

Marlborough Board of Education

Regular Meeting

May 24, 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, Susan Rapelye, Dr. Judithe Kaplan, Logan Tyler, and Patrick Pabouet.

Administration Present:

Dr. David Sklarz, Superintendent

Dan White, Principal

Kim Kelley, Vice Principal

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Celebrations

American Legion Awards

Commanders of the American Legion, Marlborough were present to give awards to Caitlin Pampreen and Jacob Coates

Awards were presented to students for achievement in the following areas:

Art Awards

Taylor Wright: Christopher Colburn Award & International Children's Art Exhibition: Honorable Mention

Alexa Odoy: CAS Celebration of the Arts (Art Award)

Heather Soucie: International Children's Art Exhibition: Honorable Mention

Liv Lofmark: International Children's Art Exhibition: Honorable Mention

Jack Cook: International Children's Art Exhibition: Honorable Mention

Orus Reid Coffield: International Children's Art Exhibition: Honorable Mention

Cavan Balda: International Children's Art Exhibition: Silver Award

Claire Seipt: International Children's Art Exhibition: Gold Award

Invention Convention: National Event Participants (NICEE Competition)

Aaron Allocca

Trevor Hooker

Nicolas Peach

Instrumental & Choral Awards

Ben Spencer: Eastern Regions

Olivia Arcari: Eastern Regions

Raegan Hayes: Eastern Regions

Raegan Hayes: Diane Pelletier Award

Olivia Arcari: Bruce Foote Award & CAS Celebration of Arts

Ava Machowski: Harold & Rose Taylor Award

FLL – First Lego League

Jackson Parkinson: Best Presentation Award

Ben Spencer: Best Presentation Award

Olivia Arcari: Best Presentation Award

Caitlin Pampreen: Best Presentation Award

Taryn Brysgel: Best Presentation Award

Alex Storrs: Best Presentation Award

FPS

Raegan Hayes: Medallion Award

Sadie Eppinger: 1st Place Presentation of Action Plan (Skit) & First Place Team Competition

Alexa Odoy: 1st Place Presentation of Action Plan (Skit) & First Place Team Competition

Marina McLaughlin: 1st Place Presentation of Action Plan (Skit) & First Place Team Competition

Paige Cavaliere: 1st Place Presentation of Action Plan (Skit) & First Place Team Competition

Writing:

James Keleher: Honorable Mention Connecticut Writing Project for non-fiction

A performance was given by the following students who participated in the COLT Rhyme Celebration for Spanish:

Stan Biskupski, Ben Spencer, Tim Schweighoffer, Jacob Tresser, Lily Murphy, Lana Wainwright, Ava Machowski, and Maggie Walker.

Vice Principal Kelley shared a slideshow of recent events, including Jump Rope for Heart, Spring Band Concert, Staff Appreciation Week, Art Show and Music Adjudication Festival.

4. Public Comments

There were no public comments made at this time.

5. Additions to the Agenda

6. Consent Agenda

6.1 Minutes of 4/26/18 regular business meeting (Encl. 6.1);

6.2 Personnel Actions-none;

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

6.4 Grants-none;

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

7. Oral Reports

7.1 Advisory Groups

Operations, Health & Safety-Mr. White noted that the new steamer in the cafeteria is working well and that a new garbage disposal is needed. He noted that oven replacement quotes are being pursued, noting that the purchase of a new oven will go through the Cafeteria Account. Mr. White noted that there was concern raised regarding the possibility of allergens in the popsicles for Field Day, noting that they will pre-order one box to ensure it meets the requirements prior to Field Day. Mr. White reviewed the accidents/illnesses,

noting that there has been a tough strand of strep this year and noted that head lice has been strong this year. Mr. White noted that a portion of the staff, including custodians, participated in the AED First Aid Training. Mr. White noted that Sandy Hook Training will be incorporated next year, beginning with the *Start With Hello* program. Mr. White noted that they are looking to build their own *Stop the Bleed* kits.

PTO-Mr. White noted that the PTO is funding a grant program for teachers. He noted that the PTO will be funding the assemblies for Science Day. He noted that they are planning to host a Yard Goats fundraiser for the beginning of the school year next year as a kickoff to the year. Mr. White noted that \$227 was raised via Box Tops collection, approximately \$800 was raised through Movie Night, and approximately \$500 was raised through Teacher Appreciation Day, with 955 flowers sold. He noted that Trivia Night was successful and thanked Dr. Gallagher and Angelico's for their donations of funds and space. Mr. White noted that Big Y points can be signed up for.

7.2 Subcommittees

Board of Finance Liaisons-Ms. Concodello noted that the budget passed. She noted her concerns that the capital projects were not a part of the budget for next year.

