

MARLBOROUGH BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES
Elmer Thienes-Mary Hall Elementary School - Library
Thursday, March 27, 2025 @ 6:30 p.m.

1. Call to Order and Roll Call by Chairperson:

Kerri Barella, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm

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

Administration Present: Dr. Holly Hageman, Superintendent
Paula Graef, Principal
Kristen Trahan, Principal
John Mercier, Director of Operations

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Celebrations:

- Music Program: Donna Arseneault, the Band/Music teacher, led students in a performance featuring flute and saxophone ensembles, showcasing the MES music program.
- Board Appreciation: Dr. Holly Hageman expressed her gratitude to the Board members for their dedication and service, presenting tokens of appreciation.

4. Public Comments:

Hal Whitney, 20 Ogden Lord Road - Thanked the Board for all they do.

5. Additions to the Agenda;

K. Barella asked to add to the New Business line item; 9.4 - To officially accept the resignation of former Vice Chair, Susan Stolfi, and hold a special election to fill the Vice Chair position.

The Board unanimously voted in favor of adding this time to New Business, 9.4.

6. Consent Agenda:

- 6.1 Minutes of 02/27/25 Regular Business Meeting, 02/27/25 Policy Committee Meeting, and 3/13/25 Special Meeting ;
- 6.2 Personnel Actions – none;
- 6.3 Reports – receive and file the following document: monthly enrollment report ;
- 6.4 Approval of Policy Revision:
(REFERENCE: February 27, 2025 Agenda, Encl. 9.3: P# 9323 - Preparation of Agenda)

A.Colantonio made a motion that the Board approve the following Consent Agenda items 6.1-6.4, seconded by L. Earley. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

7. Oral Reports

7.1 Advisory Groups

- **PTO** – Kristen Trahan and Paula Graef provided an overview of PTO events held in March including the Annual Wolf Pack Hockey Night, where chorus students performed; Movie Night on March 14th; and the PTO's support during Parent/Teacher Conference. Additionally, the PTO organized an author visit with Dusti Bowling. The PTO's upcoming event is the Fun Run Fundraiser, scheduled for April 10th.
- **SAC** – No meeting in March
- **Operations, Wellness & Safety** – John Mercier provided an update on the FY25 facilities expenditures to date, reviewing a document outlining numerous unanticipated repairs and replacement of equipment. It was noted that MECCA rental income helps to pay for facilities needs, in addition to what is budgeted in the operating budget, but that it is important for the Board and community to understand that the building has aging infrastructure, hence the reason(s) behind the recommendations coming from the Facilities Study for the need for a significant infrastructure project..
- **Board of Finance Liaison** – Linda Earley reported that the BOF held meetings on March 19th to discuss the budget. The BOE and BOS each reduced their budgets by \$65,000 each as requested by the Board of Finance. Ms. Earley reported that the BOF also agreed to use \$185,000 from the Undesignated Fund Balance to help reduce the tax increase. The Town Budget increase with these changes is 4.08% over the current year's budget..
- **AHM** – Chip Morris shared that two events earlier this month, *Tap Into Nature* and the 2nd Annual *Kids vs. Cops Basketball* event, were well attended. Heshared that registration is still open for the Spring Family Resource Center classes, and Preschool Summer Camp registration is currently available. The K-2nd Grade Theatre Class is full. Additionally, the *Spring Health Matters* programs, which are open to all ages, are now available for registration. Upcoming events include the AHM Spring Concert Fundraiser with Patrick Tobin on May 3rd, a Drug Take-Back Event at RHAM High School on April 26th, and a Narcan Training session on May 5th.

7.2 Subcommittees

- Policy: No report
- Personnel: No report
- Communications: No report

7.3 Chairperson: No report

7.4 Superintendent and Administrative Team:

- Mid-Year SCIP Update: Principals Paula Graef and Kristen Trahan provided a mid-year update on the Mid-Year SCIP and responded to Board member questions.

8. Unfinished Business: None

9. New Business

9.1 Review March Financial Report: Submitted

9.2 First Reading of Proposed Policy Revisions:

The Board will review and discuss on a first read basis the proposed policy revisions as presented by the Policy Subcommittee - P# 4000.1/4200.1/5145.44 - Sexual Harassment/Title IX: The new policy was submitted for the Board's review. It will be brought back for a second read and a vote for approval at the next Board of Education meeting.

9.3 Discussion and possible action on a Food Service Interschool Agreement with RHAM:

Dr. Holly Hageman referenced the memo in the Board packet explaining that the school district must go out to bid for a food service provider for the upcoming school year. RHAM is on the same timeline to go out to bid for food services. RHAM administration has initiated discussions with MES regarding the possibility of establishing a mutually beneficial partnership for food service operations, and Dr. Hageman is seeking permission from the Board to enter into negotiations with RHAM for an Interdistrict Agreement for Food Services.

L. Earley made a motion that the Board authorize the Superintendent to negotiate the terms of and enter into a Food Service Interschool Agreement with RHAM, seconded by A. Kuhrt. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

9.4 Officially accept resignation of Vice Chair and hold a special election to fill the Vice Chair vacancy.

A. Kuhrt made a motion that the Board of Education accept the resignation of Vice Chair Susan Stolfi, seconded by J. Wilson. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

K. Barella made a motion that the Board elect a Vice Chairperson in accordance with Board Policy, seconded by L. Earley.

**L. Earley nominated Chip Morris as Vice Chair, seconded by J. Wilson.
C. Morris, L. Earley, and J. Wilson voted YES . 3/6**

**K. Barilla nominated Amy Kuhrt as Vice Chair, seconded by A. Colantonio.
A.Kuhrt, K. Barella, and A. Colantonio voted YES. 3/6**

Due to a tie vote, the election was tabled so that Dr. Hageman could look into what happens in the event of a tie vote on this and on any other vote taken while the Board has an even number of members, until the BOS fills the current Board of Education vacancy.

10. Public Comments:

Hal Whitney, 20 Ogden Lord Road - asked about the updated enrollment projections, specifically inquiring whether there have been any additional kindergarten registrations beyond the 60 students projected in March. He also asked if MES anticipates a larger number of kindergarten registrations for the following year.

Dr. Holly Hageman explained that MES used NESDEC's enrollment projections for kindergarten, but the actual numbers fell far short of their projections, hence the reason a kindergarten section was reduced from the FY26 budget. Dr. Hageman also indicated that she is reaching out to NESDEC to have a better understanding of why the projection was so far off and to know whether there is confidence in the FY27 projection going forward.

11. Communications:

11.1 Staff Vacancy Summary: Submitted

Dr. Holly Hageman noted that the district is currently in the process of searching for and hiring candidates to fill teaching vacancies for the 2025-26 school year.

12. Future Meetings & Topics

- 1st Annual Town Budget Public Hearing, Monday, April 14, 2025, 6:30 pm, MES Cafeteria
- Tentative Policy Subcommittee Meeting, Thursday, April 24, 2025, 6:00 pm
- Next Regular Business Meeting, Thursday, April 24, 2025, 6:30 pm
- 2nd Annual Town Budget Public Hearing, Monday, May 5, 2025, 6:30 pm, MES Cafeteria
- Town Budget Referendum, Tuesday, May 6, 2025

14. Adjournment:

A.Colantonio made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:07 pm, seconded by L. Earley. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully Submitted,
Carmela Monte