

Approved Minutes for Marlboro School Board Meeting  
Thursday, January 10, 2019

Present -Board: Douglas Korb(Chair), Celena Romo (Vice Chair), David Holzapfel (Clerk),  
Dan MacArthur, Lauren Poster<sup>[SEP]</sup>  
Administration: Bill Anton (Superintendent), Wayne Kermenski (Principal)  
Faculty: Erica Morse  
Members of the Public: Lissa Harris (Recorder) (arrived 7:05), Paul Butler (arrived 7:05)

6:31 Call to order

6:32 Into Executive session. Moved by Dan. Seconded by Doug  
Discussion of personnel issues

6:33 Celena entered meeting

7:05 Out of Executive Session. Enter Lissa Harris, Paul Butler.

7:06 Move to update the MES benefits procedures under the parental leave portion  
to allow for use of up to 35 sick days from 30 days. Motion passed.

- clerk for 1st portion of meeting David Holzapfel

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7:07 Act 46 Lawsuit

Dan proposed two motions, 1. to support the districts who are suing 2. to become a  
plaintiff in the small schools grant lawsuit

Doug explained that Act 46 did not directly affect Marlboro schools and that the motion  
would be to support the districts who are suing, not to enter into the suit ourselves with  
no cost to the Marlboro tax payer.

Paul Butler, member of the public, asked if the lawsuit was based on constitutionality.

Dan answered that he did not know. Paul asked if we are in danger of losing our status.

Doug answered that he didn't think that would happen for a while since the State is  
busy with the 31 schools in the lawsuit; they don't have the resources to focus on  
Marlboro right now. Lauren explained that when they designated Marlboro as a 2:2:1  
school, the State said they could change that at any time.

Motions:

To see if the Marlboro School Board will vote to support the plaintiffs in an appeal and  
complaint brought by 31 other school districts and other plaintiff –appellants regarding  
the Vermont State Board of Education order dated November 30, 2018 regarding Act  
46.

Discussion: Celena expressed hesitation at supporting in case we draw attention to  
ourselves with the State. Lauren 2nd the motion. 4 in favor, 1 abstain – motion carries.

To see if the Marlboro School Board will vote to become a plaintiff in an appeal and  
complaint brought by school districts and other plaintiff-appellants regarding the  
Vermont State Board of Education's decisions regarding Small School Grants.

Discussion: Celena would like to see the language in the lawsuit before voting. Dan  
explained that they can't compile the lawsuit without plaintiffs. Dan said that attorney

David Kelly gave them the language for the motion. Lauren asked if, when the language of the lawsuit is created, can we then decide not to be involved? Bill explained that the Act 46 lawsuit worked the same way and that once money needs to be committed the lawsuit language will be shared. Lauren 2nd the motion, all in favor, motion carries.

#### 7:32 Tuition Rates

Bill asked the board to create motion to set the tuition rate. Bill asked the board to consider, who is paying – towns or people and consider the State average. Lauren asked if the school was able to offer scholarships. Bill answered that school boards could waive tuition. Dan suggested a 5 % increase. Wayne explained that PK-6 was mostly families paying, not towns. Junior High is different because it's towns paying. Lauren suggested leaving elementary tuition the same and raising junior high tuition. Wayne recommends keeping \$13,000 for elementary and raise \$15,618 for junior high, which is the State average. Lauren said that for years tuition rate was untouched and was really low and then had to make a big jump to catch up. Dan said that \$13,390 would be a 3% raise for elementary. Wayne asked if partial tuition could be waived. Bill said yes, the board could waive any amount. David said that the issue of not doing increments has happened a lot over the years and caused problems when a big increase has to happen.

Dan made a motion to set the tuition rate for elementary at current rate plus 2% or \$13,260, Celena 2nd, all in favor – motion carries.

Lauren made a motion to the tuition rate for 7-8 grade be set at the state average. Dan 2nd, all in favor – motion carries.

Lauren asked if there are rules about parent groups raising money for schools. Bill explained that Act 86 states you cannot have a private entity raise money to offset budget costs. The money is considered revenue to the school. Wayne asked if Association of Marlboro Parents should have it's own checking account. Bill said yes, to keep it as separate as possible from the school. Dan explained that if anyone buys anything for the school, then it's just something for the school. Lauren asked if PTO's money can be counted as Student Activities Fund to keep it out of the budget. Wayne said yes.

