

MARSHFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
MARSHFIELD SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
SETH VENTRESS BUILDING
September 22, 2020
7:00 p.m.

In response to Governor Baker's declaration of a public health emergency and the related Emergency Executive Order dated March 12, 2020 as well as the Marshfield Board of Selectmen's Declaration of Emergency on March 17, 2020, the School Committee shall be meeting remotely until further notice. The audio conferencing application Zoom will be used for this purpose. An online link and telephone access number will be provided on all meeting agendas and also on the Board's website. This application will permit the public to access and participate in future Board meetings and hearings. Instructions for joining meetings in this manner will be provided on the School Committee and Town Clerk's websites. In addition, Marshfield Community TV may provide coverage of these meetings. We extend our thanks for your understanding and participation in this manner, which is intended to keep members of the Board and the public safe.

Mr. Costello called meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

I. ROLL CALL

Ms. Boyd	Yes
Mrs. Campbell	Yes
Mr. Greer	Yes
Mr. Costello	Yes
Mrs. Brait	Yes

Also present was Supt. Jeffrey Granatino, Director of Special Education / Pupil Personnel, Ms. Amy Scolaro, Asst. Supt. Dr. Ellen Martin, and Asst. Supt. Business & Finance, Mr. Thomas Miller.

Mr. Costello noted under the Open Meeting Law, he was informing the public of this meeting being videotaped by Marshfield Community Television. If anyone in the audience is taping the meeting, either audio or video, please inform us of such at this time.

Mr. Costello thanked parents, students, and teachers for their patience as they work to ensure that students receive the best education. Parents concerns are heard. This is the first week of a brand new system with little guidance from the state and tweaking is necessary to meet Marshfield's robust standards.

INFORMATIONAL

All informational items were discussed during the Week 1 Update.

II. MINUTES

MOTION: Mr. Greer moved to approve the minutes of September 8, 2020. Ms. Boyd second. VOTE: 5-0-0.

III. OLD BUSINESS

IV. NEW BUSINESS

Disposal of Textbooks and Instructional Materials

Assistant Supt. Martin discussed the disposal of English Writer's Inc. textbooks published in 1992 and 1996.

MOTION: Mrs. Campbell moved to dispose of the textbooks. Mr. Greer second. VOTE: 5-0-0.

MPD Grant for School Resource Officers

Supt. Granatino updated the Committee on a grant received by the Town of Marshfield that will go toward expanding the SRO program in the District. The Board of Selectmen, Mike Maresco, and Chief Tavares worked together on the grant with which the SRO program can be expanded to FMBS and the elementary schools over the next three years. Chief Tavares discussed the 30+ years the MPD has had officers in the schools. He credited Lt. Shaw and Harbormaster DiMeo with assisting in writing the grant for \$250,000 to the DOJ. The remaining funding needed is incorporated in an article at the upcoming Town Meeting. One officer would be at FBMS and another officer would spend a day at each elementary school.

Mrs. Campbell commended MPD on keeping the safety of students paramount. Mr. Greer asked how the grant would be sustained after the initial three years. Chief Tavares stated that it was his goal to keep the program in place.

MOTION: Mrs. Brait moved to accept the grant to increase the SRO presence in MPS. Mr. Greer second. VOTE: 5-0-0.

Week 1 Update

Supt. Granatino welcomed all to the new school year and answered questions and addressed concerns. First, he credited those working behind the scenes to reopen schools including custodians and maintenance; building secretaries; Jane Landry and her team of nurses; building leaders; teachers; support staff; and finally the students. Students have embraced the changes as they want to learn and be with their peers. The focus of the first week is SEL to build relationships with teachers and peers along with learning the technology for in person days and asynchronous learning. Lessons are learned by students and teachers as we progress. A link will be added to MPSD.org for parents to input their questions/concerns.

Asst. Supt. Martin added that the priority is making sure that staff and students are "OK". The first week focuses on building community which is also done the first week of school in a typical year. Marshfield chose a combination of synchronous and asynchronous learning as it is

difficult to stay engaged with little interaction as happens with Zoom classes. FBMS and MHS are looking to increase the number of check-ins on remote days. Asst. Supt. Martin added that the timing of the release of content for remote days is still being worked on and the teachers are working with students on how to complete multiple days of content. A communication will go out to families detailing what remote days should look like for students. The goal is 5 hours/remote day for elementary students and 5.5 hours for secondary students. Aspen has analytics so that student's time spent learning can be tracked and administrators will be able to supervise and evaluate content.

Asst. Supt. Martin commented that the Alternate RAMote program is also building community, learning technology tools including Canvas, and reviewing content. There is a waiting period to have our courses built in Canvas by the Florida Virtual School (FVS) and content should be available on September 28th. Course leveling is available in FVS. Some grades do have higher numbers and positions for tutors and additional teachers have been posted. If an additional teacher is added, it is expected they will co-teach at least initially with the current teacher.

Mrs. Scolaro updated the Committee on the opening as related to Special Education and that teachers and families connected prior to schools opening. She emphasized that all services documented in IEPs will be received and that in person learning will be maximized based on the level of need. Most families have received updated Notices of FAPE. Open positions are continuing to be filled.

