

**APPROVED MINUTES
MARLBORO SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
Thursday, August 3, 2017 at 6:30 PM**

Action Summary:

- Approved previous Minutes, and Pay Orders totaling \$79,864.31.
- Voted to schedule Board meetings to the fourth Thursday of the month, at 6:30 PM.
- Voted to withhold VSBA dues until the Board has met to discuss membership.

Present:

Board: Douglas Korb(Chair), Celena Romo (Vice Chair), David Holzapfel (Clerk), Dan MacArthur, Lauren Poster

Administration: Wayne Kermenski (Principal)

Members of the Public: Peter Barus (Recorder)

Steven Dale (Consultant) joined the meeting by video.

Call to Order

Mr. Korb called the meeting to order at 6:32PM.

Members of the community

Changes or additions to the agenda

- No Superintendent's report; Mr. Korb had discussed changes with Mr. Anton.
- Mr. MacArthur suggested discussion of sharing the completed Action Plan document with other districts dealing with similar issues.
- Mr. Holzapfel suggested discussion of withholding VSBA Dues.

Approve Minutes/Pay Orders

Mr. MacArthur moved to approve the Minutes from July 13, 2017. Second by Mr. Holzapfel. **All in Favor.**

Ms. Poster moved to accept Pay Order #2, dated Aug 4, in the amount of \$40,708.63. Second by Mr. MacArthur. Second by Mr. MacArthur. All in Favor.

Ms. Poster moved to accept Pay Order #3, dated Aug 4, in the amount of \$39,155.68. Second by Mr. MacArthur. **All in Favor.**

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Pay Order #2, dated Aug 4, in the amount of	\$40,708.63
Pay Order #3, dated Aug 4, in the amount of	<u>\$39,155.68</u>
TOTAL	\$79,864.31

Act 46 2x2x1 Action Plan Review

Review changes/current status of document

Mr. Korb proposed a meeting to deal with the Appendices. The Board scheduled a **meeting for this purpose August 22 at 6:30 PM**; Mr. Korb will send out the agenda, change the scheduled date on the WCSU site, and ask Gail Chaine to mail out the Action Plan when completed. He noted that Mr. Anton had suggested the State Board of Education will invite the Marlboro Board to Montpelier to submit the Action Plan, and suggested making careful preparations for such a meeting.

Mr. Dale joined the meeting by video-conference.

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Mr. Korb suggested a page-by-page discussion of the Action Plan, and reported Mr. Anton's suggestion to have a "stuffing party" to put together 12 packets for the Board of Education with Action Plan and Appendices. Mr. Dale noted that the BoE has made changes in their schedule; they will invite the Board to attend at some time; The Board of Education meeting currently scheduled is September 22. Mr. Korb noted that the stuffing party will be August 22. Mr. Dale noted that the ultimate deadline is usually two weeks before a Board of Education meeting. Mr. Korb observed that this might be the last meeting with Mr. Dale; Mr. Dale plans to attend the Board of Education meeting, observing that Marlboro's is the first formal request for a 2x2x1 structure. The other Boards' approval will be necessary; One (West River) has provided a letter, and Mr. Werner writing one for other (River Valleys), still in the process of being Organized; both groups have approved in principle. Mr. Korb will obtain legal language for a Warning; Mr. Dale suggested asking whether there needs to be a formal vote on the Report. Mr. MacArthur will address this.

Page-by-page Discussion

Page one:

- Mr. Korb noted that the date Marlboro voted to pursue the 2x2x1 structure should be found. Mr. Dale suggested that the Marlboro Board should vote on the document at the end of the discussion.
- The new River Valleys Board will be seated August 30 or in September; they are drafting a letter (approving the Proposal) for signatures, to be included as an appendix. Mr. Dale discussed BoE scheduling generally considering deadlines others must meet.
- Listing the towns; Mr. Dale noted that the new West River entity includes five towns for purposes of 7-12; this technicality should be observed.
- Stratton is not part of the 2x2x1, whether part of the SU or not.

Page two:

- Mr. Dale suggested that the structure of the document is not as important as omitting something critical. The last part of the document, about the structure, contains some things that might be better put up front (the note about Geographical Isolation, for example); there are good details on why Marlboro is isolated, but the most pertinent points should also be in the front, establishing that these are real issues.
- There was discussion of the Bus Coordinator's report on why Moss Hollow Road is not on the bus routes; this will be an appendix.

