

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

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**October 16, 2019**  
<https://vimeo.com/367248970>

The regular meeting of the Marion School Committee was called to order by Chairperson Smith at 6:35 p.m.

**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  
DIRECTOR OF  
STUDENT SERVICES

Marla Sirois  
PRINCIPAL

Kyle Letendre  
ASSISTANT  
PRINCIPAL

Jenn Seco  
RECORDING  
SECRETARY

Members of the  
Press

**MEETING TO ORDER**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**A.1. Regular Session**

Minutes of September 4, 2019 (MSC 10162019 September)

MOTION: Vice Chairperson Rios made the motion to accept the 9/4/2019 meeting minutes as presented

SECOND: Ms. Daniel

VOTE: Pass (Dr. Gerhart abstained)

Agenda item IV. A.

**SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH UPDATE**

Chairperson Smith began by stating that the four chairs have met regularly conducting interviews of various companies in order to help with the search for the perfect superintendent. The chairs have narrowed it down to one company called MASC and the recommendation will be made to the Joint Committee. She also shared a broad overview of what some of the services MASC would provide e.g. computerized surveys, forms at different schools, community input on needs and goals. Chairperson Smith went on to say that the chairs will gather the data/input in order to form a subcommittee of 7 to 11 members. The majority of this superintendent search subcommittee will not be school committee members. This information will be presented to the Joint Committee on October 23<sup>rd</sup> which Jim Hardy from MA Association for School Committees will be present.

Agenda item IV. B.

**6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE FUNDRAISER APPROVAL**

Principal Sirois presented a list of four new upcoming fundraisers for the School Committees consideration and potential approval for the school year.

- Family Portraits: Photo shoot with local photographers; November timeframe so that pictures will be available for holiday cards
- Tupperware fundraiser: possible a fall timeframe so that items could be purchased for holiday entertaining/gifts. 40% return on the Tupperware
- Cupcake Charlie's: cupcake sales vial advance order. \$1 per cupcake
- Kickball tournament: late winter/early spring team event

MOTION: Ms. Daniel made the motion to accept the 6<sup>th</sup> grade fundraisers as presented  
SECOND: Vice Chairperson Rios  
VOTE: Unanimously Pass

Agenda item V.C.1.

### **FINANCIAL REPORT**

Dr. White reminded the committee that the search for a new business administrator is still underway and in the interim we have Mr. Lincoln Lynch, a former superintendent and business administrator has been hired to assist the districts. He went on to explain that this year things are being done a little differently, he went on to explain that all the amounts are actual, and should line up accordingly, he explained that currently there is \$840,000 (13% of the budget) remaining.

Dr. White also stated that he met with the Town Official concerning Bristol Aggie and the decision to use one bus that will service the three towns which the cost is about \$34,940. The school budget covers \$17,000 and the town is responsible for the remaining amount. More information to come on new potentially cost effect suggestions have been made for the upcoming year.

Agenda item V.C.a.

### **Revolving Account Balances**

Dr. White reviewed the revolving accounts please refer to “MSC 10162019 Revolving Account FY20”. He went on to say that the correct balances have been updated and all the account are healthy and in good standing and can support activities through the Marion Public Schools.

Mr. Nelson added additional information about Title I, II and IV grants. These have been approved are in line for the school year.

Chairperson Smith extended her gratitude to Mr. Nelson for the additional work he has taken on as there is no longer an Assistant Superintendent.

Ms. Houdelette raised the concern of a negative balance for food service. Dr. White explained that at the beginning of the school year there is a larger amount of purchasing and as time goes on that number should subside. These numbers will continue to be monitored throughout the year.

Agenda item VI.A

### **MCAS PRESENTATION**

Dr. White shared some information on the accountability changes in the MCAS 2.0, an overview of year over year targets according to what had been done in previous years and how points are awarded reflecting those targets. He added to take into consideration all that can be celebrated as well as what can be done going forward to improve upon the success of students’ progress grade to grade.

