

**MARION SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES**

**March 13, 2025 at 12:00pm
Hybrid in the Superintendent's Conference Room**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: April Nye (in-person) and Nichole Nye McGaffey (remote)

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT: Michael S. Nelson, Superintendent of Schools, Howard Barber, Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations, Shari Fedorowicz, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning, Jaime Curley, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services (late) and Lynn Dessert, Principal (all in-person).

OTHERS PRESENT: None

Ms. Nye called the meeting to order at 12:01 p.m.

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION:

Superintendent Nelson updated the school committee that preliminary feedback from the Town has been received in regards to the proposed budget, which was discussed at the last meeting of 8.75% of an increase, including special education expenses that was a separate article at Town Meeting last year. This increase represents level service including a 1.0FTE special education teacher to meet the needs of current students. Feedback from the town has been for level service budgeting, and he has worked with Mr. Barber and Ms. Dessert to determine options for reductions. A new math curriculum at \$40,000 was included in the first draft budget for the 25-26 school year. He expressed the items to discuss at this meeting were enrollment, new math curriculum options and special education expenses to obtain feedback from the school committee members on recommendations for moving forward. Kindergarten enrollment continues to be monitored but enrollment at this time does not support three sections. Further, the school committee reviewed enrollment at each grade level and he reminded the school committee that the current first grade has two sections but there is a third FTE in the budget. Superintendent Nelson shared an option for the new math curriculum would be to have a separate line item at Town Meeting for \$70,000, which would be a three-year license, and he believes he has preliminary support from town officials. Special education expenses are currently included based on the current enrollment at Sippican; however, there is always the potential for services to change or families to move-in to the district.

School Committee Feedback:

Ms. Nye and Ms. Nye McGaffey shared that this budget season was especially difficult but they both support the recommendations suggested by administration in order to decrease the proposed draft budget and work in good faith with town officials. They support adjusting out of district expenses, removing the math curriculum in anticipation of a separate line item, reducing one teacher based on enrollment and keeping the special education teacher position along with a potential special article for unexpected special education expenses.

Motion to accept the recommendations as presented today to adjust the proposed budget if needed by Ms. Nye McGaffey

Motion seconded by Ms. Nye

Roll Call - Motion Carried 2-0.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:43 p.m.

Motion to adjourn by Ms. Nye McGaffey

Motion seconded by Ms. Nye

Roll Call - Motion Carried 2-0.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M~N~".

Michael S. Nelson, Superintendent