

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

January 12, 2022

MEETING HELD VIA ZOOM

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Regular meeting of the Marion School Committee was held on Wednesday – January 12, 2022 and called to order by Chairperson Nye, at 6:31 pm.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: April Nye, Chairperson, Mary Beaugard, and Christine Marcolini and Michelle Smith (all remote)

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: Nichole Daniel

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

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.

MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 6:31 P.M.

Chairperson Nye reported that Executive Session would be moved to the beginning of the meeting and that IV.D. would be heard first in the general section, therefore making item D now item A.

MOTION: by Ms. Smith to go in to Executive Session at 6:32 p.m. for the Purpose of #3 and #7 – to return and continue regular meeting

SECONDED: Ms. Beaugard

ROLL CALL: 4:0 Smith: yes, Beaugard: yes, Marcolini: yes, Nye: yes

MOTION: by Ms. Beaugard to come out of Executive Session at 6:43 p.m. to return to the regular meeting

SECONDED: Ms. Marcolini

ROLL CALL: 4:0 Smith: yes, Beaugard: yes, Marcolini: yes, Nye: yes

I. Approval of Minutes:

A. Minutes

1. Regular Meeting Minutes – December 1, 2021

MOTION: by Ms. Beaugard to accept the meeting minutes of December 1, 2021 as presented

SECONDED: Ms. Marcolini

ROLL CALL: 3:1 Smith: abstained, Beaugard: yes, Marcolini: yes, Nye: yes

3. Budget Sub-Committee Minutes: December 14, 2021

MOTION: by Ms. Marcolini to accept the meeting minutes of December 14, 2021 as presented

SECONDED: Ms. Marcolini

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

Budget Sub-Committee Minutes: January 6, 2022

MOTION: by Ms. Smith to accept the meeting minutes of January 6, 2022 as presented

SECONDED: Ms. Marcolini

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

IV. General

D. Approval of Donations

Principal Sirois explained that she had a list of books donated by the Tri-Town Against Racism, she expressed her gratitude to the Tri-Town Against Racism for their continued support and donations.

MOTION: by Ms. Marcolini to accept donation as presented

SECONDED: by Ms. Beauregard

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

Mr. Nelson reported that the next donation is a \$500 donation to Sippican Project Grow from the Ludes Family Foundation to support our Project Grow Classroom. Mr. Nelson thanked the Ludes Family Foundation for their donation and support.

MOTION: by Ms. Smith to accept donation as presented

SECONDED: by Ms. Beauregard

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

Principal Sirois explained that they worked with TownWear for our staff spirit wear, she expressed that the amount is based on the amount that staff spent on clothing. Administration requested approval for amount of \$65.78 from TownWear, by BER Inc. 82 County Road, Mattapoissett to Sippican School.

MOTION: by Ms. Smith to accept donation as presented

SECONDED: by Ms. Beauregard

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

Superintendent Nelson recommending putting a hold on the Lifetouch Donation in the amount of \$1,679.74 until the next school committee meeting. Mr. Nelson wanted to clarify to make sure the amount is correct.

Mr. Nelson reported that the last donation listed is in the amount of \$26.71 from Coca Cola GIVE Program.

MOTION: by Ms. Marcolini to accept donation as presented

SECONDED: by Ms. Smith

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

Chairperson Nye thanked all the companies and individuals who donated to Sippican School and their programs.

