

**Accepted and Approved
School Committee Meeting 6/28/11**

**MARLBOROUGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MARLBOROUGH, MA 01752**

Call to Order

May 10, 2011

1. Chairman Stevens called the Regular Meeting of the Marlborough School Committee to order at 7:35p.m. at the District Education Center, 17 Washington St., Marlborough, MA. Members present included, Dr. Hediger, Mrs. Hennessy, Ms. Robey, Mrs. Bodin-Hettinger, Ms. Dwyer and Mrs. Hardy.

Superintendent Pope, Assistant Superintendent Jolicoeur, Mr. Oliviera, Clerk Irish, Student Representative Rebecca Gadd and MEA Representative Mr. St. George were also in attendance.

2. **Pledge of Allegiance:** was led by Chairman Stevens.

Item 6A Student Recognition was moved up in the agenda:

Dr. Pope introduced Ms. Shannon Phypers who had the pleasure of presenting the numerous trophies won by the students of the music program of the Marlborough High School at the FiestaVal music competition in Williamsburg Virginia over April Vacation. Awards garnered by ensembles were:

String Ensemble:	Superior Rating and 1 st place in their division
Concert Band:	Excellent Rating and 1 st place in their division
Wind Ensemble:	Superior Rating and 1 st place in their division
Jazz Ensemble:	Superior Rating and 1 st place in their division
Mixed Chorus:	Excellent Rating and 2 nd place in their division
A Cappella Choir:	Superior Rating and 1 st place in their division

Awards garnered by individuals were:

Outstanding Soloist:	Trumpet Solo in Wind Ensemble- Sam Patch
Outstanding Soloist:	Violin Solo in String Ensemble- Mary Kate Rustin
Outstanding Soloist:	Alto Saxophone Solo in Jazz Ensemble- Nick Mosca
Outstanding Soloist:	Tenor Saxophone solo in Jazz Ensemble- Evan Syers
Outstanding Soloist:	Trombone Solo in Jazz Ensemble Chris Syers

Awards from Overall Festival Performances, (Divisional)

Concert Band/Wind Ensemble Division:	Champion Trophy Awarded to MHS's Wind Ensemble
Chamber/Madrigal Choir Division:	Champion Trophy Awarded to MHS's A Cappella Choir
Jazz Ensemble Division:	Champion Trophy Awarded to MHS's Jazz Ensemble
Orchestra Division:	Champion Trophy Awarded to MHS's String Ensemble

Marlborough High School was also awarded The FiestaVal Grand Champion Trophy for the combined scores of the Wind Ensemble and Jazz Ensemble.

Mr. Gary Piazza director of both ensembles was presented with the prestigious FiestaVal Award of Distinction. This award is not awarded yearly and is a great honor to him for his notable contributions to musical excellence.

Student Representatives of each musical ensemble were on hand to show each trophy as they were mentioned. Chairman Stevens congratulated them all on a job well done and commented on how the upcoming concert Thursday night is an evening worth going to, due to the outstanding level of performance by the students.

Mrs. Hardy asked if this amount of awards was typical of this trip, Ms. Phypers responded that she had not been on this particular trip before however she was assured by both Mr. Rosenthal and Mr. Piazza that this was a noteworthy experience and this was not typical in the amount of awards received. Everyone was very proud of our students.

A two minute recess was called at 7:43 to allow students to depart meeting called back to order at 7:45pm.

3. Presentation:

A: MPS Core Values- Power Point Presentation by Ms Rebecca Zieminski and Ms. Kalliop Pantazopoulos
Core Values Group as established by volunteer search from March 16, 2011 Professional Development Day:

Andrew Bernabei- Early Childhood Center, Inclusion Specialist

Erin Casey- Marlborough High School, Grade 8 Math

James Cronin- Whitcomb, Grade 7 Literature

Paula Coyne- Whitcomb, Grade 7 Special Education

Maureen Fehlan- Hildreth, Post Graduate Program Teacher

Lynn Hurley- Richer and Whitcomb, OTR/L

Stefanie Jackman- Richer, Grade 2

Tracy Jackman- Jaworek School, Inclusion Specialist

Sean Martin- ATTC Program, Special Education: Science

Danielle Martins-Whitcomb, Grades 4&5 ELL

Kalliope Pantazopoulos- Jaworek, Kindergarten and Richer, Assistant Principal Intern

