

Marlborough Board of Education

Regular Meeting

March 22, 2018

Elmer Thienes-Mary Hall Elementary School Library/Media Center

1. Call to Order

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

BOE Members Present:

Present and seated were Ruth Kelly, Wes Skorski, Louise Concodello, Betty O'Brien, Susan Rapelye, Dr. Judithe Kaplan, Michelle Padilla, Logan Tyler 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 of recent events including Read Across America and Invention Convention.

Dr. Sklarz recognized the Board Members, noting that it is School Board Recognition month. He shared certificates with the Board and a small token of appreciation.

4. Public Comments

Rich Storrs, 6 Stage Harbor Road, thanked the Administration for how they have handled the recent weather and its impact. He encouraged the Board to set the last day of school for June 22, 2018 or earlier, noting that some families have already scheduled vacation and noted the hotter it gets the more difficult it is to be in the school building

Ray Langlois, 65 South Road, encouraged the Board to set the last day of school for June 22, 2018, noting that the Boy Scouts have committed to camp the following week and he noted his concern that some students would either have to miss camp or 6th grade graduation.

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UNAPPROVED DRAFT

Theresa Brysgel, 173 Paper Mill Road, thanked the Board for all of their hard work. She encouraged the Board to forgive some days and set the last day for June 22, 2018. Ms. Brysgel commented that she thinks all the decisions about school closings made sense based on the weather forecast.

Jennifer Hutton, 54 High Meadow Road, commented that her son is signed up for Boy Scout Camp. She noted that she is a working mom and has already scheduled her children's summer plans well in advance and noted her concern about potential changes that may need to be made if school is extended and potential cost implications. She encouraged the Board to set the last day of June 22, 2018 or to take makeup days from April break. Ms. Hutton noted that she sent an email to the Board of Education email that is on the website and noted that she did not receive a response.

Karen Sawyer, 62 High Meadow Road, noted that her son begins a summer school program in July 1, 2018 and noted that she wants to ensure he has time to have a break before starting school back up again.

Kimberly Disomma, 52 Stony Brook Drive, noted her concern that summer vacation would be approximately 8 weeks if they get out on June 26, 2018, which she noted is less than they are typically used to for a summer break.

Sarah McGuire, Blish Road, encouraged the Board to set the last day of school for June 22, 2018, noting that she thinks it would be beneficial to align with the rest of local schools. Ms. McGuire commented that she does not see any added value to additional days in June.

Dave Porteous, 15 Edstrom Road, thanked the Board Members for their personal time and contributions to the community. He encouraged the Board to go with what the Administration has outlined for allotted times on specials and encouraged them to ask that the Administration have measurements in place, so the Board can ensure that the change is meeting the need going forward. Mr. Porteous commented that he thinks the June 22, 2018 date makes sense.

Stephanie Billiel-114 Jerry Daniels Road, encouraged the Board to make June 22 the last day of school. She commented that she has spoken with several families who already planned vacations for the end of June. Ms. Billiel noted that she has a child who will be attending a summer school program and noted that her family planned vacation at end of June to accommodate the start of that program.

Mike S., 206 South Main Street, Boy Scout Troop Leader, noted that he already took the week off at the end of June for Boy Scout camp and noted that it would be difficult to change his schedule at this time. He commented that he is in favor of ending school year on June 22, 2018.

Dr. Sklarz noted that there were several letters submitted to the Board that will be attached to the minutes.

5. Additions to the Agenda

Louise Concodello made a motion to move agenda item 9.1 Discussion and Possible Action Re: End-of-School Year for Students to before item 6. Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by Logan Tyler and carried by a unanimous vote.

Louise Concodello made a motion that the Board approve the revised school calendar with the student school year ending June 22, 2018 at 1:00 pm and the teacher work year ending June 26, 2018. The motion was seconded by Michelle Padilla.

Ms. Rapelye questioned if they should add language to the motion noting that the last day of school will still be June 22nd if there is an additional snow day. Dr. Sklarz commented that he does not think that it is necessary to mention in the motion but noted that school will still get out on June 22, even with an additional snow day.

