

**MARION SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MARION SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEET
August 7, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.
MEETING HELD REMOTELY THROUGH ZOOM
Marion, MA 02738**

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

Members Absent: NONE

Others Present: Michael S. Nelson, Superintendent of Schools, Susana Cunningham, Human Resource Director, Marla Sirois, Principal, Sippican School, Sean Persico, Asst. Principal, Sippican School and the rest of the administrative team from all other schools.

Meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Chairperson Smith. Chairperson Smith thanked Mr. Nelson and everyone involved during this very unprecedented time. She thanked all the staff, administrators, parents, everyone involved in the Reopening Task Force teams for all their hard work. Ms. Smith expressed that the plan being discussed today is not going to make everyone happy, she expressed that the school committee's main concern is to keep everyone, staff and students healthy. Ms. Smith expressed that any plan that's approved is a moving piece, that it can change at any time. She also expressed that after the plan is approved that the school committee and administration will need to work with the Marion educators' association to negotiate the terms. She asked Mr. Nelson to present the Reopening Plan.

V. General

A. Approval of 20-21 Reopening Schools Plan

The Superintendent thanked all tri-town stakeholders for their support and patience throughout these unprecedented times and expressed his gratitude to everyone who has been working on the reopening plans. He expressed that is an honor for him to work in towns that are so involved in their school community. Mr. Nelson asked that Chairperson Smith allow the five Building Principals be part of the presentation. Chairperson Smith allowed the principals to participate.

Superintendent Nelson, Principal Sirois, Principal Devoll and Principal Coellner presented the draft plan to the school committee (please see attached). The Superintendent's recommendation is that the school committee approve a hybrid plan to start the 2020-2021 school year. The superintendent reminded the school committee that this plan is very fluid and could change at any time. The superintendent also mentioned that guidance has come from DESE requiring districts to have 10 training days for staff before students start the school year, therefore Mr. Nelson explained that the school calendar would be reviewed for those changes at a Joint School Committee Meeting on August 11th.

Chairperson Smith thanked Mr. Nelson and the administrative team for the presentations, she expressed that she read the plan twice and she is very impressed by the commitment of the administrative team and all the stakeholders involved in getting this plan to this point. Ms. Smith also expressed that she toured the building and thanked Mr. Craig Harrison for his hard work. Chairperson asked if school committee members had any questions about the reopening plan presented by the Superintendent.

Ms. Rios thanked everyone that was involved in this journey, it's been much appreciated, she speaks as a parent and a school committee member. Ms. Rios expressed that a lot of these mandates are not local mandates, they are state mandates, so we have to keep that in mind as we review the plan. Ms. Rios asked if children in certain cohorts had flexibility to move to accommodate for child care scenarios.

Mr. Nelson explained that the administrative team realizes that there will be certain family situations that will need to be looked at more carefully and that they are willing to work with families in unique situations. Ms. Rios also asked a question about the hybrid out days and how structured they might be, or will there be flexibility to complete some of the tasks after school hours. Mr. Nelson expressed that the district realizes that supervision during hybrid out days might be challenging for some families therefore students would not be penalized for completing their work after hours, Mr. Nelson expressed he's having those similar conversations in his own household, therefore he understands exactly why it's so important to say that while there is no perfect plan, we do plan to be empathetic with families and their unique situations and he thanked Ms. Rios for bringing this concern to the forefront.

Ms. Daniel thanked everyone on the committees and worked and contributed to this reopening plan and their respect for one another and all the hours they put into this plan. Ms. Daniel asked about a daycare lists for parents for the hybrid out days. Mr. Nelson expressed that this is an ongoing conversation on the state level at this point and that as soon as he has more concrete information he will be happy to share with parents and stakeholders.

Ms. Beauregard expressed that she feels like the plan sounds like a good start, she expressed that she feels less emotional towards the plan because she doesn't have children in the school yet, and she also expressed that she's glad to see that the school is offering flexibility to families who may need it.