Rupal Patel- Jaworek, ELL

Jose Reyes- Marlborough High School, English

Jo-Anne Sawyer- Marlborough High School, Biology

Kimberly Smith- Richer, Title 1 Reading Specialist

Melissa Tirpak- Kane, Grade 2

Debbie Winskie- Whitcomb, Grade 4

Nicole Wittenhagen- Kane, Grade 2

Rebecca Zieminski- Whitcomb, Reading Specialist and Richer, Assistant Principal Intern

Power point presentation included the definition of the C.O.R.E. Values of the Marlborough Public School System as outlined below:

C. as presented by Kalliope Pantazopoloulos Stands for Community, through open and honest communication, reflection, and collaboration.

O. as presented by Tracy Jackman, Stands for Opportunity, for all learners to achieve success and maximize their full potential.

R. as presented by Rupal Patel Stands for Respect, towards self, others, and property.

E. as presented by Jim Cronin Stands for Excellence, in education through continued development and utilization of innovative, comprehensive and consistent curriculum throughout the district.

The presentation also included a "Wordle" which was created by Assistant Principle Gruelich.

Ms. Dwyer questioned if anyone who was involved in this project had been involved in anything such as this before, the answer of the majority was no. Ms. Dwyer thanked everyone involved for their time and efforts.

Mrs. Hennessey wanted to publically thank everyone involved in the process as well. The Instructional Core is what is first and foremost in this presentation and that makes this all very exciting.

Mrs. Hardy questioned what is the next step, will this work continue?

Dr. Pope answered Yes this work will continue and be revisited, leadership has been identified within this group of individuals.

Motion made by Mrs. Bodin Hettinger to request suspension of the rules to add action item to agenda to vote to accept the Core Values as presented by Superintendent Pope, seconded by Chairman Stevens. Motion passed to suspend rules. 7-0-0

Motion made by Mrs. Bodin Hettinger to accept the Core Values as presented by Superintendent Pope. Second by Chairman Stevens.

Dr. Hediger had a few questions he needed answered prior to the vote.

1. Was this begun with the end in mind?
2. Will we be overbuilding foundations?
3. Will we be integrating useful technologies as we go through this process?

Dr. Pope explained that the answer to all those questions is Yes, absolutely.

The motion passed. 7-0-0

B. STEM Academy Early College High School Power point presentation as presented by Dan Riley. There has been one meeting so far with the Department of Education which was at the Framingham State University Campus and hosted by MPS in conjunction with Framingham State. There is still a lot of work to be done.

There are multiple dates for informational sessions with parents and students regarding this opportunity such as:
May 24th 2011 MHS Little theater at 7:00pm.
May 25th 2011 Whitcomb Auditorium at 7:00pm
May 31st 2011 MHS Little Theater at 7:00pm

Student and Parent Interest Survey will be posted to the School website by May 20, 2011.

The student application process will begin on May 20th, applications will also be available at all information sessions.

Application deadline is June 4, 2011.

Student selection will be completed by June 20, 2011.

Staffing Positions will be filled by May 27, 2011.

Curriculum Development will be complete by August 2011.

The entire PowerPoint Presentation is posted on the School websites.

Discussion:

Chairman Stevens asked Dr. Pope if a K-5 STEM feeder school location has been identified. Dr. Pope responded that the exploratory work being done for the first STEM Academy can influence what is done district wide. It would be great if we had a PreK-5 Stem focus. That work has already started. This idea was never meant to be a High School only, should be a PreK through 12 focus. This is an incredible opportunity. Framingham State University was very excited to hear about integrated early childhood learning. More information is to come.

Ms. Dwyer wants to make sure that the under-represented groups are involved. How are we going to fill these slots, will it be a lottery? This should not be an exclusive program. We do not want to have an us vs. them feeling.

Dr. Pope responded that it will be great. There will be an application/lottery/recruitment process. If these groups don't come to us we will need to go to them. This work will be done through the recruiting process. We have the opportunity to inform all students. We hope to offer this to all students and have a lot of interest generated.

While we focus on STEM are we trying to find other opportunities for these students?

Dr. Pope responded that STEM is not an isolation program. Options for other kids need to be created. We also need to figure out how we build safety nets into these programs and support to make this successful. We will need to increase the rigor across the district with our curriculum.

