

Marion School Committee Meeting

Present: Michelle Smith, Chairman, April Rios, Vice Chairman, Nichole Daniel and Jody Dickerson

Also Present: Douglas White, Superintendent of Schools, Michael Nelson, Asst. Marla Sirois, Principal, Kyle Letendre, Asst. Principal and Lori Walsh, Secretary.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

Chairperson Michelle Smith called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. with a moment of Silence in recognition of the local and National Struggles we are facing with Racism and most importantly the tragic loss of George Floyd.

RECOGNATION OF ACHIEVEMENTS:

Chairperson Smith said that there are a bunch of retiree's that she would like to recognize along with three people who retired last Summer, and the School Committee was unable to recognize them at that time.

The first book she would like to dedicate is called "Another", to Cathy Caramanica and has been a School Principal for many years. The next book is "The Big Book of Blues", and is dedicated to Jackie Pacheco. And these books are dedicated to the Library. The third one is to Christine Francis and it's called "What about Worms", and this book is going to the Library also.

The next book is for Kelly Kelleher, "I Am Helen Keller" will go to the Library. The next person is Maureen Lamoureux and her book is "The Human Body". For Dr. Ronald Gerhardt and the book is "Little Legends". The next person was on the School Committee for six years and the book is "Shaking things up", her name is Kate. Marla would like to make a presentation.

Marla – Would like to start with Kelly Kelleher. Kelly has been an intrical part of the Sippican School and the Community for many years. She's been both and Inspirational Reading Teacher and Colleague. During her tenure Kelly has impacted countless Students with her dedication and passion for teaching reading. She not only helps the Students make the gains they to be successful but fosters their love of reading and learning. Kelly's critical work has helped so many Students build the strong educational foundation that they need to be successful for the rest of their lives. Thank you, Kelly. Kelly also has a way of brightening everyone's day with her thoughtfulness, positive attitude and her contagious smile. Her warmth and care permeates

around her. She's been a tremendous role model and friend to so many on our staff. It's been an absolute pleasure to work with her. Marla said she is grateful to have been able to work beside Kelly this year and knows that she will always be a part of the Sippican Community. We are donating a book "When Pencil Met Eraser", to the Sippican Library.

Kyle Letendre spoke to recognize Maureen Lamoureaux. Maureen has been the dedicated Nurse at Sippican and started in 1991. Maureen's love for her Students is well known. Whenever she is doing her rounds or she has a customer, her face lights right up. She is even known to do Home visits. Thank you very much Maureen for everything you've done. We will miss you. We are dedicating a book. "Oh The Things You Can Do That Are Good For You", this will be dedicated in Maureen's name to the Library.

Marla spoke about Recognizing Dr. White and his ten-year Leadership in the ORR District. He has touched the lives of families and Students and Staff Members alike. Marla went on to say, on a personal note she would like to say thank you for believing in her through this epic transitional year. Again, thank you for your commitment to Marion, Sippican School and to the ORR District and we are dedicating the book, "How to Make a Better World", in honor of Dr. White and your dedication to the District. Thank You!

Nicole Boussy has a slide presentation to show the Committee and for the Retiree's. It's to honor Dr. White and to Honor the Retiree's.

In the Presentation, the Marion Teachers Association presented to the Sippican School Library in Honor of Kelly Kelleher, the book, "The Mermaids Purse". Also, Kelly Kelleher was recognized by the MTA

Merritt award this year. Kelly has been a member of the Sippican School Community for over Thirty-five (35) years. She shared her love of learning as a Classroom Teacher and a Reading Specialist. Her knowledge and dedication to literacy is immeasurable. Kelly is equally committed to fostering positive School climate. She developed critics corner, which was a monthly feature at Sippican School at all School Meetings. Students demonstrated great eagerness showing their love of literature with fellow classmates at the special events. Kelly organized and assisted with numerous Community gatherings that celebrated Educators. She values and respects the profession and ensures that Educators are recognized in a positive manner.

"The Amazing Body Machine" is presented to Maureen Lamoureux from the Marion Teachers Association. Maureen was also recognized with the Merritt Award for 2020. Maureen has been a Sippican School Nurse for Decades. Her compassion for Students and Family is extraordinary. Maureen generally cares about the physical and social emotional well-being of her community. She has worked with outside organizations to collect food, clothing, school supplies, etc.... and provided to families across the Town.

Her generous nature does not end there. Maureen looks after her Colleagues and provides them with support, guidance and tenderness during challenging times. She is a true nurturer.

