

Minutes of the School Committee Workshop
Purpose: Dr. Pope's Entry Plan Report
Thursday, January 13, 2011
DEC Conference Room

Vice Chairman Dwyer called the Workshop Meeting of the Marlborough School Committee to order at 9:45 a.m. at the District Education Center, 17 Washington Street, Marlborough, MA for the purpose of discussing Dr. Pope's Entry Plan Report. Members present included Mrs. Bodin-Hettinger, Ms. Dwyer, Mrs. Hardy, Mrs. Hennessy, Ms. Robey. Chairman Stevens and Dr. Hediger were absent.

In addition, Dr. Anthony Pope, Superintendent, was present.

Attachments: Dr. Anthony Pope, Superintendent, Entry Report

Ms. Dwyer discussed the public process regarding the potential grade reconfiguration being discussed throughout the district. In the past, public hearings have been held for past reconfigurations and it would seem logical to do so again.

A public hearing will be held on February 8, 2011 at 7pm before the regularly scheduled meeting. The purpose of this public hearing would be to allow the school committee to hear the public's perspective regarding proposed grade configuration changes. Dr. Pope will be holding two parent forums, one on January 26th and the other later in February so that all questions and concerns can be discussed.

Dr. Pope explained some further details regarding all elements of the potential grade configuration changes (eighth grade moving down to middle school and fourth grade moving to elementary schools). Emphasis is being placed on

developing a full middle school model with exceptional programs. These programs must include: sports, music, foreign language and more. Particular care will be taken to ensure that all necessary pieces can be in place before any final recommendations are made. To rush, would be a mistake. For the fourth grade, detail is being paid towards developing a comprehensive k-12 music and arts program.

The different types of alternative education were also discussed with Dr. Pope. He suggested that other districts have several types of programs to accommodate the various needs for alternative education.

The four major goals of the district, as presented by Dr. Pope in his entry report, were discussed and agreed upon as building blocks for the continued strategic planning process. These goals are described on page 30 of the attached document.

The committee discussed moving the February 22, 2011 regular school committee meeting to March 1st so that there will be no meeting during school vacation. In addition, canceling the March 8th meeting was discussed. The intent will be to vote on a proposed grade configuration change on the March 1st meeting. This will allow time for the budget process to incorporate the changes.

At the January 25, 2011 school committee meeting, Dr. Pope will report on the January 18 district professional development and discuss the progress made toward a district mission and vision and core values. This is a critical piece in moving forward with the educational goals of the district.

Meeting adjourned at 11:40 by a unanimous vote of the committee.

Submitted by Jen Hardy, Secretary