

**APPROVED MINUTES
MARLBORO SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
February 20, 2020 at 5:00 PM**

Present:

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

Administration: Bill Anton (Superintendent), Wayne Kermenski (Principal)

Members of the Public: Carol Ann Johnson, Gussie Bartlett, Aaron Walsh, Peter Barus (Recorder)

Faculty: Kate Morgan, Patti Donnelly

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 PM.

Changes to the Agenda

Add Weighting Study discussion

Members of the Community

Ms. Johnson discussed the budget increases and program cuts.

There was discussion of the Weighting Study and possible changes to the Equalized Pupil calculation the district's favor; of cuts that have been made; of public opinion; of student/teacher ratio; of unfunded mandates; of communication with the community.

Members of the Faculty

Ms. Morgan discussed the budget changes and retaining physical training programs; and read a letter about the Rhythms program, its background and academic discipline; its beginnings in the 1920s Progressive Education Movement; a century of movement training in NYC; educating children with a “head, heart and hand” philosophy; and two ideas for MES: a designated meeting time for specials and teachers, and a designated time for specials teachers to meet.

Ms. Donnelly discussed participation as a community member and expressed gratitude for the opportunity.

Weighting Study discussion

March 11, 2020 Weighting Study hearing

Mr. Anton provided information regarding the City Council of Burlington implementing the report's recommendations immediately; and noted that Brattleboro having the largest concentration of poverty, EQP would go from 1.25 to 2.97 if the recommendations are implemented; that the annual audits in the law had not been followed; that the numbers are unequivocal; that EQP will not change, but the pie will be redistributed; that Stow, Thetford, Essex, Williston and Champlain valley have inflated EQP (Champlain, with 4,039, would have 3,000 equalized pupils); that the Senate Education Committee (Sen. Baruth, Chair) is taking the lead; that the first idea was a six-year rollout, now being discussed as a three-year rollout; that public pressure will make the difference as to how fast the process can happen; that the Small Schools Grants is in the modeling; that the original report was based on FY2018; that the recommendations will benefit MES; that the WCSU letter was published by the *Reformer* and *Valley News*; that Mr. Werner will testify; that VSA received the letter and brought Dr. Kolbe (author) in to discuss the study; that Ms. Sabilia's advocacy was very helpful.

There was discussion of the speed of implementation or possible lack thereof. There was discussion of testimony at the March 11 hearing, and the group from town planning to attend.

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Mr. Anton encouraged letters from voters to Legislators and Cabinet officials and noted that letters should also be sent to the Times Argus, VT Digger, etc; and suggested focusing on harm, inequity, outrage, capital improvements, being forced to spend at 50% of what could have been available, inequitable tax structure, and systemic inequity for over twenty years.

The Clerk was directed to compose and circulate draft testimony on the Weighting Study for Mr. MacArthur.

Superintendent's Report

Provided online.

Principal's Report (see Appendix)

Mr. Kermenski noted that the engineers will be asked to look at North El roof; and projected and discussed his the Continuous Improvement Plan, noting that the CIP is tied to Title I funding with state oversight; and discussed the two main goals and fulfillment targets for the CIP; and noted that the WCSU Leadership Team is working well together, meeting monthly; and discussed change and how to measure change, aligning math curriculum, intervention schedule, developing comprehensive assessments toolkit, data meetings; and discussed various assessment tools; the collegial approach with other schools to assessing assessments; creating classroom teachers that are expert in math; instructional coaching; common planning time. Mr. Kermenski invited questions. There was discussion.

Mr. MacArthur moved to approve the CIP as presented. Second by Mr. Holzapfel. **All in Favor.**

Building Update/Path Forward

Mr. Walsh discussed a roof leak, noting what appeared to be a third layer of roofing; leaking about 10 gal per day; ceiling tiles and rafters in questionable condition; and that an engineer has been called to assess the condition. There was discussion; that mold should be considered; that location of the leak is not known; water could be pooling elsewhere.

Mr. Korb asked about moving PreK and K. Mr. Kermenski noted the lack of space, and the benefit of relocating the two classes; that negotiations were very preliminary; that two additional classrooms could be created, reducing demand on the septic system; that this is good to think about for September; that PreK is not being transported on the buses next year.

