

Marlborough Board of Education

Regular Meeting

May 26 2016

Elmer Thienes-Mary Hall Elementary School Library/Media Center

1. Call to Order

Chairman Ruth Kelly called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

BOE Members Present:

Present and seated were Ruth Kelly, Louise Concodello, Theresa Brysgel, Susan Rapelye, Dr. Judithe Kaplan, and Patrick Pabouet.

Mimi LaPoint joined the meeting at 7:10 p.m.

Administration Present:

Dr. David Sklarz, Superintendent  
Dan White, Principal  
Kim Kelley, Vice Principal

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Celebrations

American Legion Awards-Jim Dwyer, Bernie Hoyland, and Ray Theobald were present from the Marlborough Legion Post 197 to present awards to Stella Henderson and Kayla St. Jean. Dr. Sklarz read letters honoring the achievements of the two students.

Rhyme Celebration Presentation-Students who represented the school at the most recent Rhyme Celebration were present at the meeting and performed for the Board.

Vice Principal Kelley showed a slide show highlighting May events, including Staff Appreciation Week, Kindergarten Picnic, Spring Band Concert, EASTCONN STEM Bus, Art Show, Spirit Week, hatching of the chicks, butterflies and exploration of the vernal pond by the sixth grade students.

Science Standards-Ms. Kelley noted new science standards that were adopted in November, 2015, and noted that engineering is a large part of the standards, with the inclusion of robotics

and programming. Ms. Kelley noted that they are working to teach students how to be critical consumers of their digital environment. Students from the Lego League were present to give a demonstration of how they utilize programming to allow their Lego models to perform functions. Students also demonstrated the usage of the Dash and Dot Robots. Board members were encouraged to try out the robots to see how they work. Ms. Kelley recognized and thanked the MEF who secured the grant that was utilized to purchase many of the new robot items.

4. Public Comments

There were no public comments made at this time.

5. Additions to the Agenda

Ms. Brysgel commented that she would like to see Class Size Guidelines added to the agenda for either August/September.

6. Consent Agenda

6.1 Minutes of 4/28/16 policy subcommittee meeting (Encl. 6.1A) and 4/28/16 regular business meeting (Encl. 6.1B);

6.2 Personnel Actions-none;

6.3 Reports-receive and file the following document: monthly enrollment report (Encl. 6.3);

6.4 Grants-Approve submission of IDEA Special Education Grant Application (Encl. 6.4);

**Dr. Judithe Kaplan made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by Louise Concodello and carried by a unanimous vote.**

7. Oral Reports

7.1 Advisory Groups

PTO-Mr. White noted that they met on May 4, 2016. Mr. White noted that there is the possibility of a law firm sponsoring the Winter Bash event, noting that the PTO is researching to ensure there is no conflict, etc. Mr. White noted that the PTO dropped the cartridge recycling program, noting that a lot of effort and time was invested for a minimal return, noting that less and less items are being accepted. He noted that the PTO currently has a balance of approximately \$40k and he noted that \$20k of that has already been funded to the school for the Early Childhood Playscape, noting that they hope to begin work on the playscape before the end of the school year. Mr. White noted that approximately 18 people attended the Internet Safety Workshop, which was sponsored by AHM and was open to surrounding towns, including Hebron, Andover and Columbia. Ms. Rapelye commented that she thought it was a great event and noted that she was glad that the presenter left his contact information and welcomed questions going forward.

Mr. White noted that the MEF has decided to disband, noting that existing funds will go into the Student Activity Fund and will be utilized for science activities. Ms. Concodello questioned why the MEF decided to disband. Mr. White responded that the MEF felt that they had done what they were originally put in place for. He noted that they are keeping their tax exempt status in place.

Operations-Mr. White noted that the cafeteria report was discussed. He noted that the lights in the cooler are now working, cracks were fixed in the sidewalk, and that propane was moved to automatic delivery. Mr. White shared the Health Room report and noted that many students are struggling with allergy symptoms. Mr. White noted that the school security grant was mailed out and noted that they will wait to hear back to see what funds will be received to fund cameras and door locks. Mr. White noted that meeting dates were set for next year.

