

MARION SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

October 14, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.

Meeting Location:

Media Room @ Jr. High School

133 Marion Road

Mattapoisett, MA 02739

Members Present: Michelle Smith, Chairperson, April Rios, Vice-Chairperson, Jody Dickerson, Mary Beauregard and Nichole Daniel.

Members Absent: NONE

Others Present: Michael S. Nelson, Superintendent of Schools, Jannell Pearson-Campbell, Asst. Supt. of Teaching & Learning, Howard Barber, Asst. Supt. of Finance & Operations, Craig Davidson, Director of Student Services, Diana Russo, Administrative Asst. to the Supt., Marla Sirois, Principal, Sippican School, Sean Persico, Asst. Principal, Sippican School, teachers, parents and members of the press.

Meeting was called to order at 6:42 p.m. by Chairperson Smith. Chairperson Smith 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 ORR Jr. High School in the Media Room, located at 133 Marion Road, Mattapoisett, MA or via zoom. Please note that public access is available through zoom ONLY through the link above.

MOTION: by Ms. Rios at 6:44 p.m. to enter executive session for the purpose of exception #3, to discuss union personnel.

SECOND: by Ms. Daniel

ROLL CALL VOTE:

5:0 (Smith; yes - Daniel; yes - Rios; yes – Dickerson; yes- Beauregard; yes)

MOTION: by Ms. Daniel to go come out of Executive Session at 7:59 pm and continue their regularly scheduled meeting.

SECOND: by Ms. Rios

ROLL CALL VOTE:

5:0 (Smith; yes - Daniel; yes - Rios; yes – Dickerson; yes- Beauregard; yes)

I. Approval of Minutes

A. Approval of Minutes- Regular Session:

September 2, 2020

Motion to accept the September 2, 2020 minutes as presented

MOTION by Ms. Daniel

MOTION Seconded by Ms. Rios

Motion Passed Unanimously

IV. General

A. Updated of Reopening Plan

Mr. Nelson expressed to the school committee that we are in the 4th week of being back in school with the staff and students, Mr. Nelson expressed everything seems to be going well so far. Mr. Nelson expressed that administrators and staff continue to settle our students into their learning models whether it be remote learning or hybrid. Mr. Nelson expressed that our teachers and staff

continue to work extremely hard, he expressed we are very fortunate to have such dedicated staff. Mr. Nelson expressed that we are getting better each day at what we are doing both in the hybrid model as well as in the remote learning model. Mr. Nelson expressed that the staff is adapting well to each scenario, he expressed that overall we are confident and each day we are getting better and better at what we're doing and in turn the students are also feeling better and more comfortable to be back in the building as well in the remote learning classrooms. Mr. Nelson expressed that students and families have truly been amazing in terms of how patient and supportive they have been, and he expressed that the students have been resilient throughout this whole process, Mr. Nelson expressed he is impressive by their ability to adjust on the fly, their compliance and he expressed they are truly remarkable. Mr. Nelson thanked the health officials of the Town of Marion, both the Public Health Agent and the Town nurse, he expressed he met with both of them and they have been very supportive since the start of this pandemic, he expressed that he has been meeting with them regularly, they answer his calls whenever he needs to speak with them. Mr. Nelson expressed that they remain supportive of our Hybrid Learning Model and they are encouraging us to remain vigilant, in terms of adhering social distancing practices as well as hygiene and face coverings. Mr. Nelson expressed that he has continued his conversation with them about metrics and data points that we should continue to use to try to identify to inform the administration, parents/guardians and ultimately the school committee who has to make the decision in terms of what learning model is the best fit for the school district. Mr. Nelson expressed that he believes it's important to keep looking at these data points.

B. MOA Update/Approval

Ms. Smith explained that the Memorandum of Agreement had been reviewed and discussed during executive session.

Motion to approve the Memorandum of Agreement between the Marion Teachers Association and the Marion School Committee

MOTION by Ms. Daniel

MOTION Seconded by Ms. Beauregard

Motion Passed Unanimously

C. Approval of Disposal List

Ms. Sirois asked for the following to be approved for disposal:

Item	Edition or Description	Date	# of Copies
Empowering Writers	Editing and Revising Student Book	2007	31
Everday Math	Teacher Manual/Student Book	2007 2012	50 89
My Sidewalks	Teacher Manual/Student Book	2008	63
Reading Street	Teacher Manual/Student Book	2007	7
Reading Street	Teacher Manual/Student Book	2011	21
Sangari Active Science	Student Lab Books	2011	53
outdated speech language protocols			

Motion to approve the disposal list
MOTION by Mr. Dickerson
MOTION Seconded by Ms. Daniel
Motion Passed Unanimously

D. Approval of Donation

Mr. Nelson explained that the Marion Scholarship Committee made a very generous donation in the value of \$3,020 for technology needs for the school. Mr. Nelson and Ms. Smith both thanked the Marion Scholarship Committee for their donation.

