

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

**June 9, 2021**

**MEETING HELD IN HYBRID FORMAT VIA ZOOM**

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**Regular meeting of the Marion School Committee was held on Wednesday – June 9, 2021 and called to order by Vice-Chairperson, April Rios, at 6:33pm.**

**Vice – Chairperson Rios reported that the meeting would be conducted in hybrid format. School Committee members and Administration have the option of meeting in person in the Media Room located at the Old Rochester Regional Jr. High School, 133 Marion Road, Mattapoisett, MA or via Zoom and that public access is available through Zoom.**

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: April Rios, Vice-Chair – in –person; Mary Beauregard – in-person; and Nichole Daniel – in-person.**

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: Michelle Smith and Jody Dickerson.**

**ALSO PRESENT: Marion Selectboard Members, Norman Hills, John Waterman and Randy Parker and Jay McGrail, Town Administrator. (for purpose IV.A. only)**

**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-Remote; teachers; staff; parents; members of the press and public; and, Diana Russo, Recording Secretary – all Remote**

**Vice-Chairperson, April 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.**

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

**At this time the meeting was turned over to the Marion Selectboard so that they could also open their meeting.**

**IV. General**

**A. Joint Meeting of the Marion School Committee and Marion Select Board for the Appointment of School Committee Vacancy**

Superintendent Nelson announced that recently the Marion School Committee and the Marion Select Board received a resignation from Mr. Jody Dickerson. He explained that Mr. Dickerson had a change of circumstances and he is unavailable to as a School Committee member. Mr. Nelson thanked Mr. Dickerson for his service. He explained that thankfully someone very familiar in Marion and to the Marion School Committee has shown interest in serving to fill the seat for a year until the next election, Ms. Christine Marcolini. Mr. Nelson thanked Ms. Marcolini for volunteering to serve the Marion School Committee once again and noted that Ms. Marcolini had served on the Marion School Committee in the past and that they were glad she would be able to serve again. Mr. Nelson reported that this appointment would have to be approved by the Selectboard and the Marion School Committee and therefore the members of the Selectboard were invited to this meeting.

**SELECTBOARD MOTION:**

**MOTION: by Mr. Waterman to appoint Ms. Marcolini to the Marion School Committee**

**SECONDED: Mr. Parker**

**OPPOSED: None**

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE MOTION:**

**MOTION: by Ms. Daniel to appoint Ms. Marcolini to the Marion School Committee**

**SECONDED: Ms. Beauregard**

**ROLL CALL: 3:0 Daniel: yes, Beauregard: yes, Rios: yes**

Ms. Marcolini was appointed unanimously to the Marion School Committee until the next election in Marion.

The Marion Selectboard adjourned their meeting at 6:40 p.m.

Mr. Nelson thanked Ms. Marcolini for stepping up in our time of need and he expressed it's great to have her back.

**RECOGNITION PRESENTATION**

Ms. Marla Sirois, Principal of Sippican School shared a presentation during the meeting to recognize Barbara Bandarra, Title I Paraprofessional, Janet Reynolds, Cafeteria Manager, Cathleen Sinnott, Elementary Teacher, Ann Vital, Speech Language Pathologist Michelle Wicker, Paraprofessional, Susan White, Technology Specialist. The administration dedicated books in honor of these professionals to the Sippican School Library. These individuals either retired during the 2020-2021 school year or will retire at the end of the school year.

Ms. April Rios, Vice Chairperson of the Marion School Committee also recognized each staff member with a book from the Marion School Committee that will be donated in their honor to the Sippican Library.

The Superintendent thanked all the retirees and stated that "it's people like you that make Sippican such a special place, and more importantly I congratulate you on your decision to retire and I wish you nothing but well, happiness and success in this next chapter of your lives, thank you".

Ms. Sinnott expressed that it's been an honor to serve the children of Marion and she thanked everyone for the opportunity.

Ms. Wicker also expressed her gratitude to everyone and stated that she has been at Sippican for 37 years since her oldest child started Kindergarten, she expressed it's been a long, wonderful journey and she's loved being a part of Sippican School.

