

MARION SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
16 Spring Street – Marion, MA 02738

MEETING MINUTES

December 4, 2019

<https://vimeo.com/377840303>

PRESENT

Committee Members:

Michelle Smith
CHAIRPERSON

April Rios
VICE-CHAIRPERSON

Nichole Daniel

Kate Ellen
Houdelette

Dr. Ronald
Gerhart

ABSENT

Committee Members:

ALSO, PRESENT

Dr. Douglas White
SUPERINTENDENT OF
SCHOOLS

Michael Nelson
ASST. SUPT.

Marla Sirois
PRINCIPAL

Kyle Letendre
ASSISTANT
PRINCIPAL

Jenn Seco
RECORDING
SECRETARY

Members of the
Press

MEETING TO ORDER

The Marion School Committee meeting was called to order on December 4, 2019 by Chairperson Smith at 6:30 p.m. at the Sippican School.

Chairperson Smith began the meeting with introducing Ms. Karen Smith who is retiring and thanked her for her twenty-five years of service. She presented her with a book from the staff and students called “Extra Yarn” which conveys a gentle message about giving rather than taking. Principal Sirois also shared many kind words about Mrs. Santos and her path at the Sippican school throughout the years. Principal Sirois mentioned that Mrs. Santos is known as “The Kindergarten Queen”, a well-deserved and earned title. Assistant Principal Letendre also shared a book dedicated to Ms. Santos with an inscription which read “In honor of Karen Santos. You have been a gift to the students and staff of the Sippican school for decades. Thank you for your passion, commitment to children and positive, faithful spirit.” A member of the audience also shared heartfelt words describing Ms. Santos as a gift to all and she is truly a light of inspiration. Dr. White also thanked and wished her the best. Overall Ms. Smith is very loved and appreciated and will be missed. Mrs. Santos was very grateful and gracious.

AGENDA ITEM IV.C.

KINDERGARTEN REPORT CARDS

Dr. White gave a brief introduction of the development and move to a the new kindergarten report card and that the new tool is in line with the standard based report card now used by the other grades. He mentioned the great work that Ms. Lopes and Mr. Nelson along with the kindergarten teachers have put into this project ensuring its’ future success.

Mr. Nelson went on to share the wonderful work done by Ms. Lopes and how she spearheaded this initiative assuring that the kindergarten teachers had a voice in the process in terms of developing and collaborating a product they had ownership in. Mr. Nelson also mentioned that they are very proud of not only the report card but also the rubric that has been developed. Lastly, Mr. Nelson gave kudos to Mr. Ashley for his patience through the many edit changes and making the final product very user friendly.

Ms. Lopes began the presentation with a brief history of what had been used in the past and the concern that needs were not being met, the product was confusing, not user friendly and production of report was time consuming along with the cost of color prints.

Ms. Lopes shared what steps were taken in order to begin the process of moving to the new report card. She began meeting with all kindergarten teachers gathering their feedback and prioritizing was based on best

instructional practices. Teams from each school identified missing standard, duplication and priorities. Time was spent analyzing what was gathered and asking questions such as, are families going to understand this, is there vertical alignment with first grade, what are emerging skills under each standard and what do they look like. Once this was all put together a final review was conducted by the Principals from each school ensuring a standard common language across the buildings, alignment with the standard based report card and families' clear understanding of their child's development. Ms. Lopes added that the Kindergarten report card goes out twice a year and the new report card will be sent home on January 7th along with a supporting letter. Ms. Lopes also shared that the rubric is a teacher tool and perhaps parents would benefit from an informational night session. Mr. Nelson added that Ms. Kris Lincoln proposed filming a narrated video and placing on the website which parents can refer back to if they need further clarification.

Mr. Nelson shared that along with Ms. Lopes assistance they are looking into best practices and developing a consistent model when it comes to the kindergarten entry enrollment across the three schools. Ms. Lopes will share more information on the plan at the February committee meeting.

Chairperson Smith praised Ms. Lopes for all the great work she does with early childhood education and encouraged parents who are looking for information to reach out.

