

**Accepted and Approved
School Committee Meeting 5/10/11**

MARLBOROUGH, MA 01752

Call to Order

April 26, 2011

Chairman Stevens called the Regular Meeting of the Marlborough School Committee to order at 7:31 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, Assistant Superintendent Delaney, Mr. Oliviera, Clerk Judd and Mr. St. George, MEA Representative were also in attendance.

Chairman Stevens led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Hearing: Chairman Stevens opened the Public Hearing on the FY12 budget. There were no public comments. She closed the public hearing at 7:32 p.m.

3. Presentation:

A. FY2012 Budget Overview: Dr. Pope provided an overview regarding the FY2012 budget that is being proposed tonight. He thanked the administration and staff who assisted in putting the budget together. Also, he thanked the School Committee for their commitment.

Dr. Pope said Chapter 70 funds are still undetermined at this point. He said the appropriated budget recommended to be approved is \$49,764,206.

The Organizational Structure was reviewed. Dr. Pope said we are trying to focus on the instructional core. He mentioned proposed position job descriptions that will be coming before the School Committee.

Believe 2016 Strategic Initiatives were reviewed.

Mr. Oliviera put together Section 1, MUNIS Report under the old format with some historical data and the proposed budget under the old format. Section 2, Reformatted Schedule – it shows all the account numbers, descriptions and budget amounts under the old format and it demonstrates where it will be placed. Section 3, Comparison of how it was under the old format and how it is under the new format. With an emphasis on instructional core, there is now \$38,000,000 dedication to it.

Dr. Pope said once the budget is approved, it makes more sense to reformat accounts.

Ms. Dwyer said she appreciates how special education services were looked at under this budget.

Mrs. Hardy said it is important to note that there is stimulus money that is being returned; that's why there's a reduction in the next budget.

A Motion was made and seconded to suspend the rules to move agenda item 9A up on the agenda. The Motion carried 7-0-0.

9A. Approval of FY2012 Fiscal Budget: Ms. Dwyer moved, seconded by Mrs. Hardy, to approve the budget of \$49,764,206 as presented by Superintendent Pope.

Chairman Stevens said she does not vote on the operating budget. Once the School Committee approves, it moves on to her, and she has the discretion to approve it or not.

Discussion: Dr. Pope said this was an opportunity to make sure all the appropriate people are involved in conversations about teaching and learning. Dr. Pope said we have a high percentage of special education students, and we have to make sure it is not an afterthought. The key will be working side-by-side with Central Office. The money moved is still focused on special education; but how we manage will take into consideration all kids. This is an opportunity to maintain a high level for all kids.

Dr. Hediger discussed the two-population model. He said, as the dollars are moved, the accountability piece around the curriculum unifies the curriculum. Dr. Pope said it is all about integration. He concurred with Dr. Hediger's comments.

Mrs. Hardy said the integration model can be hard to understand from a parent's perspective.

Dr. Pope wants to make a presentation to the School Committee in regards to the integration model. He will give more examples of how it will look. The focus will be on the whole child. He will continue to get feedback on how we're doing.

Ms. Dwyer would like to look at cohorts of students and see how they do as they move through the district from school to school. In addition, data on the size and success transient cohorts would be helpful.

Mrs. Hennessy asked Dr. Pope to confirm that there will be tremendous opportunities available to all the children throughout the district.

Dr. Pope said the document is very balanced in addressing the needs of the entire student population.

Mrs. Hardy commented on the grade reconfiguration being a major decision that has a significant and direct impact on the entire student population. Tremendous public conversation has occurred around this reconfiguration and significant efforts have been made to all students' needs.

Mrs. Hennessy's hope is that every child wants to do better. Core values are very important for everyone.

Dr. Pope said there will be a presentation at the next School Committee meeting, and they will be recommending them for approval.

Dr. Hediger said he just finished the book Nudge and asked the group to describe how they see monitoring the district's progress moving forward..

Mrs. Hardy: Data dashboards

Mrs. Bodin-Hettinger: "If you build it, they will come."

Mrs. Hennessy: We have a lot of talent within our district. We need to plan it better and work it better.

Ms. Dwyer: How can we measure the effectiveness of the change that is brought to the district?

Mrs. Hennessy's hope is that this is the learning year, and the city counselors pay attention and watch the climb.

On the motion to approve the FY2012 budget of \$49,764,206, the roll call passed 6-0-1 (Stevens).

Chairman Stevens said she will not be recommending \$49,764,206. There is a separate section in the city budget of \$8.5 million that is school support. She will move all school support to the school operating budget. She said Audit, Liability Insurance and Workman's Comp will remain in the City Budget, but she will be moving School Committee Salary stipends, Unemployment, Medicare costs, Health care costs, Retirement and Life insurance. She doesn't have a firm figure at this point. Some preliminary numbers have been established.

