

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

MEETING MINUTES
September 4, 2019

VIDEO <https://sites.google.com/oldrochester.org/schoolcommittees/marion>

The Marion School Committee and Administration opened the meeting on Wednesday, September 4, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. for a walkthrough of the Sippican School located on 16 Spring Street, Marion Massachusetts lead by Gene Jones Facilities Director and Craig Harrison.

The regular meeting of the Marion School Committee was called to order by Chairperson Smith at 6:30 p.m.

PRESENT

Committee Members:

Michelle Smith
CHAIRPERSON

April Rios
VICE-CHAIRPERSON

Nichole Daniel

Kate Ellen
Houdelette

ABSENT

Committee Members:

Dr. Ronald
Gerhart

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 June 12, 2019

MOTION: Ms. Nicole Daniel made the motion to accept the June 12th meeting minutes

SECOND: Vice Chairperson Rios

VOTE: Pass (Ms. Kate Ellen Houdelette abstained)

Minutes of July 11, 2019

MOTION: Ms. Kate Ellen Houdelette made the motion to accept the June 12th meeting minutes

SECOND: Vice Chairperson Rios

VOTE: Unanimously Pass

A.2. Executive Session

Executive Session Minutes June 12, 2019

MOTION: Vice Chairperson Rios made the motion to approve the June 12th Executive Session minutes

SECOND: Ms. Nicole Daniel

VOTE: Pass (Ms. Kate Ellen Houdelette abstained)

Executive Session Minutes July 11, 2019

MOTION: Ms. Kate Ellen Houdelette made the motion to approve the July 11th Executive Session minutes

SECOND: Ms. Nicole Daniel

VOTE: Unanimously Pass

Chairperson Smith gave a positive overview of the facility tour which took place earlier. She stated that things looked cheery, warm and welcoming. She also thanked Gene and Craig for their hard work over the summer.

Dr White introduced and welcomed Jenn Seco as the new Recording Secretary to the school committee.

Agenda item IV. A.

REVIEW OF OPENING DAY

Dr. White shared that opening day was outstanding. It began with the staff meeting with their colleagues over a continental breakfast followed by a brief welcoming speech in the ORR auditorium.

Recognition of the staff of 10, 15, 20 or 25 years of service and introduction to new staff followed by a video. In this video the new staff introduced themselves and who their lighthouse was. Dr. White went on to explain that one of our own administrators, Rose Bowman was recognized and connected with a former student of hers from second grade. This student, Steve Pemberton who was also our keynote speaker.

The highlight of the morning was eleven students telling their story about what it's been like to be a student in the Tri-Town and who their light house was to this point and what they expect going forward.

Dr. White also invited anyone interested in learning more about the new staff members, to check out the video that can be found on the Rochester School website.

On the first day of school Dr. White and Mr. Nelson visited all the schools welcoming students.

Agenda item IV. B.

OPEN HOUSE UPDATE

Principal Sirois gave an overview of the well-attended open house which started with a full staff meeting following the first day (8/26) of school. At 5pm families were welcomed to the multipurpose room. Principal Sirois went through what a day in the life of a student looked like at Sippican and then families went off to visit their students class rooms.

Vice Chairperson Rios added that it was a great night. She was pleased to see the different community agencies that set up tables in the lobby to share information with the families as they walked in.

Chairperson Smith also gave some feedback on the social media Facebook page and the photos posted over the summer and the first day of school. Principal Sirois added that their goal is to post two pictures per day.

Agenda item IV. C.

BRISTOL AGGIE BUS CONTRACT

Dr. White discussed the bid for \$34,920 from the Fall River Braga Transportation Bus Company for 1 year with the option for 2 years. Please refer to "MSC 09042016 Bristol Aggie Bus Contract". Dr. White also explained that Marion had budgeted \$17,000 therefore they will have a deficit of \$17,920 in Bristol Aggie Transportation.

MOTION: Ms. Kate Ellen Houdelette to accept the Braga transportation contract as presented
SECOND: Vice Chairperson Rios
VOTE: Unanimously Pass

Agenda item IV. D.

SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH COMMITTEE

Chairperson Smith explained the steps that had been taken thus far in order to start the process of finding a new superintendent.

The four chairs have met and have contacted consultants to help with the process. The district cost of these services may possibly range from 10k-15k. This preliminary information will help with the next step which will be to form a Search Committee. The next meeting will be October 9th to choose a consulting company.

Agenda item IV. E.

