, 2024, 7:00 p.m., MES Library
- Communications Subcommittee Meeting, Thursday, October 24, 2024, 5:30 p.m.
- Next Regular Business Meeting, Thursday, October 24, 2024, 6:00 p.m..
- CABE/CAPSS Convention, November 15-16, 2024
- CABE New Board Member Orientation/Leadership Conference, December 6, 2023

13. Executive Session: Discussion of Attorney-Client Privileged Communication Related to a Potential Legal Claim.

S. Stolfi made a motion that the Board of Education move to enter into executive session to discuss attorney-client privileged communication related to a potential legal claim, seconded by C. Morris. Unanimously approved by all present. MOTION CARRIED.

Entered Executive Session: 8:09 PM

Exited Executive Session: 8:49 PM

A.Colantonio made a motion to end the Executive Session at 8:49 pm, seconded by L. Earley. Unanimously approved by all present. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION: With the intent to settle a contract dispute, the Board of Education agrees to part of the demand made by the attorney for former Superintendent David Sklarz by covering the monthly cost of a \$75,000 life insurance plan, approximately \$237/month minus \$480 to be paid by Dr. Sklarz annually. All present (Kerri Barella was no longer present) voted yes, except S. Stolfi who voted NO. MOTION CARRIED.

14. Adjournment:

A. Colantonio made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 pm, seconded by J. Wilson. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully Submitted,
Carmela Monte