

**MARION SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MARION PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Marion, Massachusetts**

May 25, 2022

**MEETING HELD VIA HYBRID FORMAT
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

Regular meeting of the Marion School Committee was held on Wednesday – May 25, 2022 and called to order by Chairperson Nye, at 6:30 pm.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: April Nye, Chairperson, Mary Beauregard, Nichole Nye McGaffey, Nichole Daniel (arrived at 7:05 p.m.) and Michelle Smith (via zoom).

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

OTHERS PRESENT: Michael S. Nelson (in-person), Superintendent of Schools, Jannell Pearson Campbell (in-person), Assistant Superintendent of Teaching & Learning, Howard Barber (in-person), Assistant Superintendent of Finance & Operations, Craig Davidson (in-person), Director of Student Services, Marla Sirois (in-person), Principal, Sippican School; staff; parents; members of the press and public; and, Diana Russo, Recording Secretary – all participated via zoom.

Chairperson Nye, stated in accordance with Massachusetts Open Meeting Law, the agenda has been set, the meeting is being video-taped, and unless there are any emergencies that need to be added, the agenda will be followed as outlined. Chairperson Nye read the following statement: *This meeting will be conducted in a hybrid format. School Committee and Administrators will have the option of meeting in person at the Superintendent's Office Conference Room located at 135 Marion Road, Mattapoisett, MA 02739 or via zoom. Public Access is available through zoom through the link posted on the posted agenda.*

Chairperson Nye asked for a moment of silence to honor the children and teachers lost yesterday in the horrible tragedy at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas.

SCHOOL CHOICE HEARING

Chairperson Nye opened the school choice hearing at 6:32

Superintendent Nelson welcomed the newest member Nichole Nye McGaffey to the school Committee and thanked her for putting her name in as a write in and serving the town and children of Marion.

Superintendent Nelson explained that the point of the School Choice Hearing is to really to look to see if Marion School Committee is interested in accepting or enrolling any students from outside of Marion to the Sippican School for the upcoming school year. Mr. Nelson explained that historically Marion has not participated in the School Choice program and based on the current enrollment trends the administration is not making the recommendation to participate in the school choice program for the upcoming school year.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE FEEDBACK: Ms. Beauregard inquired about how many schools in our district participate in school choice. Supt. Nelson explained that Mattapoisett Public Schools

currently participates and currently has 12 school choice slots where they enroll students in grades K or grade 1 and ORR also participates in the school choice program.

PUBLIC COMMENT: NONE

School choice hearing was closed at 6:34 p.m.

I. Approval of Minutes:

A. Minutes

1. Regular Meeting Minutes – April 13, 2022

MOTION: by Ms. Beauregard to accept the meeting minutes of April 13, 2022 as presented

SECONDED: Ms. Smith

ROLL CALL: 3:1 Smith: yes, Beauregard: yes, Nye McGaffey: abstained, Nye: yes,

IV. General

A. School Choice Vote

The recommendation from the administration is that the school committee decline the option to participate in the school choice program for the 2022-2023 school year.

MOTION: by Ms. Beauregard to not participate in school choice for the 2022-2023 school year

SECONDED: by Ms. Smith

ROLL CALL: 4:0 Smith: yes, Beauregard: yes, Nye McGaffey: yes, Nye: yes

B. Approval of School Committee Dates for the 2022-2023 School Year

Mr. Nelson suggested that the school committee approve the following dates for the 2022-2023 school year: September 14, October 26, December 7, 2022, January 11, March 8, April 12, May 10, and June 14, 2023. Mr. Nelson reported that these are the dates that we set in advance, however if anything happens and we need to set other dates we will reach out to the committee to do so.

