

MARSHFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
MARSHFIELD SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
Remote Participation Meeting
April 7, 2020
7:00 p.m.

In response to Governor Baker's declaration of a public health emergency and the related Emergency Executive Order dated March 12, 2020 as well as the Marshfield Board of Selectmen's Declaration of Emergency on March 17, 2020, the School Committee shall be meeting remotely until further notice. The audioconferencing application Zoom will be used for this purpose. An online link and telephone access number will be provided on all meeting agendas and also on the Board's website. This application will permit the public to access and participate in future Board meetings and hearings. Instructions for joining meetings in this manner will be provided on the School Committee and Town Clerk's websites. In addition, Marshfield Community TV may provide coverage of these meetings. We extend our thanks for your understanding and participation in this manner, which is intended to keep members of the Board and the public safe.

Mr. Costello called meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

I. ROLL CALL

Mrs. Boyd	Yes
Mrs. Campbell	Yes
Mr. Greer	Yes
Mr. Costello	Yes
Mrs. Brait	Yes

Also present was Supt. Jeffrey Granatino, Director of Special Education / Pupil Personnel, Ms. Amy Scolaro, Asst. Supt. Dr. Ellen Martin, and Asst. Supt. Business & Finance, Mr. Thomas Miller.

Mr. Costello noted under the Open Meeting Law, he was informing the public of this meeting being videotaped by Marshfield Community Television. If anyone in the audience is taping the meeting, either audio or video, please inform us of such at this time.

MOTION: Mr. Greer moved to open Public Hearing on School Choice. Mrs. Campbell second. VOTE: 5-0-0.

PUBLIC HEARING: SCHOOL CHOICE

Mr. Costello asked for comments on School Choice. No Comments.

MOTION: Mr. Greer moved to close Public Hearing. Mrs. Campbell second. VOTE: 5-0-0.

II. INFORMATIONAL

Supt. Granatino updated the Committee on the following:

- Thanks to Ms. Sarah Marples and MEA for their support over the past several weeks
- Leadership team working diligently on remote learning
- Thanks to Amy Scolaro, Ellen Martin, and Tom Miller for their hard work assisting staff and parents over the past three weeks
- Thanks to our amazing staff pulling things together over a short period of time – all within five days
- Special thanks to David Cawthorne and his tech team and Aimee McAlpine and Laura Tilton for their unending support to families and staff, especially at the elementary level
- Food distribution: thanks to Irene Ekstrom and our Food Service workers along with our custodians for delivery of the meals and the Boys & Girls Club
- Thanks to Jane Landry for assisting our health agent at the Town Hall field questions for Marshfield residents

Asst. Supt. Martin updated the Committee on the following:

- Our elementary staff have had the biggest learning curve with Canvas
- Dave Cawthorne and Aimee McAlpine have been amazing resources for our staff
- SEL course was offered online with 80 people attending

Director Special Education Amy Scolaro updated the Committee on the following:

- Sped teachers are working hard PK-22
- Conference call with Russell Johnson, Associate Commissioner for Special Education
- We now have expectations for our Sped students providing FAPE for all students
- All Sped students will receive their services while school is closed; we are reaching out to every family and checking in to do a needs assessment
- Teams are collaborating with families
- Will hold virtual Team Meetings shortly with guidance from DESE

Asst. Supt. Thomas Miller updated the Committee on the following:

- Will discuss FY'20 and FY'21 budget
- Kudos to Jason Bastein, our new Payroll employee; he's done a lot of work in a short period of time and everyone is receiving their salary

- Central Office staff are in and out of the office; have Zoom Meetings once a week
- Food service is still serving meals; just heard our meals are reimbursable through the Federal School Lunch Program
- We will have an offset in substitute teachers and utilities

Subcommittee Reports:

Mrs. Campbell noted the same is happening at the Collaborative as mentioned by Mrs. Scolaro – resources are being provided as best they can.

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Suspended per law as noted by Governor Baker

IV. OLD BUSINESS

FY'21 Operating Budget: Mr. Miller provided update of budget summary. Town Meeting is scheduled for May 26. Committee is requested at this time to vote a final FY'21 operating budget number. Town will be losing \$300,000 from local meals tax and a decrease of 5% in Chapter 70 funding. Town's projected loss is approximately \$1.8 million. Debt and fixed costs are being adjusted.

Every town department is taking a cut. Police, Fire and Education are expected to receive 2.5% increases. MPSD will have to reduce budget by approximately \$365,000. Will work with Leadership and Budget Subcommittee to identify areas.

Town has frozen their spending. We are paying employee salaries and will look for savings.

MOTION: Mr. Greer moved to vote to rescind Initial FY'21 School Committee Budget of \$52,181,026. Mrs. Campbell second. VOTE: 5-0-0.

MOTION: Mr. Greer moved to vote to approve recommended FY'21 initial Town Education Budget of \$51,367,687 with expectation of an additional FY21 Budget vote prior to May 26 Annual Town Meeting. Mrs. Campbell second. VOTE: 5-0-0.