**I. Approval of Minutes:**

**A. Minutes**

**1. Regular Meeting Minutes – May 19, 2021**

**Recommendation:**

**That the School Committee review and approve the minutes of May 19, 2021**

**MOTION: by Ms. Daniel to accept the meeting minutes of May 19, 2021 as presented**

**SECONDED: Ms. Beauregard**

**ROLL CALL: 3:0 Daniel: yes, Beauregard: yes, Rios: yes**

**IV. General**

**B. Approval of Leases**

**Recommendation:**

Superintendent Nelson reported that the School Committee have in their packets two leases for their approval, one from the YMCA and one from Countryside Daycare. Mr. Nelson reported that these two institutions have been renting space from Sippican for a few years and have requested to stay on for the

coming year.

Ms. Marcolini asked if there was an increase from last year, Mr. Barber reported that the only increases based on operational and facilities costs.

**MOTION: by Ms. Daniel to approve Countryside Lease for the 2021-2022 School Year**

**SECONDED: by Ms. Beauregard**

**ROLL CALL: 3:0 Daniel: yes, Beauregard: yes, Rios: yes**

**MOTION: by Ms. Beauregard to approve the YMCA Lease for the 2021-2022 School Year**

**SECONDED: by Ms. Daniel**

**ROLL CALL: 3:0 Daniel: yes, Beauregard: yes, Rios: yes**

#### **C. Approval of School Committee Dates for 2021-2022 School Year**

Superintendent Nelson asked for approval for the following dates to hold Marion School Committee meetings for the 2021-2022 School Year: September 8, October 13, December 1, 2021 and January 12, March 9, April 13, May 25, and June 15, 2022. Mr. Nelson explained that these would be the regularly scheduled meetings but that other meetings could be scheduled if any issues come up during the school year.

**MOTION by Ms. Daniel to approve the school committee dates for the 2021-2022 school year as presented**

**SECONDED by Ms. Beauregard**

**ROLL CALL: 3:0 Daniel: yes, Beauregard: yes, Rios: yes**

#### **D. School Improvement Process**

Mr. Nelson expressed that he thought it was important as we continue to shift our lense from operational/COVID 19 back to teaching and learning to bring up the School Improvement Plan process with the committee. Mr. Nelson expressed that this has been a unique school year and that our focus has been safety and well-being of our students and families but as an administration and a faculty we are truly begin to reflect on the impact of the pandemic, focus our summer planning in terms of preparing for the fall and we thought it was important for you to hear about other work that has been done this year. Mr. Nelson reported that during the summer months the administrative team will be revisiting the Strategic Planning where they will be moving into year 4 of a five-year plan and reevaluate the work that has been done and how we've had to adjust in light of the pandemic and make a realistic roll moving forward. Mr. Nelson asked Ms. Sirois to speak briefly about the work that has been done at Sippican School and Mr. Nelson also informed the committee a formal School Improvement Plan would be brought forward in the fall for review and approval of the school committee.

Principal Sirois thanked her School Council for all their support during this year. She expressed that they worked very hard on this year plan as well as starting to prepare for the next two-year plan which will be presented in the Fall. Principal Sirois reviewed each goal with the school committee, the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Goal, Global Citizenship and Social and Emotional Learning Goal and different initiatives in each goal in a powerpoint presentation.

Ms. Marcolini asked Ms. Sirois to share more information about the Second Step Program. She expressed that in the district she works it's been fully implemented, she expressed that it's in every classroom, every week and it's integrated within the fabric of the student's learning, therefore she's wondering how it's being implemented at Sippican so far and what's the vision moving forward.

Ms. Sirois explained that that it was added through the specialists (i.e. art, music, and PE) and Second Step was one of them. She explained that due to COVID the specialists were done a little different to lower the exposure for the children, she expressed that the children had two specialists at a time for a period of eight week sessions and they had those specialists twice a week. She explained that when they were in the Second Step rotation they would have it twice a week. She explained that next year it will stay in the Specialist area, she expressed that her goal is to have it during Town Meeting time, which every grade level once a week with the Specialists. She expressed that she agrees with Ms. Marcolini that she would love to get Sippican to a point that it's in every classroom every day and she believes we are headed in that direction.

Ms. Marcolini expressed that is a valuable tool to have in the classroom and it's wonderful to have it delivered by the classroom teachers as part of their week. She expressed that she's excited that Sippican has that vision for that program.