Motion to approve the donation from the Marion Scholarship Committee
MOTION by Mr. Dickerson
MOTION Seconded by Ms. Daniel
Motion Passed Unanimously

E. Student Handbook Revision Approval

Ms. Sirois presented student handbook revision, she expressed that nothing was removed from the handbook, she expressed that any language being added is primarily because of COVID needs. She reviewed the changes with the committee, the changes related to attendance, school lunch protocol, food distribution, transportation, dismissal, pickup and drop-off, mask policy and health guidance.

Ms. Smith asked who attendance is being handled on the hybrid-out days. Ms. Sirois explained that a student has to be at a zoom meeting and submit work by the end of that day not the school day but that particular day, she expressed that they are giving the students into the evening to submit the work. Ms. Sirois also expressed to parents that if they think a student has been wrongly marked absent to call the office. Ms. Sirois expressed that if teachers see that certain students are missing multiple assignments they typically would reach out to the parents.

Ms. Smith expressed that she has received some phone calls regarding the traffic situation on Park Street and is aware that Park Street residents are very concerned and have contacted Mr. Nelson, Mr. McGrail the Town Administrator as well as the Police Chief, Ms. Smith expressed that she is available to sit down with Principal Sirois, Mr. Nelson and Town Officials to try to problem solve the situation. Ms. Sirois expressed that various reminders have been sent to parents regarding the traffic rules and protocols on Park Street, she expressed parents are working hard and doing the best they can, she expressed she understands that it's not the best scenario for the residents of Park Street but she is also willing to sit down and talk to everyone. Ms. Rios expressed that as a parent that drops off a student she doesn't see it as an issue, she expressed that as she sees it there is plenty of room, but she certainly understands the frustration of the residents who live on that street, she expressed that school administration is doing the best they can to keep our children safe during a pandemic and we should all try to work together. Mr. Dickerson expressed that his family has lived on Park/Main Street since world war II, he expressed that traffic has always been an issue there, this is not something new, he expressed it's always going to be an issue and we just have to all work together to make it work. Mr. Dickerson expressed that he believes that the Police Department, Fire Department and Supt's Office is doing a great job. Mr. Nelson expressed that this was a decision made not by school committee but by Sippican School administration and staff based on what was the best scenario to keep our students safe, Mr. Nelson expressed it might not be a perfect solution but he is also willing to sit down with town officials and others hear different perspectives and how it's affecting different groups. Mr. Nelson expressed that he and Mr. Barber visited Sippican School during the drop-off and it took about 10-12 minutes to have all the cars cleared.

Motion to approve the changes/addendum to the student handbook
MOTION by Ms. Daniel
MOTION Seconded by Mr. Dickerson
Motion Passed Unanimously

F. School Committee Stipend Discussion

Ms. Smith expressed that she requested for this to be put on the agenda, she explained that this was talked about 3 years ago but it was not approved. She also stated that the Mattapoisett School Committee had the same discussion and approved a stipend, and ORR School Committee also had a discussion but did not move forward with the approval. Ms. Smith expressed that a position of school committee member requires a lot of time, she expressed that there are several sub-committees, such as budget, supt. goals, facilities, policy and many others that require many, many hours of meetings and preparation and she thought it would be a good time to bring up this discussion again to see how other members felt. Ms. Smith expressed that there is a process to this, she explained that if it's approved by the school committee it still has to be approved at the town meeting. Ms. Smith expressed that sometimes it's extremely hard to get people to run for these seats. Ms. Daniel expressed that she agrees how hard it is to get people to run for school committee, so it might help if there is a stipend when people are considering to run, she expressed she knows her and her colleagues are there because we love the children and want to support the staff. She expressed thankfully this year we had Mr. Dickerson and Ms. Beauregard. Ms. Rios expressed that the amount of time that she has put in in the last year and half between school committee meetings, the superintendent search, negotiations, and various others, it's been a tremendous time commitment, however, she's very torn, because she didn't run for school committee to get paid, she ran because she wanted to give back, she expressed it's a very hard thing for her to look at. Mr. Dickerson expressed that he was very surprised to see how many hours school committee members do put in, he expressed that if this is something the school committee wants to look into then we should do our homework, he suggested looking at other towns and cities and getting a list of how much others get paid, and bring it back to a future meeting. Mr. Nelson expressed that he would work with MASC and get more information for the next meeting.

