

Chairman Stevens called the Regular Meeting of the Marlborough School Committee to order at 7:00 p.m. at the District Education Center, 17 Washington Street, Marlborough, MA. Members present included Mrs. Bodin-Hettinger, Ms. Dwyer, Mrs. Hardy, Dr. Hediger, Mrs. Hennessy and Ms. Robey.

Superintendent Pope and Clerk Judd were also in attendance.

A Motion was made and seconded to enter into Executive Session for the purposes of discussing collective bargaining issues relative to Unit B Administrators, Para-Professionals, Secretarial Unit and the Cafeteria Workers. The roll call vote was unanimous to enter into Executive Session.

The Committee returned to Regular Session at 7:30 p.m. Chairman Stevens stated that this meeting is being recorded by the local cable television station, Channel 10.

Assistant Superintendent Jolicoeur, Mr. St. George, MEA Representative, and Rebecca Gadd, Student Representative, were in attendance. Assistant Superintendent Delaney was absent.

Chairman Stevens led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Presentation

B. MHS School Advisory Council:

Laura Zaia discussed the Senior/Faculty Basketball Game, which will be held on Tuesday, March 15, 2011.

Maggie Vaccaro discussed MHS sports.

Sarah Baldelli discussed the 22nd Annual Mr. MHS Show.

6 A. Real World Design Challenge Winners: Mr. Ken Hanson discussed the statewide engineering contest called the Real World Design Challenge to the Committee. The students being recognized are Matthew Whitmore, Chris Ortiz, Jessica Mendoza, Matthew Bailey, Rachel Dass, Nicholas Strella, William Andrade and Alec Deveau. The students placed first in the contest and now have the chance to go to Washington D.C. to compete at the national event. Congratulations were extended to the students and staff involved.

6 B. MHS Science and Engineering Fair Winners: Mrs. Richov introduced the Science Fair winners. She said most of the students will be going to the Regional Science Fair at Worcester Polytechnic Institute. The winners and categories are as follows: The Effects of Tree Bark Extractions on the Growth of Jurkat T and HeLa Cells, Kayleigh Fay, Taylor Fearing, Bruce Bausk; The Effects of Chlorophyll Extract vs. Blackberry Extract on dye-Sensitized Solar Cells, Elaine Schmidt; Biomass Gasification Using Solar Concentrators, Katrina Magno; Language and the Brain: Audio vs. Visual Learning, Adelya Fatykhova; Different Brands of Gasoline: Are Some Brands “Greener” Than Others?, Evan Syers and Mayank Bhattarai; does Caffeine Affect the Heart Rate of Daphnia Magna?, Cassidy Grace; Reaction Times vs. Age, Ben Shepherd; Will the Amount of Transfected DNA in a Cell Affect Protein Expression? Joe Babcock; The Effect of Lipid-Soluble Antioxidants on H460 Lung Carcinoma Cells, Matthew Wright and Gala Moreno; The Conductivity of Salts in Water, Michael Youngstrom & Lucas Allen; Wireless Energy, William Andrade, Matthew Bailey and Nick Strella; Growing Plants the Right Way, Alex Aquila, Charlie Brooks and Gregory Konar. Congratulations were extended to all.

Two minute recess. Reconvened at 7:55 p.m.

3 A. Nicaragua Presentation: Kyle Condry, Senior and Matt Zink, Junior, discussed their recent trip through Bridges to Humanity. The students shared their experiences.

C. MASC Presentation: Dr. Hediger shared the session log that he attended at the MASC/MASS Conference. He discussed the self evaluation of school committees. The committee will discuss moving forward with a self evaluation at the next meeting.

D. School Re-configuration Presentation: Dr. Pope presented the Grade Re-Configuration Plan 2011-12. He discussed the importance of a Middle School. Why now? Student achievement; Opportunity to offer more options for our students; Eliminate important transitions for our students at critical periods of their education and development; Opportunity to develop a true middle school and a true elementary program; to strengthen our foreign language programs by offering languages earlier; To strengthen our Music and Art programs; To strengthen our athletics programs; More opportunities for access to advanced content such as pre-algebra and algebra 1. Dr. Pope discussed what the instructional core might look like at the Middle School and Elementary Schools. He said the goal is to have something in place for the start of the school year. Dr. Pope said it is time to move forward, and we have an amazing opportunity to do so.

Melissa Lebarre shared Parent and Community Feedback on the Re-Configuration Plan. She urged the Committee to vote in favor of the proposed plan.

Several staff members presented specific elements including, but not limited to, elementary school configurations, academic, music, art, and athletic offerings.

Dr. Pope stated that the Re-Configuration plan is posted on the district's website in its entirety, www.mps-edu.org.

5. Communications: Kimberly Dillon, spoke in support of the Reorganization Plan

Brenda Geary, Spoke in support of the Reorganization Plan.

Beth Blum, spoke in support of the Reorganization Plan.

Karen Markey, Health and Wellness Coordinator, MPS, expressed concern about the grade 8 students losing out on health and physical education.

6 B. FY2012 Budget Timeline: Dr. Pope reviewed the Budget Process for FY12. He said due to many changes this year and our attempt to solidify a five year strategic plan for Marlborough Public Schools, we are starting later than we have in the past. He reviewed the timeline which will be posted on the district website.

C. 2011-2012 School Calendar: Dr. Pope will be collaborating with Brendan St. George, MEA President, and the School Committee members to develop a calendar to recommend for the next School Committee meeting.