SAC-Mr. White noted that 80 applications have been received for the PE teacher position, and noted that it has been narrowed down to 10 candidates. Mr. White noted that they are working on completing an interior audit for lighting, noting that it is being completed by the same company that did the outside lighting. He noted that this is a two phase project and that they are currently finalizing the details. Mr. White noted the continual cost savings that they are seeing by switching to LED, noting that LED lights have a life expectancy of 20 years. Dr. Sklarz noted that updates to the interior lights were always in their long term plan, but noted that they are able to make cost saving updates sooner than expected. Mr. White noted that the School Climate Survey was completed, noting that the online response yielded approximately the same participation as the paper survey did last year. He noted that Grade 3-6 will complete an online survey, while grades K-2 will complete a paper survey. Mr. White noted that they will look to report results at the August or September Board meeting.

## 7.2 Subcommittees

Policy-Ms. Concodello noted that the committee reviewed policies that will be included in their June, 2016, packet for a first reading.

7.3 Chairperson – Ms. Kelly noted that members should complete the Superintendent evaluation and send back to Wes Skorski by June 1, 2016. The Board agreed to set a special meeting to discuss for June 6, 2016, at 6:30 p.m.

7.4 Superintendent and Administrative Team-Ms. Brysgel questioned what the current kindergarten enrollment numbers are. Mr. White noted that there are currently 56 kindergarten students enrolled.

8. Unfinished Business

8.1 Adopt Line Item Budget Adopted at Town Meeting on May 9, 2016

**Louise Concodello made a motion that the Board adopt the line-item budget of \$7,271,585, with a decrease of 2.34% for FY 2016-17 as voted on at the May 9, 2016 Town Meeting. The motion was seconded by Patrick Pabouet. The motion was approved by Dr. Judithe Kaplan, Ruth Kelly, Louise Concodello, Susan Rapelye and Patrick Pabouet. Mimi LaPoint and Theresa Brysgel abstained. The motion carried.**

9. New Business

9.1 Review May Financial Report (Enclosure 9.1)

Dr. Sklarz noted a deficit for substitute teachers, noting that four teachers are out, and that there was an extension of one maternity leave. He noted the need for additional paraprofessionals for planning and placement. Dr. Sklarz noted continual changes to the insurance plans and their continual impact on the changing numbers. Dr. Sklarz noted that there could be future impacts on the 310 account, noting that they are still in negotiations with the paraprofessionals. Ms. Concodello questioned how much an oil tank costs. Dr. Sklarz noted that they can cost anywhere from \$8k to \$30k. Dr. Sklarz noted that they have been cautious with their spending in the 611 and 612 accounts, commenting that they want to ensure that they do not overspend. He noted that they may want to consider supporting these accounts if there is a fund balance, noting that these accounts have already been cut in the past. Dr. Sklarz noted under the 730 account that new Epson projectors were purchased for classrooms that needed it. Ms. Brysgel commented that the current report shows the efforts that have been made to ensure money is set aside for changes/emergencies. Ms. LaPoint commented that remaining funds should not be viewed as a fund balance, but rather as money that was allocated to be spent to fund the school.

10. Public Comments

There were no public comments made at this time.

11. Communications

11.1 Staff Vacancy Summary

12. Future Meetings & Topics

12.1 Variety Show, Thursday, June 2, 2016, 6:30 p.m.

12.2 Paraprofessional Negotiations, Wednesday, June 8, 2016, 6:00 p.m.

12.3 Grade 6 Promotion, Friday, June 10, 2016, 1:30 p.m.

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**UNAPPROVED DRAFT**

- 12.4 RHAM Middle School Promotion, Friday, June 10, 2016, 8:00 a.m.
- 12.5 RHAM High School Graduation, Friday, June 10, 2016, 6:00 p.m.
- 12.6 Last Day of School, Monday, June 13, 2016, 1:00 p.m. dismissal
- 12.7 Policy subcommittee meeting, Thursday, June 23, 2016, 6:30 p.m.
- 12.8 Next regular business meeting, Thursday, June 23, 2016, 7:00 p.m.

13. Adjournment

**Theresa Brysgel made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:15pm. The motion was seconded by Louise Concodello and carried by a unanimous vote.**

Respectfully submitted

Karen DeCorleto

Board Clerk