

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

**December 1, 2021**

**MEETING HELD IN HYBRID FORMAT VIA ZOOM**

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**Regular meeting of the Marion School Committee was held on Wednesday – December 1, 2021 and called to order by Chairperson, April Rios, at 6:33pm.**

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: April Rios, (in-person), Chairperson, Nichole Daniel, (in-person) Vice-Chair; Mary Beaugard (in-person); and Christine Marcolini (in-person).**

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: Michelle Smith.**

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

**Chairperson Rios, 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. Ms. Rios 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 or via zoom. Public Access is available through the zoom link.”* Ms. Rios indicated that herself, Nichole Daniel, Mary Beaugard and Christine Marcolini are present in person and that Michelle Smith is participating remote via zoom.

**MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 6:33 P.M.**

Chairperson Rios asked for a moment of silence in remembrance of the students and families affected by the school shooting that took place in Michigan on November 30<sup>th</sup>.

**I. Approval of Minutes:**

**A. Minutes**

**1. Regular Meeting Minutes – October 13, 2021**

**Recommendation:**

**That the School Committee review and approve the minutes of October 13, 2021**

**MOTION: by Ms. Marcolini to accept the meeting minutes of October 13, 2021 as presented**

**SECONDED: Ms. Daniel**

**ROLL CALL: 3:1 Daniel: yes, Beaugard: yes, Marcolini: yes, Rios: abstained**

**IV. General**

**A. MCAS Presentation**

**Superintendent Nelson made the following statement:** *“This evening Principal Sirois and Assistant Principal Crisafulli will present the key results from the most recent MCAS data from 2021. The MCAS is not new to us – but we know the context and overall purpose of the MCAS was quite different last year. The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education articulated the differences in MCAS administration and what the focus should be when analyzing and utilizing this data moving forward at*

*the local level. COVID-19 and the pandemic greatly impacted the student, staff, and family experience in the 2020-2021 school year, leading to different learning models and many associated challenges. In addition, MCAS was shortened and modified compared to previous years, and the testing locations varied depending on student need – meaning remote v. in-person. Yet –we know it is important to address the MCAS scores and what they mean for our students and our schools – we know that MCAS is one of the many pieces of information to help inform the teaching and learning experiences of our students. The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education correctly predicted that there would be state-wide dips in scores compared to previous data sets. Here is the Tri-Town we saw some instances of this dip – but overall we were extremely proud of the efforts our school community made last year. The majority of our scores were consistent or above state averages – our faculty, families and most of all - our students should be commended on their efforts. We will use this set of data in conjunction with all available data points to inform instructional approaches and interventions for our students moving forward. Most importantly – we will continue to focus on the whole child – fostering a strong sense of belonging, social emotional wellness and offering strong grade-appropriate instruction and learning opportunities for all students.”*

Principal Sirois and Asst. Principal Crisafulli presented the MCAS Presentation. Please see attachment A.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE FEEDBACK: Ms. Marcolini expressed that she’s proud of our students and proud of our teachers, she expressed that they have done an unbelievable job under really hard circumstances and they were still able to get through the curriculum. She expressed that science is a tough test and the Sippican students did very well in science, she was proud. She thanked Ms. Sirois for including the successes, she expressed it’s nice to see.

Ms. Rios also agreed with Ms. Marcolini and added that it’s important to remember that it wasn’t just last year it was also ½ of the previous year since stopped attending school in-person in March of 2020. She expressed that she thinks teachers and students did a great job.

Ms. Daniel expressed that it was no easy feat for both teachers and students, especially last year where there were different learning models all year, from remote to full in-person to hybrid and having to coordinate the curriculum and how to teach it.

### **B. Approval of Donation**

Mr. Nelson presented the following donation. Ms. Heather Burke, resident of Marion and Chairperson of the Old Rochester Regional School Committee and her family would like to offer the following donation for consideration to the Sippican Library, a book titled, “[Monty and Rose Nest at Montrose](#)” it is a beautifully illustrated book that tells the real-life story of piping plovers staying the summer at Montrose Beach in Chicago, Illinois, in 2019. The trials and tribulations the endangered birds face in protecting their nest and raising their young makes for a great story that teaches valuable lessons on ecology, migration, conservation, and other scientific concepts. The author is a good friend of the Burke family and they are happy to share these books with Tri-Town elementary students.