7. Acceptance of Minutes

A. Minutes of February 22, 2011 School Committee Meeting:

Mrs. Hardy moved, seconded by Chairman Stevens, to accept and place on file the Minutes of February 22, 2011. The following changes were made: (1) 9B Acceptance of Donations and Grants, Synopsis: This acceptance is a correction of an acceptance of \$5,800 at the February 8, 2011 meeting. (2) 10 Reports of School Committee Sub-Committees: Add, There were no other reports from any sub committees.

The Motion carried 5-0-2 (Dwyer, Hardy).

8. Public Participation: Karen Markey, Health and Wellness Coordinator, said some concerns are being alleviated because they just found out 7th graders will be receiving health and wellness education.

Mr. St. George read a statement into the record: Change is rarely easy but if a change does come teachers would welcome the opportunity to work with the district through this reorganization to create a smooth and seamless transition in the best interest of our students. It is our hope that our professional knowledge and opinions will continue to be sought and our years of experience continue to be valued and respected. We would hope that voluntary transfers be sought to ask to be informed in a timely manner regarding personnel decisions so that we can be ready to welcome our students on day one next year.

9. Action Items/Reports:

A. School Reconfiguration: Mrs. Hardy moved, seconded by Chairman Stevens, to approve the School Reconfiguration Plan which would result in the district housing students in three k-4 buildings, a 5-8 building and a 9-12 high school.

Mrs. Hennessy spoke in support and followed up with a number of questions. Dr. Pope said regardless of the reconfiguration, we need to look at the equity issues throughout the district.

Ms. Dwyer publicly acknowledged those involved in the reconfiguration process.

Dr. Pope said we have to learn to say “no” and don’t change our mind. We have to put our kids first.

Ms. Robey talked about the last district reconfiguration. She said, we did what we did because of space needs, but curriculum was first in our minds. She said this plan can work; we will make sure it works; she is thrilled by the presentations.

Mrs. Hardy and Dr. Hediger spoke in favor of the plan.

Chairman Stevens said she and Ms. Robey were on the Committee in the past. She said we are going in the right direction. As a parent, we have any excellent school district, and her child did very well as a student.

The Motion to approve carried 7-0-0.

B. Marlborough Public Schools District Goals: Ms. Dwyer moved, seconded by Chairman Stevens, to approve the following four district goals:

1. Student Achievement: All students in the Marlborough Public Schools will learn at high levels of academic expectations and the achievement gap will be eliminated.
2. Operational Effectiveness and Efficiency: All operations in the Marlborough Public Schools will be efficient and effective.
3. Family Involvement and Community Engagement: Marlborough Public Schools will foster partnerships with the community and improve communication and engagement to support our students and system.
4. Culture: Marlborough Public Schools will foster a culture that supports high expectations.

Goal 3 amended to add **school** system.

Mrs. Hardy moved, seconded by Chairman Stevens, to accept the Goals as amended. The Motion carried 7-0-0.

C. MHS Schedule Adjustment: The staggered opening format will be used during MCAS testing. Only tested students attend school in the morning and the remainder of the student body starts at 10:15 a.m. This format provides a supportive test environment free from the distraction of bells and students as they pass to the next class.

Mrs. Bodin-Hettinger moved, seconded by Chairman Stevens, to approve the schedule adjustment during MCAS testing. The Motion carried 7-0-0.

D. Bigelow School Lease: Mr. Ghiloni said the request is for the School Committee to approve the renewal of the lease to Assabet Valley Collaborative for an additional year beginning on July 1, 2011 and ending on June 30, 2012 at the current rate of \$10.30 per square feet.

Mr. Ghiloni said he didn't put an increase in the lease this year because they have spent \$100,000 in renovations.

Ms. Dwyer moved, seconded by Chairman Stevens, to approve. The Motion carried 7-0-0.

E. Massachusetts School Building Authority Statement of Interest: Mr. Ghiloni said a Statement of Interest has been filed for Richer, Whitcomb and ECC and a current vote is required from the School Committee.

Statement of Interest: That the Marlborough School Committee, in accordance with its charter, by-laws and ordinances, has voted to authorize the Superintendent to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority the Statement of Interest dated January 26, 2011 for the Richer School-80 Foley Road, Whitcomb School-25 Union Street and ECC (Freeman School)-17 Washington Street which describes and explains the following deficiencies and the priority category for which the Marlborough Public Schools may be invited to apply to the Massachusetts School Building Authority in the future. Richer and Whitcomb have been submitted for Priority #5 which is defined as the replacement, renovation or modernization of school facility systems such as roofs, windows, boilers, heating and ventilation systems, to increase conservation and decrease energy related costs in a school facility. ECC (Freeman School) has been submitted for Priority #5 as well as Priority #7 which is defined as the replacement of or addition to obsolete buildings in order to provide for a full range of programs consistent with state and approved local requirements, and hereby further specifically acknowledges that by submitting these Statement of Interests, the Massachusetts School Building Authority in no way guarantees the acceptance or the approval of an application, the awarding of a grant or any other funding commitment from the Massachusetts School Building Authority, or commits the City to filing an application for funding with the Massachusetts School Building Authority.

Ms. Dwyer moved, seconded by Chairman Stevens, to approve. The Motion carried 7-0-0.

10. Reports of School Committee Sub-Committees: None

11. Members' Forum: Chairman Stevens said the Drama Club will be doing GodSpell on the 18, 19 and 20th.

Mrs. Bodin-Hettinger said she has been inundated with questions about the High School schedule and would like to discuss this in the near future.

13. Adjournment: A motion was made by Ms. Dwyer, seconded by Chairmen Stevens to adjourn the meeting at 10:15 p.m. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of the Committee.

Jennifer Hardy, Secretary
Marlborough School Committee