

Marlborough Board of Education

Regular Meeting

March 24, 2016

Elmer Thienes-Mary Hall Elementary School Library/Media Center

1. Call to Order

Chairman Ruth Kelly called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

BOE Members Present:

Present and seated were Ruth Kelly, Wes Skorski, Louise Concodello, Betty O'Brien, Susan Rapelye, Dr. Judithe Kaplan, Theresa Brysgel and Patrick Pabouet.

Administration Present:

Dr. David Sklarz, Superintendent

Dan White, Principal

Kim Kelley, Vice Principal

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Celebrations

Vice Principal Kelley shared a slideshow highlighting activities at the school in March: including National Reading Day, usage of the Steam Room for work with engineering tools as well as learning the different states of matter, recognition of the students who attended the Eastern Regionals, recognition of those students who received the music and art awards, Dr. Seuss Day, St. Patrick's Day and the Governor's Foot Guard Concert night.

4. Public Comments

There were no public comments made at this time.

5. Additions to the Agenda

There were no additions made to the agenda.

6. Consent Agenda

6.1 Minutes of 2/2/16 special meeting/public outreach forum (Encl. 6.1 A), 2/25/2016 special meeting (Encl. 6.1B) and 2/25/16 regular business meeting (Encl. 6.1C);

6.2 Personnel Actions-none;

- 6.3 Reports-receive and file the following document: monthly enrollment report (Encl. 6.3);
- 6.4 Grants-none;

**Wes Skorski made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by Louise Concodello. Dr. Sklarz requested to pull the minutes of the 2/25/2016 regular business meeting and noted the following correction:**

**On page 6, paragraph four, the first sentence of the motion should be revised to read; "Betty O'Brien made a motion that the Board approve the transfer of \$8,660 from health insurance savings and \$12,733 from the 612 Instructional Technology account to the \$8k in the Contingency account for a total of \$29,393.**

**The motion to approve the Consent Agenda with the above noted correction was approved unanimously.**

## 7. Oral Reports

### 7.1 Advisory Groups

PTO-Principal White noted that the PTO met on 3/16/16 and discussed potential new fundraisers, including Omni Mini Golf. He noted that the MUSE Paintbar fundraiser was cancelled due to low participation, noting that only six students signed up. Mr. White noted that Staff Appreciation Week was discussed and noted that the Staff Appreciation Luncheon is slated for May 5, 2016. Principal White noted that the Trivia Night was very successful, noting a profit of \$6,676.34. Mr. White noted that Science Day was discussed and is slated for June 7, 2016. He noted that the PTO has approved \$1k to support Science Day events. Mr. White noted upcoming fundraisers, including the Spring Bookfair and Ice Cream Social as well as Movie Night, which will be on April 1, 2016, and will feature Inside Out. He also noted the Kindergarten Picnic, which is slated for May 4, 2016, as well as the Art Show, which he noted the PTO has approved \$200 in funds for supplies to support the event. Principal White noted that Ms. Quigley's class won the most recent Box Tops Contest and he noted that the PTO collected \$1,078 in Box Top funds for the school. Principal White noted that the decision was made to disband the cartridge recycling program, noting that many items are no longer accepted and noted the high cost of shipping returned items.

Operations, Health & Safety-Principal White noted that they met on 3/14/16. He noted that the cafeteria cooler has been replaced. Mr. White noted that Chef Bobby discussed his Passport Program which allows for students to experience food from different countries. Mr. White noted that the cafeteria went back to the usage of sporks, noting a cost savings, with a decrease in the amount of waste. Mr. White reviewed the sickness and injuries reported in March. He noted that the committee discussed school security, noting that AED recertification will take place and that emergency drills will be updated. Mr. White noted that all of the paperwork for the Security and Safety Plan have been put in place and

submitted to the State, noting that there is potential to receive a grant in the amount of \$31k for the school.

School Advisory Council- Principal White noted that they met on 3/24/16 and noted that a Regional Manager and Nutrition Specialist from Chartwells were present to assist with an update on the cafeteria. Mr. White noted that the Healthy Food Certification was reviewed and it was noted that the standards set by that certification are currently higher than the current Government standards. Mr. White noted that the council did a review of the current breakfast menu and he noted that questions were raised and addressed regarding sugar content, dyes/artificial flavors and meat content. Mr. White noted that the chicken utilized in our cafeteria is all meat chicken and that the ground beef is 100% all beef. He noted that the eggs utilized are cage free and that they do not utilize trans fats when preparing food. Mr. White noted that fresh produce is utilized by the cafeteria approximately 10 months/year. Mr. White noted that the council plans to review SBAC Testing at their next meeting.

#### 7.2 Subcommittees

Policy-Ms. Concodello noted that the committee will continue to discuss bus drop off procedures and the appropriate age for a student to be dropped off without a parent present. Dr. Sklarz noted that bus pickup procedures will be discussed as well.