MOTION: by Ms. Beauregard to approve the school committee dates as presented for the 2022-2023 school year

SECONDED: by Ms. Nye McGaffey

ROLL CALL: 4:0 Smith: yes, Beauregard: yes, Nye McGaffey: yes, Nye: yes

V. New Business

C. Business

1. Financial Report

Mr. Barber presented the following documents to the school committee

- Year to date Budget Report by Department.
- Revolving Accounts Report by Type for the Quarter ending.

Mr. Barber reported that currently, the Marion Public Schools has \$94,430 of the general funds appropriated in the 22 Fiscal Year. Mr. Barber referred the school committee to the year to date budget report by department included in the packet were all the expenses are identified. Mr. Barber reported that of the \$6,456,815 appropriated to the district, consisting of both the Marion School District and Bristol County Agricultural enrolled student operational costs 87.03% of funding spent or encumbered are directly relating to student instruction.

In addition, Mr. Barber reported on the revolving accounts of Sippican School. He reported that the revolving accounts had a balance of \$116,769 on April 30, 2022.

Mr. Barber also reported on Food Service and Facilities.

VI. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT:

Ms. Nye expressed that yesterday morning she had finalized her chairperson's reported and was excited to address everyone with positive things that were happening at Sippican School, she expressed that she couldn't wait to report that our 6th graders had recently just gone on their first field trip since the fall of 2019, they went to Treetop Adventures last Friday and they had a ball, she expressed that she was there and they had a ball, it was beautiful. I also couldn't wait to talk about the Marion Occupation Program, which has been a long standing VASE Program, which ran yesterday and we had many volunteers come in and participate for our 5th and 6th graders, so as I wrote my report early yesterday morning I was very eager to come in and report on a lot of these first that just have not happened in a long time and then of course the tragedy at Robb Elementary School happened and it just didn't seem right to come in here and talk about all of this after that tragedy happened. I would be remiss as a parent if I did not say that I too have concerns, I know that there are concerns out there, but I also know that as a district we are working with local agencies to try to support our children, as well as our teachers and our administrators and I thank you all for that. She expressed that school committee has received a lot of questions from concerned parents. Ms. Nye thanked the Supt. for the email he sent out to the school community yesterday and she wanted to report to everyone that we are working on things moving forward.

CENTRAL OFFICE ADMINSTRATOR'S REPORT:

Superintendent Nelson expressed that writing the type of emails that were sent out to the school community last night is the hardest part of his job, but I think it's important to acknowledge when another school community goes through a difficult event such as the one that just took place at Robb Elementary School. He expressed that it's important to validate how individuals are feeling and also reinforce a sense of security to the best of our ability. He expressed that we do have strong partnerships in our three Towns with our local police departments and first responders, we have established security protocols and emergency preparedness plans in place and we do our best to train our staff, administrators and students for unknown situations but at the end of the day there's always that worry and that anxiety and we will continue to do our best to listen to parents/guardians and experts in terms of doing everything we can for our students and staff members not only at Sippican but all our other schools.

Mr. Nelson thanked the voters of Marion for supporting the Marion School Budget for the FY23 School Year as well as the Capital Projects, Mr. Nelson expressed that he's very thankful to have the partnership with the Town of Marion and the Town Officials. Mr. Nelson also wanted to thank the Town of Marion for their support of the Regional FY23 Budget. Mr. Nelson also gave a reported regarding COVID-19 data, COVID-19 protocols and also the COVID-19 Testing Program.

Dr. Jannell Pearson-Campbell – Assistant Superintendent of Teaching & Learning – reported the following:

Just today the Office of Teaching and Learning hosted the end of the year celebration for first year educators who participated in the Mentoring program and also educators who participated in the Mentoring Past the First Year program. We share stories and celebrate our educators. Building administrators along with mentors and mentees celebrate with a parting gift and celebratory snacks.

The Old Rochester Regional School District MA Superintendency Union #55 2022/2023 Professional Development Plan was approved by the Joint School Committee on Tuesday, May 10th. The Plan will be printed and shared with the Marion School District. It will also be shared on each school's website.