DONATION APPROVAL

\$1,000 from Marion Teachers Association to Principal's account. In honor of Mrs. Rivet's Retirement

MOTION: Vice Chairperson Rios made the motion to accept the donation
SECOND: Ms. Kate Ellen Houdelette
VOTE: Unanimously Pass

\$100 from the Nye Family to Principal's account. In honor of Mrs. Rivet's Retirement

MOTION: Ms. Nicole Daniel made the motion to accept the donation
SECOND: Ms. Kate Ellen Houdelette
VOTE: Pass (Vice Chairperson Rios abstained)

Chairperson Smith thanked all for their donations. She explained that the Principal's account is used for lunches, field trip as well as for scholarships for students/families who might need them.

Agenda item V.D.

PERSONNEL

Dr. White welcomed new staff or staff that has changed roles to the school committee.

Marla Sirois, Principal	Taylor Mitchell, Project Grow Paraprofessional
Kyle Letendre, Asst. Principal	Lisa Daniels, Sped Secretary
Sarah Goerges, Project Grow Teacher	
Jennifer Nye Denham, Paraprofessional	

Agenda item V.C.1.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Dr. White reviewed the FY19 financial report. Please refer to "MSC 09042019 FY19 End of Year" which is closed out.

He also reviewed the first month of the FY20 financial report. Please refer to "MSC 09042019 FY20 Budget". In the next couple of months lines will be adjusted and sorted out as things change. Updates will follow.

Dr. White also mentioned that at the last Joint Meeting he brought forward that the business office is looking to provide support in the business office on a part time bases until they can secure a full-time business administrator. Dr. White has secured the services of Lincoln Lynch. Mr. Lynch's expertise and experience as Walpole's former 20-year business administrator then followed by 15-years as superintendent will greatly help until a business administrator position is filled.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Chairperson Smith welcomed and graciously thanked all the parents, teachers, administration and students. She spoke of all types of "Change" and how there are so many positive and exciting changes happening at Sippican. Ms. Smith mentioned a bulletin board currently at the school that states; "Change your words." "Change your mindset." Her heartfelt and encouraging words were felt by the committee. Ms. Smith believes together Sippican can move mountains and have a successful school year.

CENTRAL OFFICE ADMINISTRATORS REPORT

Mr. Nelson announced that as of September 4th Project Grow is full and currently has no open slots, he also stated that the program is off to a great start.

In the upcoming month, Mr. Nelson will be focused on finalizing Title I, Title II and Special Education grants.

He also mentioned the summer Sail program continues to be a success with over 200 kids which is good news because of the increase of students taking enrichment courses.

Dr. White stated, he was contacted by the town administrator and he is looking for input on capital projects. Dr. White extended an invite to the committee to meet with Gene Jones and himself to review what would be submitted by September 20th.

Dr. White also thanked Mike Nelson for all his support in the Central Office knowing we moved away from having an assistant superintendent and the shift in business administrator. Mr. Nelson has been working on professional development and finding a guest speaker for the Project Based Learning full day on October 11th. He has also been actively involved in securing our Cultural Proficiency lineup for January 17th. There will be lots of good work happening at the end of October for administrators and members of our cultural proficiency teams prior to going into the January 17th full day. Dr. White recommended keeping up with "Friday News" for updates and for all happenings in the district.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Principal Sirois stated that she is honored to be a part of the family. One of her main priorities is student safety. Opening day was a success and well represented by two of their sixth graders. They spoke of the teachers that had an impact on them and their learning as their family's support. The home school connection between the two is very important. Principal Sirois also informed the committee that the Anger program is ready get started.

Principal Sirois also presented Chairperson Smith with documentation signed by the school doctor concerning medication handling and storage when students attend field trips for her signature.

MOTION: Vice Chairperson Rios made the motion for school health application of the handling and storage of medication
SECOND: Ms. Nicole Daniel
VOTE: Unanimously Pass

Agenda item VIII.A.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Budget Subcommittee

No update

Building Committee

No update

ORR District School Committee

No update

SMEC

No update

Early Childhood Council

No update

READS

No update

Tri-Town Foundation

No update

Policy Sub-Committee

No update

School Council

Meeting Monday, October 7th - Principal Sirois shared that the School Council meets on the first Monday of every month at 3:30 and there is one parent opening. Chairperson Smith encouraged people to join and be a part of education.

Marion School Committee

Meeting Wednesday, October 16th

Joint Committee

Meeting Thursday, September 26th and Wednesday, October 9th

Dr. White recommended keeping up with the "Friday News" for and changes to the meeting date.

ADJOURN MEETING

MOTION: Vice Chairperson Rios gave the motion to adjourn meeting

SECOND: Ms. Kate Ellen Houdelette

VOTE: Unanimously Pass

Meeting ended at 7:18pm

NEXT MEETING

Thursday, October 16, 2019 at 6:30

Submitted by:

Jenn Seco

Recording Secretary