

APPROVED - Marlboro School Board Meeting Minutes
Monday, April 6, 2015 @ 6pm

Attending: Jen Carr– Chair, Celena Romo– Clerk, Douglas Korb– Vice Chair, Francie Marbury – Principal, Steven John - Superintendent, Members of the community - Rachel Boyden, Carol Ann Lobo-Johnson, Daniella Hall, Bob Stevens, Lauren Poster

Jen Carr called the meeting to order at 6:10PM

Douglas moved to accept the minutes from the 3/2/15 School Board Meeting. Jen seconded. Motion passed.

Jen moved to accept the minutes from the 3/25/15 School Board Reorganization meeting. Douglas seconded. Motion passed.

Jen introduced Daniella Hall, who has been researching small schools/districts for her doctoral work at Penn State. Daniella is completing her dissertation on school board governance and is interested in interviewing board members (past or present) on their experience on a small school board for her study. Discussion/Q&A ensued and a pamphlet on the study (Local Control in Rural Vermont Schools: A Research Study) was passed out by Daniella.

Jen opened the meeting up to members of the community. Rachel Boyden thanked Jen for putting together information for the community regarding current state legislation H361. The information included a letter to the senate committee in charge of the legislation and a letter to representatives Jeanette White and Becca Balint regarding H361. The letter was signed by past and present board members and will be delivered to the committee and representatives as well as to various local/social media outlets.

The board and members of the community shared various news articles and reports that they read over the past 2 weeks regarding H361.

Rachel Boyden exited the meeting

Bob Stevens, from Stevens & Associates, entered the meeting and began discussion on how the school could begin a long-term plan (Feasibility Study) for when they need to make large scale capital improvements to the building.

Lauren Poster entered the meeting; Steven John entered the meeting.

The board thanked Mr. Stevens for taking a 3.5 hour walk through of the building on a prior date with Gail and Francie and providing free information about the building needs and possible next steps.

Bob Stevens exited the meeting.

The board started discussion on what Francie deems immediate needs for the building. The three most important needs stated were:

- roof repair or possible replacement (VT Roofing [Bennington] said that the roof should be replaced in 2012);
- septic system (wiring)
- door to the Outback

Francie suggested that the board do a walk through of the school to see other needs.

The board proposed that Francie attempt to secure a roof estimate for the following meeting.

Celena Romo shared information with the board on the Lunch Program she has been researching with Abbey Food. Jaca Hughes, employee from Abbey Group, has offered to come assess our kitchen and services and talk with Jen and Celena about the Abbey Group and how it could fit at MES. They plan to meet with her at MES before the next meeting. The board is investigating to see if the school could provide a high quality food program at a lower cost at some point in the future.

Jen debriefed the new board members and the public on the special education cost proposal to the WCSU that was made last fall. The proposal is up for discussion again at the May 20 WCSU full board meeting in the hopes of a vote by the full board on the proposal at that meeting or a future meeting.

Jen noted that Francie will be in Costa Rica for a trip with students and the May meeting should be moved to May 11. All board members agreed on the date and Jen will send a special warning regarding the date change.

Steven John provided the superintendent's report.

Francie provided the principal's report and took questions about the report.

Celena made a motion to direct the administration to secure a Tax Anticipation Note. Douglas seconded. Motion passed.

The board approved offering Andrea Howe the position of Bus Driver Coordinator.

Board members and the superintendent signed the teacher contracts for FY15-FY16.

No mail was received to be read.

Jen moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:50PM

Respectfully submitted,
Douglas Korb

Pay orders:

#19 \$186,901.79 (3/16/15)

#20 \$61,150.32 (3/30/15)

Upcoming Meetings & Important Dates

- Marlboro School Board Regular Meeting – Monday, May 11th, 6pm – 9pm
- WCSU Full Board & Exec. Committee Annual Meeting – Wednesday, May 27th, 7:00pm @ LGUHS
- Marlboro School Board Regular Meeting – Monday, June 1st, 6pm – 9pm
- 8th Grade Portfolio Presentations – **times & dates?**
- 8th Grade Consortium – 7pm in the Marlboro Town House – **date?**
- Graduation – 7pm in the MES Outback – **date?**
- Last day of school – **???**
- Regular MES Board Meeting – Monday, July 6th, 6pm – 9pm
- Retreat date (set date at May meeting)