We are also planning for the last half day of professional development on June 1st. The topic is transition planning for next year to support our diverse learners.

Mr. Craig Davidson – Director of Student Services reported the following:

Kindergarten readiness screenings were held today and will finish up tomorrow, our kindergarten families and the screening is ended with a bus ride which is always a hit for students and parents.

Summer Expansion Grant:

There was nearly \$9 million requested with only \$5 million available to award. It was a very competitive grant process and because of an abundance of interest by districts, Funding requests were reduced and no awards were made greater than \$100K to any individual school district. We received notification from the governor's office that each of our four school districts received \$50k to expand our current summer programming with a focus on the Social emotional well-being and the growth of students. We will be releasing more information on this topic to our Tri-Town Families in the upcoming weeks but felt it was important to share here tonight and start spreading the word amongst our communities.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Ms. Sirois, Principal of Sippican School reported the following:

Spring has truly sprung! There is excitement in the air as our spring traditions begin!

1. Acceleration Roadmap: We continue using data in different ways! Parents have been asked for input regarding placement for next year and staff members and students are completing spring assessments so that we can begin placement for next year!
2. MCAS: The end is near. We have a handful of make-up tests for students to complete. We will be COMPLETELY finished by the end of the week.
3. Project Grow: Our GROW students are getting ready for summer! Here comes the sun(s)!
4. Grade 1: Our grade 1 students have been busy learning about everything from graphing to seeds! They have grown SO much this year!
5. Grade 3: A sure sign of spring! Insects too! New life is everywhere!
6. Grade 4: Students read the story, Scribble Stones. This is a heartwarming story about a little stone who was able to spread kindness to the world! Check out the grade 4 Scribble Stones:
7. Grade 6: Our grade 6 students and their FEARLESS leaders took a trip to Tree Top Adventures in Canton. It was a day filled with fun and bonding. A huge shout out the Grade 6 Parent Group and the teachers for making this day such a huge success.
8. VASE: In May we celebrated Teacher Appreciation month. I can't give enough thank you's to our school community for supporting the staff at Sippican. We had great food, company AND some amazing raffle items!
9. Garden Club: The Garden Club is actively cleaning out the beds and planting. We look forward to the beauty of the plants this summer and the bounty coming our way in the fall.
10. Lunch: We are FINALLY back in the cafeteria AND the MPR is up and running for assemblies and ALL that is intended for.
11. School Council: At our April meeting, we took the time to review our SIP to see where we stand on Year 1 of 2 of the present plan. At our final meeting in June we will preview Year 2 of the plan and make adjustments based on things that may need more time next year. There are also action items from Year 2 that have been completed ahead of schedule.
12. Art: It's clay time! Check out the beautiful work Mrs. Kirk has done with the children. They have built bobble heads, planters, mugs classic paper weights.
13. Music: Spring concerts are upon us. Grade 4 had their concert last week. Another WOW! They have come so far. Grades 5 and 6 have their concerts this week. Our marching band will be performing at the Memorial Day parade next week.
14. Library: Thanks to Jessica Barrett for bringing storyteller Len Cabral to Sippican. The children enjoyed participating in the storytelling and they were even given some ideas about

becoming storytellers in their own families. Shout out to the Marion Cultural Council and VASE for bringing this opportunity to our students.

For more information, please refer to “MSC 05252022 Principal Report”.