Ms. Dwyer expressed concern and wants to be assured that Chairman Stevens will provide estimates.

Chairman Stevens said the only variables that could happen could be unemployment or healthcare.

Ms. Robey said change is hard. Ms. Robey thinks it should have been done all along. She said it's rare that all of these costs weren't in the school budget. Ms. Robey said we've never had discussions at this table. It's not something the Committee is really cognizant of. That amount of money is included in the end of year report; the numbers have always been part of the cost to educate the students.

Mrs. Hennessy disagreed with the timing of this announcement given this information would have potentially impacted our vote on the budget. She said she has been very cognizant school support costs during contract negotiations.

Mr. Hediger clarified his past efforts, while serving on negotiations, in understanding and acquiring a direct understanding of how district support costs affect the city budget.

Chairman Stevens reassured the committee that the correct and full amount of money needed for the school support will be allocated to the district budget total.

Mrs. Hardy said it was the Chairman's role as the bridge between the city side and the schools to educate the Committee on the subject of how school support costs impact the city budget. If this decision was being considered, information should have been rolled out to the district administration and committee well before tonight.

Mr. Jolicoeur sent an email to Mr. Able to get the numbers to finalize the budget. Chairman Stevens doesn't know the final numbers. Dr. Pope said he doesn't know where things stand on this issue. Chairman Stevens said the process is still being worked out.

Chairman Stevens said we need to figure out what the process is going to be and if it is doable. She said once the decision was made to move forward then the process would be worked out between the city team and school team.

Mrs. Bodin-Hettinger said she is "floored" that we are having this conversation. The committee has worked very hard in adopting norms in how we communicate as a group, this does not align with those efforts. Who is going to administer these programs? Chairman Stevens said it's only the accounting processes that are going to change. There won't be any difference in the departmental functions. Chairman Stevens said there will be coding changes only. There's nothing that's saying there's any more responsibility; it's simply the accounting function. Which accounting number is it going to hit?

Mrs. Hennessy said the hope is that Chairman Stevens might consider the option to set up the processes and be budgeted for appropriately for next year as opposed to adding it in at this point. Set up the processes, have some discussion between city and school and determine how it will work for the next year.

Chairman Stevens said there was never any discussion about changing how business was done. None of the processes were ever going to change.

Chairman Stevens totally underestimated what she thought would be an accounting issue. She will talk to the Finance Team.

Ms. Dwyer asked, what is the rush and questioned the need to make this decision this year when it is so late in the process. Can this be rolled out appropriately during the next budget season.

Chairman Stevens will take this under consideration.

Dr. Hediger asked to clarify for the record that he had conferred with Mr. Able and the chair on a conference call in the past for the specific purpose of understanding city side budget impacts as a result of negotiation decisions.

4. Committee Discussion/Directives: None

5. Communications: None

6. Superintendent's Report:

A. FY11 Budget Update: At the close of March 31, 2011, there was a balance of \$2,939,305.43 or approximately 6.1% of the budget, remaining for the 2010-2011 school year. All salaries are encumbered, so the projected salary expense is already incorporated into the financial reports. All projected expense is encumbered via purchase orders, so the approved expenditures are incorporated into the financial reports. The school district continues to maintain its control on spending. From this amount, money will be returned to the city. Dr. Pope provided everyone with a copy of the MUNIS report.

B. Real World Design Challenge: Our high school students participated in Washington DC, although they did not place first, we want to congratulate all students and the staff that worked with our students for a great accomplishment.

C. STEM Early College: Marlborough will be hosting with its new partner Framingham State University the first STEM Early College Meeting led by the DESE this Friday at Framingham State. We want to ask for any comments you may have in regard to school choice. This item we hope to discuss in more detail at our next meeting. All six districts are coming together in teams of 3-5 people.

D. School Choice: Dr. Pope would like to discuss this at a future school committee meeting. Ms. Robey said there seems to be a discrepancy between the numbers of students of students we have and the number of seats we have available. Dr. Pope will review the numbers again.

7. Acceptance of Minutes:

A. Minutes of April 5, 2011 School Committee Meeting: Mrs. Hardy moved, seconded by Chairman Stevens, to accept and place on file the Minutes of April 5, 2011 as submitted. The Motion carried 7-0-0.

B. Minutes of April 12, 2011 School Committee Meeting: Mrs. Hardy moved, seconded by Chairman Stevens, to accept and place on file the Minutes of April 12, 2011 as submitted. The Motion carried 7-0-0.

C. Minutes of April 13, 2011 School Committee Meeting: Mrs. Hardy moved, seconded by Chairman Stevens, to accept and place on file the Minutes of April 13, 2011. Ms. Robey made the following changes: page 1, 4th paragraph from the bottom – change to: 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.