Principal Sirois followed Dr. White’s comments with the MCAS presentation. Please refer to the Marion MCAS presentation for more details. Principal Sirois reviewed the performance, growth and action items from the MCAS data collected. Overall, students met or exceeded expectations across the board. She also touched upon the ongoing efforts of the BBST team, professional development possibilities within Sippican and the flex rotation model (Airport Model), Wilson Foundations program and continued use of Chromebooks.

Following the presentation, Dr. White added that they have been looking at the strategic plan and identifying students needs prior to receiving test results making sure the supports needed are in place. He went on to state that it’s time to be concerned about the current programs and if they are working effectively to what the need is. Open dialog around these improvement opportunities needs to be continued and consistent in order to provide the tools needed to improve our students.

Chairperson Smith asked if efforts to analyse the data from these results have been started in order to look at specific areas and groups. Principal Sirois explained that they have begun to backtrack coherent maps in order to adjust current plans as they look forward insuring needed standards are covered. Chairperson Smith added

that the challenge is that the content of the questions are known but not how the question was asked leaving room for interpretation by the student.

Dr. White added that students are doing better than the state (holding their own) but they are not pushing into the next level which we need to extend & push a little bit harder. He also mentioned the social emotional part of being more engaged in authentic learning opportunities will make the students feel better about themselves. Taking the test online not only is about maneuvering the content knowledge but also the technical aspect of taking the test itself.

Ms. Daniel asked if there are programs in place in order to help support the technology aspects of these tests. Dr. White responded by saying that those are opportunities that are being explored. Dr. Gerhart emphasized the need to return to teaching basic skills especially in general math.

Dr. White wrapped up by sharing that there are groups in place investigating all parts of the program and basic skill sets needed today in order to determine the right components to determine what the needs are.

Agenda item VII.C.

### **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

Chairperson Smith spoke of the highlights of the MCAS presentation and the need for celebrating the hard work put forward by the Sippican dedicated staff, parents and students for exceeding the state average. She went on to share the importance of celebrating each individual child's growth; big or small, high or low. Chairperson Smith also mentioned that it is budget season and to keep in mind student needs including their social emotional needs and she looks forward to working with the town and all stakeholders to achieve success.

### **CENTRAL OFFICE ADMINISTRATORS REPORT**

Dr. White reminded the committee of the Friday News and his hopes that it is a tool that is capturing happenings across the districts providing the materials and content needed to keep everyone aware of what steps are being taken to support education across the districts.

Dr. White gave an overview of the Student Opportunity Fact Sheet where the state supplemental budget stands as well as the budget being built for the next seven years and the work that is trying to be accomplished. He pointed out a few facets that may be included in school funding such as special education, regional transportation, state support health insurance increases etc.

Dr. White shared the progress of the Eversource lighting grant that Mr. Jones has submitted. The schools included are Center School, Old Hammondton, Jr. High, High School and Sippican. LED lights will be available throughout these school helping with the utility cost savings. More information to follow.

Dr. White wrapped up by extending his gratitude to Mr. Nelson for the work that he did preparing for October 11<sup>th</sup> Professional Development day. Per Dr. White the key note speaker was top notch and kept the staff engaged and gave them the tools necessary to do their work around project-based learning.

Mr. Nelson agreed with Dr. White adding that the material presented was not only engaging but relatable as well and it was a great transition from keynote into "how do we do this work". He also added that the ideology and main message was of telling stories, the age-old tool used in terms of making memories and learning should be memorable. Principal Sirois added it was a great session starting with the brainstorming of what Sippican is already doing and how to make connections stronger working in collaboration. Per Mr. Nelson, post professional development survey feedback from these events will hopefully help develop a sustainable model around Project Based Learning.

