

**APPROVED MINUTES
MARLBORO SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, January 16, 2018 at 7:00 PM**

Present:

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

Administration: Wayne Kermenski (Principal)

Members of the Public: Jessica Cooney, Julie Sweethill, Jamie Schilling, Emily Walsh, Bronwen Tate, Julie Etter, Jude Robinson, Jaime Tanner, Lauren MacArthur, Anna Bario, Kirstin Edelglass, Peter Barus (Recorder)

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00PM.

Introductions

Everyone introduced themselves.

Presentation

Mr. Kermenski spoke, with a screen presentation.

Timeline, a calendar of the history of research into having preschool at Marlboro, approved and announced at the end of December; in January informational letters went out, and now is the time to form a Committee to see what it will look like; he will apply to AoE and DCF, and in February finalize the program, hiring all new staff; in March a budget should be approved and obtain AoE and DCF approval; in April, all hired, opening next year.

Programming, offering four half-days for three-year-old, and 4's if they choose; and five full days for five-year-old; out-of-district students may attend; Act 166 "collaborative funds" still available; play-based, nature-based; three on the team, kindergarten, preschool and assistant teacher. Offering busing; list of offerings;

A Committee needed for creating and finalizing the program, to facilitate hiring; he discussed Ellen Martyn's retirement.

Moving the Kindergarten class over to the Primary room, with an adjoining classroom; Primary will move to the Kindergarten space.

Budget: minimal, about \$25,000.00 increase; Act 166 funds come back; expecting eight more students in classroom; about \$800.00 per year tuition.

A Hiring Committee should include MHB, MSD, SB, Community Member, Principal, MSD Teacher; for Kindergarten and Preschool teachers, and a dedicated teaching assistant, part-time Pre-K teacher,

Mr. Kermenski expressed gratitude to The Meeting House School and offered support and materials for outdoor play structure; education expertise and guidance through the transition.

Questions and Answers

The Board and the Public discussed questions.

Mr. MacArthur and Ms. Romo noted that if someone from Marlboro takes Act 166 money out of town, it only covers ten hours a week, but all is covered if staying in Marlboro.

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Q: Changes to the k program? New teachers will bring their strengths; benefit is more students in classroom; challenge is getting the children together, that's why the hiring structure; all participate in Forest Kindergarten.

Q: Part time Pre-K teacher - how many hours? Four days and then some; planning time, support built-in; part-time teacher not there on Fridays; 8:15 to 12:15, little ones eat at 11:30 AM.

Q: Out of town (if space available); how will we know when we're in? Once you're in, you're in for life; by April.

Q: Class size? ten-to-one ratio, little to adult; there is space for 43, and not nearly that many are expected.

Q: Prices? State already puts money in, and the sending town; \$3,267.00 in the Act 166 fund; charge for remaining hours.

Q: Tuition lower than other schools? Yes. There was discussion of other programs in the area, in comparison.

Q: Special advantages of having the door between classrooms? There is the option to knock down the wall; Fridays maybe another class such as Spanish could be in that space; good place for Naps.

Q: Food program? Other than quantity and how it is served, the plan is to bring it in family style; whatever works for the teacher; the menus are online; there is a great chef; vegetarian, gluten-free, etc. There are always fresh fruits and vegetables when the children come in; nobody ever goes hungry; a survey is going out to see what people want; diet restrictions are accommodated; great chef, Mr. Kermenski eats here every day.

Ms. Romo: Younger kids can apply for Free & Reduced Meals, \$2.85 for lunch. Mr. Kermenski noted that lunch is not included, F&R is a Federal program; about half the children eat at school now; much better than when he was cook.

Q: Pre-K will participate in Forest Kindergarten? What's Forest Kindergarten? This will change, but now they rest after lunch, and then go outside for 1½ to 2 hours; the majority of the afternoons are spent outside; the younger children will be coming in the morning, however, so it may not work out quite that way. Mr. Kermenski discussed other ways of scheduling outdoor time; Forest Kindergarten is good for developing problem solving skills, etc., and this doesn't carry into later grades; he discussed the developmental point when students are ready for academics. Ms. Walsh noted that Kindergarten still gets recess with all the others.

Q: Are the new staff positions posted? You can let people know now, we are developing a flyer and researching what we would want as applicants, then will post; like to have all parties involved in the process. The Hiring Committee and Flyer Committee will be formed soon. He invited volunteers.

Ms. Romo thanked Mr. Kermenski and the Board for the work that has gone into the process. Mr. Kermenski described the committee work, a two-hour session to put the flyer together in the next two weeks; the hiring process is expected to be lengthy, time to get on it.

Q: Hiring or programming (will be lengthy)? Programming first, next month the Hiring Committee.

Q: What does their day look like? Coming in the children encounter Choice: various activities, lots of fun goings-on; they choose their station; once they're all in small groups, more targeted academics, etc.; body

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breaks; go outside; later, story time, more choice time; the schedule is fluid and flexible, really about how to be nice to each other, how to share, only four to a station, social skills, putting on mittens, going to the bathroom, Letter- and Number-of-the-Week; Science, touch-see-feel-hear; Circle Time (class meeting). We meet the social and emotional needs of students.

Mr. MacArthur noted that moving Pre-K into public school provides access to a Speech-and-Language Pathologist, etc., and it is good to have this available early. Mr. Kermenski explained that combining the programs provides stability; no worries about Pre-K from now on; it's timely, parents need a place, interventions can be done, etc. Mr. Holzapfel noted interaction between older and younger children, an interesting and wonderful aspect of this school; seventh graders spend a week in Kindergarten; there is interaction on the playground.

There was discussion of the structures (equipment) on the playground, as not appropriate for three- and four-year-old; Mr. Kermenski noted that he had the State examine the structures; Angela Hanscom came and spoke and had been impressed with the emphasis on movement.

Mr. Kermenski expressed his excitement about the new arrangement, having the little tiny children around, it really adds something special.

Attendees were invited on a tour of the spaces. It was noted that there was a good turnout; Ms. Robinson (Chair of the Association of Marlboro Parents, next meeting: Thursday, February 11 at 6:45 PM) announced the Social Justice Initiative, a movie, dinner, discussion of curriculum, and invited those interested to give their names to Lauren MacArthur. Mr. Holzapfel thanked the Recorder.

Adjourn

The tour began, and the meeting Adjourned, at 7:46 PM

Upcoming Meetings & Important Dates

- Marlboro School Board Meeting Thursday, January 25, 2018 @ 6:30 p.m. @ MES
- Marlboro School Board Meeting Thursday, February 22, 2018 @ 6:30 p.m. @ MES
- Marlboro Town Meeting Day, Tuesday, March 6, 2018 @ 9:00 a.m. @ Town Hall

Respectfully submitted, Peter Barus, Recorder, January 20, 2018