The motion was carried by a unanimous vote.

6. Consent Agenda

- 6.1 Minutes of 2/22/18 policy committee meeting (Encl. 6.1A) and 2/22/18 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-none;

Michelle Padilla 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

Operations, Health & Safety-

Mr. White noted that Chef Bobby reviewed the Cafeteria report, noting that only a small portion of food was lost during the recent storm when power was lost. Mr. White noted that most of the kitchen is maintained by the generator. Mr. White noted that Chef Bobby

reported on the Lunch Bunch meetings, noting that strawberry milk was added, and that milk consumption has increased. Mr. White noted that Ms. Mecca reviewed the illness/accidents, noting 18 cases of the flu and approximately 4-10 students out per day with flu-like symptoms. He noted that Ms. Mecca reported that it has been a typical flu season for MES. Mr. White noted that 20-30 kids have been out 1 day during the winter months. Mr. White noted that a security update was given, noting that they have been trying to meet with Town wide team, but have been held up due to weather. Mr. White noted that they discovered during the power outages that the walkie talkies were not working without power and he noted that updates were made so the walkie talkies can be charged with the generator and maintained when power is lost. Mr. White noted that doors fault to lock on generator power. Mr. White noted that Karen DeCorleto reported that she has been in contact with a representative from Sandy Hook Promise and continues to work with Vice Principal Kelley to see how to best implement some training at the school. Mr. White noted that Ms. Mecca will be hosting AED Team Training on May 22, 2018. Mr. White noted that the Lions Club will be back in May to do vision screening for Kindergarten screening, noting that this is done on a volunteer basis.

PTO-was postponed due to weather.

7.2 Subcommittees

Board of Finance Liaisons- Ms. Concodello noted that she attended March 14, 2018 meeting. She noted that both the Board of Education and the Board of Selectmen presented their budgets to the Board of Finance. Ms. Concodello noted that Board of Finance workshops continue and noted that they will be reviewing the Board of Education budget on Tuesday, March 27, 2018.

Chairperson-Chairperson Kelly addressed ongoing discussion in the Community regarding the possibility of the State Trooper's office moving to the School. She commented that she is unsure of what authority the Board may have but commented that she thinks it may be something to add to a future agenda for Board discussion. Dr. Sklarz noted that the First Selectmen should be present at that meeting and commented that he wants to ensure that the Town and the School work together. He commented that he feels this change has so many upsides and would be beneficial. Ms. Tyler noted her concern regarding what may happen after hours. Ms. Concodello questioned if there would be room for the State Trooper to be present at the school. Dr. Sklarz noted that the school does have room and would provide a satellite office, not a main office, for the State Trooper to utilize. The Board agreed to add this to their April meeting agenda.

7.3 Superintendent and Administrative Team

a. Next Generation Accountability Report-presentation attached

Vice Principal Kelley reviewed the report and noted that this is the third year that this type of information is being reported. She noted that the goal was to take a wholistic view of each school. She gave an overview of what Marlborough is graded on. She reviewed a comparison by year. Ms. Kelley noted that this is the last year, the CMT Science Test will be utilized and noted that they will be moving to the NGSS Science Test. She noted that the new test will only be graded initially on participation, year one. Ms. Kelley reviewed the goals for growth and noted that the grade is based on what percentage of students achieved growth in Math and English/Language Arts. Ms. Kelley noted that they review the data for students for the last two years to determine vertical growth. Mr. White noted that the School is also graded on Chronic Absenteeism. He noted that it does not matter why a student was absent, if he/she is over 10% of total number of days then the student is considered chronically absent. Mr. White noted that they are also graded on Physical Fitness, which he noted consists of four components. Mr. White noted that their participation rate is great. He noted that in order to receive a passing grade on the test, students must receive an acceptable score in all four components.

Questions from the Board :

Ms. Tyler questioned if the Administration feels the School is making growth. Vice Principal Kelley commented that she feels that they are confident with the growth being made and commented that they are constantly reviewing the data and looking at areas to improve.

