

MARION SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
Marion, Massachusetts

March 9, 2022

BY: HYBRID FORMAT - ZOOM LINK

MEETING MINUTES

Regular meeting of the Marion School Committee was held on Wednesday – March 9, 2022 and called to order by Chairperson, April Nye, at 6:31pm.

The meeting will be conducted in hybrid format. School Committee members and Administration 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 only by the link provided.

MEMBERS PRESENT: April Nye, Chairperson (In Person); Mary Beauregard (Hybrid); Nichole Daniel (In Person); Michelle Smith (Hybrid)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Christine Marcolini

OTHERS PRESENT: Michael S. Nelson, Superintendent of Schools – In Person; Jannell Pearson-Campbell – Assistant Superintendent of Teaching & Learning – In Person; Craig Davidson, Director of Student Services- In Person; Howard Barber – Assistant Superintendent of Finance & Operations – In Person; Marla Sirois, Principal, Sippican School- In Person; Peter Crisafulli, Assistant Principal, Sippican School – In Person, Toni Bailey, Recording Secretary – In Person; teachers; staff; parents; members of the press and public – Remote

Chairperson, April 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.

MEETING TO ORDER

FY23 PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING

Superintendent – Michael S. Nelson stated the following:

“Good evening everyone. Tonight our first order of business is the FY23 Budget Public Hearing for the Marion School District.

The budget development process started in late fall/early winter and required numerous meetings to strategize the financial direction of Sippican School moving forward.

Our school committee representatives, Christine Marcolini and Michelle Smith, listened to our building administration share their vision for our school building moving into next year and collaborated with central office administrators, the town administrator, the assistant town administrator, and FINCOM representation, to bring forth tonight’s FY23 Budget Proposal.

During the budget development process, we assessed and considered the current financial climate, our immediate school programming needs, discussed what needs we may have in future years, and prioritized what we know about the educational needs of our students, their families, and our staff members, as we head into the 2022-2023 school year.

As a result tonight, Mr. Barber our Assistant Superintendent of Finance & Operations will present our FY23 Budget Proposal. We feel this budget represents not only a fiscally responsible proposal, but also a budget that allows us to continue to service our students and families as well as meeting Sippican School's educational expectations. I want to thank all those who have contributed to this process and Mr. Barber for his financial leadership throughout the entire development of the budget proposal.

Howard Barber – Assistant Superintendent of Finance & Operations presented the proposed Fiscal Year 2023 Operating Budget and stated we created a budget focusing on the needs of our students.

Mr. Barber noted the Budget Methodology and Goals of the proposed budget were:

- To Provide a Zero Based Budgetary Method (starting from scratch)
- To Provide a Cost Effective Programming and Staffing
- To Forecast Operational Needs
- To Achieve Administrative and Departmental Based Goals
- Continuation of All Funds Budget Approach

Mr. Barber stated the Superintendent's Proposed FY2023 total Operations Budget is:

FY22 Budget	\$ 6,700,895
FY23 Budget	\$ 6,965,996
Increase:	\$ 265,101
Net Percent Increase:	3.96%

Superintendent's Proposed FY2023 Overall Operations Budget
As of March 9, 2022

Department Description	Marion School District FY2023	Bristol County Agricultural FY2023	Total General Funds FY2023	Funding Offsets FY2023	Overall Budget FY2023
Central Office	\$ 214,858	\$	\$ 214,858	\$	\$ 214,858
Student Serv	\$ 767,402	\$	\$ 767,402	\$ 87,059	\$ 854,461
Transportation	\$ 453,100	\$	\$ 453,100	\$	\$ 453,100
Technology	\$ 122,272	\$	\$ 122,272	\$ 11,245	\$ 133,517
Facilities	\$ 377,275	\$	\$ 377,275	\$ 90,000	\$ 467,275
BC Agricultural	\$	\$ 72,646	\$ 72,646	\$	\$ 72,646
Sippican	\$ 4,553,532	\$	\$ 4,553,532	\$ 216,606	\$4,770,138
Total FY23	\$ 6,488,440	\$ 72,646	\$ 6,561,086	\$ 404,910	\$6,965,996
Total FY22	\$ 6,330,071	\$ 126,744	\$ 6,456,815	\$ 244,080	\$6,700,895
DIFFERENCE	\$ 158,369	\$ (54,098)	\$ 104,271	\$ 160,830	\$ 265,101
%	102.5018	57.32%	101.61%	165.89%	103.96%