7.3 Chairperson

Chairperson Kelly shared correspondence between her, Officer Kehoe, and First Selectman Amy Traversa regarding the Board request to have Officer Kehoe attend a meeting. Ms. Kelly noted that Officer Kehoe declined the invite due to scheduling. Ms. Kelly noted that she reached out to First Selectman Traversa to clarify the request for the meeting and noted that Ms. Traversa confirmed that the declined invite was due to scheduling. Ms. Kelly noted that a meeting was proposed between her, Officer Kehoe, Dr. Sklarz and Principal White during the summer. Ms. Rapelye commented that the original intent of the meeting was so that the entire Board could be involved in the discussion and questioned if Board Members can attend the summer meeting. Ms. Concodello commented that she was looking forward to meeting Officer Kehoe and questioned what will be accomplished at the summer meeting. Mr. Skorski commented that he has no problem with the proposed summer meeting and questioned if there is potential for a meeting with the whole Board in the future. Chairperson Kelly commented that the purpose of the summer meeting is to establish a relationship with Officer Kehoe and to open the dialogue.

7.4 Superintendent and Administrative Team

Internet Safety-Vice Principal Kelley and Principal White gave a presentation regarding Internet Safety and how it is shared with both the students and the parents.

Ms. Kelley noted that access to technology is beginning at a younger age than in the past and noted that there is an increased amount of students with phones. Mr. Skorski questioned if there is a policy regarding phones in place. It was noted that parents can sign off on allowing their students to have phones at school and noted that teacher approval is required before it can be utilized during the school day. Ms. Tyler questioned if there has been push back from the parents if phones have had to be taken away. Ms. Kelley noted that there has been no pushback from parents.

Ms. Kelley reviewed the information that is shared with the students and noted that the conversation had with students varies at the different age levels. She noted that students accessing most of the Apps should be thirteen. She noted that there is a high usage of YouTube by the students. Ms. Kelley noted that she informs the students that phones can identify where an individual is and highlights for them how much information a phone can provide to the outside world. She noted that there is a focus on teaching students to be critical consumers and how to be cautious on Social Media. Ms. Kelley commented that students are in touch all the time, noting that relationship building now often happens on the internet. Ms. Kelley noted that students are taught to understand target advertising and noted that target advertising is not allowed in schools.

8. Unfinished Business

8.1 Adopt Line Item Budget Approved at Referendum on May 8, 2018

Wes Skorski made a motion that the Board adopt the FY 2018-19 line-item budget, in the amount of \$7,294,497, as voted on at the May 8, 2018 referendum. The motion was seconded by Dr. Judithe Kaplan.

Discussion:

Ms. Rapelye commented that she is thrilled that the budget passed but noted that she is upset at the cuts that were made, noting her concern that the capital items needed to maintain the school were cut. Ms. Rapelye commented that she is not sure that there is awareness in the Community regarding the cuts that were made.

The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

9. New Business

9.1 Review May Financial Report (distributed at the meeting)

Dr. Sklarz reviewed the May report. He noted a deficit under line item 112 Substitute Teachers, noting maternity leaves, etc. Dr. Sklarz noted that there is a balance for line item 112 Paraeducators because a position was not filled. He noted that there may be some slight changes to line item 330 Staff Development. He noted that they need to be cautious

about legal fees with upcoming negotiations. Dr. Sklarz noted a deficit in line item 730 New/Rep Equip-Instr, noting that there was a need for specific accommodations to meet the needs of a student. Dr. Sklarz noted that the budget freeze continues, noting that they are making every effort to keep a balanced budget. Ms. Rapelye noted her concern regarding the perception that a fund balance may present to the community and questioned why balances are not being utilized to fund the needs now. Dr. Sklarz noted that there continues to be items that need to be addressed before the end of the year, including security camera installations, updates to the sound system and fob entry updates. Dr. Sklarz noted the use of MECCA Rental Fees was approved to fund a new telephone system to ensure they are meeting the safety needs of the school. Mr. Skorski asked for an approximate cost of the new system. Dr. Sklarz noted that it is proposed at under \$20k.

Ms. Concodello asked for an update on the sewer system. Dr. Sklarz noted that the distributor reported that the stripper being utilized on the floors is not alcohol based. He noted that they are waiting for a final report to see what is causing the issue with the sewer system, noting that a decision regarding the use of barrels needs to be made by July 2018.

10. Public Comments

Joe Concodello, Millstone Drive, commented that as a citizen he would like to know what is causing the issues with the sewer line at the school.

11. Communications

11.1 Staff Vacancy Summary

12. Future Meetings & Topics

12.1 Variety Show, Thursday, May 31, 2018, 6:30pm. Community Room

12.2 Sixth Grade Promotion, Thursday, June 21, 2018, 10am, Community Room

12.3 Next Regular Business Meeting, Thursday June 28, 2018, 7:00 pm

13. Executive Session: Personnel-Superintendent's Evaluation

Louise Concodello made a motion to go into Executive Session: Personnel-Superintendent's Evaluation at 8:37 p.m. The motion was seconded by Susan Rapelye and carried by a unanimous vote.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 9:25 p.m.

14. Adjournment

Logan Tyler made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 p.m. The motion was seconded by Wes Skorski and carried by a unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted

Karen DeCorleto