

**MARSHFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
MARSHFIELD SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
FUNRACE BROOK MIDDLE SCHOOL
HYBRID (In-Person/Remote Participation)
August 24, 2021
7:00 p.m.**

Mrs. Brait called meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

I. ROLL CALL

Ms. Boyd	Yes
Mrs. Campbell (via Zoom)	Yes
Mr. Greer	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, and Asst. Supt. Business & Finance Mr. Thomas Miller.

Mrs. Brait noted under the Open Meeting Law, she 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:

- 30 new educators completed Educator Academy. Thanks to Dr. Martin and Linda Hurstak for their organization of the annual event
- Overdose Awareness Vigil sunrise service scheduled for 8/28 at 6:00 a.m. at Town Pier. Purple flags on display at Town Hall representing lives lost to overdose
- Thanks to custodians for their efforts over the last 18 months. Year round staff was celebrated during a summer luncheon
- Monday, 8/30 first day for staff along with Meet & Greet for elementary schools. First day for students on 8/31
- Thanks to the Marshfield community for showing their love and support for Danny Sheehan
- Thanks to the MHS students for the walk they organized in memory of David Moeykens. More than #300 attended
- DESE voted to allow communities to invoke mask mandates

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

- Thanks to Anne Rodwell for her work on the Educator Academy
- Thanks to the Boys & Girls Club and the United Way for their support with programs for students over the summer months

Director of Special Education/Pupil Personnel Ms. Scolaro had no additional updates.

Asst. Supt. Miller had no additional updates.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

None

STUDENT PARTICIPATION

None

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Lisa Kile, 5 Howes Brook Road, thanks to all for amazing work over the past 18 months. Commented that the adverse effects mask wearing outweigh the benefits.

Gena Toppi, 15 Whitford Circle, commented that masking should be parental choice.

Brendan Riordan, 2 California Street, opposes a mask mandate as he is seeing the long-term adverse effects of masking children as a chiropractor.

Beth Sombronsky, 115 Gotham Hill Drive, urged respect of each other's' values and allowing a healthy learning environment in a free and open society.

Ashleigh MacKinnon, 184 Valley Path, stated that we are in the same place as one year ago and is disheartened by DESE's decision.

Tim Higgins, 81 Maryland Street, stated that his child is not wearing a mask.

Andrew Taylor, 490 Moraine Street, asked what would happen to students who refused to wear a mask. Questioned if mask mandate is to wear masks or to require inoculation.

Allison McAuliffe, 121 Somerville Street, is a Special Education Teacher and asked if students are not inoculated will they be required to wear masks and be ostracized.

Bonnie McCarthy, 83 Donald Road, is a paraprofessional and has never seen such anxiety, anger and divisiveness especially at the high school level. Masks will be on students 30-40 hours/week.

Kellie MacDonald, 7 Falcon Close, agrees with comments made. Her son struggles with wearing masks because of social pragmatic disorder. Because of wearing masks, he stopped swimming and was diagnosed with sports induced exercise asthma which has not been an issue while not wearing masks over summer. Asked that SC collaborate with other local SCs to form a collective voice.

Ryan Oag, 210 Quail Run, is a public safety officer in Boston and agrees with comments and as a coach is watching children suffering to breathe. He is favor of parental choice.

Elyse Ireland, 323 Parsonage Street, as her son wears glasses she does not want him also wearing a mask as he enters kindergarten.

Tina Shea, 566 Careswell Street, asked why the School Committee was not wearing masks when children will be required to wear them in 6 days. She spoke in favor of parental choice.

David Gino, 3 Hill Spawn Road, stated that his children will not wear masks and COVID is 99.99% survivable for children. He also questions vaccination mandate.

Eric Kelley, 121 Peterson Path, quoted science that masks would not prevent "China virus" in children and feels that this is pressure to vaccinate children.

Garrett Wilkinson, 91 Forge Lane, 2nd grader at EWS, stated he would not wear a mask to school.

Lisa Swain, 21 Bradford Street, commented that the SC is the voice of the children and mask choice is best for all children as masks make children feel unsafe for long term health risks.