Mr. Skorski questioned State averages and if these are accurate numbers, noting his concern. Ms. Kelley noted that they are. Mr. Skorski questioned who the high needs students are. Mr. White noted that they are special needs students, students who participate in the Free/Reduced Lunch Program, and students with math and ELA needs (identified/EAP, not tiered) Mr. Skorski wants to ensure the right amount of attention is being given to this group and ensure funds are being utilized in this area effectively. Ms. Kelley commented that they look at the data closely for this group of students to ensure that they are continuing to grow and providing the opportunities that they need.

b. Status of Paraeducators and Custodians Contract Negotiations

Dr. Sklarz noted that they set a preliminary meeting and he noted that he will continue to provide updates as they progress. He encouraged the Board to reach out if there is anything specific they want to ensure is included in the contracts.

8. Unfinished Business

8.1 Discussion Re: Academics and Specials Allotted Times

Dr. Sklarz reviewed the number of sections required to meet the definition of a full-time teacher and noted that with declining enrollment, there has been reductions made to the number of sections, which can impact the number of sections being taught by the Specials teachers. He reviewed a comparison to other schools, including high performing schools. He reviewed the length of the school day and how it compares and noted that the school is within the range of the typical school day. He reviewed the length of specials time and how it compared to Marlborough Elementary, which he noted has 160 minutes/week in specials time. He noted that while school days are comparable for school day length, the time allotted to specials in other schools is often longer. Dr. Sklarz noted that they are in a transition right now with the reduction of the number of sections. He noted that a schedule was put in place to allow for additional specials on a rotating basis. Dr. Sklarz noted that this was a temporary option that was added. Dr. Sklarz highlighted the benefits of specials and noted that with an increase in the allotted time, they need consider that extra time would pull from instructional time. He proposed two models; increasing number of minutes to attend specials or reduction of Specials Teachers to a .8 position, which is based on the number of sections. He noted his concern at the ability to maintain the quality teachers that they have with a .8 position.

Questions

Mr. Skorski asked what the Administration thoughts are on this subject. Mr. White proposed the increase to 50 minute specials, which he noted would be a decrease in class time of approximately 6 minutes per day. He commented that this increase would bring Marlborough closer to the State standard. Dr. Sklarz commented that it is important to the Administration that they find a good balance between offering the right amount of Special time and classroom instruction time.

Ms. Kelly questioned how much 6 minutes/day would mean for 180-day school year. Mr. White noted that this may be difficult to quantify because of assemblies, etc.

Ms. Tyler commented that a wholistic approach of being all inclusive of different ways of learning is the current model being utilized based on research she has done. She questioned what the State standards are. Mr. White noted that they were presented in the past and that they can be shared.

Ms. Rapelye commented that she is in full support of the increased amount of specials time, noting that she is looking to ensure they are educating well rounded students.

Ms. Padilla asked for further clarification regarding the six minutes per day. Ms. Padilla commented that they are truly only losing approximately 2.5 minutes of each subject per day.

Dr. Kaplan questioned if the teachers have been asked. Mr. White noted that they have discussed this with the teachers and commented that the preference is an increase to 50-minute specials instead of what is currently being done now. Dr. Kaplan commented that she has taught in various school districts and noted that she is very impressed with the art that is created by the students at the school and she commented that she thinks the Art program is a real gift given to the students.

The consensus of the Board was to remain with the Special Teachers as 1.0 Full-Time Teachers.

Ms. O'Brien noted her concern regarding the loss of instructional time.

9. New Business

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

9.2 Review March Financial Report (distributed at the meeting)

9.3 First Reading of Proposed Policy Revisions – There were no revisions made.

10. Public Comments

Stephanie Billiel-114 Jerry Daniels Road, noted that she thinks the increase in the Specials time will be beneficial for the students and will help the school to be in line with other schools in the State.