A. FY23 Draft Budget Discussion

Superintendent Nelson made the following statement:

“I wanted to thank Christine Marcolini and Michelle Smith for their work on the Budget Sub-Committee and also Mr. Shay Assad from the Marion Finance Committee, he has been great to work with from a Town perspective, he has been at each and every meeting and ask thoughtful questions and also gives great feedback and I just want to thank him publicly for his contributions and time as well. The budget sub-committee has met several times in recent weeks to work on the drafting of the FY23 budget. So far the process has shown momentum as we continue to work towards a budget that we believe meets the educational needs of our students and families and enables our faculty to do the great work that they do. We also are working with a mindset that our budget needs to be fiscally responsible as well as to the Town of Marion as a whole. The current proposed FY23 budget calls for an approximately 2.46% increase to the operating costs compared to the FY22 budget. Our main priority is to increase our part-time social worker to a full time position and to add a required paraprofessional position to our special education department. At this point we have submitted the proposed draft budget to Jay McGrail, Town Administrator and Judy Mooney, Asst. Town Administrator for their initial look at it and I let them know that we would talk briefly here tonight and we would hold our Public Budget meeting at our next meeting in March.

Ms. Marcolini wanted to thank Mr. Nelson and Mr. Barber for making this process so seamless, she expressed that she has been part of many Marion Budgets over the years, she expressed that this was the first time she worked with the new administration and she was truly amazed at how easy it was, she expressed that the numbers were presented, feedback was given and meetings went well and were well organized. She also expressed that having Mr. Assad at the meetings was very helpful to get the Town perspective. She expressed that she’s proud of the budget that is being put forward, she believes it’s fiscally responsible and it meets the needs of the building.

Ms. Smith agreed, she commented that last year it went just as smooth. She expressed that the administration does a really good job and they are very appreciative for your hard work.

B. Tiered Focused Monitoring Audit Update

Superintendent Nelson made the following statement: *“Recently we received our report for the Tiered Focused Monitoring Audit that looks at our schools’ implementation of both special education and civil rights regulations. The Department of Education looks at relevant documentation, student records, interviews staff members and solicits parent and guardian feedback. I want to thank Director of Student Services, Mr. Davidson for his leadership on working through this cumbersome process and recognize the positive feedback we received.”*

Director of Students Services, Craig Davidson reported the following:

Last year we went through a Self-Assessment Phase:

- Reviewed special education and civil rights documentation
- Reviewed a sample of special education student records selected across grade levels, disability categories and levels of need.
- Upon completion of these two internal reviews, the district/school's self-assessment is submitted via WBMS to the Department for a team to review.

This year we had a team from the Department of Education visit for an On-site Verification Phase:

- Review of student records for special education that our Liaison’s and Special Education, Secretary Lisa Daniels worked extremely hard on preparing.
- Review of additional documents for special education or civil rights.
- Surveys of parents of students with disabilities
- Interviews of parent, staff and administration

- Observations of classrooms and other facilities:

Our district was found to be in compliance with all of the criteria monitored during the TFM Review and no corrective action is required at this time.

C. 2022-2023 Draft School Calendar

Superintendent Nelson stated tonight is the first look at the 2022-2023 draft calendar. Mr. Nelson reminded the committee that they do not approve the calendar, noting that action belongs to the Joint School Committee and at this point we are in the process of sharing the draft calendar with the building administration, school councils, and the school committees for feedback. Mr. Nelson stated all feedback would be shared with the Joint School Committee for discussion. Mr. Nelson presented the draft 22-23 calendar as follows:

August

30th - first day of school

September

2nd and 5th - off for Labor Day Weekend

21st - first early release PD day

October

10th – off - observe Columbus/Indigenous People Day

20th and 21st – early release days for parent conferences at the elementary schools

November

10th - first full PD day

11th – off - observe Veteran’s Day

23rd – 25th - Thanksgiving break

December

22nd - school vacation would start (with an early release day) and run through the 2nd of January

January

16th – off - recognize Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

17th - hold our second and final full PD day

February

8th – early release for PD purposes

20th – 24th – school vacation

March

8th - early release for PD purposes

23rd and 24th - early dismissal days for parent conferences in Mattapoisett only (per the teacher’s contract)

April

7th – no school

17th - 21st - school vacation

May

29th – off - recognize Memorial Day

June

7th - last half PD day

16th - last day of school without any school cancelations

School Committee Feedback:

Ms. Smith commented that the administration did a nice job, especially putting the professional development days after the holidays, she did express concern about the start of school and that she believes it might be too late in August, she expressed that with the snow days we just go further and further into late June. Ms. Nye also agreed. Ms. Marcolini expressed that while she agreed she

sees why the administration starts the school year then, she expressed it's tricky to start earlier because then you will also shorten the summer for students and families. She expressed that she felt that the calendar was very well thought out she expressed that likes where the ½ days are and full days as well and she expressed that overall it's a solid calendar.