Page 1, 2nd paragraph from the bottom: Ms. Robey asked for detail of MUNIS Report.

Before last paragraph add: Dr. Pope stated Mr. Jolicoeur was keeping a list of member's requests and they would be provided.

Before 2nd paragraph from the bottom add: The Mayor excused herself as she needed to attend city budget meetings and turned the meeting over to vice-chair Dwyer.

Change the vote on adjournment to indicate chair was absent 6-0-1 (Stevens).

The words chairmen should be changed to chairman.

The motion to accept and place on file as amended passed 7-0-0.

8. Public Participation: None

9. Action Items/Reports:

B. FY2012 School Calendar: Ms. Robey moved, seconded by Chairman Stevens, to approve as presented.

Ms. Robey commented, based on the policy, it states the school year will begin the Tuesday before Labor Day. Ms. Robey likes the two days together for Professional Development and Staff Only day, but if so, the policy would have to be amended.

The Motion is to accept the School Calendar as presented and refer the policy to the Policy Sub-Committee for review.

Ms. Robey wants the calendar to be color coded and coded by the "X" for printing in black and white

The Motion carried 7-0-0.

C. FY2012 School Fees: Dr. Pope is recommending no fee at the Middle School. He thinks high school sports are different than middle school sports. Dr. Pope wants to take the burden off the families.

Fees: High School Activity, \$100; High School Athletic Fee, \$150, \$300 family cap
Dr. Hediger moved, seconded by Chairman Stevens, to approve. The Motion carried 7-0-0.

Tuition Rates

PK1, \$1,750; PK-2, \$1,600; PK-3, \$1,000; Kindergarten, \$2,700

Dr. Hediger moved, seconded by Chairman Stevens, to approve with tuition assistance is based on a sliding scale.
The Motion carried 7-0-0.

School Lunch Prices:

Lunch - Elementary, \$2.25; Intermediate/Middle, \$2.50; High, \$2.50; Adult, \$3.00

Breakfast – Elementary, \$1.00; Intermediate/Middle, \$1.00; High, \$1.00; Milk, \$.45

Dr. Hediger moved, seconded by Chairman Stevens, to approve as presented. The Motion carried 7-0-0.

Compensation Rates:

Substitutes – Classroom Substitutes, \$80; Long Term Substitutes, \$140; RN, \$150; Para educator, \$47; Office Support, \$11.00

Other – Tutor w/ Degree, \$25; Tutor w/o Degree, \$15; Translation Services, \$25; Curriculum Development, \$25; Summer Teacher, \$25

Dr. Hediger moved, seconded by Chairman Stevens, to approve as presented. The Motion carried 7-0-0.

Mileage Reimbursement:

IRS rate (per City policy)

Dr. Hediger moved, seconded by Chairman Stevens, to approve as presented. The Motion carried 7-0-0.

D. Acceptance of Donations and Gifts:

Massachusetts Cultural Council, MHS Art Department, \$1,200:

Mrs. Hennessy moved, seconded by Chairman Stevens, to accept the grant as noted. The Motion carried 7-0-0.

Massachusetts Educational Financing Authority, Whitcomb School, \$200:

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: Mrs. Hennessy announced that Dental Associates of Marlboro is offering a second free dental clinic on May 21, 2011.

Chairman Stevens said Clean Sweep Day will be held on April 30th at 9:00 a.m. Assignments will be given at the DPW Garage. She also said Hazardous Waste Collection Day and Community Forum Day will be on May 21, 2011.

Dr. Hediger would like to understand if there has been an analysis of the demographic of those moved to the school side as opposed to the city side. He would like more clarity. Chairman Stevens said demographics don't affect the premiums.

Ms. Robey thanked Dr. Pope and Mr. Olivieri for the work done on the MUNIS Report.

Ms. Robey reminded Dr. Pope about the promise he made for the job descriptions. The budget approved tonight is a tentative budget. All positions are pending funding. Once the job descriptions are approved, the positions can be advertised.

Ms. Robey said the School Committee has the authority on the Business Manager position. Dr. Pope would like to interview and recommend candidates to the School Committee. Dr. Pope has a problem with someone hiring his staff for him. Ms. Robey said the School Committee hires nurses, assistant superintendents and business managers.

Ms. Dwyer said there is a meeting tomorrow at 7 p.m. for Middle School students re: athletics. Ms. Dwyer said the idea of doing athletics at grade level is fabulous.

Mrs. Hardy said that Dr. Pope will be discussing student accolades at the next meeting.

Dr. Pope announced there will be Celebration of Life for Weymouth Superintendent of Schools, Mary Jo Livingstone who tragically passed away unexpectedly.

The last day of school is June 23, 2011.

12. Executive Session: None

13. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 10:08 p.m. by a unanimous vote of the Committee.

Jennifer Hardy, Secretary
Marlborough School Committee

JH/caj