

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

April 13, 2022

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

Regular meeting of the Marion School Committee was held on Wednesday – April 13, 2022 and called to order by Chairperson Nye, at 6:30 pm.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: April Nye, Chairperson, Mary Beauregard, and Christine Marcolini, Michelle Smith (via zoom) and Nichole Daniel (all other members were in person).

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: NONE

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, Peter Crisafulli (in-person), Asst. 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.*

MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 6:30 P.M.

Chairperson Nye reported that Executive Session would be moved to the beginning of the meeting.

MOTION: by Ms. Smith to go in to Executive Session at 6:31 p.m. for the Purpose of #3 and #7 – to return and continue regular meeting

SECONDED: Ms. Beauregard

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

Superintendent requested that Ms. Diana Russo and Attorney Timothy Zessin also join executive session.

MOTION: by Ms. Beauregard to come out of Executive Session at 7:05 p.m. to return to the regular meeting

SECONDED: Ms. Marcolini

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

I. Approval of Minutes:

A. Minutes

1. Regular Meeting Minutes – March 9, 2022

MOTION: by Ms. Beauregard to accept the meeting minutes of March 9, 2022 as presented

SECONDED: Ms. Smith

ROLL CALL: 4:1 Smith: yes, Beauregard: yes, Marcolini: abstained, Nye: yes, Daniel: yes

Regular Meeting Minutes – March 30, 2022

MOTION: by Ms. Marcolini to accept the meeting minutes of March 30, 2022 as presented

SECONDED: Ms. Beauregard

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

IV. General

A. Acceptance of Grant (Marion Cultural Council)

Chairperson Nye introduced Ms. Jessica Barrett who applied for this grant on behalf of the school. Ms. Barrett explained that every year the teaching staff in Marion is invited to submit grant proposals to the Marion Cultural Council and this time we applied to bring to Sippican “Len Cabral” who is an internationally acclaimed storyteller, who has been enchanting audiences with his storytelling performances at schools, libraries, museums and festivals since 1976. Ms. Barrett reported that Mr. Cabral’s storytelling of folktales also connects to part of the first grade ELA curriculum which focuses on folktales and the story of folktales. She explained that during library classes for years they have embraced that theme during the Winter and Spring months and read folktales from both the United States and all around the world. She expressed that they use google earth to see all the different locations, we make a personalized map so that the children can track all of the places that we visit. She explained that as we do this we are looking for similar themes in the stories in the countries, and connections between them. She expressed that we teach them that folktales are oral traditions that have been passed down from person to person through the means of storytelling and what better way to make this real for our children then to host a real life storyteller. She expressed that it’s been a number of years since Sippican has been able to have one, she expressed that Len is local, he lives right over the border in Rhode Island and one of his books “How the Rabbit Lost Its’ Tale” is one of the folktales being featured. Ms. Barrett reported that in February she heard back from the Marion Cultural Council that they are partially funding their grant which is wonderful news and the remainder of the budget was covered through the performing arts budget with VASE. She expressed that Sippican is scheduled to host Len on Thursday, May 5th for two performances, the first performance will be for grades 2 and 3 and the second performance will be for grades K and 1. She would like to thank the Marion Cultural Council for choosing to partially fund this project/grant, she thinks it’s going to be fantastic for the kids and a big thank you to VASE for wanting to provide that additional money to fill the remaining cost.

Ms. Daniel expressed that Len Cabral is a great storyteller, she expressed that she works in Dartmouth and he has come to Dartmouth yearly and the children really enjoy him.

Ms. Nye thanked Ms. Barret for writing and applying for this grant on behalf of the students at Sippican and she also wanted to publicly thank the Marion Cultural Council for awarding the grant and also thank VASE for helping to offset the costs, she expressed that it’s a great opportunity for the children.

Mr. Nelson also thanked Ms. Barret for presenting this initiative and also the Marion Cultural Council and VASE for their contributions.