Dr. Hediger added that it will be imperative to be able to track these students to see the attrition and be able to track our students at risk. Using the 6th-8th grade grading format how will they be graded in relation to the rest of the school society? The dollar amount is not a lot for startup cost. We have an incredible opportunity to make something very special.

Mr. Riley responded we will stand alone with STEM when we are able to bring this all thorough.

Mrs. Robey added she is very excited about this grant. To make sure this is equitable to all. AP courses should be available to all student not just "A" students. Questioning if 6th grade is too early to have students make a decision like this. Dual enrollment with colleges is already allowed in the district. Other schools bring college professors in, wouldn't that be more beneficial to all students. Instead of creating the appearance of a have vs. have not system. Also are we overeducating the STEM Student jobs may not be there? Will credits be transferrable across the country or do students have to stay at Framingham State University?

Dr. Pope responded, one thing to look at with the first Early College experience is the best case would be to provide a satellite school. We would make sure that credits and hours would be transferrable. Early STEM is a vehicle not necessarily a career choice. Students are not locked into a career too early.

Dan Riley added Early College is not necessarily directed at the advanced student our niche was the other students,

we thought we should do this for all students somewhat like the University Park Campus School, and Main South School Worcester, jobs for the future that partner with Clarke University. This is very much about all students.

Mrs. Hardy added, this is very exciting, we have a willingness to grow, what she is most concerned about getting the right students into this program. Will students be asked if they want to be there?

Dr. Pope responded that any kid in there is going to be the right kid. Students will be asked not only the parent. How will we track kids over time? One grade at the time is the answer. We need to talk to everyone, parents, teachers, kids.

Mrs. Hardy added that this is going to be a means to an end for the district wide curriculum, and will be a service to the public. It will be a direct improvement to the whole curriculum and some reassurance would go a long way for all students.

Dr. Pope responded the goal is to start the year with the framework, we may go theme based with our curriculum. We cannot move fast enough but we cannot move too fast.

Mrs. Bodin-Hettinger added that this discussion is reminding her of the original charter school set up process. STEM is based on problem solving and 21st century skill sets. The concept of portfolios how will this integrate and compare year to year. We are not challenging our kids in computer skills. What a great way to shift the educational presentation.

Dr. Pope responded that we don't need charter schools to education our students. We have the ideas we just need to implement them. We are in discussion with Apple Computer right now. We do need to move into the 21st Century..

Dr. Pope thanked Mr. Riley and his team for all of the work he has put in, this will be a process. There is a link on the website for all questions please feel free to ask. Dan Riley is the contact point for all information. This PowerPoint presentation is on the website.

6. Superintendent's Report:

A. Student Recognition was moved up in the agenda.

Continuation of report: Dr. Pope invited Ms. Roy, Principal of the High School to address the committee regarding the special event at the school today. Mrs. Roy stated that the first ever MCAS Pep Rally was held at the High School for 8th and 10th grade students. Mrs. Hanson and Mrs. Gruelich stressed the importance of doing well on the exams. Then a "flash mob" presentation was done with approx. 40 faculty members doing a dance choreographed by Jill Robert the dance team advisor to a medley of songs ending with "Beat It" by Michael Jackson with the underlying message to beat it 240 or more the proficient score on MCAS.

Chairman Stevens requested that the "link" to that performance be shared.

Dr. Pope continued his report with discussion on the "moving of certain budget items" from the City side budget over to the School budget. He does feel that it will affect the schools in a major way and how he will manage the district moving forward. The norms of operation our school committee does very well but they need to be posted on the website. When we get away from our norms it causes issues. How is this going to affect the kids? He thinks it is going to be a problem. Communications should follow the norms as a team. We need to talk about how one thing will affect another. He is deeply concerned to not take funds away from the classroom. This decision affects the bottom line numbers. I am responsible and accountable he stated. Dr. Pope suggested a workshop may be needed to discuss. Dr. Pope questioned if it is appropriate to have the district calculate the costs. He does feel more staff will be needed to manage these changes. From the accountability standpoint he is concerned.

Chairman Stevens responded by asking him to put his concerns in written form (a memo) and forward them to her.

Ms. Robey had questions regarding costs.