#### 7.3 Chairperson – There were no new items discussed.

#### 7.4 Superintendent and Administrative Team-

-Tiered Support-Vice Principal Kelley distributed a PowerPoint presentation to the Board. Ms. Kelley noted that the school gathers data about students both informally and formally all the time and she reviewed the different tools utilized to collect data, including STAR Math and Reading, Math Fact Fluency, SBAC, classroom assessments, Reading level, and teacher knowledge. She noted that this data is utilized to understand the needs of the students and emphasized that one piece of data is never used in isolation, but rather that all data is utilized to determine needs. Ms. Kelley noted that all students receive Tier 1 instruction, which she noted happens as a whole in the classroom. She noted that students that need some additional support may receive Tier 2 support, which she noted is teacher led small group instruction for 3 out of every 6 days for 30 minute sessions. Ms. Kelley noted that students that need Tier 2 support may receive instruction from a different grade level teacher than their own. Ms. Kelley noted that students that may need more intensive instruction will be offered support at the Tier 3 level, which she noted is everyday intervention support from a Curriculum Specialist. Ms. Kelley commented that tiered

instruction can be both formal and informal, long and short, noting that students may only need to receive intervention for a short period of time before returning back to instruction with the larger group. Ms. Kelley noted that the pace of the information taught to the whole class does not change, but noted that tiered instruction allows different approaches to be utilized to present concepts to students who need additional support. She commented that there is movement in and out of the tier levels. Ms. Kelley noted that students are never moved from Tier 3 to the classroom. Ms. Kelley reviewed the tier reading and math data and reviewed the current number of students receiving tier intervention. Ms. Kelley noted that Tier 3 groups have information sent home via email monthly to parents including information regarding the individual's progress, an outline of concepts and skills being reviewed, strategies to use at home, and links to games and apps that support the current curriculum. Ms. Kelley noted that feedback from parents regarding the tier program has been positive. Ms. O'Brien noted her concern that students in sixth grade are just being identified. Mr. Skorski questioned if the Longitudinal Perspective Data was an indicator that tier instruction is not working. He also questioned if some of the data showed a need to have students repeat a grade level. Ms. Kelley commented that she does not feel that the data shows that intervention is not working, but rather is an indicator that some students will always require extra support and assistance. Ms. Kelley commented that there are students who begin with support in kindergarten and require it through sixth grade. Principal White noted that studies have shown that retention rarely works, noting that often students who repeat a year may have success in the first half of the year, but often continue to face the same struggles the second half of the year that they were experiencing in the past. Ms. Concodello questioned if this information is shared with the Middle School. Ms. Kelley noted that it is. Ms. Rapelye questioned why students are being labeled Tier 2 and questioned how this impacts the student at the Middle School level. Ms. Brysgel questioned if Tier 2 instruction is seamless. Ms. Kelley commented that all students are following the same curriculum and that tier instruction is based on the unit the classroom teacher is teaching at the time. Chairperson Kelly questioned what the students who are not receiving tier intervention do during that time. Ms. Kelley noted that all students are active and noted that Enrichment, math centers and reading time all take place during this time. It was noted that it is important to ensure that no student misses new instruction in the classroom when tier intervention is taking place.

-DARE Alternatives-Vice Principal Kelley shared a PowerPoint presentation with the Board. Ms. Kelley noted that this type of education is referred to as Protective Education and noted that they reviewed the guiding principles for prevention for the National Institute of Health. Ms. Kelley noted that there was a DARE program in place in the past and noted that Hebron and Andover continue to have one in place. Ms. Kelley noted that AHM will support assistance for the DARE program by funding incidentals, but noted that AHM will not fund

