

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

MARLBOROUGH, MA 01752

Call to Order

April 12, 2011

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 was also in attendance.

A Motion was made and seconded to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing Negotiations. The roll call vote was unanimous to enter into Executive Session.

The Committee returned to Regular Session at 7:30 p.m

Assistant Superintendent Delaney, Clerk Judd, Mr. St. George, MEA Representative, and Rebecca Gadd, Student Representative, were also in attendance.

Chairman Stevens led the Pledge of Allegiance:

Chairman Stevens said the posting for the scheduled public hearing on the budget never made it on the city website. As Chair, she said the Public Participation portion of tonight's meeting will be open to any comments on the budget as well as other agenda items. The public hearing will be reposted for April 26, 2011 at 7:30 p.m. The Committee will also vote on the budget at their Regular Meeting on April 26, 2011.

3. Presentation: None

4. Committee Discussion/Directives: None

5. Communications: None

6. Superintendent's Report:

Real World Design Challenge: Dr. Pope said the Real World Design Challenge State Award Ceremony took place at Marlborough High School on Monday April 11, 2011. Many dignitaries were present including Lieutenant Governor Timothy Murray, Mayor Nancy Stevens, State Representative Steven Levy, Christopher Willienborg from Mass DOT Aeronautics and FAA representative Amy Corbett. Congratulations were extended to the students, and they were wished luck at the National level in Washington DC.

Curriculum Framework Development: Dr. Pope said the Curriculum Framework development is moving forward. The goal remains to have the Frameworks complete for the beginning of the school year. Strategic Planning work also continues, and now that the four district goals have been approved by the School Committee, objectives are being worked out to meet those goals. The target completion of the Strategic Planning document is early summer.

Reconfiguration: Dr. Pope said the planning for our reconfiguration is moving forward. John Ghiloni has met with principals to outline the process and needs for moving furniture, etc.

Stem Academy: Dr. Pope announced that Marlborough Public Schools is one of six schools starting a Stem Academy in the fall. \$120,000 will be awarded over four years for planning. At a later date, Dr. Pope will have the team come and present the project plan.

The consensus is that they don't want to create something that only certain kids get to go. This will focus on a diverse effort to make sure all kids' needs are met.

7. Acceptance of Minutes:

A. Minutes of March 22, 2011 School Committee Meeting: Mrs. Hardy moved, seconded by Chairman Stevens, to accept and place on file the Minutes of March 22, 2011. The Motion carried 7-0-0.

8. Public Participation: Melissa Vera, 413 Hosmer Street, had a question on the chart that identifies how the budget is going to be allocated for 2012. How has it changed from 2011 to 2012? Is more money being put into a certain area?

Dr. Pope said the redesign of our current budget is that there's more of a focus on the instructional core. More resources will be aligned on instructional core. The biggest change is how we are allocating the function of the resources in schools.

9. Action Item/Reports:

A. BPA National Leadership Conference: Mrs. Hennessy moved, seconded by Chairman Stevens, to approve the Business Professionals of America National Leadership Conference in Washington D.C. May 3-8, 2011.

Mrs. Bodin-Hettinger requested that a summary of the SLC qualifying awards be provided.

The Motion carried 7-0-0.

B. School Committee Self Evaluation: Dr. Hediger said this is a proactive stance strongly recommended by Mr. Koocher to elevate performance of school committees statewide. Dr. Hediger would like to open up the discussion as to how the committee would like to do this. He said, tonight we should identify someone who is responsible for compiling the data and select 14 performance items from the Excel spreadsheet provided and vote upon the acceptance.

Dr. Hediger said Mr. Koocher's recommendation was to do this twice during the calendar meetings remaining. It would allow 50% of the compiled fields to be reviewed.

Dr. Hediger said this should be opened up for particular questions that individuals have regarding the 14 points. He said there are 58 items on the composite spreadsheet. If this is done again in June the original 14 will be eliminated. After a year of acclamation possibly it can be done in one sweep.

Chairman Stevens said we have to address the following: Is this our tool? Do we want to do this as a whole? Do we want to designate a point person?

Mrs. Hardy moved, seconded by Chairman Stevens, to use this as a self evaluation tool. The Motion carried 7-0-0.

Use of evaluation tool: Motion by Dr. Hediger to take 14 items selected by the Committee, representing the Committee's first pass, based on the recommendation of Mr. Koocher. Second by Chairman Stevens for discussion purposes.

Chairman Stevens suggested taking it by sections. Dr. Hediger said Mr. Koocher strongly recommended against it. He said it should be randomly selected.

Chairman Stevens would rather stick in a category. She thinks it should be reviewed in sections.

Ms. Dwyer said picking two reflects each individual member's priorities. She supports Ms. Robey's idea of doing the whole document rather than doing it in pieces.

Ms. Robey said it would be interesting if we took the document and redid it into categories 1 to 4. She discussed forgetting how it is being scored and score how this School Committee thinks it should be scored. Ms. Robey said we all have an opinion. Unfortunately, the fact that the detail is there, will also impact the scores.

Dr. Hediger said with the 0-3 rating system, one loses a finer fidelity of resolution in distinction. He said 1 to 10 is a good balance of resolution. To the idea of scoring without reading the metrics is confusing to him.

Mrs. Hennessy said there has to be some form of a matrix that is a common language. The matrix may be interpreted differently, but there has to be something that puts us on a similar scale for judgment.

Chairman Stevens said if it is not going to be done as a section she would be more in favor of doing it as a whole document, and put it off until May.

Dr. Hediger moved, seconded by Chairman Stevens, to take it in pieces. The Motion did not carry, 2-5 (Hediger and Hardy in favor; all others opposed).

Mrs. Hennessy moved, seconded by Chairman Stevens, to move forward with the full document as an evaluation tool, and to get the information to a point person by the May 24, 2011 meeting.

Dr. Hediger advised the Committee to remove Item G from the whole document evaluation.

Dr. Hediger moved, seconded by Chairman Stevens, to remove Section G from the evaluation tool. Second.

On the motion to use the full document as an evaluation tool, the Motion carried 5-2 (Hediger and Hardy opposed).

Mrs. Hennessy moved, seconded by Chairman Stevens, to have Dr. Hediger serve as the point person. The Motion carried 6-0-1 (Hediger).

C. Acceptance of Donations and Gifts:

\$300.00 Gift Certificate to be used to purchase physical education equipment from U.S. Games: Mrs. Hennessy moved, seconded by Chairman Stevens, to accept with gratitude. The Motion carried 7-0-0.

DESE, ARRA Title I Stimulus, additional \$9,506.00 (total amount \$309,808): Mrs. Hennessy moved, seconded by Chairman Stevens, to accept. The Motion carried 7-0-0.

DESE, IDEA, EC SpEd ARRA, additional \$1,259.00 (total amount \$31,917): Mrs. Hennessy moved, seconded by Chairman Stevens, to accept. The Motion carried 7-0-0.

10. Reports of School Committee Sub-Committees: None

11. Members' Forum: Chairman Stevens asked about the School Calendar. Dr. Pope said the calendar will be ready for the next meeting.

Ms. Dwyer discussed the online policy manual. She said MASC will update the policy manual. Any policies submitted will be updated within 24 hours of its submission.

13. Adjournment: Ms. Dwyer motioned, seconded by Chairmen Stevens to adjourn at 8:19 p.m. Motion carried 7-0-0.

Jennifer Hardy, Secretary
Marlborough School Committee

JH/caj