

**MARION SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
Marion, Massachusetts**

May 19, 2021

BY: HYBRID FORMAT - ZOOM LINK

MEETING MINUTES

Regular meeting of the Marion School Committee was held on Wednesday – May 19, 2021 and called to order by Vice-Chairperson, April Rios, at 6:33pm.

The meeting will be conducted in hybrid format. School Committee members and Administration will have the option of meeting in person in the Medial Room located at the Old Rochester Regional Jr. High School, 135 Marion Road, Mattapoisett, MA or via Zoom. Public access is available through Zoom only by the link provided.

MEMBERS PRESENT: April Rios, Vice-Chair - Hybrid; Mary Beauregard - Hybrid; and Nichole Daniel - Hybrid

MEMBERS ABSENT: Chairperson -Michelle Smith and Jody Dickerson

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

SCHOOL CHOICE PUBLIC HEARING

By: Michael S. Nelson – Superintendent

“On an annual basis, each Massachusetts School Committee must hold a public, School Choice Hearing to discuss their School Choice status for the following school year. In this instance, it will be the 2021-2022 school year. Therefore, tonight this school committee is fulfilling that obligation. In recent years, Sippican School has not elected to be a School Choice district based on various factors, including the size of the current student body and their resource allocations.

At this point, I am happy to answer any additional questions any school committee members may have –I encourage the committee to discuss this process and then recommend that the school committee hear any open comments from the public before closing the School Choice Hearing.

It is important to note that a vote will not happen during the School Choice Hearing, instead, once we close this hearing, the vote will be addressed later in the general Agenda.”

Questions/Comments from the School Committee Members:

Mary Beauregard:

If the school committee elected to enroll School Choice students, how much revenue would

come in from such a decision?

Mr. Nelson stated every student that is enrolled per School Choice slot, the district would be reimbursed a foundation amount of \$5,000 per student. Mr. Nelson noted if a School Choice student receives special education services, we would also put a reimbursement claim for each of those students and would receive additional funding.

Nichole Daniel:

If you get \$5,000 per student, does that cover their cost “per pupil”? Does that amount even come close?

Mr. Nelson stated not necessarily – currently the “per pupil” rate for a Sippican student is more than double that amount. Mr. Nelson stated as far as the special education piece, if a student receives services, historically it is not a 100% reimbursement process either.

Vice-Chair, April Rios asked at this time if there were any additional questions/comments by the public – there were none.

The School Choice Public hearing closed at 6:39pm

I. Approval of Minutes:

A. Minutes

1. Regular Meeting Minutes – April 7, 2021

Recommendation:

That the School Committee review and approve the minutes of April 7, 2021

MOTION: by Nichole Daniel to accept the meeting minutes of April 7, 2021 as written

SECONDED: Mary Beauregard

OPPOSED: None

MOTION PASSED – 3:0

Roll Call: Nichole Daniel – Yes; Mary Beauregard– Yes; April Rios– Yes

2. Executive Session Minutes – April 7, 2021 (will be approved during Executive Session)

Recommendation:

That the School Committee review and approve the minutes of April 7, 2021

IV. General

A. Full In-Person Pivot Update

Recommendation:

That the School Committee hear an update from administration.

By: Michael S. Nelson – Superintendent

“Tonight I am happy to report that our student, families, and staff members continue to settle nicely into this year’s new “normal” as we move towards the end of this school year. It has truly been great knowing that most of our students have returned to the classroom setting in-person on a fulltime basis. Presently, we have 376 students participating in our full, in-person learning model and 30 active remote students across the different grade levels at

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Sippican School. As a reminder, all families had the right to choose remote learning for the remainder of this school year.

Regarding current COVID-19 data – as of today, Sippican School has zero active positive COVID-19 cases; 2 individuals in quarantine; and, 17 students are awaiting test results after displaying COVID-19 symptoms. We continue to track all available data points, but remain pleased with the trajectory of all COVID-19 data points at this time.

