MARLBOROUGH BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Business Meeting Minutes
Thursday, October 22, 2026
Elmer Thienes-Mary Hall Elementary School – Library Annex
6:30 p.m.

1. Call to Order and Roll Call by Chairperson

Dr. Raymond Morris, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m..

BOE Members Present: Dr. Raymond Morris, Amy Kuhrt, Louise Concodello, William Guzman, Jamie Smigel, and Linda Earley.

Administration Present: Paul Smith, Superintendent
Paula Graef, Principal
Jennifer Renkiewicz, Assistant Principal

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Celebrations

- Presentation: Fourth-grade students Bodie, Cali, Rylea, and Jameson shared highlights from their field trip to Dinosaur State Park in Rocky Hill, CT, accompanied by a slideshow. The students discussed their experiences and what they learned during the trip. The field trip was made possible by the PTO, whom the students thanked for their support.

4. Public Comment - None

5. Additions to the Agenda - None

6. Consent Agenda:

6.1 Minutes of 9/24/26 Regular Business Meeting and the 9/24/26 Policy Committee 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. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

7. Oral Reports

7.1 Advisory Groups

- **PTO** – Principal Paula Graef reviewed upcoming PTO events for October and November, including Trunk-or-Treat and the sixth-grade Haunted House on October 23rd, a multicultural assembly featuring Japanese drumming and flute on October 28th, and a staff appreciation treat wagon on October 30th. Additional events include the Election Day Bake Sale and MES blanket sales as well as a staff luncheon during

Parent-Teacher Conferences on November 3rd, and Bingo Night on November 20th. The next PTO meeting will be held on November 2nd at 5:00 p.m. in the MES Cafeteria.

- **SAC** – Assistant Principal Jenn Renkiewicz announced that the next SAC meeting will be held on November 16th after school. Reminders will be included in the weekly MES Panther PAW Print newsletter, along with the SAC Topic Form for submitting discussion topics and suggestions.
- **Operations, Wellness & Safety** – No Report
- **Board of Finance Liaison** – Bill Guzman reported that the Board of Finance met on October 8th for a budget kickoff meeting, establishing a 3.5% budget submission goal for all town entities. The Region 8 Superintendent also presented the Capital Improvement Plan, with a referendum anticipated in November 2027. At its October 19th meeting, the Board of Finance approved a resolution to transfer $68,083 into the 2% fund. Superintendent Paul Smith noted that the Town Public Hearing is scheduled for April 8, 2027.
- **AHM** – Dr. Raymond Morris shared upcoming AHM events, including National Take Back Day on October 24th at the Hebron Police Department, as well as the *Fall into Art* community art show, free Arts & Crafts, and a Halloween-themed Spooky Trail, all taking place during the Hebron Harvest Moon Festival. He also announced three new episodes of the *Here 4 You* podcast, available on YouTube and Spotify.

7.2 Subcommittees:

- **Policy** -The Policy Committee met earlier in the evening and discussed Policy 5131.82 – Instructional Screen Time and Policy 6141.3273 – Artificial Intelligence in Education. Both policies will be presented for a first reading at next month's BOE meeting.
- **Personnel** - No report
- **Communications** - A meeting will be scheduled before the next BOE meeting; date and time to be determined.

7.3 Chairperson: No report

7.4 Superintendent and Administrative Team:

- EASTCONN Board of Directors Representative - Superintendent Paul Smith reviewed a letter from EASTCONN inviting the district to appoint a representative to its Board of Directors. He noted the Board of Education's eligibility for representation and highlighted the opportunity for district involvement.
- BOF Budget Kick Off - Superintendent Paul Smith reported that the meeting went well and noted that Louise Concodello and Amy Kuhrt were also in attendance. He reviewed the 3.5% budget submission goal and expressed hope that insurance costs for the Town and school district would come in more manageable this year, noting that it is still too early to determine.
- Profile of the Learner - Statistics & Next Steps - Superintendent Paul Smith reviewed the MES Profile of the Learner survey results, with 218 responses received so far, highlighting the skills and dispositions the community considers most important for student success. He outlined next steps, including refining the survey results, gathering additional community input on a draft, and presenting the final Profile to the

Board and community at the next BOE meeting on November 19th.

8. Unfinished Business:

8.1 Discussion of Superintendent Goals for the 2026–2027 School Year - No additional changes were submitted by Board members since the previous meeting. The Superintendent Goals document was updated to reflect "Marlborough 2040 – Tomorrow's Future Today" in place of "Marlborough 2035 – Tomorrow's Future Today."

L. Earley made a motion that the Board approve the Superintendent Goals, seconded by L. Concodello. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

8.2 Discussion of Board Goals: 2026-2028 - Dr. Raymond Morris reviewed feedback received from Board members and distributed an updated draft incorporating their suggestions and edits. The revised goals were discussed. Dr. Morris asked Board members to submit any additional comments or suggestions on the revised draft, with the goal of ratifying the Board Goals for 2026–2028 at the upcoming BOE Meeting in November.

8.3 MES Facilities Project Update - Bill Guzman reported that the MESBC will meet on October 27th, with the goal of finalizing a contract with STV following discussions between the Town Attorney and STV. STV representatives will attend the October 27th meeting to explain their role and review the school construction grant process with the Building Committee. Mr. Guzman informed the Board that the Board of Selectmen approved transferring additional funds to the Project Manager line.

9. New Business:

9.1 Review October Financial Report – Superintendent Paul Smith reviewed the projected deficit, noting that an additional ABA position and 2.6 paraprofessional positions were needed for the 2026-27 school year to address student needs but were not included in the approved 2026–2027 budget. He indicated that funds from the 2% non-lapsing fund could be used to cover these costs.

10. Communications:

10.1 Staff Vacancy Summary - No updates since the last Board meeting.

11. Future Meetings & Topics:

- Regular Business Meeting, Thursday, November 19, 2026, 6:30 p.m.
- Tentative Policy Meeting, Thursday November 19, 2026, 6:00 pm.
- Tentative Communications Committee Meeting, Date & Time TBD in November
- CABE/CAPSS Convention, November 20-21, 2026
- CABE New Board Member Orientation/Leadership Conference, December 10, 2026

REMINDER: Agenda suggestions for the next business meeting are due to the Chairperson or Superintendent by 12:00 noon on <u>Tuesday, November 10, 2026.</u>

12. Public Comment - None

13. Adjournment:

L. Early made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:37 p.m., seconded by L. Concodello. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED

Respectfully Submitted,
Carmela Monte