Mr. Barber stated alternative budgetary resources that are available to reduce the Assessments (Funding Offsets) are:

Title 1 Grant	\$ 21,000	
IDEA Grant	\$ 92,331	
State Grants	\$ 5,500	
Circuit Breaker	\$ 87,059	
Building Use	\$ 35,000	
Revolving Funds	\$ 30,000	
ESSER Funds	<u>\$ 134,020</u>	(Note: one time type of cost/funding)
TOTAL OFFSETS:	\$ 404,910	

Mr. Barber stated the Superintendent’s proposed FY2023 Assessment for Sippican’s School Budget is:

FY23 Proposed Budget	\$ 6,488,440
FY22 Approved Budget	\$ 6,330,071
DIFFERENCE OF:	\$ 158,369 (Net Percent Increase of 2.5018%)

Mr. Barber stated the Superintendent’s Priorities and Strategies included in the proposed budget amount of \$6,488,440 are:

- Utilized a Zero Based Budgeting Process
- Analyzed Operational Costs
- Reviewed Mandated Costs

Mr. Barber stated the changes to this proposed budget includes proposed staffing changes as follows:

- 1 FTE – Increase of one Special Education Early Ed Paraprofessional (Early Childhood Program)
- 0.4 FTE – Increase in Social Worker (moved the .6 social worker to full-time)
- 1 FTE – Interventionist (Grant Funded)
- 1 FTE – Lunch Aide (Grant Funded)

Mr. Nelson stated the addition of a Special Ed Early Ed Paraprofessional is for the Project Grow class, based off of individual needs that we know of.

Principal Marla Sirois noted in regards to the “Interventionist” they are looking for someone who could support both math and reading, however the main focus would be on math – they already have a reading interventionist.

Mr. Barber noted other personnel service financial changes (that are operating costs, not salary based) are:

Student Services:

Contracted Student Support Services	-	Decrease of	\$23,000
Tuition Based Programs	-	Decrease of	\$30,000
Includes increased Circuit Breaker Offset by \$25,000)			
Speech Therapy Services	-	Increase of	\$27,500

Facilities:

Utility Costs	-	Decrease of	\$30,000
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Transportation:

Collaborative Education Transportation Costs-		Increase of	\$22,000
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Mr. Barber noted the following shows the Superintendent’s Proposed FY2023 increase in detail as follows:

Department	FY2023	FY2022	Change
Central Office	\$ 214,858	\$ 202,931	\$ 11,927
Student Services	\$ 767,402	\$ 793,654	\$ (26,252)
Transportation	\$ 453,100	\$ 434,600	\$ 18,500
Technology	\$ 122,272	\$ 112,137	\$ 10,135
Facilities	\$ 377,275	\$ 398,546	\$ (21,271)
Sippican	\$4,553,533	\$4,388,203	\$ 165,330
Total Budget	\$6,488,440	\$6,330,071	\$ 158,369 = 2.5018% increase

Mr. Barber stated Bristol County Agricultural High School (BCAHS) is separate from Sippican's building budget and noted the following:

Tuition	-	Decrease of	\$64,200
(Enrollment reduction of 3 students)			
Transportation Costs	-	Increase of	\$ 4,700
Debt Obligation	-	Increase of	\$ 5,400

Mr. Barber stated based on October 1, 2021 enrollment, there is only one student from Marion attending BCAHS and noted the Superintendent's Proposed FY2023 Bristol County Agricultural HS Budget looks as follows:

Department Description	Bristol County Agricultural High School		
	FY2023	FY2022	Change
Tuition	\$ 22,245	\$ 86,453	\$ (64,208)
Transportation	\$ 45,000	\$ 40,291	\$ 4,709
Debt Obligation (Per student count 10/1)	\$ 5,401	\$ -	\$ 5,401
Total Budget	\$ 72,646	\$ 126,744	\$ (54,098)

