

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

MARLBOROUGH, MA 01752

Call to Order

April 13, 2011

Chairman Stevens called the Special Meeting of the Marlborough School Committee to order at 9:50 a.m. at the District Education Center, 17 Washington Street, Marlborough, MA. The purpose of this meeting is the Fiscal Year 2012 Budget Workshop. Members present included Mrs. Bodin-Hettinger, Ms. Dwyer, Mrs. Hardy, Dr. Hediger, Ms. Robey, and Mrs. Hennessy.

Superintendent Pope, Assistant Superintendent Jolicoeur and Adam Oliviera were also in attendance.

Chairman Stevens led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. FY2012 Budget Workshop: 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 Believe FY2011-2012 Proposed Budget document. Please find this document in the attachments document associated with these meeting minutes.

Dr. Pope explained that once the document is updated to reflect changes from today's workshop, it will be posted on the district website.

Dr. Pope pointed out that an offset account will be used for the budget and asked Mr. Oliviera to explain this concept further. Mr. Oliviera stated that in previous years, deductions were made from within the Munis budget when there was revolving account or grant dollars to cover some percentage of expenses. This can be confusing because the Munis budget is no longer a gross, total cost number. By using an offset account, the total cost in Munis reflects the total operating budget, then the offset account will be deducted from that operating budget to reflect the appropriated budget where funding is required. Mr. Oliviera explained that by making the Munis budget be a true, gross representative of the district's operating costs, analysis will no longer be needed to answer budget questions, i.e. special education tuition costs.

Ms. Dwyer referred to our newly adopted norms of operation that state clearly the roles of the school committee versus the superintendent which will help us navigate this first budget cycle together.

Chairman Stevens asked for Dr. Pope to be mindful of job descriptions and union impact bargaining as organization structures change. Dr. Pope clarified that his conversations with union leadership is ongoing and they are supportive of these proposed changes.

Chairman Stevens asked Dr. Pope for specific numbers of para-educators tied to IEPs and detailed district staffing levels as chair of school committee and as she looks to finalize the city-wide budget as mayor. These numbers directly affect the city budget due to benefit costs which are funded through the city budget.

Mrs. Hardy clarified that at the next regular school committee meeting, there will be a brief budget presentation by Dr. Pope of the FY2012 budget in addition to the public hearing. Ms. Robey asked for a detailed Munis report. There will also be an action item to approve the FY2012 budget.

Dr. Pope stated that Mr. Jolicoeur is keeping a list of member's requests.

Ms. Dwyer asked the committee if there was any further information required from Dr. Pope to move forward with the budget approval process.

Chairman Stevens excused herself from the meeting as she needed to attend to city budget meetings and turned the meeting over to vice-chair Dwyer.

Mrs. Hennessy stated that while she enjoyed the detailed Munis reports from previous years she expressed gratitude for the layout of this budget proposal due to its alignment with district goals and comprehensive supporting information.

Ms. Robey, Dr. Hediger and Mrs. Hardy stated they did not need any further information.

Ms. Robey reminded Dr. Pope that if athletic fee changes are part of the proposed budget, they need to be approved by the school committee.

Dr. Pope announced that there will be a Parent and Community Forum at the District Education Center on April 25th. Please see the website for more information.

Dr. Hediger moved, seconded by Ms. Dwyer, to adjourn. The Meeting adjourned at 1:16 p.m. by a unanimous vote of the Committee 6-0-1 (Stevens).

Jennifer Hardy, Secretary
Marlborough School Committee

JH/caj