Finley Dineen, 9 Cranberry Cove, 4th grader at SRS, stated she would not wear a mask to school.

Chris Looney, 52 Carolina Trail, recognizes that students have been together without masks and feels that students taught themselves last year. He also feels it is time to get back to teaching and learning without masks.

Scott Swain, 21 Bradford Street, feels that masks must be a choice or he will remove his children from school.

Ann Trainor, former MHS educator, discussed outbreaks in southern schools. She feels that it is the responsible decision for children to wear masks.

Deanne Cavanaugh, 9 Anderson Drive, urged the SC to consider the damage being done to students regarding lack of direction regarding mask wearing.

Cassie McCarthy, 3 Philips Farm Road, 8th grade student, can choose to wear a mask but will not be forced to wear one.

Sarah Marples, MEA President, (via Zoom) stated that concerns regarding masks are shared by educators. The goal is the safety of students in the least disruptive environment for students and that masks prevent the virus spreading. She also expressed pride in the students as there were no issues with students wearing masks last year.

Carole McCorry, 311 Pine Street, (via Zoom) stated that the goal is for students to be in school and keep them in school. She supports masks for students.

MINUTES

MOTION: Mr. Greer moved to approve the minutes of July 20, 2021. Mr. Costello second. VOTE: 5-0-0

II. OLD BUSINESS

Regional Planning Committee

Supt. Granatino highlighted his meeting with Supt. Hickey regarding joining South Shore Vocational Technical High School which requires SC and BOS votes to create a regional planning committee – 3 person committee with one member from SC. The planning committee looks at the cost to the district which would be used to make a recommendation at Town Meeting in the spring of 2022. Once approved at Marshfield Town Meeting, member school districts would vote at their town meetings to accept Marshfield into SSVT.

MOTION: Mr. Costello moved to create a regional planning committee to explore Marshfield entering into SSVT. Ms. Boyd second. VOTE: 5-0-0

III. NEW BUSINESS

Face Covering Presentation

Supt. Granatino thanked all who attended and shared their thoughts at the meeting and the more than #400 emails received. School will open on 8/31. He then gave a presentation starting the following goals:

- Keeping students, staff and families safe
- Continuing to provide the best educational and social-emotional environment for all stakeholders
- Take the necessary steps to meet the requirements of full in-person instruction

Ms. Boyd asked if the school day start/end time would return to normal. Supt. Granatino answered that arrival/dismissal times will return to normal and lunch will be served in all schools. Ms. Boyd also asked if vaccinated students would not be required to quarantine and unvaccinated students, masked and less than 3 feet apart would be required to quarantine which Supt. Granatino confirmed.

Mr. Greer stated that he works in the vaccine industry and this decision is out of our hands. He questioned if contact tracing is a funded mandate. Supt. Granatino answered that the ESSER grants will be used to offset the cost. Mr. Greer then asked which fiscal years the ESSER grants applied to. Mr. Miller answered that ESSER 2 is through FY22 and ESSER 3 is through 10/2024. Mr. Greer stated that his preference is for parent choice and not a state decree.

Mr. Costello asked for clarification on the percentage of those in Marshfield who are vaccinated. Supt. Granatino answered that approximately 60% are vaccinated in the 16-19 age range and 30% – 40% are vaccinated in the 12-16 age range. Mr. Costello also commented on the use of term “China virus” by a public participant as unacceptable.

Mrs. Campbell expressed hopes that all can come together no matter differing opinions on the issue and asked if parent consent is required for testing options. Supt. Granatino confirmed that parent consent is required to test students under 18.

Mrs. Brait commented that she has mixed feelings and on the difficulty in making decisions for other people's children while keeping "whole child wellness" in mind. She is fighting for all kids and sees many inconsistencies in DESE's plan.

IV. FUTURE MEETINGS

A School Committee meeting is scheduled for September 14.

V. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Mr. Greer moved to adjourn meeting at 8:59. Mr. Costello second.

ROLL CALL

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan M. Pozerski
School Committee Secretary