Ms. Rios expressed that she's happy to hear that Ms. Sullivan and Ms. Horan have been working on ANCHOR, and making sure that is up and running especially for next year, she expressed it's a great program and a great asset to the community, families and children of Marion, she wanted to publicly thank them both and everyone who is involved in making sure that is still in existence.

#### **E. Approval to Dispose of Equipment**

Mr. Barber explained that there is a list of equipment that no longer has value or is being used and he is requesting that the school committee approve the disposal of such equipment properly.

**MOTION: by Ms. Daniel to approve the list of equipment to dispose as presented**

**SECONDED: by Ms. Beaureard**

**ROLL CALL: 3:0 Daniel: yes, Beauregard: yes, Rios: yes**

#### **F. End of Year VASE Report**

Ms. Rios reported on this agenda item as the President for the VASE Organization. Ms. Rios explained that VASE is a volunteer organization at Sippican Elementary School, she stated that she has been involved with VASE for six years and has been President for the past four years. She wanted to go over some of the things that VASE has been doing this past year. She explained that one of the big events they worked on with the students during the Pandemic was a video for the seniors in the community, she reported that ORCTV helped them put it together and it helped the senior citizens connect with the children at Sippican while they were homebound. She also reported that they created a Google Classroom for VASE so that families could have access to homework. She reported that this year for the first time in VASE history the enrichment experiences previously provided in person were provided via zoom, which was a big hit. She reported that they partnered with the Marion Police Department and did a Toy Drive for the Holidays. Recently we did our teacher and staff appreciation luncheon. She also reported that the Boosterthon event finished yesterday and it was very successful.

Ms. Rios wanted to personally thank the teachers, administrators, the community, the businesses who have supported VASE through the years, also the Fire Department, the Police Department, the Recreation Department. She expressed that without all the different agencies VASE would not exist and they would not be able to do the things that we do for our students and our community. Ms. Rios expressed that it is with a heavy heart that she is not seeking reelection for next school year, she expressed that she has been working with VASE and will remain on as a member at large to ensure a seamless transition. She expressed that she has full faith in all the VASE members. She expressed that her son is going to be in 6<sup>th</sup> grade next year and she will be concentrating her efforts on the 6<sup>th</sup> grade events.

Ms. Marcolini thanked Ms. Rios for all that she's done, she expressed that she's done an amazing job. She expressed that this is a great opportunity to publicly thank you for all that you have done for VASE and for the children of Sippican.

Mr. Nelson also thanked Ms. Rios for her presentation and agreed that VASE is a great organization that helps a lot of people and there are a lot of people who help to make all of those events possible and a success. Mr. Nelson expressed that it has always been amazing to him how many opportunities VASE is responsible for creating at Sippican School. He also publicly thanked Ms. Rios for her leadership, he expressed that he believes she will continue to serve in many, many ways, knowing how much she cares about Sippican School.

Ms. Daniel thanked Ms. Rios for all she's done and also for the presentation, she expressed that it's so important for the community to hear what VASE does for our school, she expressed that it's important for them to know where all the fundraising is going, she suggested that VASE should report regularly at School Committee meetings. She expressed that the more we talk about it the more other families will want to get involved.

Ms. Rios explained that when VASE was set up in 1974 it was setup as a volunteer organization so that

anyone from the community could join, so that if you were a grandparent, a community member you could join and contribute, she expressed that's important for everyone to know.

## **V. New Business**

### **C. Business**

#### **1. Financial Report**

##### **Recommendation:**

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

Mr. Barber presented a memo as of June 5, 2021 indicating the Marion School District currently has \$136,894 remaining of the \$6,301,167 general funds appropriated in the 2021 Fiscal Year. Per the attached Year to Date Budget Report by Department, which includes the Special Bristol Aggie assessment, 85.13% of the funds obligated is directly relating to student instruction.

Mr. Barber noted in addition to the summary, there is a General Ledger report that shows overall activity for each of the accounts within the overall Operating Budget. Mr. Barber also gave a brief overview of the Capital Projects at Sippican School that were recently approved.

#### **a. Revolving Account Balances**

##### **Recommendation:**

**That the School Committee hears a report from Mr. Barber**

Mr. Barber noted there is a summary sheet of the Revolving Accounts included in the packet, that is used to maintain our music revolving account, collective maintenance costs, etc., that provides a beginning and ending balance on them.

