

**MARSHFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
MARSHFIELD SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
SETH VENTRESS BUILDING
January 5, 2021
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 audio conferencing 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 7:05 p.m.

I. ROLL CALL

Ms. Boyd (via Zoom)	Yes
Mrs. Campbell (via Zoom)	Yes
Mr. Greer	Yes
Mr. Costello	Yes
Mrs. Brait	Yes

Also present were Supt. Jeffrey Granatino, Director of Special Education / Pupil Personnel Ms. Amy Scolaro (via Zoom), 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.

INFORMATIONAL

Supt. Granatino updated the Committee on the following:

- timing of moving to remote was not optimal but the decision was made in the best interest of the school community
- 40 cases reported in schools since 12/24
- goal is to continue winter athletic seasons once we return to hybrid and make up missed games
- continue vigilance of washing hands, social distancing, and wearing masks

Mr. Costello voiced appreciation of Supt. Granatino's leadership during an extremely difficult time.

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

- FBMS alternate remote students had a group Zoom before break with administration
- RAMote students had a drive by parade to see their teachers
- session was offered to elementary parents on how to succeed in remote learning

Director of Special Education/Pupil Personnel Ms. Amy Scolaro updated the Committee on the following:

- Tiered Focus Monitoring visit scheduled for January 27th
 - prior to this meeting, a survey will go to families
 - press release will go out announcing the upcoming visit
- preschool, high needs, and complex needs are prioritized for in person instruction during remote
- 5 day students returned 1/5
- many 4 day students take buses so transportation is being discussed

Asst. Supt. Miller has a number of items on the agenda and will provide updates at that time.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

None. Mr. Costello thanked Mr. Bradley for his service to the town as Mr. Bradley announced that he would not run for reelection to the Board of Selectman.

STUDENT PARTICIPATION

None

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Cindy Goode, MHS teacher, commented that consistency and routine are important to students. Upcoming changes are causing apprehension as she is unsure how teachers will divide attention between students in class and those at home.

Kate Tracey, MHS teacher, parent and former SC member, wrote a letter to the SC asking that Marshfield apply for a waiver. She also commented that consistency is a priority for students.

Alyson Kerr, MHS senior, commented that the current structure is working and should continue.

Sally Marples, MEA president, read a statement that is included in the SC packet.

Shannon Grenham, MHS senior, asked that student input be considered in regard to workloads and schedules and also requested that the class of 2021 be celebrated by the community as the class of 2020 was.

Ellie McLaughlin, parent, recognized the MPSD nurses for their efforts throughout pandemic.

II. MINUTES

Mr. Costello moved approval of minutes to the next School Committee meeting.

III. OLD BUSINESS

IV. NEW BUSINESS

FY22 Operating Budget

Mr. Costello moved this item to the next School Committee meeting on January 11, 2021.

Structured Learning Time Revisions

Supt. Granatino updated the Committee on the work that has been underway since November to revise the current model. The task forces now includes additional parents, staff, and a student.

Asst. Supt. Martin shared a presentation with the Committee. Meetings began after surveys were completed in the fall by staff, parents, and students. Changes are needed to meet the structured learning time requirements from the Board of Education with an average minimum of 35 hours of live instruction over 10 school days including an opportunity for students to interact every day. Changes must be implemented by 1/19. There is a waiver process but the 5 waiver options do not apply to MPSD.

For PK-5, check-ins will become instruction time. The least disruptive options are being sought with the ultimate goal of returning students to fully in-person learning. Wednesdays will remain an early release day for elementary students to allow time for teacher collaboration, planning, and professional development.

Ms. Boyd asked if students would still complete asynchronous assignments and if live lessons would be at a consistent time each day. Supt. Granatino and Asst. Supt. Martin answered that the changes unfortunately shift away from the asynchronous approach. Timing of live lessons will be kept as consistent as possible.

Mrs. Brait commented that students deserve teachers' full attention and a quality education. She asked what the plans are for teachers who are not up to date on technology. Asst. Supt. Martin answered that Aimee MacAlpine is creating draft templates for the new model as well as a course on concurrent teaching. Mrs. Brait then asked if there was a minimum amount of time that teachers must instruct students. Asst. Supt. Martin answered that the 42 minutes/class for secondary can be in time segments over the 84 minute class period. Mrs. Brait asked that changes be consistent throughout all schools in the district and that a balance is found between "over" and "under" tasking students.

Mr. Greer asked if the groups should be further divided than PK-5 and 6-12. Asst. Supt. Martin answered that this is a starting point to a more detailed plan. Mr. Greer then asked why we are using different teaching methods

rather than students “zooming” into class. Asst. Supt. Martin answered that using varied teaching methods goes to best practice and that students’ attention can only be held by Zoom for a finite amount of time. Mr. Greer then asked what would happen to the full remote program if students return to fully in-person learning. Asst. Supt. Martin answered that the full remote program will continue for the remainder of the school year.

Mrs. Campbell acknowledged that this will be a big shift for teachers and asked what accommodations will be made for students who have difficulties “zooming” from home. She also stressed that parents should contact teachers with any issues as teachers can’t help with problems they don’t know about. Asst. Supt. Martin answered that issues with connectivity will continue to be addressed.

Mr. Costello thanked all for their work and expressed his frustration and confusion that the state provided so little guidance to school systems. In his opinion, the governor and the state failed students and families.

Plans for In-Person Instruction

Supt. Granatino updated the Committee that the ultimate goal is full in-person instruction. Asst. Supt. Miller shared a presentation from the Facilities & Operations Task Force detailing potential issues with all students returning to school. Issues include:

- adjustments/additional bus routes for elementary
- adjusted schedules by 1/25 for FBMS (including balancing class sizes)
 - grade 6 & 7 feasible at 6’ distance
 - discussion of 2 tier transportation for FBMS
- difficult to maintain 6’ at MHS
 - 15 desk/class but most classes have 20+ students
 - discussion of earlier dismissal and lunch at home
- definitive answers are needed from hybrid/remote families regarding second semester

Mrs. Campbell asked if families could move to/from remote. Asst. Supt. Miller answered that families can opt in/out at any time but the transition can take between 4-6 weeks. Mrs. Campbell also asked if MPD would be involved in traffic management for drop off/pickup. Asst. Supt. Miller answered that SROs would be involved in planning.

Mr. Greer added that as a member of the Facilities & Operations Task Force he took an analytical approach in returning students to school in identifying solutions to problems while identifying action items.

Mrs. Brait stated that although it is recommended that all students be back in-person, the safety of students and staff is the utmost priority.

Driver's Education Fees

Asst. Supt. Miller updated the Committee on the current fees for drivers' education at Marshfield High School and at surrounding businesses. A \$75 increase to \$675 was requested to take effect immediately.

MOTION: Mr. Greer moved to approve the new \$675 fee for Drivers' Education. Mrs. Brait second. VOTE: 5-0-0.

V. FUTURE MEETINGS

A School Committee meeting is scheduled for January 11, 2021.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Mr. Greer moved to adjourn meeting at 9:45. Mrs. Brait second. VOTE: 5-0-0.

Meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan M. Pozerski
School Committee Secretary