

MARLBOROUGH BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, February 26, 2026 - Library @ 6:30 p.m.

1. Call to Order and Roll Call by Chairperson:

Chip Morris, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 6:31 pm

BOE Members Present: Chip Morris, Amy Kuhrt, Jean Wilson, Jamie Smigel, Louise Concodello, and William Guzman. Linda Earley attended remotely.

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

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Celebrations:

- Student Council Presentation - 6th grade students from MES Student Council highlighted the many events and projects they have worked on over the year so far and also gave a preview of upcoming activities. The Student Council advisors are Tina D'Auteuil and Laura Haddad.
- Dr. Holly Hageman announced that Joseph Dooley, who has served as a custodian at MES for over 53 years, will be retiring next month. Dr. Hageman shared a heartfelt tribute recognizing Mr. Dooley's longstanding dedication and the lasting impact of his service to the MES community. In lieu of gifts or a retirement celebration, Mr. Dooley has requested that donations be made to Connecticut Children's Medical Center in his honor. Chip Morris noted that the Board of Education has made a donation to Connecticut Children's Medical Center in recognition of Mr. Dooley's remarkable service.
- Principals Paula Graef and Kristen Trahan reported that 12 MES students participated in the Regional Invention Convention competition. Of those students, five advanced to the State Finals, which will be held on May 7. Principals Graef and Trahan also expressed their appreciation to Board members Linda Earley and Jean Wilson for serving as judges at the local MES Invention Convention.

4. Public Comments:

Ken Hjulstrom, 181 S. Main St. - shared positive comments about Joseph Dooley and stated Joe will be missed.

5. Additions to the Agenda: None

6. Consent Agenda:

- 6.1 Minutes of 01/29/26 Regular Business Meeting:
- 6.2 Personnel Actions – none;
- 6.3 Reports – receive and file the following document: monthly enrollment report.

A. Kuhrt made a motion that the Board approve Consent Agenda items 6.1 - 6.3, seconded by L. Concodello. L. Earley approved remotely. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED

7. Oral Reports:

7.1 Advisory Groups

- PTO – Kristen Trahan summarized upcoming PTO activities including Stock The Lounge for conference week, Movie Night, UCONN Baseball Family Night, and the Fun Run Fundraiser.
- SAC – No meeting/no report
- Operations, Wellness & Safety – Dr. Holly Hageman reported that there was a recent meeting reviewing safety for parent pick up. She also stated that there will be an adjustment in staff supervision in the parking lot to improve traffic safety and there will be safety reminders for parent pick-up in weekly family newsletters.
- Board of Finance Liaison – William Guzman stated the BOF had a meeting on Monday. The Town Manager presented the Town's Operations and Capital Plan Budget. On Wednesday, RHAM presented their Operating and Capital Budgets to the BOF with a 3.1% increase. The BOF is expected to make budget recommendations to each presenting entity (BOS, BOE and RHAM) on March 9th.
- AHM – Chip Morris shared that registration is open in a variety of fun and exciting Health Matters programs. The Family Resource Center will be starting new sessions in music as well as play and learn groups. Registration for Preschool Summer Camp opens up on March 1st. Preschool Registration for the 2026-2027 school year also starts later in March. The 2nd session of theater for ages Kg - 8th grade will start March 23rd, there are a few open slots still available. AHM's biggest community outreach event of the year, Tap Into Nature, will be happening on March 21st and 22nd at AHM; both indoor and outdoor hands-on naturalistic exhibits will be open to the public free of charge. Their 3rd annual Kids vs Cops basketball game at RHAM High School will be held on March 27th. Programs and events can be found on our website and social media accounts

7.2 Subcommittees

- Policy - None
- Personnel - None
- Communications - None

7.3 Chairperson - No Report

7.4 Superintendent and Administrative Team

- FY27 Budget Update - Incoming Kindergarten Enrollment Update: Dr. Holly Hageman informed the Board of Education that the kindergarten enrollment process was moved up by one month this year to provide a clearer projection for budget planning purposes. The district had projected 59 incoming kindergarten students and, at this time, 56 students have registered with 1-2 students as likely to register.
- New Greenhouse Update: Dr. Holly Hageman reported that the Greenhouse Grant was approved and the team has been attending the information sessions with the grantor. The greenhouse installation is expected to move forward later this spring.

8. Unfinished Business:

- 8.1 MES Facilities Project Update** - Dr. Holly Hageman stated that the BOS has been great to work with around planning for the future Major Alterations project in establishing the Marlborough Elementary School Building Committee (MESBC). The BOS appointed Will Guzman and Amy Kuhrt to represent the Board of Education, along with two community members, to serve on the committee. The BOS established a target consisting of five members and three alternates. The first meeting is anticipated to take place in April or May. Dr. Hageman also noted that the Board of Selectmen approved the official Charge for the MESBC. Additionally, Dr. Hageman informed the Board that John, Director of Operations, is drafting a placeholder Request for Proposal (RFP) for the Owner's Project Manager bidding process so it will be ready for the MESBC's review. The Owner's Project Manager is anticipated to be in place for the next school year to advise the MESBC in developing project specifications in preparation for a Referendum in May, 2027 for this project.

9. New Business:

- 9.1 February Financial Report** - Submitted

10. Communications:

- 10.1 Staff Vacancy Summary** - Submitted

Dr. Holly Hageman announced that a Spanish teacher has been hired for the upcoming school year to replace Beth Schwartz who is retiring at the end of the current school year. Dr. Hageman expressed her appreciation for Beth's outstanding career and dedicated service to MES and wished her well in her retirement. Maria Sanhueza has accepted the Spanish teacher position and was welcomed to the MES team.

11. Future Meetings & Topics:

- Next Regular Business Meeting, Thursday, March 26, 2026, 6:30 p.m.

Agenda suggestions for the next business meeting are due to the Chairperson or Superintendent by 12:00 noon on Tuesday, March 17, 2026.

12. Public Comments: None

13. Adjournment:

L. Concodello made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:17 p.m., seconded by A. Kuhrt.

L. Earley approved remotely. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED

Respectfully Submitted,
Carmela Monte