Mr. Dickerson thanked Mr. Nelson and the task force for all their work on this, and reminded everyone that this plan is working document that could change at any given time and also asked that stakeholders understand that a lot of these mandates are coming from the state, he believes that working together we can make this plan work.

Ms. Rios asked about families who have parents who have to travel out of state, she asked if the child will need to quarantine. Mr. Nelson expressed that the district is only as good as the information they have, he expressed they will be making strong recommendations to follow state guidelines but also expressed that they won't be soliciting that information from each family, but if information came to light we would work with each particular family.

Ms. Daniel wanted to take the time to thank all of the Marion teachers, she expressed how hard they have all been working to get back to their classrooms and their students. She expressed that while she was walking through the building she could see that most teachers have been coming in and worked through the summer to make this plan work.

Ms. Nicole Boussy expressed that all educators, paraprofessionals, secretaries, custodial staff want to return to see our students in person, she expressed that they all need the proper health and safety measures in order to do so safely and to do their job with a purpose. She expressed that while she knows there are aspects of this plan that need to be discussed and bargained, she expressed that the Marion Teachers Association will continue to have open and honest conversation with our team and school committee. She thanked everyone that's been part of this process and she expressed that everyone has always kept the best interest of our students first.

Ms. Smith asked if anyone had any open comments. There were no open comments.

Mr. Dickerson made a motion to approve the Reopening Plan as presented by the Superintendent with the understanding that it can change.

MOTION by Mr. Dickerson

MOTION Seconded by Ms. Beauregard

(Roll Call Vote: Rios: yes, Daniel: yes, Beauregard: yes, Dickerson: yes Smith: yes)

VIII. School Committee

B. School Committee Re-Organization

Mr. Nelson asked for a nomination for the position of the Chairperson of the Marion School Committee

Ms. Rios made a motion to appoint Ms. Smith as the Chairperson to the Marion School Committee

MOTION by Ms. Rios

MOTION Seconded by Mr. Dickerson

(Roll Call Vote: Rios: yes, Dickerson: yes, Beauregard: yes and Daniel: yes, Smith: yes)

Ms. Smith thanked everyone for their support.

The following school committee members were appointed to the sub-committees for the 2020-2021 school year:

Vice Chairperson	April Rios
Secretary	Lori Walsh
ORR District School Committee	Michelle Smith
Mass. School Supt. Union No. 55	Nichole Daniel Jody Dickerson April Rios
Building Committee	April Rios Jody Dickerson
READS	Michael S. Nelson
Sick Leave Bank	Michelle Smith Mary Beauregard
SMEC	Michelle Smith
Early Childhood Council	Nichole Daniel
Sole Signatory	April Rios Nichole Daniel
MASC Delegate/Legislative Liaison	Mary Beauregard
Budget Subcommittee	Michelle Smith Jody Dickerson

School Physician

Dr. Mendes
Dr. Reynolds

Policy Review Subcommittee

Mary Beauregard

Tri-Town Education Foundation

Nichole Daniel

Town Liaison

April Rios

Superintendent's Goals Sub-Committee

Michelle Smith
Nichole Daniel

Motion to approve Marion School sub-committees for the 2020-2021 school year as discussed and assigned

MOTION, Ms. Rios

SECONDED, Ms. Daniel

(Roll Call Vote: Rios: yes, Dickerson: yes, Beauregard: yes and Daniel: yes)

The school committee discussed the possibility of having future in person or hybrid school committee meetings. Mr. Nelson expressed that a hybrid model would allow school committee and some administrators to participate in person and have the public and still participate via zoom, Mr. Nelson expressed he would look at options to have this format.

Mr. Nelson explained that the Marion School Committee has received a Demand to Bargain from the Marion Educators Association to bargain any working conditions changes and asked who from the school committee would be participating in negotiations. Ms. Smith expressed that herself and Ms. Rios would be on the negotiating committee.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m. by roll call vote

(Roll Call Vote: Rios: yes, Dickerson: yes, Beauregard: yes and Daniel: yes, Smith: yes)