

**Approved at
School Committee Meeting
April 26, 2011**

MARLBOROUGH, MA 01752

Call to Order

April 5, 2011

Vice Chairman Dwyer called the Special Meeting of the Marlborough School Committee to order at 7:37 p.m. at the District Education Center, 17 Washington Street, Marlborough, MA. The purpose of this meeting is the Fiscal Year 2012 Budget Overview. Members present included Mrs. Bodin-Hettinger, Ms. Dwyer, Mrs. Hardy, Dr. Hediger, and Mrs. Hennessy. Ms. Robey and Chairmen Stevens were absent.

Superintendent Pope, Assistant Superintendent Jolicoeur and Mr. St. George, MEA Representative were also in attendance.

Ms. Dwyer led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. Dwyer stated that this meeting is being recorded by the local cable television station, Channel 10.

1. FY2012 Budget Presentation: Dr. Pope began by thanking his very dedicated staff for all the hard work put into the FY2012 budget cycle. Dr. Pope reviewed the Marlborough Public Schools Proposed Budget Fiscal Year 2012 presentation. Please find this presentation in the attachments document associated with these meeting minutes.

This process has included going through the budget line by line focusing on core instructional programs and improved operational efficiencies. The MPS Strategic Plan will be strongly anchored with the budget.

Ms. Dwyer is looking forward to identifying the data dashboard indicators that will allow effective monitoring of the district's progress toward strategic plan goals. Dr. Pope responded that this will be part of the finalization process for the strategic plan and that he intends to generate an annual district report card.

Dr. Hediger expressed an appreciation for the apparent focus on the instructional core in the FY2012 budget documentation. The obvious alignment between the instructional core and budget priorities is encouraging.

Mrs. Hennessy ask clarifying questions as to the expenditure categories. Specifically where the pareducators and food services employees were located within these high level categories.

Dr. Pope stressed that the budget will be structured such that dollars spent on instruction will be tracked. Another goal of this budget is to de-centralize district office. One example of this will be for the Director of Special Education to be located within a school building. The FY2012 budget will include some organizational structure changes which will reduce the district office expenditures. Some of these changes include: Communications liaison, updated coordinator structure, and teacher leaders. These changes will allow for an increased amount of coaching and modeling. In addition, there will be math and literacy coaches located at all elementary buildings.

Dr. Pope stated that this presentation will be put on the website for the public to review.

Mrs. Hardy asked if there have been any surprises with respect to the district grade re-configuration as the budget process moves forward? In particular, will the services promised be available and when should the details of those services be expected? Dr. Pope responded that all plans are moving forward successfully for the grade re-

configuration and there have been no negative surprises. The roll-out will be on-going through August so folks should expect things to be rather fluid this summer.

Dr. Pope explained that, for those fourth grade teachers who will need to relocate due to the re-configuration, preferences were asked in terms of destination k-4 school. While it is not possible to meet all preferences, leadership would like to accommodate as best they can.

Ms. Dwyer suggested fellow members of the committee review the helpful budget sections of Nancy Walser's, The Essential School Board Book, before our budget workshop next week.

Dr. Hediger moved, seconded by Ms. Dwyer, to adjourn. The Meeting adjourned at 9:34 p.m. by a unanimous vote of the Committee.

Jennifer Hardy, Secretary
Marlborough School Committee

JH/caj