Mr. Barber noted the projected Governor's Proposed Aid for FY2023 is:

- \$1,041,767 (19.41% State Aid increase)
- Including a minimum of \$30 per student
- Net increase of \$169,333 from FY2022

Mr. Barber noted the following:

FY22 – Student Enrollment - 403; Chapter 70 Aid total:	\$ 872,434
Fy23 – Student Enrollment – 409; Chapter 70 Aid total:	\$ 1,041,767
Difference:	\$ 169,333 (19.41%)

Mr. Barber stated the Assessments to the Town of Marion for Sippican Elementary School and Bristol County Agricultural High School is:

❖ FY22 Approved Budget	\$ 6,456,816
❖ FY23 Proposed Budget	\$ 6,561,086
❖ INCREASE OF:	\$ 104,271 (1.61% increase)

Mr. Barber concluded stating the Marion School District "Working FY23 Superintendent's Budget" as of March 9, 2022 is:

Department	FY2023	FY2022	Change
Central Office	\$ 214,858	\$ 202,931	\$ 11,927
Student Services	\$ 767,402	\$ 793,654	\$ (26,252)
Transportation	\$ 453,100	\$ 434,600	\$ 18,500
Technology	\$ 122,272	\$ 112,137	\$ 10,135
Facilities	\$ 377,275	\$ 398,546	\$ (21,271)
Bristol County Agri	\$ 72,646	\$ 126,744	\$ (59,499)
Sippican	\$ 4,553,533	\$ 4,388,203	\$ 165,330
Total Budget:	\$6,561,086	\$6,456,815	\$ 104,271 (1.61% increase)

Mr. Nelson extended a "thank you" to everyone throughout the process and stated it is important to know that typically when we begin a budget process, we put everything on the table in terms of all the things that we want for our students, families and staff members and the percentages are much higher than what the town will support in one year. Mr. Nelson stated a lot has gone into what we have presented today and he wanted to acknowledge and thank everyone, including the school committee members who served on the committee, as well as the FinCom liaison, Shay Assad, who attended each and every meeting.

Chairperson Nye extended a “thank you” to Mr. Barber and his staff for the work they put into this, as well as Principal Sirois who brought this proposal early to the school committee compared to previous years. Ms. Nye also extended a “thank you” to Michelle Smith and Christine Marcolini for their work as school committee members in their roll of getting this done.

Question(s)/Comment(s) by School Committee Members:

Nichole Daniel:

Do we have to bring this for approval before the Town under the Proposition 2.5?

Mr. Barber stated no – the overall percentage increase is well under a 2.5% increase - noting it is at a 1.61% total increase, which includes Bristol County Agricultural High School. Mr. Barber noted the school’s budget is only a piece of the puzzle – the Town also looks at the Police Department, Fire Department, etc. for a combined total of everything.

Michelle Smith:

Ms. Smith stated the budget looks great and Mr. Barber did a wonderful job and was very precise on his presentation so that anyone is able to understand it. Ms. Smith stated it was great working with the Administrative team – they came in with the priorities they thought were important and we talked about the budget from there – the process went well.

Nichole Daniel:

Were funds allocated again this year (from the state-grant funded program) for the summer “Accelerated” classes –will they be able to be held this summer?

Mr. Nelson stated what we know this far is that they are going to offer another larger competitive grant this summer and we will put our applications in for these grant funds once again.

Question(s)/Comment(s) by the Public:

None

The Public Hearing closed at 7:04pm

I. Approval of Minutes

A.1. Regular Minutes

Recommendation:

That the School Committee review and approve the minutes of January 12, 2022.

MOTION: by Michelle Smith to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of January 12, 2022 as presented.

SECONDED: Mary Beaugard

ABSTAINED: Nichole Daniel

OPPOSED: None

MOTION PASSED – 3:0

Roll Call: Nichole Daniel – Abstained; Mary Beaugard – yes; Michelle Smith – yes; April Nye - yes

A.2. Executive Session Minutes

Recommendation:

That the School Committee review and approve the minutes of January 12, 2022.
These minutes will be approved during Executive Session

IV. General

A. FY23 Budget Approval

Recommendation:

That the School Committee approve the FY23 Budget.

