

Marlborough Board of Education

Regular Meeting

January 28, 2016

Elmer Thienes-Mary Hall Elementary School Library/Media Center

1. Call to Order

Louise Concodello called the meeting to order at 7:08pm.

BOE Members Present:

Present and seated were Theresa Brysgel, Louise Concodello, Betty O'Brien, Susan Rapelye, Dr. Judithe Kaplan, Mimi LaPoint, and Patrick Pabouet.

Administration Present:

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

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Celebrations

Ms. Kelley showed a slideshow highlighting the gingerbread house activity in kindergarten, Toys for Tots, usage of the Steam Room and PAWS recess.

Wolfpack game- Mr. White noted that 400 tickets sold and that the event was successful.

Mural for Mrs. Netto- Ms. Kelley noted the great efforts of Ms. Ketterer and noted that every student contributed to the completion of the mural.

4. Public Comments

David Porteous, 15 Edstrom Road, commented that he appreciated the efforts of all of the students/staff who were involved in completing the mural and honoring the memory of Mrs. Netto. Mr. Porteous commented that in the interest of ensuring that no school is left behind, he would like to see a more imaginative approach to learning to ensure the curriculum offered here can compete with that of students at the international level. He commented that he feels that students need to be prepared for a global economy. He commented that he feels professional

UNAPPROVED DRAFT

development should happen abroad as well and noted that there is online access to such development.

Cliff Denniss, 111 Cheney Road, a member of the Board of Finance, but speaking as an individual, commented that he thinks it is important to ensure the curriculum is not teaching to the test. He commented that while the current proposed budget appears to be a flat budget, he feels that it really is not and commented that there is funding and spending still taking place; noting the loss of two teachers, the funding for an outplaced student and grant funds.

Rich Storrs, 6 Stage Harbor Road, thanked Dr. Sklarz for putting together the budget. He commented that while the teacher's salaries are in about the middle when compared to the State, he commented that cost per student spending is at the bottom. He noted his concern that some areas may be underfunded. He noted that he feels there should be funding in the budget and a plan for long term maintenance.

5. Additions to the Agenda

There were no additions made to the agenda.

6. Consent Agenda

- 6.1 Minutes of 12/17/2015 policy committee meeting (Encl. 6.1 A), 12/17/2015 regular business meeting (Encl. 6.1B) and 1/14/16 special meeting/board workshop (Encl. 6.1C);
- 6.2 Personnel Actions-retirement (Encl. 6.2)
- 6.3 Reports-receive and file the following document: monthly enrollment report (Encl. 6.3);
- 6.4 Grants-none;

Louise Concodello asked to remove item 6.2 Personnel Actions-retirement (Encl. 6.2) for discussion.

Mimi LaPoint made a motion to approve the consent agenda items with the exception of item 6.2. The motion was seconded by Theresa Brysgel and carried by a unanimous vote.

Item 6.2 Discussion

Ms. Concodello commented that she feels that the letter from Mr. Colavecchio is very humble and noted that he is retiring after 35 years of service, commenting that he will be greatly missed. Ms. Brysgel and Ms. LaPoint echoed Ms. Concodello's comments, agreeing that he will be greatly missed.

Betty O'Brien made a motion that the Board accept the resignation letter from Mr. Colavecchio as submitted in Encl. 6.2, with regrets. The motion was seconded by Theresa Brysgel and carried by a unanimous vote.

7. Oral Reports

7.1 Advisory Groups

School Advisory Council-Mr. White noted that they discussed SBAC testing which is proposed to take place in April for Grades 3-6. Mr. White noted that they are hoping to complete the testing within four weeks, utilizing two weeks before vacation and two weeks after. Mr. White noted that the iPads and the computers in the library are not utilized for testing. He noted that there are four carts of 24 Chromebooks each which are utilized for testing. Mr. White noted that they also discussed beginning to offer an open seating plan at lunch for 3rd and 4th grade, noting that it is currently working well for 5th and 6th grade. Mr. White noted that new curriculum writing for Science and Social Studies was also discussed, noting that changes are based on the new standards that were passed at the State level. Mr. White noted that the upcoming bulb fundraiser, slated for March 10 2016, was also discussed.

PTO-Mr. White noted that they met on January 13, 2016 and discussed the following items:

- Box Tops Collection Contest-February 12th, 2016
- PTO Winter Bash Trivia Night-March 5th, 2016, Angelico's Lakehouse, there will be both a silent and live auction
- March 19, 2016 Muse Paint Night Fundraiser
- April 1st, 2016 Movie Night featuring the movie "Inside Out"
- May 5th, 2016 Teacher Appreciation Luncheon
- June 2, 2016 Variety Show, Auditions will take place on May 3rd and 5th.