AGENDA ITEM I.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

AGENDA ITEM I.A.1

REGULAR SESSION

Minutes of October 16, 2019 "MSC 12042019 October Minutes"

MOTION: Dr. Gerhart made the motion to accept the October 16, 2019 meeting minutes as presented
SECOND: Ms. Daniel
VOTE: Unanimously Pass

AGENDA ITEM IV. A.

SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH UPDATE

Chairperson Smith shared that there will be a four-chair meeting on December 5th that will provide updates on the next phase of the process. She also shared that surveys have closed, and the focus group meetings have ended.

AGENDA ITEM IV. B.

APPROVAL OF DONATION – "Please reference MSC 12042019 Donation"

Dr. White shared an overview about the Calmer Choice Program and how they bring in individuals that provide training along with classroom activities. He went on to state that it is a tool that will help student manage situations and make good choices in their own lives. The Calmer Choice Program is also support by The Healthy Tri-Town Coalition. Principal Sirois added that the program will begin with grades four and five and in the spring possible add a few more.

MOTION: Vice Chairperson Rios made the motion to accept the St. Gabriel's Church donation of \$500.00 for the Calmer Choice Program
SECOND: Ms. Daniel
VOTE: Unanimously Pass

AGENDA ITEM V.C.1.

FINANCIAL REPORT "Please refer to "MSC 12042019 FY20 Financials"

Dr. White reviewed the financials and noted a few overdrawn lines with the committee. He went on to share in detail how these lines are being managed. Please refer to "MSC 12042019 FY20 Financials". He indicated many of the items on the report will be adjusted within the programs themselves.

AGENDA ITEM V.C.1.a.

REVOLVING ACCOUNT BALANCES

Dr. White reviewed the revolving accounts please refer to "MSC 12042019 Revolving Account FY20".

He went on to say that all accounts are in good shape and all money is in their respective places.

AGENDA ITEM V.C.2.

BUDGET TRANSFERS "Please refer to "MSC 12042019 Budget Transfers"

Dr. White reviewed the budget transfer sheet in detail with the committee. He reminded the committee that if the program has other moneys, the ability to manage the overages within the program does not need school committee approval and as long as it stays within the program itself.

- MOTION: Dr. Gerhart made the motion to approve the total number of transfers as outlined and described by Dr. White in the total amount of \$51,122.00
- SECOND: Ms. Houdelette
- VOTE: Unanimously Pass

AGENDA ITEM V.C.3.

BUDGET TIMELINE – FY21 "MSC 12042019 FY21 Budget Timeline"

Dr. White reviewed the upcoming timeline with the committee in order to have the FY21 budget ready for the town then followed by a public hearing in March and then once again the town meeting in May. He indicated that this timeline will continue to be updated as the process moves along.

Chairperson Smith shared that she feels that the budget subcommittee which include Ms. Houdelette, Ms. Rios and Ms. Smith are ahead this year which will hopefully make the process easier and smoother.

AGENDA ITEM V.C.4.

STUDENT OPPORTUNITY ACT "Please refer to "MSC 12042019 Student Opportunity Act – Fact Sheet"

Dr. White shared that the Student Opportunity Act will be implemented over the next seven years. Over that time \$1.5 million *new* dollars will be put into education. He went on to share a few areas that will be taken into consideration; one being health insurance that was not considered in the past, as well as the cost of special education and finally English language learning. The state is onboard with social emotional learning and will be providing additional assistance which is an area as a district we are already working on. He also shared that there will be relief for students that attend charter schools and how that will be reimbursed. One of the biggest areas will be circuit breaker. He went on to share that in the past transportation costs were not used in calculating circuit breaker and now it can be added to the total of students tuition and transportation in order to be reimbursed. The first stage of the act will be 25% reimbursement which will qualify more dollars into the district. Also, Rochester is considered rural community and there may also be additional funds there as well. Lastly Dr. White shared that by April a plan will be needed on how the money will be used but that it is still in process and more information will be coming from the state.

AGENDA ITEM VII.

CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT

Chairperson Smith reflected on thankfulness overall for the Sippican community throughout. She pointed out that all the children that have started with Sippican/Marion and moved on to other schools will always be "our students". Chairperson Smith went on to thank all the dedicated and caring professionals. She thanked Dr. White for his ten years of extreme hard work and devotion to moving academically forward while keeping in mind the social and emotional wellbeing of each student.