V. New Business

C. Business

1. Financial

Mr. Barber reported that as of September 30, 2020 the Sippican Elementary School currently has \$1,493,734 available of the general funds appropriated in the 2021 Fiscal Year. Per the attached Year to Date Budget Report by Department, we are able to identify how our funds are currently encumbered and expended. This report recognizes that of the \$6,243,227 appropriated to the District, 89.85% is directly assigned and is spent/ encumbered to student instruction. Mr. Barber also gave an update on the revolving accounts.

Mr. Barber reported summaries on the following departments:

Food Service: Mr. Barber gave an update on the grab and go breakfast and lunch programs, and expressed that Sippican students are having their lunches in the classroom, he expressed is going extremely well. Mr. Barber expressed that on Mondays that have scheduled the meal pick up for both remote students and hybrid students. Mr. Barber expressed that currently the pickups are very minimal and he is working with Ms. Henesey the Food Service Director on running and maintaining the department based on our staffing needs and also based on our revenues, he expressed that the revenues is what offsets our staff costs.

Facilities: Mr. Barber reported that they have been able to maintain an extra person during the day to maintain, sanitize and upkeep of the bathroom, hallway cleanups as well as other areas of the

building during the operational hours. Mr. Barber expressed that the Capital Improvement Plan has been submitted to Town.

Technology: Mr. Barber reported that the chromebooks have been distributed to our students in grades 2 to 6, he expressed that the students in grades 1 and kindergarten will receive ipads as soon as the order comes in, he anticipates that will be at the end of October.

Ms. Daniel asked if any additional times were being offered to students and families for meal pickup, she expressed some parents do work. Mr. Barber expressed that at this time we don't have any other pickup times, however it might be something to look at further down the road once the pickups increase. Ms. Sirois did encourage parents to pick up for other families if they can, that is allowed.

D. Personnel

Mr. Nelson reviewed the following personnel changes with the School Committee.

The following new staff have been hired for the 2020-2021 school year

Name	Position	Effect. Date
Jocelyn Healy	Lunchroom Paraprofessional	October 7, 2020
Jessica DiNoia	Speech Language Pathologist	September 28, 2020
Jarred Gioisa	Special Education Teacher	September 10, 2020
Lucy Lizotte	Classroom Teacher (LTS)	September 16, 2020
Jocelyn Ulloa	Classroom Teacher (LTS)	September 2, 2020
Meagan Allen	Paraprofessional	September 3, 2020
Shannon Ahern	Social Worker (.40 FTE)	September 21, 2020
Annette Grady	Recess/Lunch LTS (2hours)	October 14, 2020

The following staff resigned or retired.

Name	Position	
Ann Vital	Speech Language Pathologist	Retirement
Joyce Washburn	Lunchroom Paraprofessional	Retirement
Craig Harrison	Supervisor of Buildings & Grounds	Resignation

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT- Ms. Smith expressed her well wishes to the two individuals recovering from COVID-19 and expressed that she hopes we don't have any more cases, she urged everyone to stay healthy and safe. Ms. Smith thanked all the teachers and staff for all their hard work, your adaptability and working together.

CENTRAL OFFICE ADMINISTRATORS REPORT -

Mr. Nelson asked Dr. Pearson-Campbell and Mr. Davidson to give brief updates from their offices.

Dr. Pearson-Campbell gave an overview of September 28th ½ professional development day, she expressed that the professional development ½ day was virtual, she expressed that the district partnered with Dr. Clinton from UMass Dartmouth, who will be hosting a district-wide professional development webinar from 1 to 2 p.m. focusing on remote learning, Dr. Pearson-Campbell also reported that teachers would be participating in AIMSWeb training. Dr. Pearson-Campbell also expressed that her office is now doing office hours, she is in school buildings from 1 to 2 hours a day so that people have the opportunity to meet her on-on-one and also to help to build the relationships which she believes is the most important. Dr. Pearson-Campbell also expressed that her office is working on a parent site that she hopes to have ready soon.

Mr. Davidson gave an update from the Office of Student Services. Mr. Davidson expressed that the paraprofessionals took part in a training during the September 28th ½ day as well, they participated in a Master Teacher E-Learning Platform, the course was called Para Educators Roles and Responsibilities in the Classroom and he reported that there was positive feedback from the paraprofessionals. Mr. Davidson expressed that himself and Dr. Pearson-Campbell also participated

in an Assistant Superintendent Seminar this week and he expressed it was a great opportunity for current and aspiring Assistant Superintendents throughout the Commonwealth to meet colleagues from similar backgrounds across the state and he thanked the school district for the opportunity.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT-

Ms. Sirois reported the following:

1. October is Fire Safety Month. Marion Fire has provided us with asynchronous links to fire prevention videos and take home activity bags for students. We are thankful for their efforts.
2. V.A.S.E continues to support the school community. Mask clips were provided for all students. These have been VERY helpful.
Also, planning is underway for virtual field trips and enrichment opportunities.
3. I want to publicly thank the Town of Marion and ORR for collaborating to replace the fence in front of Sippican. The new fence extends up the walkway and provides limited street access near the playground.
4. The Sippican School Council will meet for the first time on October 19, 2020. The meetings, presently, will be held over Zoom the second week of each month. We presently have two parent seats available on the council.