MOTION: by Nichole Daniel to approve the Proposed Fiscal Year June 30, 2023 Total Operating Budget in the amount of \$6,561,086 for the Marion School District, inclusive of the Sippican Elementary School of \$6,488,440 and the Bristol County Agricultural High School of \$67,245 for Tuition and Transportation and \$5,401 for new Debt Obligation

SECONDED: Michelle Smith

OPPOSED: None

MOTION PASSED – 4:0

Roll Call: Nichole Daniel – yes; Mary Beauregard – yes; Michelle Smith – yes; April Nye - yes

B. Tiered Focused Monitoring Audit (English Language Learners)

Recommendation:

That the School Committee hear a report from Administration.

Superintendent – Michael S. Nelson stated the following:

“Recently we received our report for the Tiered Focused Monitoring Audit that looks at our schools implementation of English Language Learners regulations. The Department of Education looks at relevant documentation, student records, interviews staff members and solicits parent and guardian feedback. I want to thank Assistant Superintendent Pearson-Campbell for her leadership on working through this cumbersome process and recognize the overall positive feedback that we received.”

Dr. Jannell Pearson-Campbell stated the Department of Education reviewed our records and spoke to our staff, noting we have one teacher who supports all of our ELL students. Dr. Pearson-Campbell explained that although our student(s) speak English, their parent(s) may not, and we need to think about how we are going to assist/support them when they come into our District. Dr. Pearson-Campbell stated there are 12 criteria that have to be met and we implemented eight of the twelve, with four criteria partially implemented based on a review of documents and interviews with parents/guardians, educators and staff that support English Language Learners. Dr. Pearson-Campbell noted if you look at our web page now, parents are able to translate the web page in four different languages – Portuguese, Spanish, Hindu and English and in working with Erin Bednarczyk our District Web Coordinator, any reports that are received now are translated into all of those four languages. Dr. Pearson-Campbell noted Google Surveys are now being translated in the four languages as well.

Dr. Pearson-Campbell stated the District’s Improvement Plan was submitted to DESE on February 14th and we are awaiting DESE’s approval of the Plan.

C. READS Collaborative Capital Plan Approval

Recommendation:

That the School Committee review for approval the Capital Plan. READS Collaborative Board of Directors approved the READS Capital Plan and fund limit on January 27, 2022 and requests that member school committees approve the reason for the reserve and the limit on the balance that may be held in the reserve:

Reason for the Reserve:

1. Maintenance and improvement of READS' properties and leased properties.
2. Provide funding for payment of the lease for READS Academy Public Day School location during periods of time when enrollment is below expectations.
3. Prepare to purchase the location of the Academy Public Day School to eliminate the expense of a lease beyond 10 years.

The limit on the above as approved by READS Board of Directors is \$4,000,000 for the reasons identified. READS Collaborative put together a video that can also be watched by school committee explaining the plan. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ADio17Hw5fw> Please refer to "MTSC 02282022 READS Capital Plan". The attachment includes the following supportive documents from READS:

1. The Capital Plan Approval page which requires a signature of the School Committee Chair. This page also includes the language in CMR 603:50:07(10).
2. The FY22-26 Capital Plan which is for information only. This information does not require SC approval.
3. A copy of the slide show for easy reference
4. Brochures for the Academy PreK-6 and 7-12+ schools. We will mail you tri-fold copies in color to distribute to your School Committee members as well.

Motion to approve the reasons for the READS Collaborative Capital Reserve Fund as presented and the limit of \$4,000,000 on the amount that may be held in reserve.

Superintendent Michael Nelson stated the following:

"Tonight, I am recommending that the school committee review the Capital Plan presented by READS Collaborative for approval. This plan was approved by READS Collaborative Board of Directors on January 27, 2022 and now must be approved by READS Collaborative member districts, which Mattapoissett, Rochester and Marion are member districts.

Reasons for the Capital Reserve Fund include:

- 1. Maintenance and improvement of READS' properties and leased properties.*
- 2. To provide funding for payment of the lease for READS Academy Public Day School location during periods of time when enrollment is below expectations, and*
- 3. To prepare to purchase the location of the Academy Public Day School to eliminate the expense of the lease beyond 10 years.*

The limit on the above as approved by READS Board of Directors is \$4,000,000 for the reasons previously stated."

