

**MARLBOROUGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MARLBOROUGH, MA 01752**

Call to Order

September 11, 2012

1. Chairman Vigeant called the Regular Meeting of the Marlborough School Committee to order at 7:30pm at the District Education Center, 17 Washington St., Marlborough, MA. Members present included, Dr. Hediger, Mrs. Hardy, Ms. Matthews, Mrs. Bodin-Hettinger, Ms. Dwyer & Mrs. Hennessy Interim Superintendent Dlott, MEA Representative Molly Callahan, and Clerk Irish were also in attendance.

2. **Pledge of Allegiance:** Was led by Chairman Vigeant.

A moment of silence in remembrance of the victims of 9-11-01 was led by Chairman Vigeant

3. Presentation:

A. Bussing

Dan Riley gave an update to the committee regarding the bus routes and scheduling, he noted that this was a typical start of the school year. Mr. Riley noted that as concerns or issues are coming in to him they are being addressed. It was noted by Dr. Dlott that Dan has done a fabulous job with the handling of the bus routes however the matter of bussing will be moved from Mr. Riley over to the Business Manager Susan Batton within the next 3 weeks. He again commended Dan on the job he has done.

Mrs. Dwyer asked about the AMSA bus routes and was told Ms. Ann Williams is the point of contact for those routes. Ms. Dwyer made note that any route elimination needs to be both public information and a point of information to the school committee. Mrs. Hennessy questioned if all late arriving elementary school busses were still being met by staff to help direct children especially the youngest ones on where they should be going. Dr. Hediger asked about the potential cost savings with moving to a full day kindergarten as well as questions regarding community bus stops and walking bus stops. Mrs. Hardy questioned bus stop placement on corners and the safety of these stops once the winter sets in, Chairman Vigeant noted he has already started discussions with the DPW regarding snow placement and safety.

B. Believe 2016

Dr. Dlott noted that the district is in year 2 of the Strategic Plan. All Principals and Administrators were brought together to discuss the plan, 21st century schools are the underpinnings of this document. The district is in transition and there will be next exams introduced in 2014, our report cards will be changing and data will be driving decisions that are made and training for teachers. SMART goals will be created by teachers and a presentation on the new software Tableau will be given at the next meeting. Each Goal from the current plan was outlined and it became apparent there is a space crunch currently in our schools. There was discussion from all members regarding this point and the need for either a new school building or the possibility into the reuse or retrofit of an existing building. The final note of the presentation was the revisiting of initiatives within the Believe 2016 document, Middle School IB program, Innovation School STEM 21st Century Elementary School, Dual Language Elementary School as well as the creation of full day kindergarten within the district. Dr. Hediger brought forward information from *Fast Futures*, noting that if you looked ahead at the 2030 workforce, it is clear that an entering student for the 2013 school year would hit the real world job marketplace in 2030 with 13 years of k thru 12 education, and an additional 4 years of BA/BS education. The competitiveness of the country is facing a looming shortage of people with expertise, the most familiar group understood known across the room being physicians. The imperative is realizing this is not something that happens 17 years out, it all starts in the fall of 2013.

Dr. Hediger feels strongly that a K-5 innovation school is a must. Chairman Vigeant again acknowledged the space problem and the finite budget the district has to work within. Chairman Vigeant requested information from the Superintendent for the next regular meeting consisting of: A quick synopsis of each listed initiative including a numbers analysis, viability and priorities for the district. There was a general consensus from the committee members that full day kindergarten needs to be a major priority for the district.

4. Committee Discussion/Directives:

A. Athletic Program at Whitcomb Middle School

Mr. Jeff Rudzinsky updated the committee on the athletics programs at the Whitcomb School. Last year in the fall program there were 188 student athletes this year there are currently 181 so there still is an incredible amount of interest, the programs are thriving. There was a decision made to allow 5th grade athletes onto the soccer team only if there were not enough 6-8 grade students to field a team. There were not enough freshmen at the High School this

year to field a freshman team. That being said the 5th grade students were not needed and a soccer team was fielded comprising of 6-8 grade students. Mrs. Matthews questioned the decision allowing for 5th students to participate if needed it was clear that the Whitcomb School athletics program was designed for 6-8 grade students only, the 5th grade was to be moved back to the elementary schools, however that has not happened. Mr. Rudzinsky noted that the 5th grade students have multiple choices for sports in the Intermural arena. It was noted that there need to be further discussions on this point and a better handling of the sign up process including the availability of information reaching all parents.

5. Communications: None

6. Superintendent's Report:

Dr. Dlott opened his report with information regarding the NEASC accreditation process, the District has been placed on warning status. A meeting took place between Dr. Dlott, Craig Hardimon, Maureen Greulich and Janet Allison from NEASC. Mr. Hardimon outlined his proposal to Ms. Allison, there are currently 10 people to work on the report, and the district will look at everything from the previous determination. We had asked for an extension and it has been granted the official documentation is expected in the mail.

Dr. Hediger requested an update from Mr. Hardimon at the October 30th meeting.

Dr. Dlott wanted to acknowledge Ms. Maureen Fehlan for the work she did over the summer with Special Education Adults.

7. Acceptance of Minutes:

A. Minutes of August 28, 2012 School Committee Meeting

Motion made by Ms. Dwyer, seconded by Chairman Vigeant to accept the minutes of the August 28, 2012 School Committee Meeting, motion passed 6-0-1.

8. Public Participation: None

9. Action Items/Reports:

A. Acceptance of Donations and Gifts

MA Biotechnology Education Foundation has donated \$495.00 to the MHS biotechnology classes to pay the cost of bussing and substitute teaching so the classes can go on a field trip.

Motion made by Dr. Hediger, seconded by Chairman Vigeant to accept with gratitude. Motion passed 6-01.

MA DESE Grants has awarded the district a \$15,000.00 grant to help with the Drug Free Schools Initiative.

Motion made by Mrs. Hennessy, seconded by Chairman Vigeant to accept with gratitude. Motion passed 6-01.

10. Reports of School Committee Sub-Committees:

Dr. Hediger reported that the Policy sub-committee would be meeting September 24, and possibly be having regular Monday meetings after that.

11. Members Forum

Mrs. Matthews announced that all the school committee members have now been granted city based email addresses and they are set to go live this week. All the addresses can be found on the MPS District website.

Mrs. Hennessy thanked Chairman Vigeant for the moment of silence tribute to honoring the victims of 9-11-01

Dr. Hediger noted that the most patriotic act anyone can do is to gain an education.

Mrs. Bodin-Hettinger reminded all members of the upcoming School Committee Conference on November 7,8,9. Please make sure to speak with Ms. Sibilio to get registered for the conference and make accommodations on your own as in years prior.

Dr. Hediger noted that the FY13 budget was wrapped up and everyone received copies of it in the mail and reminded everyone to get an early start on next years' projections.

12. Adjournment: Motion made by Mrs. Bodin-Hettinger, seconded by Chairman Vigeant to adjourn at 10:06pm the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret Dwyer

MD/mai