**MOTION: by Ms. Daniel to accept donation as presented**

**SECONDED: by Ms. Beauregard**

**ROLL CALL: 4:0 Daniel: yes, Beauregard: yes, Marcolini: yes, Rios: yes**

Ms. Rios thanked Ms. Burke for her wonderful donation to the Sippican Library.

### **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 November 19, 2021.

Mr. Barber reported that currently, the Marion Public Schools has \$642,566.54 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. 85.77% 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 \$62,87.70 November 19, 2021.

Mr. Barber also reported on Food Service and Facilities.

**VI. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT:** Ms. Rios wanted to thank our students, families, teachers and staff for their amazing support last year and their continued support, she expressed that the MCAS results certainly is a result of a lot of hard work on all of their parts. She expressed that while she recognizes they might not be where we want them to be, they did an amazing job and she's very proud of our students.

**CENTRAL OFFICE ADMINSTRATOR'S REPORT:**

Mr. Nelson made the following statement:

*"Regarding COVID-19 protocols and mitigation factors – we continue to adhere to the most recent guidance issued by state agencies – while collaborating with our local Board of Health. To date we have had 32 positive cases of COVID-19 this year – we presently have three individuals in isolation following required protocols. The testing program continues to be instrumental in addressing COVID-19 scenarios in the moment to do our best to prevent transmission and keep learning happening in-person. Additionally, the DESE masking mandate continues to be implemented – and we anticipate an update in early January regarding the mandate's status. Lastly – with vaccination now an option for individuals who are five years old and up – our school nurses are collecting data on our school's vaccination rates."*

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

On November 12th our professional development day continued to focus on 3 focus areas: Global Citizenship, 21st Century Learning, and Social Emotional Learning. In addition to the 3 focus areas educators were provided with opportunities to examine and create student centered plans for the Accelerated Roadmap Phase 3. Phase 3 consists of continuously collecting and monitoring data to improve efforts and outcomes.

On **December 13, 2021 from 5:00pm - 6:00pm** we will host a virtual information session on [www.ixl.com](http://www.ixl.com) for parents, guardians and community members. Here is the Zoom link: <https://oldrochester-org.zoom.us/j/92167878945>. The session will also be taped.

**Mr. Davidson – reported the following:**

The Department of Education will be on visiting next week for the on-sight audit and they will be reviewing special education files, visiting some of our schools and interviewing some of our staff. There will be a report from the DOE in the next few months and it will be shared with the School Committee at that time.

The Department of Education has partnered with school districts regarding *"Building Equitable Support for Children with Disabilities"*.

The next Early Childhood Council Meeting is scheduled to take place on January 19, 2022, at which time we will dive deeper into the Family Engagement Frameworks and plan for April's "Week of the Young Child".

Pre-School Screening will take place on January 26<sup>th</sup> at Center School - open to all Tri-town families. Music Playgroups are being offered to all Tri-town families at Rochester Memorial in a hybrid model on Wednesdays/Fridays – outdoors/weather permitting or they will pivot to a zoom offering or music room offering

Kindergarten Parent Information Night is scheduled to take place on February 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm – they are moving to on-line registration through PowerSchool – more information to follow.

In collaboration with Buzzard's Bay Coalition – they will be providing programming for young families of all ages – nature walks, story walks and outdoor activities will be offered

Mr. Nelson extended a congratulations to the high school girls' volleyball team and their coach, Sippican's own Jimmy Oliveira on their first ever program State Championship – it was extremely exciting and such an accomplishment by the girls' volleyball team!