"Full Steam Ahead" is donated to Dr. Ron Gerhart from the Marion Teachers Association. Dr. Gerhart has been nothing more that supportive in the Communities in the Town of Marion.

“Be You”, is being donated to **Kate Houdelette** from the Marion Teachers Association. Kate has been a member of the School Committee for six years. It has been a pleasure working with her and her two daughters.

“If I Built A School” is being donated on behalf of Dr. Douglas White from the Marion Teachers Association.

Nicole Boussy would like to say to Kelly Kelleher thank you and that she is a true professional and articulate and you are reflective and as the MK President for the last five years, you have been so supportive with giving the honest and true feedback and she can't imagine doing the role without her. We will truly miss Kelly but will stay in touch. Maureen, goes above and beyond and have supported Children's varying needs for Social Emotional and Physical needs.

Dr. White, thank you for all that you've done Dr. White. Also, looking out for all the Children and our Families as well.

Kelly Kelleher spoke to the Committee about her Recognition tonight and how much it meant to her. She said thank you from the bottom of her heart.

Maureen also spoke to the Committee about her Recognition. She said that some of the Children she took care of became part of her family. She has very happy memories working at Sippican. She would like to thank the Schools for all the help she got.

Chairperson Michelle Smith spoke to Dr. White about the book they have for them called “Unplugged”. She also thanked him and told him that he will truly be missed.

Dr. Doug White spoke to the Retirees. He told Maureen and Kelly that he wishes them the very best. He stated that it has been a privilege to serve the Town of Marion. Thank you so much!

Minutes to be approved May 20, 2020

Nicole made a motion to approve the minutes.

April seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion passed.

Remote Learning

Dr. White spoke about the celebration for the 6th graders.

Marla spoke about what is going to happen at Sippican at the end of the year and that families are notified. Report Cards will be going out. 6th Grade celebration will be remotely done on June 18th Summer / Fall Opening

Mike Nelson spoke about Summer planning. Still Planning for multiple situations. Charlie West and Kyle Letendre are planning to start the Summer on remote learning for now. We have not received official guidance from the Commissioner of Education. We should receive it sometime this week.

Dr. White asked where will be in September? The Commissioner said that there should be some guidelines out by June for September School beginning and we should start to stockpile PPE's, masks, shields, gowns, gloves, hand sanitizers, etc...to make it as safe as possible for Students and Staff. The Commissioner did also state that he used a continuum that red would be remote learning and green would be back to be some sort of normalcy where all the Children were back to School every day receiving instructions face to face.

Mike Nelson would be setting up a type of task force to see if we would be doing once we have more instructions. Dr. White said that there is a task force at the State level that states who needs to wear masks and when they need to wear the masks. All those things we will be getting guidance on.

Michelle Smith suggested that they should probably meet during the Summer to discuss any changes that the Commissioner might have.

Mike Nelson said that they have been meeting weekly with the Union Presidents across the Tri-Towns and it's been great in terms of keeping an open line of communication and as Dr. White mentioned, we have just started talking about the importance of starting a task force team, not only for Sippican but system wide that will be comprised of not only Teachers but Nurses and Towns People will be invited and key players. Mr. Nelson was waiting until after the meeting but would like Nichole to volunteer a little but a School Committee Representative from each helps. It would be great to start talking about the task force and Mr. Nelson thinks Nichole would be great to volunteer to be on it and suggest some Teachers to be on the Task Force as well.

Nicole Bousy said that they have a Health and Safety Committee and we have Representatives across all areas. We have a lower Elementary Representative, Julie Bank and Nicole is the Association President for Elementary and we have Grace Rodriques who is Representing Specialist, and we have Amy Wiggin who is Representing Special Education. They were automatically voted to be on this Committee and we thought this was a natural fit to have them work with this task force.

MERRITT AWARDS:

Nichole spoke about who is being recognized for the Merritt awards.

Nichole said that in addition to Maureen Lamoreaux and Kelly Kelleher, there is Jessica Barrett. She is an exceptional Library media specialist as you saw with the slide show presentation earlier in the meeting tonight. She engages Students not only in reading activities but also in collaborative projects that incorporate Technology. Students are excited to be in her learning environment for the various enrichment opportunities during and after the School day. Jessica also supports her Colleagues by providing them with professional development on new Technology. On a personal note, we can all sit here and

Thank Jessica for the amount of support she has provided to each and every one of us through remote learning on her own time whether it's google slides, or emoji's, or google classroom, Jessica has been phenomenal and a true colleague to all of us. We are honored to have her amongst our staff.

Michelle Smith thank you very much Jessica you are doing a great job.