Mr. Barber also reported on Food Service and Facilities.

#### **2. Budget Transfers**

Mr. Barber also reviewed a summary overview of \$660,350 worth of budget transfers with the School Committee. Mr. Barber explained that this was due to staffing changes due to the COVID scenario as well as other expenses. Mr. Barber explained that by making these transfers we are simply just balancing out the FY21 operating budget. Mr. Barber explained that he would leave it at the discretion of Chairperson Hartley if she wanted to approve a motion to accept these transfers, however he did explain that it was not necessary because the school committee approve the budget in its' entirety and not each program.

**VI. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT:** Ms. Rios expressed her gratitude to all the teachers, staff, administrators, parents and community members for being resilient during the last school year, she stated "if nothing else I think we have all learned a lot about ourselves and learned a lot about the kids and just getting through all of this and being supportive of one another and for that I just want to say Thank You, as a parent it means so much to me".

#### **CENTRAL OFFICE ADMINSTRATOR'S REPORT:**

Mr. Nelson expressed his gratitude to the school community for all their hard work and perseverance during this very difficult year, he expressed that he's proud of being the Superintendent in the Tri-Town and he's proud of what the staff and students have accomplished. He also thanked the school committee and the administrative team for all their support. Mr. Nelson thanked personally the three administrative team members, Dr. Pearson-Campbell, Mr. Barber and Mr. Davidson, he expressed this being their first year they have certainly jumped right into their positions and have been flexible problem solvers right there with him and he appreciates their support.

Mr. Nelson updated the School Committee on the public meeting order which is set to expire which allows us to meet virtually/remotely, and that order is currently being reviewed by the legislation, he explained that it's currently being debated whether committees would be able to continue to meet via zoom and allow remote access to the public or if it will resume back to full in person. Mr. Nelson noted that once a decision is made he will make the school committee aware so that those changes can be made for our own school committees.

Mr. Nelson expressed that he did receive some new guidance from DESE regarding masking and the message is simple and it's to prepare for a "new normal", with the big question mark around masks for next

year, he expressed that the administrative team would be excited about eliminating them, but that's the big question mark at this point especially with the younger unvaccinated population. Mr. Nelson expressed that as new guidance comes out from the state he will keep the school committee informed.

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

*On June 8th was a half day of Professional Development for the district. School educators met as grade level teams to review student placement for the fall. They reviewed student learning profiles and met with the next grade level to discuss students. Also Special Education teachers finalized their plans to prepare for the end of the year.*

*The English Learner Self-Audit is complete and has been submitted to DESE. The self-audit allows the district to identify any gaps and examine protocols to support students who are identified as English Language Learners. DESE will visit the district via Zoom next year to discuss our EL programming at all of our schools with EL students.*

*Educators will be invited to participate in examining our curriculum with an inclusion focus, progress monitoring, literacy and grade level expectations over the summer. It will be hybrid using our Google Classroom as a tool to share resources and communicate with fellow team members. This will be a busy summer supporting teachers and our learning community.*

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

*Recently awarded the Coordinated Family and Community Engagement Grant #237 - total grant funding is \$47,589. We take pride in our district when students enter our programming- our office already knows them. Goals of the grant are, Family engagement, working with families, birth to 3 year olds in all three towns of the tri-town; act as a referral agency to support families; enhanced referrals within the district such as mental health; medically challenged; highly at risk for needing interventions.*

*This grant allows us to meet these goals stated above by covering salaries within the district that oversee the grant initiatives, programming opportunities for our youngest learners and resources for families - such as transition activity books for all kindergarteners in our districts. Overseeing pre-school and K-referrals providing preschool and K - the ages and stages developmental questionnaire.*

*We recently also had our Kindergarten Screening. 54 Families signed up at Sippican School.*

*Sail Program: Spaces are still available for programming. Please visit the district website.*

*Mr. Davidson also gave an update on the Civil Rights and Special Education Audits.*

*Mr. Barber on behalf of the administrative team and Central Office thanked Superintendent for his support during this past year. He expressed that his support has allowed the administrative team and the districts to move forward in a positive manner.*