Mr. White noted that the profits from the Book Fair were \$2,365. He noted that the profit from the Wolfpack game was \$2,010, with 402 tickets sold. Mr. White noted that the Funds for the Future fundraiser raised \$2,030 in donations. He noted that the PTO has a fund balance of approximately \$34k with \$20k already dedicated to the Playscape. He noted that the Giving Tree was a success during the holiday season, which allowed parents to select a leaf off the tree and purchase a requested item for teachers/staff. Mr. White noted that the next PTO meeting will take place on March 16, 2016.

Operations, Wellness & Safety-Mr. White noted that they met on January 25, 2016. He noted that they reviewed the Brunch Bunch information as well as accident and sickness reports. Mr. White noted that some changes made to the drop off and pick up for a Magnet School Bus were discussed, noting the change allowed for a safer pickup near MECCA. Mr. White noted that six additional Waterhog carpets were purchased and will be installed as replacements, noting how much the ones put in place last year helped. He noted that a request was made to Mr. Corsa for sand/salt mix to ensure the ice melts. Mr. White noted that they are waiting for security grant funds to be released, noting that a sound system is needed in the Community Room and updates are needed to the security system in the gym.

UNAPPROVED DRAFT

Mr. White noted that he and Ms. Kelley recently visited Preston schools to review the security upgrades they have put in place. Mr. White noted he received a request from the First Selectman to utilize the school as a warming place, and he noted that he will need to work with the First Selectman to coordinate how that would work. Mr. White commented that plowing was discussed and raised as a concern, noting that there are some areas where it would be beneficial to have some additional plowing done by the Town. Dr. Sklarz commented that he thinks it is important that Chris Corsa attend these meetings. Mr. White commented that he will follow up to see if this can happen in the future.

7.2 Subcommittees

Policy-Ms. Concodello noted that there was no meeting in January, and noted that the next meeting is slated for March, 2016.

BOE Outreach-Theresa Brysgel

Ms. Brysgel noted that she met with the Senior Center and the Moms Club and commented that she shared the upcoming schedule with the Board. It was noted that a BOE Community Outreach Public Forum will take place on February 2, 2016 in the school library. Ms. Brysgel noted that she will put together a report of the findings and share prior to the next Board regular meeting.

7.3 Chairperson -Dr. Sklarz noted that Ms. Kelly shared Committee Assignments and he encouraged Board members to contact Ms. Kelly if they have any questions.

7.4 Superintendent and Administrative Team

Spanish Program Presentation-A hard copy of the presentation was distributed at the meeting to the Board and the public attendees.

Assistant Principal Kelley gave an overview of the current Foreign Language Program. She noted that a feasibility study was completed in 2013 and noted that the curriculum developed was personalized to meet the needs of Marlborough Elementary, noting that it continues to be closely aligned with the National Standards. Ms. Kelley noted that students are building language knowledge every year, and noted that the curriculum is updated to meet those needs. She noted that the Spanish teachers utilize carts that are brought into the classroom, noting that everything used on the cart is staged before it is brought into the classroom environment. Ms. Kelley reviewed examples of assessments utilized, including written and oral. She noted that they are assessing for both performance, which is based on instruction knowledge (practiced) and proficiency, which is based on unrehearsed situations (spontaneous). Ms. Kelley noted that it is the goal each year to encourage students to utilize language in the classroom without being prompted. Ms. Kelley gave an overview of the curriculum used at each grade level and noted that language instruction begins at the

UNAPPROVED DRAFT

kindergarten level. Ms. Kelley highlighted the Day of the Dead celebration and the Soccer Unit taught at the grade 4 level.

8. Unfinished Business

There were no items to discuss.

9. New Business

9.1 Review, Discuss and Take Action Re: Proposed FY 2016-17 Academic Calendar

Ms. LaPoint commented that RHAM has 3 days off in February, 2016, and questioned if they have 3 days off next year as well. She noted that one of the days is a Staff Development Day. Dr. Sklarz noted that he is not sure and commented that RHAM goes by a 180-day calendar versus the elementary school which goes by a 183-day calendar.

Theresa Brysgel made a motion to accept the Marlborough School District Proposed 2016-17 Academic Calendar. The motion was seconded by Dr. Judithe Kaplan and carried by a unanimous vote.

9.2 Review January Financial Report (Encl. 9.2)

Dr. Sklarz reviewed the report.

111 Summer Sped Programs-Dr. Sklarz noted that \$1204 represents a known figure.

Dr. Sklarz noted that there could be a fund balance in the Salaries account, noting that when a teacher leaves at a high salary, often the teacher hired comes in at a lower salary and sometimes does not elect to receive benefits through the District. He commented that the reverse can also happen. Dr. Sklarz noted that the budget represents where the current teachers' salaries are. He noted that two additional Paraprofessionals were hired to support Special Education.