#### 7:57 School Budget

Dan suggested that bus items should be included into the transportation line item since we get a percentage reimbursed from the state. Doug asked what was the actual revenue from pre-school tuition for 2019. Wayne said \$66,264. Doug asked what was the amount that would be put into Capital Improvements. Wayne said approximately \$99,000. Dan said it would be helpful to know what was budgeted last year (2017) versus actual amount spent.

Food program - Wayne said that he is investigating with parents and Craig how to improve food program finances. After school snack costs more than the school gets reimbursed. Wayne said the prep and paperwork is time consuming for Craig. Wayne explained that that food program puts us into a tight box and creates a lot of waste. Food program costs approx. \$81,000 and the school gets reimbursed \$30,000. Wayne said he would like to look at what we can do without the state reimbursement. Celina asked if backing out of federal food program would affect any other grants or programs

related to food. Wayne said no. Dan said Wayne has full support of the board to start looking at other options for the food program.

Dan explained that Small Schools Grants number will probably change but the amount is unknown at this time.

Regular programs – Doug asked if teacher salaries went down because of retirements.

Wayne explained that the change in staffing is responsible for the drop in amount.

Celena asked about additional instruction and insurance line item increase. Wayne

explained that the assistants were under-budgeted last year and there was a salary

increase. Lauren asked if staff reps would meet with the board prior to finalizing the

budget. Doug and Celena both said that hasn't happened in a few years. Celena

explained that once the salary scale was established that practice stopped. Doug

explained that Wayne suggested looking at the salary scale at a later date.

Benefits – Doug asked about the health assessments line item. Wayne explained that

the state requires it. Dan said VEHI is investigating a state-wide insurance plan for

teachers.

Professional/Technical Services - Wayne explained that Artist in Residence line item

would be for any class and would include both getting outside artist in and art projects

within the classroom. Lauren emphasized that she hopes both of those things occur

throughout the year. Wayne explained that the program creates collaboration between

classes and teachers. Dan asked where that money came from. Wayne explained that

money was formerly used for poetry. Wayne explained that artists in residence and

integrated arts are essentially the same thing and could be combined. Celena felt that

the items could be combined to keep the amounts flexible.

Field Research – Celena asked for actuals for field research. Wayne explained that only

South EL would not use their entire budget. Doug asked if more staff would be willing to

get CDL license. Wayne said yes. Doug suggested incentives for staff who want to get

their CDL license. Lauren suggested recruiting community members through incentives.

Wayne said a stipend for teachers who also have their CDL license would go a long way.

Celena asked if there are restrictions on parent volunteers transporting students.

Doug asked why there was no money for basketball. Wayne said that AMP is paying for

it this year.

Early Ed tuition – Wayne explained that he's anticipating 2 students will not be returning

next year.

Wayne explained Art increase due to new supplies and 2 art teachers

Wayne explained PreK classroom supplies reduced due to start up supplies already

purchased

HS Programs – Celena asked what the difference is between “vocational state on behalf”

and “vocational”. Wayne said he would have to ask Gail.

Doug asked if Wayne received a breakdown of special ed money. Wayne said he asked

for a breakdown and it's being worked on. Doug suggested that the special ed line item

should be footnoted for town meeting indicating future plans to try to reduce amount in

the future. Wayne said actual for 2018-19 will be closer to \$385,000.

Health Program – increase due to nurse increasing to 3 days a week. Dan suggested

getting to the bottom line before deciding on that increase.

Transportation – Dan suggested adding more for bus purchase. Wayne suggested adding \$20,000 for next year and leasing busses. Dan suggested increasing reimbursement item as well.

Actual School Tax rates – Wayne will ask for actual percentages instead of proposed. Dan asked if we can get other schools numbers.

Dan asked what the bottom line would be for 2018-19. Wayne explained that HS tuition is less and salaries and health insurance are also less. Dan suggested that we take that money to roll over into new budget and flat line certain items to save the taxpayers.

Doug asked if the board could receive quarterly reports on where we are in budget throughout the year. Doug said that feasibility study was not included in the budget.

Dan suggested using 2018-19 budget surplus for feasibility study.

Footnotes needed for town meeting

Item 1200 – footnote

Item 2130 – footnote

Item 2320 - footnote

Item 240-110 – footnote

Item 2520 – move to 2400

Item 5100 – footnote (will be going down)

Next budget meeting will be January 17, 2019 at 6:30 pm

notes for middle portion of meeting- Lissa Harris

9:45 into Executive session to discuss a personnel matter. Moved by Lauren, seconded by Dan.

10:20 Out of Executive session

no action taken

10:23 Meeting adjourned

- clerk for executive session David Holzapfel