Dr. Theresa Craig, Executive Director of READS Collaborative and Lindsey Albernaz, Business Manager of READS Collaborative, presented a brief overview of the READS programs, services and locations. The full presentation can be accessed at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ADio17Hw5fw>

Dr. Craig concluded with:

“The 18 Member Districts of READS Collaborative have provided consistent support and vision over the past 47 years. School Committee members and superintendents have sought to ensure specialized intervention for the students with disabilities, is provided by the highly qualified staff at READS Academy, READS Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program, READS Clinic, and READS District Services both in READS programs and within school districts.”

Superintendent Michael Nelson stated the following:

“Hopefully the overview, for those of you who are not familiar with READS Collaborative, will have a better understanding of the services that they provide for us. We are a member of two collaboratives – one being READS Collaborative and the other SMEC Collaborative. Their structure is a little different in terms of how they operate. READS has a Board of Directors that is comprised of the Superintendents of the Member Districts and SMEC has a Management Team that is comprised of the Director’s of Student Services.

What is important for you to know tonight is that you are not approving their Capital Plan and you are not approving a certain amount of money to be allocated to READS Capital Reserve Fund. What you are voting on is just allowing them to establish this fund and any funds that would be put into it would go through their typical budget process, which requires approval through their Board of Directors.”

Question(s)/Comment(s) by School Committee Members:

Nichole Daniel:

For READS to build the Capital Reserve Fund – will that be taking any services away from the children that currently have services?

Mr. Nelson stated no. Mr. Nelson further stated in terms of when do we pay READS Collaborative? – it’s when we can’t meet our own students’ needs here. There is no additional charge that we are now contributing to this Capital Reserve Fund. Mr. Nelson stated all we are doing is taking action to establish that. Mr. Nelson stated in terms of how they fund it, READS would have to present it within their budget process in terms of what additional revenues they may be raising based off of their services they provide. Mr. Nelson stated our contribution would only be through tuition or services that are rendered.

Mr. Nelson stated it would have to go through a budget process, which would require approval through their Board of Directors.

MOTION: by Nichole Daniel to approve the reasons for the READS Collaborative Capital Reserve Fund as presented and the limit of \$4,000,000 on the amount that may be held in reserve

SECONDED: Mary Beauregard

OPPOSED: None

MOTION PASSED – 4:0

Roll Call: Nichole Daniel – yes; Mary Beauregard – yes; Michelle Smith – yes; April Nye – yes

D. Approval of Donations

Recommendation:

That the School Committee review for the approval the following donation.

- Donation in the amount of \$1,679.74 from Lifetouch School Studios.

MOTION: by Michelle Smith to accept the donation of \$1,679.74 from Lifetouch School Studios as presented
SECONDED: Mary Beauregard
OPPOSED: None
MOTION PASSED – 4:0

Roll Call: Nichole Daniel – yes; Mary Beauregard – yes; Michelle Smith – yes; April Nye - yes

E. Student Handbook Update

Recommendation:

That the School Committee review for approval an update to the Student Handbook.

Superintendent Michael S. Nelson stated the following:

“Tonight, Principal Sirois will present an updated 2021-2022 student handbook that reflects the recent changes in COVID-19 guidance and specifically masking.”

Marla Sirois, Principal of Sippican School stated the following:

- There are a few places where there is COVID-19 language that we feel as though can come out of the handbook at this point pertaining to masking.
 - Under “Following Safety Precautions”: “masks will be worn on buses at all times – that will be deleted
 - Under “First Aid Emergencies”: there is health information that includes COVID guidance, i.e. symptoms, etc., - that will be deleted

Additional item(s) that will be updated in the handbook:

- Change of Marion School Committee’s Chairperson’s name from April Rios to April Nye
- Ms. Sirois requested that the School Council members names be updated as well

Question(s)/Comment(s) by School Committee Members:

Nichole Daniel:

She understands the reasoning for any information regarding “masking” to be removed from the handbook, however, she questioned whether all of the information regarding COVID should be removed.