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 \$540,751 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 \$65,599.75 on December 31, 2021.

Mr. Barber also reported on Food Service and Facilities.

VI. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT: Chairperson Nye expressed that in her report she wanted to take the opportunity to thank all of the companies and individuals that made donations to the Sippican School that had been approved by the School Committee earlier in the meeting. She expressed it's that the donations reminded her of the amazing community that we reside in, she expressed its donations and businesses such as these that truly make Sippican the best school it possibly can be and that benefits all of our children.

CENTRAL OFFICE ADMINSTRATOR'S REPORT:

Mr. Nelson made the following statement:

"I just want to publicly thank all staff at Sippican School, no matter what role there in, teachers, paraprofessionals, our nurse especially, our custodians, food service, building administration, I would like to like to recognize that we are going through a surge like everyone else and it certainly has been a challenging time when it comes to pandemic and specifically the number of cases related to the most recent variant. The staff each and every day come to work and they are flexible problem solvers and they exercise situational leadership to make sure the children continue to receive the best education they can in the circumstances that they are in and so a heartfelt thank you to all of them and also to my colleagues here at Central Office for supporting me through this process. Regarding updates from the last time we might, I shared with the School Community that the mask mandate has been extended to at least February 28th. I strive to share communications on guidance in real time so that our community members have all that information at their fingertips. In addition, on December 31st the isolation and quarantine update and guidelines were updated and I shared those with the school community as well, so we continue to adhere to the most current guidance issued by the DPH and DESE and again I thank all those who are doing the work day in and day out in our buildings, hallways and classrooms."

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

- The Office of Teaching and Learning led an IXL webinar for parents and guardians in December. During the webinar important information such as students' username and password information was provided along with information on how parents and guardians can assist students with the use of ixl.com.
- On Tuesday, January 18th a full day of professional development for educators will take place. We will continue to focus on the following 3 key areas: Global Citizenship, 21st Century Learning, and Social Emotional Learning. Keynote speaker, **Loretta LaRoche**, will start off the morning speaking to all educators regarding stress management. Ms. LaRoche is an expert who helped pioneer the use of humor as a coping mechanism.
- www.ixl.com representatives will visit each school; educators will be able to ask questions regarding accelerated learning with IXL. In addition, Ms. Diane Lizotte will offer AIMSWEB support for progress monitoring for any educators wishing to ask questions.

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

- Part of the “Test and Stay” program that our school nurses facilitate each and every day – we have saved 220 school days district wide as a Tri-town as part of this program. Nurses are running this program in all of our buildings, and we are able to continue providing education to our students during these tough times.
- The Old Rochester Regional School District partnered with Southeastern Massachusetts Educational Collaborative and created a new partnership offering – free, on-line workshops for the Tri-town and SMEC families focusing on Social/Emotional Learning, 21st Century Learning Skills and Global Citizenship.

PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

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

We had a wonderful holiday season at Sippican. Although teaching and learning remained our focus, we supported local charities and brought back traditions as much as possible. We are looking forward to 2022!

Acceleration Roadmap: Phase 3 of the Acceleration Roadmap continues through May. As we ring in the new year, we will bring our focus back to culturally responsive teaching. The staff will be reviewing DESE materials (<https://www.doe.mass.edu/edeffectiveness/prof-learning/crt-videos/>) and taking a closer look at our practices.

Grade 6: Students worked on human body systems. Their projects are displayed for all to see and learn from. Students and teachers are also building a math word wall. A great review of what they know and might need to learn more about.