READS APPOINTMENT

April made a motion to appoint Michael Nelson as our READS Collaborative.

Nichole Daniel seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion passed.

SUMMER WARRANTS

Protocol for Summer warrants. Dr. White said that the office doesn't close during the Summer and warrants still need to be signed to pay bills. April will continue to sign the warrants.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Dr. White said that at the last meeting they talked about buying things in the FY20 budget to reduce the FY21 budget and they identified \$60,000. The bottom line of the budget as it sits, we are in good shape. If you see a line in the negative, that is because we purchased additional items and that is because we did what the Town had asked us to do. We have about \$223,000 for the rest of the time to get us through.

REVOLVING ACCOUNT BALANCES

There is about \$74,000 in the revolving account. Make sure they balance through the end of the year.

SCHOOL LEASES

Dr. White spoke about the Guidance coming from the Commissioner. He said that he would ask for the Committee to approve the lease with an amendment that the space is available for them to lease as long as it's not needed to manage the day to day operations of the Marion Public Schools. He said that he says that cautiously because the Commissioner says we can only have so many Students in one classroom and we will need the additional space. So I would be cautious to approve a lease whole heartedly without knowing what the final guidance is going to be from the Commissioner.

Nicole Daniel made a motion to approve the leases as long as Sippican does not need the space due to Covid 19 restrictions by the Commissioner.

April seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion passed.

CHAIRMANS REPORT

Michelle Smith, Chairperson said she would like to thank everyone for everything that they have done for the hard work they have put in this year. Moving forward we are going to do well. Marla leading the way through this, we know we are going to do well.

CENTRAL OFFICE

Dr. White said that he would like to read a statement but would like to thank Mr. Nelson and the leadership team for coming up with a statement that was put out yesterday. It was put on the website and sent out to all the families around the racism and the actions that have been taken in several days and over the last several months in our District of Racism and to denounce that topic. Dr. White said if you haven't read that statement, you should. He also would like to thank Michael Nelson again for taking the lead on that. He went on to say that he will leave this topic and make his statement for Central Office.

Over the last couple of months, not only has the office been dealing with the COVID-19 epidemic, we are also in the midst of some horrific Racial events at the local and National level that has caused pain anger and hurt to many of our Communities. Despite the efforts as an Educational Community to address the topic of Racism, through curriculum and training for both Staff and Students, we still have not been able to stop the deplorable racial actions and behaviors of some. As a result, it is our job As Educators to keep looking for ways to find policies and practices that will help our Students to realize the importance of equity and justice for all. We need to stop Racism in our Community that is causing pain and anger and find ways to embrace and care for each other. I know this is a top priority and they are committed to collaborate and advocate and they are committed to make this happen in our Tri-town. Thank you. Michael Nelson said that the statement is posted on the front page of our web site. It is to reaffirm what we stand for. Mr. Nelson asked Michelle to help with the positions that are coming available. School Committee positions are available and we need help with that. Identify one person to participate with the task force.

PRINCIPALS REPORT

Marla Sirois spoke to the Committee about her report. Made great progress on all three goals. My first goal was to establish and nurture a positive relationship with members of the Sippican Community. Making connections and building bridges between Town departments. Second goal was to Create a common vision for the future of Sippican. Third was to Provide leadership regarding the development and continuous assessment of continual practices. Marla said she looks forward to working with her staff. She wanted to take a moment to thank Kyle Letendre for helping and taking the position for a year. Marla said she admires his dedication and she wishes him good luck and thank you. Michelle Smith also thanked Kyle for all his help. Kyle Letendre thanked Dr. Douglas White and Mike Nelson and the Marion School Committee. He also thanked the Students and the Parents.

BUDGET SUB-COMMITTEE

Has not met

OLD ROCHESTER COMMITTEE

Met last week. Discussed Budget and International Students and we will suspend that for a year. Independent Audit discussion.

SMEC

First meeting of the Budget and talked about Staff reductions. Unfortunately they will have to furlough some Employees. Tuition and Service fees.

EARLY CHILHOOD COUNCIL

Have not met. Working with Doreen on guidelines.

READS

Meeting tomorrow morning with Michael Nelson.

TRI-TOWN

Not met

POLICY SUB-COMMITTEE

Not met

SCHOOL COUNCIL

Not met

NEXT MEETING

September 2, 2020

Maureen Lamoureaux said she would like to extend her thanks to the cafeteria workers and say that they have done a phenomenal job.

Michelle Smith said that they have done 21,000 meals, breakfast and lunch. We are very thankful to them.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 7:47 P.M.