11. Communications

11.1 Staff Vacancy Summary

12. Future Meetings & Topics

12.1 Board of Finance Budget Workshop with Board of Education, Tuesday, March 27, 2018, 7:00 pm

12.2 Board of Finance Town Budget Hearing, Monday, April 23, 2018, 7:00 pm

12.3 Policy subcommittee meeting, Thursday, April 26, 2018, 6:00 pm

12.4 Next Regular Business Meeting, Thursday April 26, 2018, 7:00 pm

12.5 Annual Town Meeting, Monday, May 7, 2018

12.6 Town/RHAM Budget Referendum, Tuesday, May 8, 2018

12.7 CABE Workshop Re: Board Member Use of Social Media, Date/time to be determined.

13. Adjournment

Michelle Padilla made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:04 pm. The motion was seconded by Susan Rapelye and carried by a unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted

Karen DeCorleto
Board Clerk

From: Pete Barone <pete_barone@comcast.net>
To: boardofed@marlborough.k12.ct.us Board Ed
Date: Tue 20 Mar 2018 06:54:06 PM -0400
Cc: dsklarz@marlborough.k12.ct.us
Subject: Fwd: End of School - Important Mtg

Hi

I cannot make the BOE meeting tomorrow but vote for the 3 days. End on 6/22

Pete Barone
860-999-2269

Sent from my iPhone sorry for any misspelled words

From: Jennifer Barone <jmcartledge@comcast.net>
To: <boardofed@marlborough.k12.ct.us>
Date: Wed 21 Mar 2018 01:56:07 PM -0400
Cc: <dsklarz@marlborough.k12.ct.us>
Subject: Request to forgive three school days

As a parent of MES students, I am in favor of the Board forgiving 3 of our snow days thus letting school end by Friday June 22nd . I am unable to attend the Board Meeting on Thursday March 22, so I am sending this email to express my opinion.

Please have this email entered into the Board Meeting minutes.

Thank you.

Jennifer C. Barone

jmcartledge@comcast.net

860 227 4688

From: "McGuire, Sarah E" <sarah_mcguire@optum.com>
To: "boardofed@marlborough.k12.ct.us" <boardofed@marlborough.k12.ct.us>
Date: Thu 22 Mar 2018 03:17:29 PM -0400
Cc: "semcg5@hotmail.com" <semcg5@hotmail.com>
Subject: Tonight's Mtg Topic - Last Day of School

In case I am unable to attend tonight's meeting, I'd like to provide my input on possibly modifying the last day of school as scheduled currently for 6-26. Ending the school year on a Monday or Tuesday of the last week of June hits into many family vacations as well as scheduled camp weeks. There really is no value add in having school for the sake of getting a day in to get to 183 days from an educational perspective.

I hope the BOE considers moving the last day of school at MES to Thursday June 21 or Friday, June 22nd so all the children can attend the last day of school and begin their summer vacation plans by 6/26, as well as stay in line with RHAM, where many have siblings.

Within the last 10 years we have moved the start of school ahead of Labor Day (last week of August) shortening our summer, as well as shortened February vacation, yet we continue to extend our time in school for the teachers and children into late June due to weather events. Since the BOE has the opportunity to "forgive" the 3 extra days we as a school district tack onto the 180 required days, I truly hope they leverage this opportunity and allow the children along with the teachers, administration, and our school families, to begin their summer vacation and not continue school into the week of 6/26 just for the sake of putting a school day on a calendar since there really is no educational value at play here extending the school year to 6/26.

Thank you,

Sarah McGuire

(resident of Marlborough, address withheld for privacy reasons in keeping with my voter registration, and parent of an MES student)

Sarah McGuire | Optum

AMP – Solution Management- Optum Technology

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From: Corinne Machowski <corinnemachowski@gmail.com>
To: boardofed@marlborough.k12.ct.us
Date: Thu 22 Mar 2018 04:15:24 PM -0400
Cc:
Subject: Fwd: In regards to the meeting tonight

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Corinne Machowski <corinnemachowski@gmail.com>
Date: Thu, Mar 22, 2018, 4:13 PM
Subject: In regards to the meeting tonight
To: <dsklarz@marlborough.k12.ct.us>

As a parent's of MES students, we are both in favor of the Board forgiving 3 of our snow days thus letting school end by Friday June 22nd . We are unable to attend the Board Meeting this evening so we are sending this email to express our opinion.

Please have this email entered into the Board Meeting minutes.

Thank you.

Corinne and Todd Machowski