There was discussion; of communication with the college working group, inviting them to the next meeting; possible weekly conference calls; sale scheduled for June 30; funds paid; needed painting, etc.

Mr. MacArthur will communicate with Gordon Bristol and the Architects about the college negotiation.

There was discussion of possible summer programs. Mr. Kermenski will research insurance, etc. in this regard, for the March meeting.

There was discussion of the Tax Rate under three scenarios, two involving loans, under different outcomes for the Weighting Study and Small Schools Grant.

Pre-town meeting Planning

There was discussion; of handout/discussion on the Weighting Study, the hearing schedule, letters to legislators, information on the Yield, the penalty, etc.; and on educating the community.

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Mr. MacArthur will circulate information for discussion, ideas for the handout, after pre-Town Meeting; and suggested that voting be done by paper ballot.

There was discussion of L'After programs; grant funded; popular with parents; the instructor position is 20hr/week; that it is difficult to retain instructors; and the lack of offerings for younger grades.

A trifold handout was suggested; and an explanation of Income Sensitivity, maxed out at 3% of income, independent of tax rate.

Approve Minutes/Pay Order

Ms. Romo moved to approve Pay Order #13, dated 2/20/20, in the amount of \$412,460.54. Second by Ms. Harris. **All in Favor.**

Ms. Romo moved to approve the minutes for January 16, 2020. Second by Ms. Harris. **All in Favor.**

Executive Session

Superintendent Evaluation

Ms. Romo moved to enter Executive Session. Second by Mr. MacArthur. **All in Favor.**

The Board entered Executive Session at 9:13 PM.

The following kindness of Ms. Harris:

Came out of exec session at 9:48.

Adjourn

Dan made a motion to adjourn, Celena 2nd.

Meeting adjourned at 9:49

Upcoming Meetings & Important Dates

- Pre-Town Meeting Tuesday February 25, 2020, Town Office, 6 PM
- Town Meeting – Tuesday March 3, 2020 at 9 AM. at Town House
- Wednesday March 18, 2020, WCSU Reorganization Meeting

Respectfully submitted, Peter Barus, Recorder, February 25, 2020

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Appendix

February 2020

Principal Report to Board

Wayne Kermenski

Academic Proficiency:

- Review and approve Marlboro School Continuous Improvement Plan.
Goal #1: By 2022, 100% of students will demonstrate mastery of CCSS Math Standards as evidenced by scoring proficient or above on SBAC.
Goal #2: By 2022, 100% of WCSU Schools will demonstrate positive school culture as evidenced by a transformation of adult beliefs and actions.
★ *Please review change ideas and measures on the CIP.*

Personalized Learning:

- After the break, Taryn and I will have weekly common planning time to focus on 3rd grade math. Winter Benchmarks have highlighted the need for more support in this area.
- PK and K-2 are alternating CPT every week. PK focusing on weekly planning and the Learning Fair and K-2 math.
- South EI is conducting Field Research in Boston this spring. Research includes 4 days of navigating Boston on foot, social justice involvement, museums, Red Sox Game and a night at the Museum of Science.

Safe, Healthy Schools:

- Pilot Bus Dropoff - For the last two weeks, we dropped students off halfway through the morning run. This reduced bus rides to less than 25 minutes for all students. This change reduced behavior reflections (tickets) and the students appreciated the time in the Outback. This may be the alternative solution to bus monitors for next year.
- SUMMER PROGRAMMING: *Should we pursue summer programming at the school?*
 - I have approached Chef Emily about running a week-long garden summer camp. Students will cook and tend to the garden and grounds.
 - Van Lodostov Family Circus would like to hold a 2-week summer camp in July. The program is designed for 15-40 students. We may open it up to surrounding towns and can be a good fundraiser.
- Check out the new JH!
- I would like to propose the idea of moving PK/K to Marlboro College for the next school year. Even if we do not move, it would give us the needed space until our renovation is done.
- We are holding our PK Registration on March 4th. At this point, 3 students have moved out of town and we are looking at a much smaller 3-year old class.

Financial Efficiencies:

- The FY20 audit is almost complete and it will be ready by Town Meeting.

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- If the weighing study began this year. Here are some tax rate scenarios with a renovation loan.

tax rate	without smalls grant and proposed study	no change and small schools
no loan	1.67	
2 million	1.75	
4 million	1.94	2.18