*Our schools continues to implement safety protocols and mitigation strategies to keep all in our school healthy. This includes the most recent guidance changes regarding students no longer needing masks outside; the ability to share materials in the classroom; updated cleaning protocols; and, the anticipated lifting of the outside gathering for school events.
Overall, our students and staff members continue to make learning happen each and every day at Sippican School."*

Marla Sirois, Principal of Sippican School stated it is great having all of the students back into the building and noted it is nice to see children bring to school items that they can play with during recess time and be able to interact with their peers. Ms. Sirois stated she is excited to know that students are able to share materials at this time, and noted art and PE will look a little different for the remainder of the school year.

Ms. Sirois stated there is a sigh of relief and excitement all at the same time as we enter this last stage of the school year, entering into a stage where everyone is sort of allowed to do things that are a lot more normal.

Mr. Nelson stated the Department of Education has promised additional funding to school districts, not only to plan for next year, but also for this particular summer, in terms of addressing different needs regarding student achievement gaps and acceleration opportunities. Mr. Nelson noted the central office team, TLC at large, and other teacher leaders will be sure to pursue all of the opportunities and to offer additional resources to our families as we bridge the gap between this year and we begin planning for our next school year.

Questions/Comments by the School Committee members:

Nichole Daniel:

Ms. Daniel stated she is happy that the students are back in school. Ms. Daniel noted her own children are super excited to be back in school full-time and they are happy to be able to play with friends on the playground, take their masks off on the playground and "pass" the ball back and forth to one another! Ms. Daniel stated they are definitely excited about all of the positive changes happening.

B. School Choice Vote

Recommendation:

That the School Committee take a vote for the 2021-2022 school year.

MOTION: by Nichole Daniel to decline School Choice for the 2021-2022 school year at this time

SECONDED: April Rios

OPPOSED: None

MOTION PASSED – 3:0

Roll Call: Nichole Daniel – Yes; Mary Beauregard– Yes; April Rios– Yes

V. New Business

C. Business

1. Financial Report

Recommendation:

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

Mr. Barber presented a memo as of May 17, 2021 indicating the Marion School District currently has \$167,782 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, 84,26% 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.

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 reported on the Food Service Director's Report - May, 2021 (By: Jill Henesey) as follows for Sippican School:

Mr. Barber stated Ms. Henesey provided a summary, which gives an overall update on the number of meals that has been distributed over the course of the past month and noted there has been a consistent increase since we have been back to primarily 100% enrollment.

Mr. Barber reported on the Facilities Director's Report prepared by Gene Jones, Director, as of May 2021 as follows:

- 30 X 60 mask break tent installed by Sperry Tents
- Fire Sprinkler test completed
- Town Meeting conducted in school
- Covid-19 protocols strictly adhered to for HVAC, cleaning, sanitizing and traffic control • Nightly sanitizing all our buses with static spray sanitizing equipment • Deployed all DESE/CDD required Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) • Protective shields installed in all required areas
- Testing shields acquired and available on site
- Nurse and student service issued required additional safety PPE
- Conducted routine maintenance on all facility systems

VI. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT:

No report.

CENTRAL OFFICE ADMINSTRATOR'S REPORT:

Mr. Nelson stated our focus is to close out this school year as strong as possible and noted we are already looking into our summer planning process and what services and programming we can offer to students to address any identified academic gaps or areas that we can accelerate learning.

Mr. Nelson stated we are looking at what next year will bring to us and how we can kick-off our opening school year to set ourselves up into what we are calling the "new normal" regarding the educational landscape.

Mr. Nelson noted we are still waiting for updated guidance from the Department of Education in terms of what that will look like and stated as soon as any new guidance is shared with him, he will contact the school committee members and engage in further discussions.

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Dr. Jannell Pearson-Campbell – Assistant Superintendent of Teaching & Learning – reported as follows:

The Office of Teaching & Learning are in the process of finalizing our self-assessments for our DESE English Language Learner Audit, where we examined our programs supporting English Language learners and provided professional development for educators supporting diverse learners. In addition to our DESE self-assessment, two weeks ago the Joint Committee Approved our Professional Development Plan for next year. We are currently finalizing the spending of our grants to support Teaching and Learning to increase learning capacity for our educator's professional development and collaboration. The focus for next year is "Charting our Course" past the pandemic - following our curriculum; begin creating a team for the PK-12 literacy plan; use the progress monitoring tools; and, provide grade level expectations and a PK-12 curriculum map with an inclusion focus by reviewing our resources.