V. NEW BUSINESS

Adjustment to Transportation Contract: Have had numerous meetings with DESE discussing continuity of services. We should continue to pay employees and contracted services. Transportation is different. We have a sole provider who strictly works with Marshfield.

Key is to have a transportation provider and not have them go out of business. DESE, Jay Sullivan, advised us to negotiate with our transportation company.

Mr. Miller reviewed transportation amendment. Amendment is based on DESE language for continuing service. Amendment is the proposal from DESE.

Estimate is 12% daily for gas and maintenance. Totman Enterprises is saving 12% by not running buses. We would reduce the contract by 12%.

Totman did layoff their employees for one week; we are deducting that week from the next payment. There are 20 drivers, 15 of which live in Marshfield.

Mr. Greer noted this is already budgeted and we are not losing anything. We view these employees from a single source as an extension of Marshfield Public Schools. Mr. Greer recommended the following amendment be added to the transportation amendment: Totman Enterprises cannot lay off their employees.

Mrs. Brait and Mr. Costello agreed. These employees are community members and part of Marshfield Public Schools.

MOTION: Mrs. Campbell moved to approve the Transportation Amendment as presented by Mr. Miller, with the additional amendment by Mr. Greer, for the Transportation Contract July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2021. Mrs. Brait second. VOTE: 5-0-0.

School Choice: Per Massachusetts General Law the Marshfield School Committee is required to hold a Public Hearing annually and, by vote, decide whether they wish to allow School Choice in the Marshfield Public School District. Historically, Marshfield has voted not to participate in School Choice.

Supt. Granatino noted with the turmoil surrounding the FY'20 and FY'21 operational budget, he recommended not voting for School Choice at this time.

MOTION: Mr. Greer moved Marshfield Public Schools be a School Choice District. Mrs. Campbell second. VOTE: 0-2-0. (motion defeated)

Remote Learning Plan: Supt. Granatino noted the changes that have occurred over the past three weeks. Amy Scolaro and her team have

been working on accommodations for our students. We are working to meet the state's expectations and reach and engage our students with educational opportunities.

We are using one platform for all – Canvas. The high school and middle school are comfortable with Canvas. This is a learning curve for our elementary staff and families. Google is uploaded into the Canvas platform. Dave Cawthorne and Aimee McAlpine have worked tirelessly inputting documents into Canvas at each grade level. Each grade level focuses on reading, math, science, and social studies. We are rolling this out tomorrow. All elementary students will have the same work – consistency and equitable for all. Everyone is on the same page, at the same pace. Students can communicate via email. We are still looking at live video conferencing. Fairness and equity is an issue.

Commissioner did not want to add stress to families. Our mantra is 'slow down to speed up'. We can check in with a family if a student is not engaging in their work and offer support. We are working on credit / no credit – no letter grades. We are looking at how the credit/no credit fits with our traditional letter grades, especially at the secondary level.

We have loaned out almost 500 Chrome Books to our students. MEF reached out to assist us. Kiss 108 Radio also reached out to assist us.

Ellen Martin noted specialists are also working with grade levels; music, art and PE. Principals and Vice Principals also took on a grade level. We are doing Zoom meetings and check ins. Making sure everyone gets the same message.

Amy Scolaro noted the Special Education teachers are working with the general education teachers within Canvas. Options can be record voice, speech to text, etc. We can modify content for each student. David Cawthorne and Aimee McAlpine have been very helpful with assistance. Students will still be able to receive their Special Education services through a remote platform.

Supt. Granatino noted this is challenging, but we are working together day to day to improve our plan. We have confidence in our staff that we will meet the needs of our students in an equitable fashion.

Mrs. Campbell noted as a parent, the communication from staff has been amazing. Staff are going above and beyond for our students.

Many of our staff are parents themselves, and the emotional well-being of our families is very important.

Committee thanked our staff, parents and administrative team working together to face the many challenges now and ahead

April 2020 Vacation: Discussed the last day of school being June 23 at this time. If staff do remote learning during April vacation week, Tuesday through Friday (April 21 – 24), it would reduce the year by four days, ending on June 17. This calendar change requires a vote by the School Committee.

Since we just started remote learning, taking this break would be detrimental to our students. Ms. Marples, MEA President, noted the staff vote:

Professional Staff: 314 Yes / 12 No

Support Staff: 89 Yes / 2 No

Committee agreed, this made good academic sense. By April vacation, we may have more information from Governor Baker. Monday, Patriot's Day, April 20, would still be a day off – no school.

MOTION: Mr. Greer moved to cancel April vacation, thus changing the last day of school to June 17, 2020. Mrs. Brait second. VOTE: 5-0-0.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Mr. Greer moved to adjourn meeting at 8:30 p.m. Mrs. Campbell second. VOTE: 5-0-0.

ROLL CALL:

Mrs. Boyd	Yes
Mrs. Campbell	Yes
Mr. Costello	Yes
Mr. Greer	Yes
Mrs. Brait	Yes

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruthann Despier
School Committee Secretary

Approved: 7/21/2020