## **PRINCIPAL'S REPORT**

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

- Acceleration Roadmap: With the school year well underway we have moved into Phase 3 of the Acceleration Roadmap: Progress Monitoring. This phase focuses on the Teaching Instructional Cycle as well as the School Data Analysis Cycle. At Sippican we have three levels of data analysis. Teacher grade level teams are reviewing data as a part of the FLEX planning time (biweekly). Our BBST (Building Based Support Team) team is looking at school level data and individual student data (weekly). Our SRST (Student Resource Study Team) team is ensuring that data points are collected and shared with families of our special education students.
- Food Drive: Sippican students and staff have worked hard to bring in food to support the Damien's Food Pantry. A shout out to Ms. McKeen and her third graders for organizing this event and making sure we providing balanced meals.
- VASE: Our VASE team supported us in the election of two new School Council members. We welcome Kristina Callina to the council and Anna Ward BACK onto the School council.
- VASE continues to meet in person and is working hard to plan enrichment visits as well as events for our students. We are looking forward to Winter ACE as well as a holiday shopping event to support financial literacy in the coming weeks.
- School Spirit: Our own Coach O led the High School volleyball team to the state championship! The Sippican staff and students did not disappoint! We had our OWN pep rally to cheer on the team.
- Grade 6: Earlier in the fall, grade 6 students did a close read about the history of the Crayola crayon company. This was followed by reading and responding to an article about Bellen Woodard. This young woman realized there were no crayons that truly represented her skin shade. She created her own multicultural crayons through her 'More than Peach project'.
- Tri-town Against Racism has done it again. November was Native American Heritage Month, the bulletin board created highlighted the uniqueness of the Wampanoag tribe. The second bulletin board reinforced kindness.

**For more information, please refer to "MSC 12012021 Principal Report".**

## **VIII. School Committee**

### **A. Committee Reports**

**1. Budget Sub-Committee: Ms. Marcolini reported that they had the first meeting today at 5:00 p.m., she thanked everyone who attended. She expressed that Mr. Barber did a really nice job explaining all the aspects of the budget and the priorities at Sippican. She expressed she believes they are off to a good start.**

**2. Building Committee NONE**

**3. ORR District School Committee- NONE**

**4. SMEC – NONE**

**5. Early Childhood Council- Ms. Daniel reported that they met on October 19<sup>th</sup> and they continue to look at the Family Engagement Framework that we looked at last year, we discussed equitable work with children with special needs and the next meeting is January 19<sup>th</sup>.**

**6. READS - Mr. Nelson reported the meeting was held on November 18<sup>th</sup>, they heard about the close out for FY21, talked about the current state of the FY22 budget and heard updates from the Special Education Administrators.**

**7. Tri-Town Education Foundation - NONE**

**8. Policy Sub Committee – Ms. Beauregard reported that the committee met on November 9<sup>th</sup> and reviewed the Advertising in Schools Policy and saw a presentation from the Boosters Club about**

Corporate Sponsors. We also reviewed the public comment policy, which is now going to be posted on our school committee website for easy access.

9. School Council – NONE – there are two openings in School Council

10. Anti-Racism Sub-Committee- Ms. Beaugard reported they met on November 3<sup>rd</sup>, they talked about the plan for the school year and how they are going to incorporate more student voices from the High School and Jr. High School. Cultural Proficiency Teams will begin meeting in the upcoming month and also discussed partnership with Teachers 21.

## 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>
January 12, 2022 @ 6:30pm	January 20, 2022 @ 6:30pm

X. Open Comments – Aaron Dockser made the following comment: “I would just to acknowledge that there is a very large number of Sippican educators and staff on this call after what has already been a very long day I’m sure, so I just wanted to acknowledge that and thank all the educators for being here and to take the time out of their busy schedules and continue to devote themselves and their time to this town and the to the students of this town.

Chairperson Rios thanked Mr. Dockser for his comment.

Mr. Nelson asked that the following individuals also be allowed in executive session: Attorney Timothy Zessin, Aaron Dockser, Nicole Boussy, Emily Bourgeois and Erin Furfey. The school committee agreed.

**MOTION: by Ms. Daniel to go in to Executive Session at 7:25 p.m. for the Purpose of #3 and #7 – to return only to adjourn**

**SECONDED: Ms. Marcolini**

**ROLL CALL: 4:0 Daniel: yes, Beaugard: yes, Marcolini: yes, Rios: yes**

**MOTION: by Ms. Beaugard to come out of Executive Session at 9:33 p.m. only to adjourn**

**SECONDED: Ms. Marcolini**

**ROLL CALL: 4:0 Daniel: yes, Beaugard: yes, Marcolini: yes, Rios: yes**

**MOTION: by Ms. Marcolini to adjourn at 9:34**

**SECONDED: Ms. Daniel**

**ROLL CALL: 4:0 Daniel: yes, Beaugard: yes, Marcolini: yes, Rios: yes**

**Respectfully Submitted,  
Diana Russo**