Chairman Stevens again asked everyone to put their questions in writing and she would respond in kind, there are too many to respond to this evening.

Dr. Pope is also requesting an analysis on the Health Fund balance as premiums have not increased in the last 4 years. Dr. Pope further stated that originally he was shocked but not opposed to this idea but thinks it would be better served in next year's budget, he wants to make sure we are being responsible.

Chairman Stevens restated that this will be a process and we will see how it is working. It is an accounting practice

only. The budget as presented was done very conservatively.

Mrs. Hennessey reminded everyone of the norms that all had agreed to, regarding group discussion and knowledge shared and she was surprised to read of this in the newspaper. Maybe this year is not the year to do this. Discussion with facts and information need to happen and it makes sense to put it in the 2013 budget.

7. Acceptance of Minutes

A. Minutes of April 26, 2011 School committee meeting:

Motion made by Mrs. Hardy, Seconded by Chairman Stevens to accept as submitted. Request to amend/ correct minutes by Dr. Hediger: Change the last paragraph of section 3 to read "Dr. Hediger asked to clarify for the record that he had conferred with Mr. Able and Chairman Stevens on a conference call in the past..."

Motion made by Mrs. Hardy, Seconded by Chairman Stevens to accept the minutes as amended, motion passed 7-0-0.

8. Public Participation: None

9. Action Items/Reports:

A. Acceptance of Donations/Grants:

Hannaford Helps School Program has donated \$408.00 to Marlborough High School to support activities within the school. Motion made by Mrs. Hennessey, Seconded by Chairman Stevens to accept with gratitude, motion passed 7-0-0

Hannaford Helps School Program has donated \$273.00 to Richer School for purchases and programs that would benefit the teachers and students of Richer School.. Motion made by Mrs. Hennessey, Seconded by Chairman Stevens to accept with gratitude, motion passed 7-0-0

MA DESE STEM Early College High School grant in the amount of 40,000 has been awarded to MPS District for costs associated with implementation of STEM Early College High School.

Chairman Stevens noted that only \$10,000 of the anticipated \$40,000 has been received so far and believes Committee should only be accepting what it has so far received. Motion made by Mrs. Hennessey, Seconded by Chairman Stevens to accept the \$10,000. Discussion, Mrs. Robey asked if this money will be able to fund retirements, do we know how much will be taken out of the grants? Dr. Pope responded that he will have to look into that for more information. Secondly, is there any idea of how often the payments will be received? Dr. Pope responded that this grant is not "Normal", funds need to be expended by August 31, 2011. They will probably send the remaining \$30,000 in the next school year. As funds are expended they will need to be voted on by the committee. Dr. Pope responded that they looked at the first \$40,000 and work will need to be done over the summer.

10. Reports of School Committee Sub-Committees:

Mrs. Hennessey reported the Human Resources Sub Committee had nothing to report.

Ms. Robey reported the Finance Sub Committee had nothing to report.

Mrs. Bodin-Hettinger reported the Curriculum Sub Committee had nothing to report.

Ms. Dwyer reported that the Policy Sub Committee will be meeting at 6:15 on the 24th prior to the next meeting specifically to discuss the Superintendent Evaluation Tool, the existing school committee policy and timeline.

11. Members' Forum

Chairman Stevens again publically thanked assistant Superintendent Jolicoeur for work with the district. You have been a valuable asset to the district and will be missed. Leominster's gain is Marlborough's loss. We will all miss you.

Mr. Jolicoeur responded that he has totally enjoyed his six years with the district and he will be collaborating with Marlborough from time to time. Thank you all so much.

Dr. Hediger asked if any other members were going to be sharing their experiences from the State meeting on the Cape.

Mrs. Hennessy stated that there was too much else on the "plates" to add anything else

Mrs. Hardy stated that she had timeline concerns regarding the upcoming budget changes and would like to understand how communication is occurring between the city and school department.
Ms. Dwyer again stated her disappointment in the lack of communication regarding this change.
Chairman Stevens stated that an email apology was sent to every member in regards to how it upset everyone it was not her intent.

12. Executive Session: None

13. Adjournment: Motion was made by Ms. Robey, Seconded by Chairman Stevens to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 10:02 pm by a unanimous vote of the committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Hardy, Secretary
Marlborough School Committee

JH/mai