MARLBOROUGH BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

Elmer Thienes-Mary Hall Elementary School – Library
Thursday, March 13, 2025 @ 6:30 PM
Unofficial Draft

1. Call to Order & Roll Call
Meeting called to order at 6:30PM by Board Chair, Kerri Barella

BOE Members Present: Kerri Barella, Angela Colantonio, Raymond "Chip" Morris, Amy Kuhrt, and Jean Wilson

Administration Present: Dr. Holly Hageman, Superintendent

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Public Comments: None

4. FY 2025-26 Budget discussion in response to the Board of Finance requested reduction of $65,000.

Dr. Hageman provided an update from the Board of Finance meeting on March 5, 2025, where the Board of Selectmen and Board of Education were each asked to reduce their budgets by $65,000, for a total of $130,000 in combined cuts. With that, Dr. Hageman offered recommendations to the Board of Education as to where those reductions could come from.

Dr. Hageman shared enrollment projection handouts comparing initial kindergarten enrollment projections from January 2025 with current enrollment figures. After the spring Kindergarten Registration process, the kindergarten enrollment fell far short of the NESDEC projection of 85 students. Based on the original projection of 85 students, two additional Kindergarten sections/teachers were budgeted. However, the updated enrollment projections for the 2025-26 school year show an estimated 60 students, similar to the size of the current K and the last two years. As a result, one of the budgeted K sections could go to first grade, aligned to more typical MES first grade class sizes, and the second section could be eliminated from the budget.

Additionally, Dr. Hageman reported that the Region 8 Health Consortium voted today to lock in and reduce the health insurance premium renewal increase from 8% to 7%, resulting in a budget savings.

Dr. Hageman proposed that, with the reduction of one teacher position and the savings from the reduced health insurance premium renewal, the $65,000 budget reduction target is achievable. This adjustment brings the proposed budget increase for the upcoming fiscal year to 3.15%, compared to the original projected increase of 3.90%. The Capital Request was unaltered.

K. Barella made a motion that the Board reduce its FY26 Budget by $65,000 for a revised Operating Budget of $8,926,425.00 and Capital Request of $75,000.00. Seconded by A. Colantonio. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

5. Adjournment

A.Colantonio made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:48 pm, seconded by K. Barella. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully Submitted:
Carmela Monte