Marlboro School Board
Monday, April 6, 2015
Principal's Report

Student Learning/Professional Learning

Students

- Students in Kindergarten, Primary, 2nd-3rd grade, and 4th-5th grade attended the Meet the Orchestra concert sponsored by the Brattleboro Music Center at the Latchis Theater. This was paid for by P&F.
- Ellen's Kindergarten class is running the Post Office this month. I will have stamps and "stationery" for you to send a letter to them.
- Judy's Primary students are finishing up a unit on Inuit culture. Each student is making a doll and then developing a character to go with the doll. This character will be the centerpiece of written narrative.
- Erica's 2nd-3rd grade students are working hard to learn the writing skills they need, so that, when they are in 8th grade, they will have excellent pieces for Consortium. This work includes writing a biography of a famous person who has made a difference to others with a focus on paragraph structure and editing and revising.
- Pam's 4th-5th grade class is learning how to do a "close reading", one of the important literacy skills in the Common Core. They have also worked with Linda Whelihan for two days making amazing junk sculptures from the parts of machines they have been taking apart in the Engineering Lab.
- David's 5th-6th grade class is in the final stages of preparation for their field research in NYC. They've chosen topics for individual research - from Set Design on Broadway to the Geology of NYC. This week they will be engaged in a simulation of immigrants' experiences as they came through Ellis Island.
- The Junior High has completed the SBAC assessment and continues their preparations for Costa Rica. Unfortunately, this also involves a huge focus on fundraising as we work to close the gap this year between funding commitments from the school budget, the MSA, and parents and the cost of the trip.
- All classes are preparing for the Learning Fair this Thursday, 6:30-8pm

Teachers

- Kudos to Erica who presented two workshops at the Farm to School Conference.
- The teachers, with Rochelle's support, are administering the SBAC.
- Teachers continue to participate in WCSU initiatives - GLAM's (grade level meetings), Balanced Literacy (Christine), and the district Math Committee (Tim)
- Ellen attended a workshop on Nature Play to support her development of the Forest Kindergarten program.
- Erica brought in the Crankies to work with her class and Pam's. This two woman group presented a cranky, then helped each class develop their own. The students then entertained all of us with their crankies at Sing. The Crankies' fee was paid for with Artist in Residence money from the MSA.
- Pam also used MSA Artist in Residence funds to bring in Linda Whelihan (see above).

Policy or Regulation Implementation

- Wellness Policy (F28) - The Wellness Committee, which is supported with staff time from Helen Rortvedt of Food Connects, has begun the process of revising our Wellness Policy. Our goal is to include procedures which will serve as useful guidelines for implementation.
- Transportation Policy (F9) - Andrea and I are working on revisions to this policy which I will bring to the May meeting.

Building and Grounds

Gathering estimates for possible summer work including

- Roof repair - 2012 Vermont Roofing said roof should be replaced. Ask for current assessment by Brattleboro Roofing and Sheet Metal to make sure it's ok for another year (or two)
- Repair & replace electrical wiring and pump failure alarm in pumping chamber for septic system
- Outback door frame & doors replaced

These projects have not been included in the FY2016 budget and would be funded through the Capital Improvement Fund (\$83,267)

Finance/Accounting

The Estimated Cash Flow through the end of the year suggests that we will not have to get a current expenditure note. It will be close and we will be using reserve funds for cash flow. We do expect to need a FY2016 Tax Anticipation Note to carry us through until property taxes are paid in November. Recommendation for a set amount to borrow and request to approve going out to secure a tax anticipation loan will be ready for the May Board meeting. Loan documents can be ready for signing at June Board meeting.

Enrollment/Staffing

Student enrollment as of 4/6/15	78
Anticipated enrollment for 2015-2016	74

We are receiving inquiries and visits from families who may enroll their children for next year.

Staffing

- Leigh Madalinski has been hired as the new site coordinator for L'After.
- Teachers' contracts are ready for you to sign tonight.
- HQT status - 92.91% of core staff are Highly Qualified
- Bus Driver Coordinator - I am ready to offer Andrea Howe an agreement for this position.

Informational items:

The Learning Fair will be this Thursday, April 9, 6:30-8.

With 4 snow days so far, the last day of school for students is projected as June 17.

Marlboro Realms of Learning
Communication
Problem Solving
Personal Development
Civic and Social Responsibility
Knowledge