VIII. School Committee

A. Committee Reports

1. Budget Sub-Committee – Mr. Nelson reported that the Marion Budget had been approved at the Town Meeting and thanked everyone for their support for getting the Budget passed.
2. Building Committee – Mr. Nelson reported that the capital projects have also been approved at Town Meeting and that Mr. Jones is eager to get started on them.
3. ORR District School Committee- Ms. Beauregard attended the last meeting in Ms. Smith’s place and she reported that the committee reviewed a Fair Share Amendment, we also approved an overseas trip and then Mr. Gonet, the student representative had some parting words for the school committee and his accomplishments were also celebrated.
4. SMEC – Ms. Smith reported they will meet on May 31st.
5. Early Childhood Council- NONE, Ms. Daniel was not present.
6. READS – Mr. Nelson reported that READS has not met.
7. Tri-Town Education Foundation – NONE, Ms. Daniel was not present.
8. Policy Sub Committee – Ms. Beauregard reported that they met on May 4th, reviewed the Advertising in Schools Policy, they also read through the fiscal policies that have been updated by MASC.
9. School Council – Ms. Sirois reported that they met in April and reviewed the School Improvement Plan and they will meet again in June.
10. Equity Sub-Committee- Ms. Beauregard reported that they met last night and had some real discussions about what and where we want this committee to go and what we need to get done, at our next meeting all committee members will bring back some ideas and goals that they want to accomplish for the next school year.

IX. Future Business

A. Timeline

The next meeting(s) of Committee will be held as follows:

<u>Marion School Committee</u>	<u>Joint School Committee</u>
June 15, 2022 @ 6:30pm	June 23, 2022 @ 6:30pm

X. Open Comments –

Tara Tracey – *“Hi everyone I just want to start off by saying thank you for everything you’ve done for our children in the last two years and the commitment that you guys make to them. I know everyone was saddened about what happened in Texas yesterday, this is something that I’ve thought about since I attended the Project Grow two years ago and learned about the “shelter in place”, I was like why don’t we have a police officer here and I just kind of put it on the back burner and life got busy, it’s been in the back of my mind but yesterday really reiterated for me the importance of having a police officer serve in our school and having a resource. I think it’s better to be proactive than reactive. We don’t live in a bubble, we had a threat against Sippican School probably about a month ago. There have been other schools who have had assaults against teachers, unfortunately this isn’t the world we grew up in, and I think we need to take every safety precaution possible to protect our children, to protect our staff and our community. I just want that to be a topic that is discussed and looking at how us as a community can make that happen. I don’t see one negative thing about this, I think it can only build the relationship between the law enforcement and children at this young age, it will build that open dialogue and safety that they can feel that they can turn to police. Thank you for everything and thank you for allowing me to speak.”*

Noelle Stork - "Thank you, I'm also here to speak about having a School Resource Officer at Sippican School. I won't repeat what the last speaker said, because everything she said I agree with whole heartedly. My husband is a police officer and my mom is a retired teacher so I'm very passionate about this, lots of the communities around us have school resource officers, there's just no reason for us not to have one. I don't know if there's a debate about this, but there really shouldn't be, this really can happen anywhere, we live in such a great community and we are so blessed, and everything you guys do for the kids is so amazing, but this can happen anywhere and our teachers shouldn't be put in a position where they're the people that have to protect, we should have a first responder on site at all times and I just beg that you guys please consider doing this and figure out a way to do that.

Chairperson Nye thanked Tara and Noelle for attending the meeting and also for their comments.

Ms. Daniel arrived at the meeting at this time and went into executive session.

MOTION: by Ms. Beauregard to go in to Executive Session at 7:12 p.m. for the Purpose of #3 and #7 to return only to adjourn

SECONDED: Ms. Smith

ROLL CALL: 5:0 Smith: yes, Beauregard: yes, Nye McGaffey: yes, Nye: yes, Daniel: yes

MOTION: by Ms. Beauregard to come out of Executive Session at 7:49 p.m. to return to the regular meeting

SECONDED: Ms.

ROLL CALL: 5:0 Smith: yes, Beauregard: yes, Nye McGaffey: yes, Nye: yes, Daniel: yes

ADJOURN

MOTION: by Ms. Daniel to adjourn at 7:50

SECONDED: Ms. Beauregard

ROLL CALL: 5:0 Smith: yes, Beauregard: yes, Nye McGaffey: yes, Nye: yes, Daniel: yes

**Respectfully Submitted,
Diana Russo**