

**MARSHFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
MARSHFIELD SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
SETH VENTRESS BUILDING
FEBRUARY 2, 2021
6:00 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 6:00 p.m.

I. ROLL CALL

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

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

SPOTLIGHT ON EXCELLENCE: Ms. Erika McHugh and Ms. Beth Debyah – Proprietors Green Connection

Supt. Granatino introduced two Martinson teachers, Ms. Erika McHugh and Ms. Beth Debyah, who created a partnership with Proprietor's Green. Ms. Debyah presented highlights of the program which includes students working with the residents on crafts, reading groups, and performances. Through the pandemic, they have kept the intergenerational program going using technology like Flipgrid and by dropping off crafts to residents. Both in-person Martinson students and RAMote students participate. In the future, the teachers plan to add garden and technology clubs. Ms. Debyah expressed gratitude to the district for supporting the program stating "Connection is key to strong Community!"

Mrs. Campbell expressed thanks for the program and the ability for students to make someone's day better.

INFORMATIONAL

Supt. Granatino updated the Committee on the following:

- High tides caused alternate bus routes today but the snow did not accumulate
- Received 30 air purifiers from DESE with 4 going to each school and 2 to operate at the Ventress
- MHS NHS planning to induct 131 students on 2/4
- Vaccination site to open at Marshfield fairgrounds on 2/8 servicing 6 communities

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

- MCAS is currently still planned although a specific schedule is not yet available
- Diversity training with Dr. Kalise Wornum begins on 2/4

Director of Special Education/Pupil Personnel Ms. Amy Scolaro has a topic on the agenda and will provide updates at that time.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

None

STUDENT PARTICIPATION

None

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Sally Marples, MEA president, commented that educators realize that the hybrid model is not a substitute for students being in school. She asked that as the School Committee makes their decision, they realize that quarantine numbers will double. She also requested that the timing of the return be considered and that parents be reminded of quarantine restrictions following travel. She expressed concerns with sports and stated that vaccinations for educators should be a priority.

Dennis Vetrano asked that the timeframe of students return be reconsidered as he fears families will not abide by travel guidelines over February vacation.

Nicole Keating feels that COVID case numbers are too high at this point to bring students back to school and instead the focus should be on increasing live instruction.

Ken Bolick stated that there is no easy answer. He has children in private school and MPSD. The child in private school has been in-person with no interruptions since September.

Dangy Fleming, an educator in another district, supports students being back in school as our role is to educate children.

Kelly Drosopoulos commented that the school setting is more controlled and asked if re-opening can be a school by school decision.

II. MINUTES

MOTION: Mr. Greer moved to approve the minutes of January 19, 2021.
Mrs. Campbell second. VOTE: 5-0-0.

III. OLD BUSINESS

Physical Restraint Policy

Mr. Costello tabled this agenda item until the next School Committee meeting

Proposal to Return to Full In-Person Instruction (K-5)

Supt. Granatino presented the recommendations of the Facilities Task Force that students in grades K-5 return to full in-person instruction as of 2/22.(in-person Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday; remote Wednesday). The goal since September has been getting students back in school for in-person instruction. Dr. Irons feels that students are safer in schools. In a survey to families, of which 90% responded, 85% prefer 4 day in-person instruction to the current hybrid model.

Supt. Granatino emphasized that most students can be accommodated at the 6' distance. The American Academy of Pediatrics and DESE indicate that the elementary distance requirement might go below 6'. All non-desk furniture has been removed from classrooms. Logistics around lunch and transportation are still under discussion.

It is expected that the number required to quarantine will increase. Now we need everyone to wear masks, socially distance, and follow the guidelines provided.

Mr. Costello voiced his support for the plan and thanked the task force for their thorough plan of returning elementary students to in-person learning.

Ms. Boyd asked about Wednesdays. Supt. Granatino answered that the current Wednesday schedule will continue. She then asked if there was an update on the DESE pool testing. Supt. Granatino stated that the survey was completed and he is currently awaiting the next steps. There are concerns with the manpower required to complete testing in the district.

Mr. Greer asked if transportation would continue to be provided in areas where there are no sidewalks. Supt. Granatino answered that there are no plans to discontinue those buses and that buses can transport 24 students at

3' distance. Asst. Supt. Miller added that there are crossing guards at GWS as well as the Forest/Furnace intersection but no additional applicants for the other crossing guard positions.

Mrs. Campbell thanked the committee members as well as the parents who reached out to her with their concerns. She asked that special attention be paid to students who are moving to/from RAMote as they adjust to new teachers and classmates.

Mrs. Brait commented that all have had to change how we live our lives. Looking at the pros and cons, it comes back to the students and the "whole child". If an aspect of the revised plan is not working, the School Committee will work to make adjustments.

MOTION: Mr. Greer moved to return grades K-5 to full in-person instruction as of 2/22. Ms. Boyd second. VOTE: 5-0-0.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

ESSER II Allocations

Asst. Supt. Miller updated the Committee on additional federal funding and the potential for more funding through Plymouth County. Past funding was used to replace desks, water dispensers, purchase remote materials, PPE, along with Florida Virtual fees. This round of funding will help offset the FY21 deficit. To date Marshfield has received almost \$3,500,000 in relief funding.

V. FUTURE MEETINGS

A School Committee meeting is scheduled for February 23, 2021.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Mrs. Campbell moved to adjourn meeting at 7:50. Mr. Greer second.

ROLL CALL

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan M. Pozerski
School Committee Secretary