Our goal is to provide teachers with the flexibility of working with teams during the summer using a hybrid model.

Dr. Pearson-Campbell concluded that she is in the process of providing an explanation of how the spending is connecting to our 2021 -2022 professional development plan and in the next few weeks they will be able to finalize the list of presenters with learning outcomes for the PD plan for next year.

Questions/Comments by School Committee members:

Nichole Daniel:

Will you be adopting a new literacy program or are you just having Professional Development around what you currently have?

Dr. Pearson-Campbell stated it is a two-part process:

1. We are hiring an outside consultant because we have three districts (Marion, Mattapoisett and Rochester) and we are looking at our materials to begin a consistent model;
2. We are looking at DESE's Dyslexia Guidance - which she will be working together with Mr. Davidson.

Dr. Pearson-Campbell stated they are building a Team for that and there is a six-year plan in place.

Nichole Daniel:

At this time there is no "plan" - you are looking at what we have and that will drive you to where you want to be?

Dr. Pearson-Campbell replied yes - we are going to begin building a plan. We will be breaking it apart and over the next few weeks we will have another document that connects to the PD plan that was provided to the Joint School Committee, in which you will be able to see the process.

Dr. Pearson-Campbell stated if anyone would like to sign-up for a committee - they are more than welcome to.

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

Kindergarten - Transition Timeline

- On June 2 and 3 Kindergarten Meet and Greet will take place along with the traditional bus ride across all of the elementary school districts

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Building Equitable Support for Children with Disabilities - Leveraged 298 Grant Fund • The Early Childhood Team will utilize the 298 Grant funds to support instruction around Equitable Supports and Anti Bias practices

- The Early Childhood Team participated in the following:
 - 3 Statewide conferences,
 - 3 Regional (Southeastern MA) conferences
 - 3 individual coaching sessions with our TEAM
- The end result - this will allow a robust library in all our pre-school classrooms and at home materials that reflect inclusiveness and diversity
- Final report will be out on June 4th
- The 298 Grant total = \$3,914.00, which will allow approximately \$1,300 per school district to purchase materials for our youngest learners

Preschool Assessment has been completed as follows:

- It will follow the same format as the Kindergarten report card
- Priority Standards will be vertically aligned with Kindergarten
- Developmentally appropriate expectations and guidance has been completed - what children should be able to do at ages 3, 4 and 5

SEPAC:

- The meeting took place on May 12th at 5:00pm. The focus of this virtual event was on “Effective Communication” and 12 families participated

PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

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

- Grades 3-5 have completed ELA MCAS and grades 3 and 4 have completed the math MCAS – of note, grades 6-8 were provided a different schedule to complete MCAS by the Department of Education– and grade 6 will be participating in a few weeks
- The band is back together and Mrs. Moore is working hard with all of our students to prepare for the Memorial Day observance
- We continue with our Second Step – Social/Emotional Curriculum – children are using many strategies including ones that were provided by Principal Sirois, including problem solving steps, calming strategies, and sharing on posters around the school
 - The “Garden Club” is back! Students are cleaning out the beds and preparing to plant this year’s harvest – each child was given their own set of tools to work in the garden • One of the biggest highlights this year was the “Toe Jam Puppet Band” – a great time was had by all and Principal Sirois extended a “thank you” to the Marion Cultural Council for their support and Mrs. Richard for all of her work that she put into it making sure social distancing took place for the staff/students
- School Council met and they continue to work on the School Improvement Plan for FY2021-2023 school years – they have mapped out all three of the two-year goals and this work will be shared with TLC to ensure district alignment. The next meeting will take place the 3rd Tuesday of June.

VIII. School Committee

A. Committee Reports

1. Budget Sub-Committee:

Mr. Nelson stated the budget for Sippican School passed at the recent Town Meeting and in addition on the same night Mattapoissett also approved their elementary school district budget for FY22. Mr. Nelson stated based on the fact that both the residents of Marion and Mattapoissett voted their budgets in, it means the ORR budget has passed as well.

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Mr. Nelson stated the capital request to resurface the outside front playground was also supported by the voters as well. Mr. Nelson noted it has been a number of years since that surface has received maintenance, and it will put us in a good place in terms of meeting the most current ADA guidelines and compliance pieces.