Grade 5: At the beginning of the year students were asked to reflect on who they have been as readers. They thought about the reading experiences that have influenced them. After brainstorming, students sketched their reading journey. They did a fantastic job of creatively expressing their reading history.

Grade 1: Students took part in an author study of Kevin Henkes. Some of the titles students read include: Old Bear! and Chrysanthemum.

VASE: A shout out to VASE for continuing to support recess fun. Last month the bags were refilled. Our students are also using their imaginations to build forts. VASE continues to meet in person and is working hard to plan enrichment visits as well as events for our students. Winter ACE starts next week.

School Community: The school community was involved in many events last month. Our Kindness Crew organized a Toy Drive which resulted in 68 toys being donated to Toys for Tots.

Performing Arts: Our Concert Choir joined the Tri-County Symphonic Band in their Annual Children's Concert hosted by Sippican School. It was a glorious kick off to the Marion Holiday Stroll. Many of our staff members were involved. Shout out Mrs. Moore, Mrs. Richard and Mrs. Barrett for all of their hard work making sure these events remain a part of Sippican tradition.

Thinking outside of the box and with the help of many, we were able to bring back the school concert for the children the day before the beginning of the holiday break. We had a sing along, elves passed out candy canes and we all wore our pajamas. SOOOO much fun.

Library and STEM/STEAM: Before the pandemic started, Sippican School was awarded a Lighthouse Fund grant. Our K/1 students used WeDo 2.0 to build and code a snail that flashes green light. Our students also completed a tower building challenge after reading the book, Going Places. Students were provided materials and then drafted a plan. They followed through with building their towers AND revising them to meet the parameters of the challenge.

For more information, please refer to "MSC 01122022 Principal Report".

VIII. School Committee

A. Committee Reports

- 1. Budget Sub-Committee** - Reported on earlier during the meeting by Mr. Nelson, Ms. Marcolini and Ms. Smith.
- 2. Building Committee** - Mr. Nelson reported that the capital projects have been submitted. Mr. Nelson also reported that substantial progress has been made on the access road to route 6, he reported that Mr. Jones continues to get regular updates from Mr. McGrail and Mr. Dickerson.
- 3. ORR District School Committee**- Ms. Smith did not attend, however Mr. Nelson reported that they reviewed the MCAS results.
- 4. SMEC – NONE**
- 5. Early Childhood Council- NONE**
- 6. READS** - Nelson reported READS met on December 16 and reported as follows: The main focus was on the FY22 Budget – the amendments and the current status; Started talking about the FY23 Draft Budget; Discussions took place regarding their plan on their old property; Heard recommendations from the Executive Director around the approval of new staff and accepted resignations
- 7. Tri-Town Education Foundation - NONE**
- 8. Policy Sub Committee – NONE**
- 9. School Council – NONE –**
- 10. Anti-Racism Sub-Committee- NONE**

IX. Future Business

A. Timeline

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

Marion School Committee

Joint School Committee

March 9, 2022 @ 6:30pm

January 20, 2022 @ 6:30pm

X. Open Comments – Ms. Boussy wanted shout out to all the community members and teachers who were able to attend the meeting tonight especially after a very long day, she expressed everyone's support is always appreciated. She wanted to especially say thank you to Dr. Jannell Pearson-Campbell, especially from the Marion Teachers Association, she expressed that they wanted to wish her the very best as she takes another turn in a different direction in her journey in

education. Ms. Boussy expressed that she has been known in our school and community as somebody who is knowledgeable, somebody who is helpful, somebody who is pleasant with all of us at Sippican School. She expressed that she has been very fortunate to work with Dr. Pearson-Campbell a few times and she expressed that her warm smile and support will be missed. She expressed that she didn't want the meeting to end without her mentioning her and how much she has contributed to our school community.

ADJOURN

MOTION: by Ms. Marcolini to adjourn at 7:43

SECONDED: Ms. Beauregard

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

**Respectfully Submitted,
Diana Russo**