Mr. Nelson stated each time the COVID-19 protocol is updated pertaining to specific scenarios – it does change. Mr. Nelson stated the Joint School Committee made it very clear that we are going to follow the guidance that is written, and we will communicate that information to our school community at large.

MOTION: by Nichole Daniel to approve the update of the Student Handbook with regard to removing COVID-19 information as well as updating the School Council member names and the Marion School Committee members titles/names (spelling of names) and positions
SECONDED: Michelle Smith
OPPOSED: None
MOTION PASSED – 4:0

Roll Call: Nichole Daniel – yes; Mary Beauregard – yes; Michelle Smith – yes; April Nye - yes

V. New Business

C. Business

1. Financial Report

Recommendation:

That the School Committee hear a report from Mr. Barber.

Mr. Barber stated the Marion School District currently has \$416,466 available of the general funds appropriated in the 2022 Fiscal Year. Per the attached Year-to-Date Budget Report by Department, we are able to identify how our funds are encumbered and expended. This report recognizes 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.

a. Revolving Account Balances

That the School Committee hear a report from Mr. Barber

Mr. Barber provided a copy of the Revolving Account Balances to the school committee members as an informational item through December 31, 2021, noting this is done on a quarterly basis.

Mr. Barber reported on the Food Service Director's Report prepared by Jill Henesey – Director of Food and Nutrition Services, as of March 2022 as follows:

- Meal participation continues to remain steady
- Nation-wide supply chain disruptions and price increases are having a significant impact on our program
 - Changes to posted menus may happen without notice. Please have patience and understanding. We will ensure that all students are provided a well-balanced, nutritious meal that meet the USDA nutrition standards
- Cost of food and supplies are continuing to increase significantly
- Service & Repairs to walk-in-freezer

Mr. Barber reported on the Facilities Director's Report prepared by Gene Jones, Director, as of March 2022 as follows:

- Completed two snow/ice removal operation
- Completed Kitchen Fire Suppression System (ANSUL) inspection
- Updated our integrated Pest Management (IPM) with State
- Completed boiler operation inspection
- Covid-19 protocols set for HVAC, Cleaning, and Sanitizing
- Conducted routine maintenance on all facility systems

Question(s)/Comment(s) by School Committee members:

Nichole Daniel:

She is happy to hear that Sippican is adding an additional lunch aide for next year seeing the numbers have doubled since the year before

April Nye:

Requested an update regarding the "Access Road"

Mr. Nelson stated he received an update by email, dated March 9 from the Town Administrator, which states the following items need to be completed by the contractor:

- An additional pavement topcoat to the road needs to be applied
- Installation of bollards
- Sidewalk at Rte. 6
- Street signs at Rte. 6
- Loam/seed and final clean-up

Mr. Nelson stated normally installation/pouring of pavement is not permitted prior to April 15; however, they will get the earliest date that they can to complete it – if the weather conditions allow – they may be able to pave sooner.

Mr. Nelson stated regarding the playground – Jodi Dickerson will be leading that project and he is aware of the timelines. Mr. Nelson stated Mr. Jones has been working with Mr. Dickerson to make sure he has the playground tools that are needed. Mr. Nelson stated it does have to be certified for ADA Compliance once it is reinstalled. Mr. Nelson stated we are putting the same playground back with hopes of some additional pieces.

April Nye extended a “thank you” to everyone involved in the project and reiterated this is an “Emergency” access road only.

VI. CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT:

Chairperson, April Nye, stated she visited Sippican this week and stated this year at the beginning of school it felt so different than last year – this year they were giggling and laughing. Ms. Nye stated it was nice to see the students smiling and being kids, as well as seeing the staff and seeing the joy back in the building. Ms. Nye stated even though masks are optional at this time, “thank you” to Principal Sirois and Assistant Principal Crisafulli for maintaining and keeping everyone safe in the building

CENTRAL OFFICE ADMINSTRATOR’S REPORT:

Superintendent, Michael Nelson, stated the following:

“Since the last time this committee met, the Joint School Committee took action to adhere to the most recent guidance issued by DESE and the Department of Public Health, and we have officially pivoted to mask optional not only within our schools but on the school buses as well. Not only are we continuing with some of our other mitigation strategies, monitoring all data points at this time, which we will continue to revisit with our health officials as things progress, we are working with all families with what their choices are and supporting them with where they are at and making sure they feel as comfortable and safe in school as possible regardless of whether they wear a mask or not. That is really the essence of being a strong school community.”