CENTRAL OFFICE ADMINISTRATORS REPORT

Dr. White noted that most of the work happening at the central office is around preparing FY21 budget for the school year along with working on curriculum alignment throughout the district. Dr. White also shared that the town administrator and selectman will be doing a walkthrough at ORR and Sippican on Monday, December 9th.

Dr. White extended an invitation to the committee to join the January 17th professional development day on Diversity Talks including workshops and Adolf Brown, a speaker that will be joining at 12:30 at the high school cafeteria.

PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

Principal Sirois shared some information on the MASS Cultural Counsel grants which brings artisans to communities. She went on to state that she applied and received a \$5,000 grant to bring Caravan Puppets from western MA and is hoping to bring them to the school in the spring.

MOTION: Vice Chairperson Rios made the motion to accept the MASS Cultural Counsel grant in the amount of \$5,000.00
SECOND: Ms. Daniel
VOTE: Unanimously Pass

Vice Chairperson Rios took a moment to thank the twenty-four ambassadors that helped support the holiday shop this year. Principal Sirois added that all the ambassadors were very attentive and helped the children of all the grades in terms of financial literacy choose the perfect gift for everyone on their list. Chairperson Smith added that this event was another great example of the collaboration between the schools.

Principal Sirois gave some more information about a few upcoming holiday events that would be taking place and stated that they would like to make a community kindness area front of the school throughout the year.

AGENDA ITEM VIII.A.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE

Chairperson Smith shared that the Budget Subcommittee met at 5:30 pm prior to this school committee meeting and a meeting has been scheduled for next week.

BUILDING COMMITTEE

No update at this time. Dr. White will follow up with Ms. Houdelette and Dr. Gerhart with more information regarding the Building Committee.

ORR District School Committee

Chairperson Smith shared the following items discussed at ORR District School Committee

- DECA Interdiction Presentation
- Ski Trip approval
- 2021 Trip to Europe approval
- Bus Contract approval

SMEC

Chairperson Smith shared the following items discussed at SMEC

- Staff employment and reductions
- Reviewed the draft annual report
- Capital reserve policy revised
- Agreement of articles and memberships approved/submitted
- Policy revisions approved/submitted
- Legislative and legal updates

EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCIL

Ms. Daniel shared the following items discussed at Early Childhood Council

- Presentation by the justice resource center offering programs/course for proactive strategies for behavioral difficulties
- Spring event “Celebrate the Week Of A Young Child” was discussed happening in April
- Berkshire Museum provides free transition to Kindergarten book was shared that all children from the district can obtain

Mr. Nelson also shared that resources around the CFC grant are being used a bit differently this year which has allows us to invest more direct programs for children and also more information is being shared over social media. He went on to say that a stronger presence via these outlets help reach out to the families and get them reliable and accurate information.

READS

Dr. White shared the following items discussed at READS

- Continue to look for space to rent
- Building FY21 budget

TRI-TOWN FOUNDATION

No Update

POLICY SUB-COMMITTEE

Dr. White shared the following items discussed at Policy Sub-Committee

- Policies are being reviewed in order to be voted on

SCHOOL COUNCIL

Principal Sirios shared the following items discussed at the school council

- Working on the budget

EXECUTIVE SESSION*

Chairperson Smith made the statement to go into Executive Session to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining and adjourn the regular meeting with the roll call.

ROLL CALL: 5:0

Michelle Smith	April Rios	Nichole Daniel	Kate Ellen Houdelette	Dr. Ronald Gerhart
YES	YES	YES	YES	YES

**“Please refer to the EXECUTIVE SESSION Minutes of December 4, 2019”*

Chairperson Smith made a motion to come out of Executive Session at 8:18 p.m. in order to adjourn the meeting.

ROLL CALL: 5:0

Michelle Smith	April Rios	Nichole Daniel	Kate Ellen Houdelette	Dr. Ronald Gerhart
YES	YES	YES	YES	YES

ADJOURN MEETING

MOTION: Vice Chairperson Rios gave the motion to adjourn meeting

SECOND: Dr. Gerhart

VOTE: Unanimously Pass

Meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

NEXT MEETING Thursday, January 15, 2020 at 6:30

Submitted by:
Jenn Seco
Recording Secretary