Page three:

- The last sentence should be changed to eight districts; Growth and expanding equity and opportunity referring to PreK may be inaccurate.

Page four:

- First appendix, Mr. Korb will format; there will be discussion on vision after this consulting session and he will email notes to Mr. Dale.

Page Five:

- Initial Act 46 exploration with WCSU; Mr. Korb will send materials to Mr. Dale.

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Page six:

- Second paragraph, Marlboro District actions, need Wardsboro reconsideration date and/or the successful vote date; Mr. Dale noted that the Board of Education has this information, but the sequence should be provided in the submission for their convenience.
- Actions relative to number two, reasons not to be joined with Halifax.

Page seven:

- Mr. Dale asked about the Vernon School District exploring a side-by-side, observing that the term does not appear in statute, and is used to mean various things having to do with Incentives; Vernon could not be a side-by-side with themselves. Ms. Poster will rewrite this.

Page eight:

Page nine:

- Mr. Korb noted a hyperlink, could the appendices be linked? Mr. Dale noted that links are acceptable, but it is not known whether the Board of Education will have/use online access in the meeting. Mr. Korb noted that two portfolios will be submitted on video.
- Note: “elaborate” in second bullet-point: Ms. Poster suggested more specifics.

Page ten:

Page eleven/twelve:

- Move section up; Ms. Poster will organize the appendices. It was suggested that the meeting on appendices focus closely on what should be included, such as bus route maps, etc. Geographic Isolation is already determined. Mr. Dale suggested repetition is not bad unless it opens a closed question for new arguments.

Section II

Page thirteen:

- Review the paragraph below number four, “different learning style and unique interest”; is this necessary?
- Discussion of putting in background information not necessarily covered in the report; Mr. Dale suggested a PowerPoint including a map of the region and a map of the merged districts; Mr. MacArthur will work with Mr. Dale on maps.

Page fourteen:

- It was not included that Mr. Korb was invited to be part of an advisory panel for the L’After program, overseeing finances and programming; Mr. Holzapfel will address this.
- Mr. Dale suggested more detail at the first bullet under C; there is more to say that would clarify the thinking; concrete examples; Mr. Kermenski will research this; K-6; Mr. MacArthur proposed “will actively seek to participate with other schools” phrasing, giving examples. Mr. Dale observed that it is helpful to cite examples of discussions with other schools about real ideas. Mr. Korb invited Mr. Kermenski to attend the BOE meeting.
- Mr. Dale observed re: letter D, there is not universal school choice; there is a structure; Ms. Romo noted that act 129 does allow students to move between schools; there is a voucher system that must be applied for; a certain number of students may move between schools; “universal” was edited out previously. Mr. Dale will look over this, pointing out that with this model Marlboro

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could develop programs in coordination with other schools. Ms. Romo suggested that this had been researched by Dr. John and Mr. Anton, and she will inquire further.

Page fifteen:

- Goal two, added a lot about SBAC;
- Goal three, Mr. Dale discussed creating a protocol that makes this more real; “sharing services and personnel such as...” discussed managing the student / teacher ratio; Ms. Poster noted that page eighteen fleshes this out; there was discussion; currently sharing Special Education personnel, music teachers, paras; Mr. Kermenski will word this; Mr. Dale suggested a parenthetical reference to Page eighteen.

Page sixteen:

- Goal four, Goal five, Appendices; Mr. Holzapfel will scan a field guide and a portfolio; there was discussion.

Section III

Page eighteen:

- Include the Audit as part of the appendix; Mr. Kermenski will provide copies.
- Mr. Korb noted change in the Tax Rate; Mr. Dale suggested using the actual current rate. Mr. MacArthur will work on this, noting that the Town Report was the source. Mr. Dale noted it is a central feature of the circumstances, given higher per pupil costs; he will research possible ways of presenting this figure; Mr. MacArthur will scan the page from the Town Report for Mr. Dale.
- Mr. Korb asked about the Audit expense; Mr. MacArthur suggested omitting this; the Board concurred.
- Programming costs; sharing Special Education costs with the SU to mitigate budget fluctuations;
- Phantom students; current numbers missing.

Page nineteen:

- Mr. Korb suggested expanding the graph, showing total enrollment back five years; there was discussion of population changes being fairly flat; counter to the declining enrollment narrative since 1990’s; Mr. Dale suggested graphing the K-8 population figures, not just kindergarten; Mr. MacArthur will work on this.