Dr. Jannell Pearson-Campbell, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching & Learning, stated the following:

- Two ½ day Professional Development days have taken place and staff had the option of choosing what PD they wanted to be a part of at their school, ie: Cultural Proficiency.
- The Instructional Council Team sent out a Google Survey to all staff, students and parents/guardians for feedback to support the creation of the 2022-2023 Professional Development Plan. Once all of the data has been received from the surveys, the Instructional Council Team will review the survey data and create the draft 2022-2023 Professional Development Plan.

Craig Davidson, Director of Student Services stated the following:

- Today marked our two-year goal cohort of teachers and educators across all of our elementary school districts who finalized the 4th and final PD on Responsive Classroom – once again at the elementary level, our staff is 100% trained in Responsive Classroom
- During February vacation, we provided a Math Acceleration Academy to over 70 Tri-Town students enrolled in grades 3 through 10. Students in grades 3-6 were at Sippican School. Students participated in engaging and dynamic Math lessons that focused on accelerating students' learning in data driven targeted areas. The Academy was free of charge for all students who participated. A second Math Acceleration Academy will be offered during April vacation.
- The Community Talks Series: On February 10, host, Jon Mattleman, a mental health counselor, presented “The Secret Lives of Teens & Tweens”. It was a dynamic and fun presentation for parents and caregivers. Part III will take place on Thursday, March 10th at 6:00 p.m. – all of these Community Talks are free of charge.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

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

- The Acceleration Roadmap camp has started which supports students needing a little more extra support in ELA and math – the camp has two days of ELA and two days of math and will continue through the middle of April

Question by Chairperson, April Nye:

How many students are participating in this camp?

Principal Sirois stated for math – there are 84 students and for ELA there are 87. Ms. Sirois stated some of the same students participate in both math and ELA. Ms. Sirois stated the teachers are teaching different grade levels from what they teach during the school day, and this gives students the opportunity to see a different face (a teacher from another grade level) and provide services to them. Ms. Sirois noted there has been positive feedback from the staff with this switch as far as teaching a different grade level.

- The One Book One School event took place in the month of February to celebrate Black History month. They partnered with Tri-town Against Racism and the Marion Art Center to create a virtual art show in honor of Black History month
Ms. Sirois stated the Marion Art Center will share this when it is complete and Erin Kirk, the art teacher, obtained approval from the illustrator of the book to put up a mural outside of the multi-purpose room (heading up to the music rooms) to commemorate the project
- Ms. Sirois extended a “thank you” to VASE for making “Winter ACE” happen in January and February and the Boosterthon FunRun kick off began this week with the staff and the “FunRun” will take place in another week noting all students will receive a Sippican T-shirt with the year “1937” logo on them
- The Concert Choir, Band and FORM Concert had their winter performances and the students did an awesome job on each
- The “Winter Reading Challenge” just ended and gold, silver and bronze medals will be awarded to children who participated. It is Sippican’s RIF distribution week to celebrate Read Across America
- At the last School Council meeting they reviewed their function as a council and they provided feedback on the PD surveys that Dr. Pearson-Campbell spoke about

Comment by Chairperson, April Nye:

Sippican School is one of the oldest recipients of RIF in the country and the Braitmayer Foundation helps support and sponsors our RIF – it is an amazing program and unfortunately a lot of schools do not participate in it any longer.

VIII. School Committee

A. Committee Reports

1. Budget Sub-Committee:

Superintendent Nelson stated they recently had their budget approved by the School Committee and we are pleased with the success of the process overall.

2. Building Committee

Chairperson Nye stated items have already been discussed.