For more information please refer to “MSC 10142020 Principal Report”

VIII. School Committee

B. Committee Reports

1. **Budget Subcommittee** -NONE
2. **Building Committee** – NONE
3. **ORR District School Committee**- Ms. Smith reported the ORR School Committee had a brief meeting that night to appoint the new treasurer and had their regular meeting on September 9th and will meet again on October 21st.
4. **SMEC** - Ms. Smith reported that they met on September 30th and the following items were reviewed and actions were taken: Minutes of August 19, 2020 were approved as submitted, primary topic of discussion was re: “trimming” expenses, as appropriate, as a result of our SMEC services being tuition-based, our programs are “safe”, COVID Relief Funds, board approved the Director of finance and Operations to apply for any relief funds for which the collaborative may be eligible (no money for PPE’s), the Board approved Dr. Cooper’s, SMEC’s Executive Director, Summative Evaluation, as Exemplary, next scheduled meeting is Tuesday, November 30, 2020 at 5:30
5. **Early Childhood Council** – NONE net meeting is October 22nd.
6. **READS**- Mr. Nelson attended the first meeting, the three items were reopening plan, personnel and the new facilities. Mr. Nelson asked Mr. Davidson to report since he had the opportunity to take a tour of the new site. Mr. Davidson reported that he had the opportunity to tour the new site on Bedford Street in Middleboro, right off of route 44, he expressed it’s a beautiful location, he reported that the building has been completed gutted, it’s 33,000 square feet, they will have multiple classrooms, break-out spaces and an addition for a gym.
7. **Tri-Town Foundation** -NONE
8. **Policy Sub-Committee** – NONE
9. **School Council** – NONE
10. **Anti-Racism Sub-Committee** – Ms. Beauregard expressed that the anti-racism sub committee did meet and it was a very productive first meeting and they will be scheduling another meeting soon.

Ms. Smith reviewed future timeline and stated the next meeting is scheduled for December 2nd at 6:30 p.m. and the next Joint School Committee is scheduled for November 19th.

OPEN COMMENTS: Ms. Kathleen Welch shared a concern about her child, who attends Sippican School being sent home because she coughed, she had no fever no other symptoms, she explained that this is a child who has asthma and she's concerned that every time she coughs she will be sent home from school, she asked what is the process going forward for when a child coughs or sneezes, are parents going to be required to go to the doctors every time this happens, she expressed that she's upset her child was sent home.

Mr. Nelson expressed that he's very sympathetic to the situation the parent was describing, he expressed it's a very challenging situation, Mr. Nelson expressed that the school does try to air on the side of caution in terms of keeping everyone safe, but we also are aware that children may have pre-existing medical conditions that need to be taken into consideration, my recommendation is that Principal Sirois and our school nurse work with you child's primary care physician to make sure there is a clear understanding of conditions such as asthma so that you're not in the same situation on a repeat basis.

Principal Sirois also expressed that it's important to remember that Sippican School has a new nurse this year, she has done a phenomenal job but some of the pre-existing conditions that Ms. Lamoureux may have known about, Nurse Morais may not be aware of all them at this time, she expressed it's really important for families to send us the updated allergy reports, she expressed it's very important for parents with children with these particular conditions to reach out to the nurse, she doesn't want to send children home, but if she doesn't have the information.

Ms. Welch expressed that she did fill out all the necessary paperwork and she's wondering if she should get some more paperwork from the doctor, Mr. Nelson recommended that Nurse Morais reach out to Ms. Welch first thing in the morning so that they can both be on the same page.

Ms. Daniel asked what the protocol is, if a child is sent home with symptoms are they required to get a COVID test. Mr. Nelson expressed that it depends on the symptoms.

Ms. Smith thanked Ms. Welch for sharing her experience with the school committee, she expressed she that everyone is trying to navigate through this together.

Motion to adjourn at 9:30 p.m.
MOTION by Ms. Daniel
MOTION Seconded by Ms. Rios
Motion Passed Unanimously

Submitted by Diana Russo