Conclusion summary:

- Mr. Dale will discuss language with attorneys;
- Mr. Dale noted that the preparation for the presentation is important, a PowerPoint that makes three or four critical points could be compelling. The cover letter will also be important, this being the first such proposal the Board of Education will see. He will write up his understanding of what has been produced, for the Marlboro Board’s perusal.
- The Board will add language to express appreciation for the fact that the 2x2x1 option was created for this unique community, and send to Mr. Dale early next week.

Discuss appendices

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- How to handle?
- Assemble as part of delivery or “on request”?

Appendices will be scanned and assembled with the Action Plan, using short hyperlinks in the main document. Mr. Kermenski will assist in polishing the final package and PowerPoint presentation.

Set regular board meeting date

There was discussion.

Ms. Poster moved to schedule Board meetings to the fourth Thursday of the month, at 6:30 PM. Second by Mr. MacArthur. **All in Favor.**

The next meeting will be held on August 28, 2017, at 6:30 PM.

Vision Statement

Mr. Kermenski discussed the Vision in the context of being part of the SU, how Marlboro will work with the SU, how the SU will support Marlboro, to create a rich experience for students. There was discussion. The Board considered approaching this from various points of view; that the Legislature and Board of Education are granting the opportunity, and Marlboro had chosen to maintain some autonomy, separation; the SU is making the application, but Marlboro is applying to be one district within that structure; that this is the Vision statement for the proposal; that this is being considered under Act 46, and student opportunities; and should address what the Board of Education wants to see; that it can express willingness to consolidate; that care should be taken to avoid giving away too much autonomy; that the Board of Education would like to see how this is not business as usual.

Mr. Korb suggested that the Vision statement should be in the PowerPoint; Ms. Romo read from the Study Committee’s Vision statement and suggested waiting for Mr. Dale’s generic draft, and localizing it.

Mr. Korb noted the August 22 meeting to assemble the materials and mail out; the Action Plan to be done around the 22nd; the meeting on September 12 (Act 46 meeting); and suggested editing documents online between meetings. There was discussion of PowerPoint production and costs of producing the materials. Everyone will send their contributions in Word or PDF to Mr. Korb for assembly into a PDF file with section titles and appendices.

Principal’s report

Mr. Kermenski highlighted his report, new rugs coming; tile repairs nearly complete; he acknowledged Gail’s beautiful work painting the offices. The boiler work is ongoing; sewer line has a crack, there was discussion of timing of completion as it will be close to the start of school. Mr. MacArthur observed that the work appears sound. Mr.Kermenski discussed work on the outside, trees, etc.; re: grants for refreshments and vegetables, this requires attending a workshop to get that grant (\$5,000.00) and the workshop is full, but he will designate an attender; looking into having Brian scheduled for the workshop, a possible contract change for next year; food service is ramping up; Mr. Kermenski is attending several intensives in math, early numeracy; the WCSU is holding trainings around Ames Web and Math; the Board should start budgeting for these training workshops.

~~Superintendent’s Report~~

Other business

Mr. MacArthur noted that many schools are looking at alternative governance structures, and asked if the proposal document could become a public resource. Mr. Korb observed that it will be public after approval and the vote. Mr. MacArthur explained that this would be a proactive effort to provide it to other districts,

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after it is voted on and made public. He suggested that towns struggling with this will need it as soon as it can be made available. There was discussion; Mr. Korb noted that November 30 is the vote. Ms. Poster suggested acknowledgement of Mr. Dale as part of the cover letter, to general agreement. She asked to discuss membership in the VSBA, and that no dues should be paid until that discussion.

Ms. Poster moved to withhold VSBA dues until the Board has met to discuss membership. Second by Mr. MacArthur. **All in Favor.**

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 PM by unanimous consent.

Upcoming Meetings & Important Dates

- Marlboro School Board Act 46 Meeting Tuesday, Aug. 22, 2017 (potentially moving)
- Act 46 Meeting Tuesday, September 12 at 6:30 PM
- Marlboro School Board Meeting Thursday, September 28, 2017
- WCSU Board Annual Meeting Wednesday Sept. 27, 2017

Respectfully submitted, Peter Barus, Recorder, August 4, 2017