3. ORR District School Committee

Michelle Smith stated they met on January 26 and reported the following:

- Reviewed the high school's new programs
 - Portuguese II - Level 3
 - New English classes
 - Marine Biology
- Reviewed the Tiered Focus Monitoring report

4. SMEC

Michelle Smith stated the next meeting is scheduled to take place on Tuesday, March 15

5. Early Childhood Council

Nichole Daniel stated the meeting took place on January 19 - she was not able to attend. Craig Davidson stated changes to the kindergarten registration process was discussed noting all of it will be completed in PowerSchool; and, discussions took place regarding continuing the Family Engagement Opportunities, as well as all of the playgroups that take place throughout the Tri-town. The next meeting is scheduled to take place on March 22.

6. READS

Superintendent Nelson stated their next meeting is March 10

7. Tri-Town Education Foundation

Has not met

8. Policy Sub Committee

Mary Beauregard stated they met on January 13 and reported as follows:

- Finalized the Advertising In-School Policy – it will go to the Joint SC for approval
- Reviewed the Public Comment section at school committee meetings
- Central Office updated 29 policies with updated gender terms

9. School Council

Principal Sirois already reported on this during her Principal's Report.

10. Anti-Racism Sub-Committee

Mary Beauregard stated they met on January 25 and reported as follows:

- Each building has a Cultural Proficiency Team – they heard from each of the teams and what they are doing in their buildings

- At Sippican School they are partnering with Anchor and VASE volunteers
- Talked about sharing traditions and intentional teaching in our building
- There is a Black History Month Interactive Calendar for the District with activities on it
- The Early Childhood Office is developing appropriate curriculum and literacy and creating an environment where kids can openly ask questions
- Talked about changing their sub-committee name because we have evolved from not only Anti-Racism but to more of an “Inclusion of All” (people who feel left out).
- The next meeting is scheduled to take place on March 24.

IX. Future Business

A. Timeline

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

Marion School Committee

April 13, 2022 @ 6:30pm

via zoom

Joint School Committee

April 28, 2022 @ 6:30pm

via zoom

Future Agenda Items

- Approval of Chairperson’s Annual Report
- Budget Approval (public hearings)
- School Committee Reorganization (May/June – depending on election date)
- School Choice Public Hearing (May)
- Administrator Contracts (May)
- Approval of new School Council goals (June)

X. Open Comments

Superintendent Nelson stated the Joint School Committee developed a policy for “Open Comments”, noting Open Comments section will be limited to fifteen (15) minutes unless additional time is approved by the Chairperson, and individuals are given three (3) minutes to speak. Mr. Nelson stated each individual needs to put their names into the comment section with their full name and address, and the Chairperson will recognize them. Mr. Nelson stated the school committee members takes the comment(s)/question(s) very seriously and they will go on record and it is not necessary for the school committee members to respond to any questions/comments. Mr. Nelson noted if someone wants to speak more than once, they need to be recognized by the Chairperson. Mr. Nelson stated for the public’s knowledge, any questions or comments that are added to the chat will not be answered or responded to or be part of the minutes because they have not been recognized by the Chairperson per the approved policy that governs Open Comment.

Chairperson Nye asked if there were any Open Comments – there were none.

XI. Information Items

LIST OF DOCUMENTS USED AT THE MEETING

Proposed Marion School District FY2023 Proposed Budget

Marion School Committee Meeting Agenda – March 9, 2022

Marion School Committee Meeting Minutes – January 12, 2022

READS Collaborative Power Point – Capital Plan Approval

Food Service Director’s Report – March 2022

Facilities Director’s Report – March 2022

Principal’s Report – March 9, 2022

XII. Executive Session

Recommendation:

That the School Committee enter into Executive Session for the purposes of exception #3, to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining and exception #7, to comply with the provisions of any general or special law or federal regulations

MOTION: by Nichole Daniel to go into Executive Session at 7:57pm for the Purpose of #3 and #7, and to return to the regular School Committee meeting as scheduled only to adjourn

SECONDED: Michelle Smith

IN FAVOR: All

OPPOSED: None

MOTION PASSED – 4:0

Roll Call: Nichole Daniel – yes; Mary Beauregard – yes; Michelle Smith – yes; April Nye - yes

Respectfully Submitted,

Toni M. Bailey, Recording Secretary