MOTION: by Ms. Daniel to accept grant donation of \$500 from The Marion Cultural Council as presented

SECONDED: by Ms. Marcolini

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

B. Anti-Racism Sub-Committee Name Change

Mr. Nelson expressed that this request came from the Anti-Racism Sub-Committee and that the committee is requesting that the School Committee take official action to change the sub-committee name from Anti-Racism Sub-Committee to Equity Sub-Committee. Mr. Nelson expressed that Ms. Beauregard serves on the Anti-Racism Sub-Committee, Mr. Davidson has a more detailed description of the request.

Mr. Davidson reported the following:

On October 5th of 2020 the Old Rochester Regional School District MA Superintendency Union #55 our first ever Anti-Racism Subcommittee meeting. At that time, we started with school committee representatives, administrations and a few community stakeholders. Since that time we have grown in numbers by recruiting students and staff from the buildings, working with our outside consultant - Christina Brown and creating co-chair positions.

During the last year and half we have had discussions about the vision of the subcommittee, heard from community members, ran student focus groups, and went through a potential subcommittee name changing process with our subcommittee. We are here tonight to share the recommendation that came from the process under the guidance of our consultant and co-chairs and discuss next steps in the process.

As a result, from that process the recommendation to our school committee is to change the current subcommittee name from the anti-racism subcommittee to:

The Equity Subcommittee

Celebrating and supporting Inclusion, Diversity and Belonging

MOTION: by Ms. Daniel to approve the name change for the Anti-Racism Sub-Committee (to the Equity Sub-Committee)

SECONDED: by Ms. Marcolini

ROLL CALL: 5:0 Smith: yes, Beauregard: yes, Marcolini: yes, Nye: yes, Daniel: 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 \$383,805 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 where 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 \$91,487.33 on March 31, 2022.

Mr. Barber also reported on Food Service and Facilities.

VI. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT:

Ms. Nye dedicated her Chairperson's Report to Ms. Marcolini, this will be Ms. Marcolini's last

school committee meeting. Ms. Nye wanted to thank her for stepping in when there was a need, she expressed that Ms. Marcolini willingly volunteered to serve over the last year, especially during a time when things were crazy and unstable during the pandemic and you took on another major challenge which was to get involved with school committee, while already serving on another school so for that we are forever grateful. Ms. Nye expressed that Ms. Marcolini has set the bar in her previous position on this school committee and the committee is thankful to her for everything she has done.

Ms. Marcolini expressed that it's been a privilege to serve on the Marion School Committee, she thanked Ms. Nye for all her leadership as a Chairperson.

CENTRAL OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Mr. Nelson also thanked Ms. Marcolini for serving for the past year, he expressed that he remembers when he heard that she was stepping in that he had a great sense of relief and comfort, just in terms of knowing the way that she leads and make sure that everyone feels heard and what's best for children.

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

The Office of Teaching and Learning has received approval from the MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education for the District's ELL Audit Continuous Improvement Plan. This is part of being identified as a Tier 1 district. Evidence was added to the DESE Portal and parents and guardians have received a language survey to support all families. We submitted the documentation on April 11, 2022. The next upload of our progress reports will be on July 11, 2022. The Instructional Council Team sent Needs Assessment Google Surveys to staff, students and parents and guardians for feedback to support the creation of the 2022-2023 Professional Development Plan. We are in the process of reviewing the data. The draft Professional Development Plan will be reviewed for approval at the Joint School Committee meeting later this month.

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

- April Acceleration Academy is coming during April vacation, we still have slots available, it will be help at Sippican School. We are very proud to be running the Academy with all Tri-Town Staff. Mr. Davidson also reported that a competitive grant has been submitted for an extension of the SAIL Summer Program and they are waiting to hear from DESE.
- Special Education Transition meetings between Sippican and Jr. High School, where liaisons from both buildings meet to review the needs of students transitioning to 7th grade. Mr. Davidson reported that this year they have increased the number of meetings to make sure that the transition is seamless.
- Community Talks Series: Part 4, which is the partnership between the SMEC Collaborative and Old Rochester Regional School District. Part 4 was held on April 12th and was hosted by Dr. Jesse Jackson III who talked about "How to speak to your children about cultural sensitivity? Or racial incidents that may occur at school or in the community." Dr. Jackson has been visited and trained staff at more than 1,400 schools throughout the United States and we are excited to have him here at ORR.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Mr. Crisafulli, Assistant Principal of Sippican School reported the following:

- We completed our Boosterthon Glow Run AND ELA MCAS! We are preparing for Vocabulary Day, Spring vacation AND Math MCAS!