200 Group Insurance-Dr. Sklarz noted that there were some employees who decided to begin utilizing their school plan which meant a cost increase.

Dr. Sklarz noted that the Paraprofessionals are voting on January 29, 2016, on whether to change their union leadership before negotiations, which he noted are coming up.

561 Magnet School Tuition-Dr. Sklarz noted that there were two additional students that chose to attend Magnet Schools that were not anticipated nor budgeted for.

562 Out-of-District Placement-Dr. Sklarz noted that the student has returned to the school. Dr. Sklarz commented that the school continues to work towards being more self-sufficient and better able to provide the necessary services to prevent the need for an out-of-district placement.

UNAPPROVED DRAFT

Ms. Concodello questioned if the funds for the two additional Paraprofessionals would be moved from the Out-of-District Placement account. Dr. Sklarz noted that it would be. Ms. Concodello also questioned if the \$11k listed under Audit represented the amount that was sent to the Town. Dr. Sklarz noted that it is.

9.3 First Reading of Proposed Policy Revisions

There were no questions/comments made at this time.

9.4 Review and Discuss Superintendent's Proposed FY 2016-17 Budget

Dr. Sklarz noted that 84% of the budget is made up of Salaries and Benefits. He noted that contracts were just negotiated and that they know where they are for the next three years, which he commented does offer some stability. Dr. Sklarz noted the \$22k added to the budget to fund AHM.

111 Certified Personnel

Dr. Sklarz noted that due to declining enrollments the number of sections was reduced from 28 to 26. He noted that a fourth section was added to first grade to ensure they maintain their goal of small class sizes. He noted the funds delegated for Curriculum Revision, noting that updates will be needed to align with the new Science and Social Studies standards. Ms. Brysgel commented that she understands the need to reduce the number of sections due to declining enrollment, but proposed the possibility of maintaining one teacher and expanding the usage of the STEAM Room, commenting that she would like to see it utilized more than it is. Ms. Brysgel questioned if a Science/Technology Specialist is a possibility that may have been discussed. Dr. Sklarz commented that it has been discussed. Ms. Brysgel commented that there has been movement of students to Magnet Schools that focus on Science and Technology. Ms. LaPoint commented that she agrees with Theresa and noted that according to the class size guidelines, first grade should have four sections. She asked what paraprofessional support for kindergarten will be available if class size is on the high end. Dr. Sklarz noted that there are currently two paraprofessionals supporting kindergarten. He commented that they are not sure what support will be needed for next year, but noted that they should know by the time the budget is approved, noting that kindergarten registration is next week. Ms. O'Brien questioned why there was an increase for custodians from \$137k to \$175k. Mr. White noted that a line was eliminated that should be there for Custodial Supervisor. He noted that there will no longer be a Custodial Supervisor position, which will allow for a cost savings of approximately \$5k.

112 Personnel-Non-Certified Staff

Dr. Sklarz reviewed the current paraprofessional placement and noted that it will be reduced for the 2016-17 year. Dr. Sklarz commented that there is a concern regarding needs for Special Education paraprofessional support, noting that they will not know right away if support is needed.

UNAPPROVED DRAFT

200 Employee Benefits

Dr. Sklarz noted that there was a meeting of the insurance consortium for the three towns on January 26, 2016. He noted that the percentage rates may be lower than anticipated, noting that it is currently at 12%. Dr. Sklarz noted that there is potential for a cost savings here and noted that the Board will work together to decide how to utilize those funds.

300 Purchased Professional Services

Dr. Sklarz noted that these are Non-Union employees and noted that the school is not responsible for providing health benefits. Ms. O'Brien commented that she feels these positions should be listed with staff. Dr. Sklarz noted that currently they contract with AHM for a Social Worker to be at the school five days/week. He noted that they continue to ensure that staff members are trained to be certified to meet the needs to students, so out-of-district placements will not be necessary. He noted that training will be finished at the end of this year.

10. Public Comments

Cliff Denniss, 111 Cheney Road, member of the Board of Finance, but speaking as an individual, commented that the State is in a deficit and encouraged the Board and public to write to their legislators and ask for no decrease in education or municipal aid.

11. Communications

11.1 Staff Vacancy Summary

12. Future Meetings & Topics

- 12.1 BOE Community Outreach Public Forum, Tuesday, February 2, 2016, 7:00pm
- 12.2 Public Hearing RE: FY 2016-17 Proposed Budget, Thursday February 25, 2016, 6:00pm
- 12.3 Special BOE Meeting Re: Budget, February 11, 2016, 6:30pm
- 12.4 Next regular business meeting, Thursday, February 25, 2016, 7:00pm

13. Adjournment

Betty O'Brien made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:23pm. The motion was seconded by Mimi LaPoint and carried by a unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted

Karen DeCorleto
Board Clerk