*Ms. Rios expressed her gratitude again to the four Central Office Administrators she stated that her experiences with them has always been positive and she stated they have done a phenomenal job, she stated that you would never know they were new to the district.*

*Ms. Daniel also expressed that as challenging as this year has been for everyone one of us, it's been phenomenal to have the four of your lead our district.*

**PRINCIPAL'S REPORT**

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

- The 6<sup>th</sup> Graders completed their MCAS testing today.
- Our band students under the direction of Hannah Moore and local scouting groups participated in the Memorial Day Parade. They represented well and should be commended for their hard work.
- Thank you to VASE and Boosterthon for another successful event. We met our participation and

fundraising goals thanks to the kindness of our school community. The children and the staff enjoyed the even which ended with pies (in the face) for willing teachers and slime for the principal.

- Enrichment Opportunities for 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade: Mosquito education with Cathy Drinan the Community Liaison for the Plymouth County Mosquito Control Project and they also welcome a Map Program with Carol Cohen. Thank you to VASE for supporting the Map opportunity.
- Second Step: Our students continue to develop their SEL skills through the Second Step Curriculum with Ms. Sarah.

## **VIII. School Committee**

### **A. Committee Reports**

**1. Budget Sub-Committee: Mr. Nelson reported that both Sippican and ORR Budgets are approved.**

**2. Building Committee NONE**

**3. ORR District School Committee- Mr. Nelson reported that they meet next week, however he gave an update on Senior Events Week.**

**4. SMEC - NONE**

**5. Early Childhood Council- NONE**

**6. READS - Mr. Nelson reported the following:**

- Approval of minutes
- Report of Special Educator Administrator Report
- Conducted Evaluation of Treasurer
- Conducted Evaluation of Executive Director
- Report regarding E-Rate
- Reviewed and approved new non-discrimination policy
- Approval of FY22 projected staffing needs.
- Reviewed and approved meeting calendar for new school year.

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

**8. Policy Sub Committee** – Ms. Beaugard reported that they did meet and went over a few policies with minor changes and also reviewed the Sexual Harassment Policy with Legal Counsel and those policies will be brought to the next Joint School Committee meeting.

**9. School Council** - Ms. Sirois reported earlier in the meeting.

**10. Anti-Racism Sub-Committee-** Ms. Beaugard

- We reviewed the accomplishments and work done over the last year. This included some keynote speakers, who discussed topics such as internet safety and mindful digital environments, and cultural proficiency.
- We brainstormed where we would you like to see the district at this time next year in our Anti-Racist work and discussed exploring how we as a district can think about tying in restorative justice with responsive classroom practices.
- We reflected on the importance of student Voices, including the opportunity for student voices to be heard in school based activities and the creation of a leadership team supporting culture in schools.
- The Anti-Racism Subcommittee is planning a summer update meeting, then will plan meeting dates for the fall.

### **B. School Committee Reorganization**

Mr. Nelson made a recommendation to hold reorganization until the September meeting, since Ms. Marcolini will now be sworn in as a new member and also because Ms. Smith is not present. However, Mr. Nelson did suggest that an alternative member be appointed to the ORR School Committee and also a member should be appointed to the Mass. Supt. Union #55 due to Mr. Dickerson's recent resignation.

**MOTION: by Ms. Daniel to appoint Ms. Beaugard to Mass. Supt. Union #55**

**SECONDED: by Ms. Rios**

**ROLL CALL: 3:0 Daniel: yes, Beaugard: yes, Rios: yes**

**MOTION: by Ms. Daniel to appoint Ms. Marcolini to the ORR School Committee as an alternate**

**SECONDED: by Ms. Beaugard**

**ROLL CALL: 3:0 Daniel: yes, Beaugard: yes, Rios: yes**

## **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>
September 8, 2021 @ 6:30pm	June 17, 2021 @ 6:30pm

X. Open Comments - NONE

Vice-Chairperson Rios requested at 7:53 pm a Motion to go in to Executive Session for the purposes of #3 and #7

MOTION: by Ms. Daniel to go in to Executive Session for the Purpose of #3 and #7 - to return only to adjourn

SECONDED: Ms. Beauregard

ROLL CALL: 3:0 Daniel: yes, Beauregard: yes, Rios: yes

Respectfully Submitted,  
Diana Russo