**UNAPPROVED DRAFT**

officer time. Ms. Kelley reviewed research on DARE effectiveness and noted that the program was shown to develop a positive relationship between police and students. She noted, however, that research showed that by late adolescence there is no difference shown in behavior between the students who were exposed to the DARE program and those who were not. Ms. Kelley noted their efforts to create a program that meets the unique needs of Marlborough and noted what is already being utilized at the school to support a protective environment, including the PBIS Paws program, which she noted reinforces positive and safe behavior. Ms. Kelley also noted the positive impact of the Social Skills program, offered at the school, on self-control and emotional awareness. Ms. Kelley also noted the positive impact of tier Intervention and its focus on academic difficulty. Ms. Kelley also highlighted ways in which the school currently supports protective factors, including the presence of mentors and support staff and opportunities for engagement within the school and community, including Student Council, Writing Club, and Running Club. Ms. Kelley noted additions that are being made to the Social Skills Program that will support the need for Protective Education. She noted the use of the ERASE program through AHM and the STEP Program at the 4<sup>th</sup> grade level (Statewide Tobacco Education Program). She noted that this program would be funded by the CT Prevention Network and would represent no additional costs to the school. Ms. Kelley noted the use of the Power of Words curriculum at the 5<sup>th</sup> grade level and the use of the book Wonder, noting the only cost would be t-shirts for the students. Ms. Kelley noted the usage of the ESTEEM Day Program, which she noted is a program offered by Canton High School Students, which includes usage of skits, songs and dramatics to share positive messages. Ms. Kelley noted that this program includes a day long workshop for students as well as a night program for parents. It was noted that a tentative date has already been set for this program to be presented in October 2016. Ms. Kelley noted that the sixth graders will then use what they learned and share it with the third graders. Ms. Kelley also noted the need to ensure students are being educated on technology; their digital footprint and safety. She noted that a date has been tentatively scheduled for Scott Driscoll, Internet Safety Concepts, to present to 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders regarding Internet safety. Ms. Brysgel suggested that another good option may be to have 7<sup>th</sup> grade role models visit 6<sup>th</sup> graders to discuss what is going on at the Middle School. It was suggested that a Parent/Student session would be beneficial to students before moving to the Middle School so that they could gain an understanding of what is happening at RHAM. Ms. Rapelye noted that she attended coffee talk with the Troopers and noted that it is what raised her interest in the DARE program, noting that she wants to ensure that students and parents are aware of what is going on at the Middle School and High School level. Ms. Rapelye thanked Ms. Kelley for taking the time to look into potential programs. Ms. O'Brien commented that she likes what is currently being proposed and noted that she think that a 7<sup>th</sup> grade day is a great idea.

There was a five-minute recess taken so the Board could have their picture taken for the yearbook.

8. Unfinished Business

There were no items to discuss.

9. New Business

9.1 Discussion and Possible Action Re: End-of-School Year for Students and Teachers

Chairperson Kelly noted that during negotiations with the teachers, the teachers noted that they believe every day is valuable. Ms. Brysgel noted that she would suggest ending school on June 10<sup>th</sup>, which is the Friday before, noting that RHAM will already be out of school on June 13<sup>th</sup> and that the buses will need to be funded just for the Elementary School. Ms. Concodello commented that they are already contracted to pay for buses for 183 days. Ms. O'Brien commented that the teachers did indicate that every school day is valuable.

**Theresa Brysgel made a motion to set the End-of-School Year date for Students for June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2016, waving Monday, June 13, 2016, the 183<sup>rd</sup> day. The motion was seconded by Susan Rapelye. Theresa Brysgel and Susan Rapelye voted in favor of the motion. Ruth Kelly, Louise Concodello, Wes Skorski, Betty O'Brien, Dr. Judithe Kaplan, and Patrick Pabouet were opposed to the motion. The motion did not carry.**

It was noted that the last day of school for students will be June 13, 2016.

9.2 Discussion and Possible Action Re: FY 2016-17 Budget Follow-up following Board of Finance Review

It was noted that the Board of Education had not yet received feedback from the Board of Finance before this meeting.

9.3 Review March Financial Report (Encl. 9.3)

Dr. Sklarz noted that there have not been many changes. 112 Accounts-He noted the addition of two paraprofessionals and the need for several substitutes for maternity leaves, resignations, and personal leave. He noted that 200 Tuition Reimbursement has a fund balance amount of \$3,660, noting that no other bills will be coming in. He noted that there were two changes made to 200 Group Insurance that had an impact, noting a deficit. Dr. Sklarz noted that the deficit shown under 340 Other Consultants will be offset by transfer funds from Out-of-District Placement at a later date. Dr. Sklarz noted unexpected bills from oil and pump repairs under 420 Contracted Services. Dr. Sklarz noted that the deficit under 690 Admin Office Supply was due to the purchase of needed supplies. Ms. Concodello

questioned if the walk-in refrigerator had been replaced. Dr. Sklarz noted that it had been and that he would confirm which account it was funded with.

10. Public Comments

Pam Farrington, 95 Jerry Daniels Road, thanked Dr. Sklarz for the presentation of the budget that was shared with the Board of Finance. Ms. Farrington made comments regarding the proposed DARE alternatives, noting her concern regarding some of the issues students face at the high school. She commented that she is more concerned with educating students and parents regarding what is happening at the high school level, noting that she feels the middle school is a more self-contained environment.

11. Communications

11.1 Staff Vacancy Summary

12. Future Meetings & Topics

12.1 Town Budget Public Hearing, Monday, April 25, 2016, 7:00pm

12.2 Policy subcommittee meeting, Thursday, April 28, 2016, 6:00pm

12.3 Next regular business meeting, Thursday, April 28, 2016, 7:00pm

12.4 Town Meeting, Monday, May 9, 2016, 7:00pm

13. Adjournment

**Betty O'Brien made a motion to adjourn meeting at 8:52pm. The motion was seconded by Wes Skorski and carried by a unanimous vote.**

Respectfully submitted  
Karen DeCorleto