Mr. Nelson went on to share a few upcoming professional development events that fit the strategic plan; Access and Equity Conference on October 24<sup>th</sup> and Change First on October 31<sup>st</sup> through November 1<sup>st</sup> which will set the stage for the full professional development day in January centered around Cultural Proficiency. Dr. White noted that one of the things that is being pushed for is giving every child each year an opportunity to do at least two based learning experiences.

Mr. Nelson also shared the need to possibly move away from Project Grow in kindergarten report card and move to a proposed standard based report card which aligns with the other grades. More information will be shared as the action plan is executed.

Mr. Nelson shared the great news that we are a unified sports district. The first home game took place at the Junior and High School and it was a great experience full of positive and powerful moments for all.

### **PRINCIPAL'S REPORT**

Principal Sirois shared that it was great month and she continues to get to know the school and caring community. She went on to share that Sprit Day (Crazy Sock Day) was a success and they are participating in Socks for Smiles. Sippican alone has donated 814 pairs of socks. The total socks donated including ORR and Seaside CrossFit, came to 1,047. She went on to share that The New Bedford Orchestra Trio joined Sippican and it was great experience seeing how students can be taught as a whole no mater if reading words or music. October is also Fire Safety Month, Marion Fire Department has worked with PreK-6<sup>th</sup> grade to educated and demonstrate various equipment, scenarios and safety practices. Principal Sirois continued with Big Brother Big Sister program which has started with thirty-eight high school kids being matched up with K-6<sup>th</sup>. Finally, the Anchor Program will have a Spaghetti dinner on November 14<sup>th</sup> and information has been shared with families.

Agenda item VIII.A.

### **SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### Budget Subcommittee

No update

#### Building Committee

Vice Chairperson Rios shared an overview of a five year plan that Mr. Jones has proposed pertaining to what/where project funds will be allocated and from there the Capital Committee will ask the Town for support. One of these projects is an access road to the school which per Dr. White, the Town will be taking over that expense. Vice Chairperson Rios added that projects will be done in increments.

#### ORR District School Committee

Chairperson Smith shared the committee discussed building usage and fees. They passed a motion for the OR traveling basketball association to use the facility for a flat rate. A motion to allow the beginning stages of negotiation for the solar power project was passed and they also passed a security upgrade motion.

#### SMEC

No update

#### Early Childhood Council

No update

#### READS

Dr. White shared that they continue to look for space that will meet the student needs and funding seems to be an issue.

#### Tri-Town Foundation

No Update

#### Policy Sub-Committee

Dr. White shared that per ways of the Policy Sub Committee they are asking the Committee if they are willing to charge fees to rent the facility. He reminded the committee that these expenses are not built into the school budget (utilities, wear and tear, janitorial time) and they are impacting the budget. He also added that currently the policy charges a onetime charge of \$150.00 which means an hour or ten hours costs the same.

Ms. Daniel raised the concern if fees were charged that it would probably trickle down to recreational groups charging more as well. Ms. Houdelette weighed in sharing that it does need to be looked at because of the challenges the budget presents each year and taking on this cost is taking from the school. Dr. White confirmed that the school has aids in place for students that want to participate but are not able to. He also went on to say that right now the information and ideas are being gathered in order to come up with the best possible solution. Overall the committee is willing to have the Policy Sub Committee to start looking into the possibility of charging for faculty use.

School Council

Principal Sirois shared that they elected a Co-Chairperson, reviewed rolls and responsibilities, established the meeting calendar and all spots have been filled.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Chairperson Smith made a motion to go into Executive Session at 7:49 p.m. to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining and to come out of executive session only to adjourn.

ROLL CALL: 5:0

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

Dr. White requested that Mr. Nelson and Principal Sirois attend the executive session.

Chairperson Smith made a motion to come out of Executive Session at 8:18 p.m. only to adjourn.

ROLL CALL: 5:0

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

**NEXT MEETING**

Thursday, December 4, 2019 at 6:30

Submitted by:  
Jenn Seco  
Recording Secretary