

MARSHFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
MARSHFIELD SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
Martinson Elementary School
March 10, 2020
7:00 p.m.

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

I. ROLL CALL

Mrs. Boyd	Yes
Mrs. Campbell	Absent
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.

PeaceBuilders Pledge was recited by all.

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.

SPOTLIGHT ON EXCELLENCE

Principal Cotreau introduced Kylie Zima, Aislinn Friday and Kate Pateras who described and presented their 3 D printing projects to the Committee and demonstrated the use of 3-D Pens.

II. INFORMATIONAL

Supt. Granatino updated the Committee on the following:

- Press conference with Commission Riley and Governor Baker; Massachusetts is in a State of Emergency
- Number of Covid-19 confirmed cases rose from 41 to 92
- Bulletin received on 185 days of school (5 snow days built in); no school will attend past June 30; Marshfield could add three additional days to school calendar
- District Accountability (MCAS): for accountability purposes for school year 2019-2020, DESE will calculate chronic absenteeism as of March 2, 2020 and will not use attendance data for the remainder of the school year.
- Governor urged to refrain from students trips within the United States and cancel all international trips
- Meetings have been ongoing with town officials, Health Director, Facilities Director, Lead District Nurse along with Police and Fire Departments

- Schools have sufficient cleaning supplies for all buildings
- Posted links on district website for families to speak with children
- Commissioner Riley spoke to E-learning if we need to be out of school for a period of time; assignments can be online
- MCAS dates may require flexibility
- Attorney General Healy has had discussions with many groups
- With suggestion by Brigid Boyd, Superintendent's are drafting letter to school travel companies (EF and others) to assist families with financial reimbursement

Student Representative Report

- Grade 4 & 5 Volleyball tournament
- Senior Night Out
- Putting for Patients
- Talent Shows
- Parent Teacher Conferences
- Dr. Seuss Spirit Day
- Diversity Fair
- Strings Concert

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Susan Petrie

Riverside Circle: Addressed Grade 4 class sizes at Martinson and across the district; reference of high needs population and unique student needs at Martinson

Andy Hoey

Pages Lane: Addressed school start times at FBMS & MHS; later start times with surrounding communities; benefits of later start time for high school and middle school students

Oliver Stafford

Summer Street Addressed trip cancellation and decision sooner rather than later for April vacation

Katherine Kemp

Union Street Addressed Grade 4 class sizes at Martinson and numbers for upcoming year in Grade 5; stress on teachers; SEL component; students are not just a number; diversity at Martinson is very important; security is an issue with a class of 25 during an event such as a lockdown

L. Scheiber

DwightRoad Addressed out of state travel; is Governor's statement a mandate; is this trip a responsibility of the School Committee;

decision must be made by March 31; son in Madrid and virus outbreak doubled; everything closing in two weeks

Stephen Conn

Meghan Drive Addressed concern for travel to Spain; still level 2 but there are no travel advisories to Spain at this time

IV. OLD BUSINESS

Out of State Travel: Supt. Granatino spoke to concerns voiced over the past few days. Not one could predict this event happening with rapid progression. Governor strongly urged school sponsored trips to be curtailed; some districts have cut all trips. School Committee must decide if we will stay the course or cancel. Concern is the loss of funds and the loss of experience for our students.

Domestic travel is also a question. Currently there are three international trips planned and one domestic trip. One international trip has already been cancelled due to lack of participation. Lead District Nurse, Jane Landry, has been working with school administration, DPH and the town Board of Health.

Social Studies / Staff members Kim McGourty & Steve Waisgerber: Have amended itinerary to Monaco/France/Spain; can reschedule to July – have about 50% interest; if cancelled, refund is 50% or future travel product voucher good through September, 2021. Student safety is first. Need to respond to EF by March 31. Parent meeting tomorrow night.

Supt. Granatino noted the number of Covid-19 numbers could increase between now and April. The Commission and Governor's rationale is do what is best for students.

McGourty noted if a July trip is planned and things do not get any better, what are the options: Option is only a travel voucher but no cash back (Peace of Mind Policy). Mr. Waisgerber stated there is no good choice – all three options have problems. Students and staff need a decision as soon as possible and then go to EF. Marshfield has been a loyal customer with EF for years. Average out of pocket per student is \$3,600; students would receive \$1,600 back in cash or a \$3,375 voucher only good for 18 months. Most parents do not want to travel in April. April is very scary right now.

If EF does not budge on their decision for refunds, the School Committee would be hesitant to approve another trip with them. Need to think about group being quarantined if a countries' border is closed.

Changes are occurring hourly. School Committee asked to send any questions to Supt. Granatino for the Social Studies Department.

World Language / Staff members Maura Bulman & Patricia Salamone
This is an exchange program between Spanish students. 75% refund on post-date insurance; field trips were privately purchased and there would be no refund at all. Madrid is ground travel for four nights. Cancellation is only if Prima Tour can arrange it. British Airways will refund \$615 to each student by March 19 with a loss of \$100. There is no postponing the exchange. Students paid \$2540 per student, and we are negotiating with Promo Tours for our 25 students. Decision need to be made by next week - parent meeting on March 18.

DECA statewide trip cancelled. Youth and Government Conference postponed.

FBMS DC / Staff members Meg Kenney, Maureen Kemmett & Sean Baldwin
April 25 is the date a decision must be made on the trip. Principal Kemmett very frustrated with EF. This trip involves an entire grade of 300 students. There is a difference in age and responsibility with Grade 8 students. The students are unaware of what is happening. We will speak with our students tomorrow.

This is a 12 hour bus ride, and we cross state lines. The size of the trip is logistically difficult. We are the largest group EF services and paid them a half million dollars over the course of several years. EF was considering a 75% refund but then changed it today to 50%. Cost of trip is \$780 per student. Families can obtain a travel voucher for future use with a time limit on the voucher. We have normal health issues on the trip. Need a clear answer to speak with students and parents.

School Committee will hold a meeting on Tuesday, March 17 to make decision. Committee took a five minute recess.

V. NEW BUSINESS

Student Opportunity Act / Plans: Supt. Granatino reviewed Student Opportunity Act. Any increase Marshfield received in Chapter 70 funds was attributed to Student Opportunity Act. This gives Marshfield an additional \$118,230 / \$30 per pupil. Marshfield needs to submit a plan on how this money will be spent (evidence based programs) that is due April 1.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Mr. Greer moved to adjourn meeting at 9:45 p.m. Mrs. Boyd second. VOTE: 4-0-0.

ROLL CALL:

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruthann Despier
School Committee Secretary