2. Building Committee

Has not met.

3. ORR District School Committee

Superintendent Nelson reported as follows:

- The School Committee recognized the outgoing members – Cary Humphrey and Tina Rood
- Heard a more in depth pivot update, knowing that the secondary level was a little behind the elementary schools
- The focus was also around upcoming trips for both the JHS and HS
- Decision was made to accept AFS students next year if guidelines allow us to • There was a brief update regarding the Regional Agreement Proposal that has been in motion for a number of years that we are trying to work with our three towns and stakeholders

4. SMEC

No report.

5. Early Childhood Council

Ms. Daniel stated they met May 18, 2021 and reported as follows:

- Discussed the revised guidance update from the previous day, which Mr. Nelson already discussed
- Discussed the Kindergarten Transition Plan, which Mr. Davidson already discussed • Discussed the Work Force & Facilities Grant, which is more for daycare centers - it does not really relate to public schools, but it is a really good opportunity for our local daycare and childcare facilities
- Discussed the Family Engagement Framework - it was noted that family engagement is a huge component and we do a lot of that in the Tri-town, especially with our Project Grow families - we are good about getting into the homes and making connections with the families
- Discussed summer offerings, i.e.: the S.A.I.L. Program, library programs and playgroups
- Discussed upcoming dates for next year

Mr. Davidson noted the S.A.I.L. Program is run by Mr. West and Mr. Letendre and is utilized by many families in the Tri-town. Mr. Davidson stated families were provided information on how to register for the S.A.I.L. Program through the district's website and noted it offers many courses/opportunities for student's Pre-K through Grade 12.

Ms. Daniel noted they have a really good transition program course for students going from grade 6 to grade 7 - many times students are able to meet staff from the middle school and the students are able to get a feel for the building a little bit. Ms. Daniels stated it is a really nice way for children to transition if you have a 6th grader who is a little nervous about coming to the middle school.

6. READS

Mr. Nelson stated READS has not met.

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7. Tri-Town Education Foundation

Ms. Daniel stated they have not met.

8. Policy Sub Committee

Mary Beauregard stated they met on May 17, 2021 and reported the following: •

Went through a few policies - updated them slightly

- The big highlight of the meeting was that high school students from the GSA gave a presentation on specific things they would like updated in our policies (i.e.: instead of saying he/she - they would like the pronoun to be changed to "they")

9. School Council

Ms. Sirois stated they met on May 18, 2021 and reported the following:

- Completed mapping out all three of their two-year goals - this work will be shared with TLC over the summer to make sure there is district alignment
- The last meeting will be held on the 3rd Tuesday of June, 2021

10. Anti-Racism Sub-Committee

Mary Beauregard stated they met on May 4, 2021 and reported the following: •

Discussed amongst themselves recruitment guidance

- Why it matters and the process
- How can we adjust it - long-term strategies
- Spoke a lot about creating an "Inclusive School Calendar" - we looked at a few different calendars from different places that include more diverse holidays - this is something we would like to get on our website for students, as well as anyone else to look at

IX. Future Business

A. Timeline

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

Marion School Committee Joint School Committee

June 9, 2021 @ 6:30pm June 17, 2021 @ 6:30pm
Format: TBD Via zoom

B. Future Agenda Items

- **School Improvement Plan Approval (June)**
- **Approval of Leases (June)**
- **Approval of School Committee Goals for the following year (June)**

X. Open Comments - None

XI. Information Items

LIST OF DOCUMENTS USED AT THE MEETING

Marion School Committee Meeting Agenda – May 19, 2021

Regular Meeting Minutes of April 7, 2021

Financial Report dated May 17, 2021

Food Service Director's Report – May, 2021

Facilities Director's Report – May, 2021

Principal's Report – May, 2021

Meeting of the Regular Marion School Committee meeting ended at 7:09pm

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Vice-Chairperson Rios requested at 7:09pm a Motion to go in to Executive Session for the purposes of #3 and #7

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

SECONDED: Mary Beauregard

IN FAVOR: All

OPPOSED: None

MOTION PASSED – 3:0

Roll Call: Nichole Daniel – Yes; Mary Beauregard– Yes; April Rios - Yes

Respectfully Submitted,

Toni M. Bailey, Recording Secretary