- Acceleration Roadmap: Our acceleration camps are nearing their end. We have also been taking a deeper dive into how we use data with an equity lens. Our goal, as always, is to ensure that we are giving all students the opportunity to achieve at high levels.
- One Book One School: As you may recall, Sippican partnered with TTAR and the MAC to create a virtual art show in honor of Black History month.
- Project Grow: Our Littlest Learners have been busy at work learning about spring! Check out their frog drawings and shaving cream painting with spring colors:
- Kindergarten: Our Kindergarten students had a great time celebrating Dr. Seuss' birthday AND Read Across America. There were many THINGS popping up everywhere :)
- Grade 2: Grade 2: Some of our grade 2 students are preparing for Earth Day and they have been reminding the Sippican School Community about the importance of recycling!
- Grade 3: A sure sign of spring! Ms. McKeen has created a terrarium display of tadpoles for all to observe.
- VASE: Our volunteers have been hard at work! The Boosterthon FunRun was a HUGE success. We exceeded our goal of \$25,000! Our school community and the community at large supported VASE in raising a little over \$29,000! A Funtabulous time was had by all :)
- School Community: The larger school community continues to support us here at Sippican. We have been collaborating with ORCTV, Tabor Academy, Marion Art Center, Marion Historical Society as well as the library. These groups have supported ACE, our One Book One School Project as well as our Kindness Crew and Junior Reporters.
- Kindness Crew: Our Kindness Crew has done it again. They supplied staff with snacks and positive messaging to make us smile. We are grateful that these students continue to spread kindness every day.:
- Library and STEM/STEAM: It is book fair time! Families were invited to shop with their children and all classes attended the book fair at least once during the week.

For more information, please refer to “MSC 04132022 Principal Report”.

VIII. School Committee

A. Committee Reports

- 1. Budget Sub-Committee – Mr. Nelson reminded everyone that May 9th is the Annual Town Meeting.**
- 2. Building Committee – Mr. Nelson reported that the capital projects have been submitted to the towns and have been approved for the town warrant.**
- 3. ORR District School Committee- Ms. Smith reported that they met on March 23rd, they voted on School Choice, approved a change to the program studies at the Jr. High School and approved a senior fundraiser.**
- 4. SMEC – Ms. Smith reported they met on March 29 they reviewed the FY23 budget, personnel changes, FY23 paraprofessionals and teacher salary schedules and COLA, updated the mileage reimbursement, reviewed the FY22 operating budget and revenue projections and they have also been talking about buying additional space for the collaborative.**

5. **Early Childhood Council-** Ms. Daniel reported that updates from that meeting include preparation for the annual Week of the Young Child. Various local businesses and community partners have been offering programming all week—more details can be found at the Early Childhood Services website. We also discussed the Kindergarten School Readiness Screening process. The next Early Childhood Council Meeting will be May 18, 2022.
6. **READS -** Mr. Nelson reported that they met on March 10th and heard reports from Special Education Administrators, they also approved the School Health Unit Application to the Department of Public Health, they also talked about the revised timeline for the FY23 Budget, and they ratified a one-year extension for their current CBAs with their different staff members and lastly they approved new staff appointments since the last meeting.
7. **Tri-Town Education Foundation - NONE**
8. **Policy Sub Committee – NONE**
9. **School Council – NONE –**
10. **Anti-Racism Sub-Committee-** Ms. Beauregard reported that the Anti-Racism Subcommittee last met March 24th and heard reports from each of the school’s cultural proficiency teams. The Sippican team reported they are putting together a Latin Percussion Event in May. The teachers had social justice professional development and they will have one more. She reported that they also discussed the name change which this committee discussed earlier.

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>
May 25, 2022 @ 6:30pm	May 10, 2022 @ 6:30pm NEW DATE

X. Open Comments –

ADJOURN

MOTION: by Ms. Daniel to adjourn at 7:42

SECONDED: Ms. Marcolini

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

Respectfully Submitted,
Diana Russo