

**MARION SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MARION PUBLIC SCHOOLS
16 Spring Street
May 20, 2020**

PRESENT:

Michelle Smith, Vice Chairperson, April Rios, Vice Chairperson, Nichole Daniel, Nicole Boussy

ALSO PRESENT:

Dr. Douglas White, Superintendent of Schools, Michael Nelson, Assistant Superintendent, Marla Sirois, Principal, Kyle Letendre, Assistant Principal, Lori Walsh, Recording Secretary

ABSENT:

Kate Ellen Houdelette, Dr. Ronald Gerhart

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

The Marion School Committee Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

APPOINT RECORDING SECRETARY:

April Rios made a motion to appoint Lori Walsh as Recording Secretary.
Nichole Daniel seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion passed.

APPROVE MINUTES FOR MARCH 4, 2020:

Nichole Daniel made a motion to approve the minutes for March 4, 2020.
April Rios seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion passed.

SCHOOL CLOSURE UPDATE:

Dr. White stated that Breakfast and Lunches are done around 10:30 to 12:30 everyday and there have been about 350 to 400 lunches per week given out. They are continuing to receive Grants and raise money to offset the food program. Dr. White also said that they have also been approved for the free and reduced lunch program.

Marla Sirois stated that there was a food pantry in Marion, that is closed now, and Residents should know that they can go to Damian's Food Pantry in Wareham.

Dr. White also stated that Jill Hennessey has set up a time when parents can pick up produce once a week at the High School. He also wanted to thank the Cafeteria for all their hard work. Also there was a conversation whether or not they would be able to continue the lunches through the Summer months.

FACILITIES UPDATE:

Building have been closed to the public. Protocols need to be put in place before anyone can start coming in. Kyle Letendre stated that the days that set up for the kids to pick up their locker belongings went well and was a great success.

Marla Sirois stated that the Teachers worked very hard cleaning out all the lockers.

Dr. White stated that all the LED lighting has been installed and inspected.

Marla Sirois stated that all Teachers on the Google Platform and are using Zoom for live meetings. Two morning meetings synchronis times. We started off with spirit week on our facebook page. We added in Phase III some opt in sessions and they have been well received by our students. Still having Sippican talent show. We are involved in Memorial day presentation in Marion. Students are doing multiple things, poems, and an instrumental session.

Dr. White stated that with Nichole's leadership from the MCA there's been collaboration with the Union Presidents across all the Districts about getting MOA together and with the open dialogue I would like to go from phase III to phase IV and that dialogue will be in the future moving forward. It has been a team effort.

Marla Sirois spoke to the Committee Members about the Special Education Department being stellar and have really stepped up.

Mr. Nelson stated that he is proud of our team at Sippican. Taking on the new experience of Team meetings.

BUDGET DISCUSSION:

Dr White spoke to the Committee Members regarding the Budget and how the Town Administrator and Finance Committee has asked if they could find \$60,000 in FY20 budget and reduce the budget for FY21 by \$60,000.

Discussion ensued with the Committee regarding the change in the FY21 Budget.

Nichole Daniel made a motion to reduce the budget for FY21 by \$60,000 making the budget amount \$6,183,227.

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

APPROVE SCHOOL COMMITTEE DATES FOR 20-21 SCHOOL YEAR

Dr White stated that the meetings will be Wednesday nights every six weeks for the remainder of the School year.

The Committee can vote those dates and it doesn't say you can't have an emergency meeting if you need to.

April Rios made a motion to approve the School Committee Dates.

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

SCHOOL CHOICE VOTE FOR 20-21 SCHOOL YEAR

April made a motion not to participate in the School Choice.

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

RATIFY CONTRACT: (EXECUTIVE SESSION)

School Committee Members in negotiations since the COVID-19 outbreak.

Nichole Daniel made a motion to approve the contract for one year from September 1, 2020 to August 31, 2021.

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

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Dr. White spoke about looking into savings for 2021. FY20 Cafeteria workers will be paid out through the end of the year. Dr. White also said that any money that is left over, he will have the School Committee in June recommend that the Town looks at certifying free cash in the fall and hopefully put in stabilization accounts for future purchases. This can only be used as a recommendation.

REVOLVING ACCOUNT BALANCES:

Dr. White stated that when he checked the balances, they were fine. Phone systems need to be upgraded and he suggested that.

CHAIRPERSONS REPORT:

Michelle Smith spoke to the School Committee about everything that has been happening at the Schools and she wanted to thank everyone who has helped and has gone out of their way to help. Ms. Smith also would like to thank the parents for their help and Doug for his leadership. She also stated that she would like to thank Michael Nelson for doing such a good job, for working countless hours day and night and putting Students first. She would also like to thank the School Committee.

CENTRAL OFFICE ADMINISTRATORS REPORT:

Dr. White would like to say that most of the people that are not on the scene that have helped out he would like to thank.

Michael Nelson spoke about the new Teachers Mentor program. We will be developing a website dedicated to the kindergarteners and having the Teachers post messages and host virtual tours. I Would like to thank Kyle and Charlie West and many others who are working behind the scenes and working hard. Also, we are planning for possible Summer School in person and remotely for now and also planning for a possible hybrid. We have not received any guidance yet.

Marla Sirois stated that she feels blessed to have such a great Educated Team. Would like to thank the Village Toy Store and Issabelle's who donated toys to the children. Would also like to thank Vase for the plants they gave the Teachers on Administrators Professionals day.

ORR DISTRICT SCHOOL COMMITTEE:

Dr. White said that they were meeting next week.

SMEC:

Michelle stated they are meeting June 1, 2020 and did meet last month and discuss how they are running the programs. Services that are still being provided.

EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCIL:

Nichole Daniel spoke to the Committee and stated that the Council met last night. Mike talked about the Kindergarten transition and their will be an Ages and stages questionnaire that will be filled out online. Rochester Library is going to start a curb side pickup.

Michael Nelson stated that they have a thigh school lab program and a private pre-school that we operate and high school takes a courses in early childhood. We've talked about making it a Chapter 74 or a career vocational program which is a chapter 74. Mr. Nelson also stated that if that happens, we would receive money back from the State that you can put back into the program. Discussion ensued with the Committee regarding the Chapter 74.

READS:

Dr. White stated that at their last meeting they talked about the services for their Students. They are working on renovations on their Building that should be ready FY21.

TRI-TOWN EDUCATION FOUNDATION:

Dr. Ronald Gerhart not at meeting to report.

POLICY SUB-COMMITTEE:

Kate Ellen Houdelette not at meeting to report.

SCHOOL COUNCIL:

Nichole Daniel stated that they are hiring a new Assistant Principal and reached out to School Council and have two people on the hiring Committee, Anna Ward and Kristen St. Campbell.

FUTURE BUSINESS:

Next Marion meeting is June 3, 2020 and the next Joint School Committee Meeting is June 11, 2020.

ADJOURNMENT:

Nichole Daniel made a motion to adjourn at 7:33 p.m.

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