Asst. Supt. Miller updated the Committee on Transportation and Nutrition. In August, 1,000 students registered for transportation. Since then more than 300 have requested buses and requests are still coming in. At this point, all who have requested transportation are on buses but some routes are nearing capacity. There are 3 bus monitors who rotate routes. Crossing guards are at intersections for GWS and MHS including Furnace/Forest. Asst. Supt. Miller expressed his appreciation to Martha Totman for all of the work done to customize busing for this school year. Parent pickup/drop off is improving each day. In regard to Nutrition, the participation in the free lunch program is increasing with 630 signed up. The distribution plan is still being tweaked. He also expressed his appreciation to the school nutrition staff.

Asst. Supt. Miller also complemented the Facilities team as unsung heroes in reopening the schools.

Following the presentation, questions were asked by School Committee members:

Mrs. Brait read a quote from a parent: “Marshfield chose not to purchase a remote program which is why kids are doing 25 minutes of work/day.”

Asst. Supt. Martin responded that TECCA would have provided no connection to our staff which parents indicated was a priority. The original goal was for our staff to provide the content but there were not enough teachers. We do have the remote staff necessary to support FVS.

Mrs. Brait asked if there is a metric by grade for how much time should be spent on school work/day.

Asst. Supt. Martin responded that could be created at the elementary level but it would be more difficult at the secondary level. She asked that secondary level departments communicate with each other so that the amount of work is leveled and not high one week and very little the next.

Mrs. Brait asked how best practices are shared throughout the district.

Asst. Supt. Martin described the Digital Learning Coaches and how they assist colleagues and provide models for others to use. Canvas Commons is another resource available as well as common planning time on Wednesdays. Aimee MacAlpine is adding Catlin Tucker models to Canvas.

Mrs. Brait asked how attendance would be tracked.

Asst. Supt. Martin explained that students are expected to participate and teachers will track their work. There is also tracking logic available in Canvas.

Mrs. Brait then asked how curriculum is rolled out on Wednesdays.

Asst. Supt. Martin answered that teachers use Wednesday’s collaboration time to build content. She realizes that parents need access to assignments the night before; 6:00 p.m. is the target.

Mrs. Brait stated that she feels check-ins should be daily similar to traditional school days.

Mrs. Brait asked what electives are available to fully remote students at MHS.

Supt. Granatino stated that electives are not currently available through FVS but students can build them into their schedules when they are return to in person learning.

Mrs. Brait asked about elementary recess.

Supt. Granatino answered that the elementary schools are diving their space into quadrants which has worked well. Some PE teachers have also developed activities to be done/played during recess.

Mrs. Brait feels the students are receiving a mixed message as many are playing sports.

Supt. Granatino agreed but MPSD is following DPH guidelines.

Ms. Boyd stated that parents feel strongly that learning this fall must be different from this past spring. How will it be different? How will we know that the current plan is working better than this past spring?

Supt. Granatino answered that we need feedback from families and teachers and will make changes as required. Asst. Supt. Martin added that the live sessions will be an asset that was not available for much of the spring. Teachers have had extensive training and more tools available than in the spring. Teacher also have goals to meet and will be evaluated.

Ms. Boyd asked if there would be virtual back to school nights for the schools.

Asst. Supt. Martin answered that teachers will provide class expectations to parents by October 15th.

Mrs. Campbell asked what middle/high school schedules were on remote days.

Asst. Supt. Martin answered that live sessions are available and work is being done to increase the times available. Expectations for remote days will also be communicated to parents and students.

Mrs. Campbell appreciated the crossing guards being put back at Forest and Furnace Street and asked if anything could be done to increase the safety of that dangerous intersection.

Supt. Granatino stated that there were past discussions with the town regarding that intersection and he will bring it to their attention again.

Mrs. Campbell added that the Ventress Library now has limited in person hours and thanked all those working overtime in our buildings to do the best for our kids.

Mr. Costello quoted an elementary student as telling him that the first day back was "The Best Day Ever!" He then asked how the teaching positions for RAMote Academy would be filled swiftly as class sizes are increasing.

Asst. Supt. Martin answered that all positions are currently posted. Once hired, new teachers will be trained and will co-teach with existing teachers to build relationships with students.

Mr. Costello then asked what it would take to move to fully in person or fully remote.

Supt. Granatino answered that metrics from the state will guide those changes.

Supt. Granatino stated that with so many moving parts, communication has not been as timely as he would like but that will improve and updates will be more frequent going forward.

Mr. Costello thanked the parents who reached out to the School Committee to advocate for their children.

Marshfield STM

Asst. Supt. Miller updated the Committee on the articles within the scheduled October 19 Special Town Meeting that pertain to the MPSD including articles 7, 8, and 9. Within article 7 are 5 line items impacting school operations including: an appropriation of \$500,000 of free cash to cover additional salaries due to COVID and not covered by federal aid; additional monies to complement the SRO grant; an updated personnel system for the town, school maintenance, and funding for expanded Wi-Fi. Article 8 includes funds for infrastructure repairs, and article 9 targets replacing air-conditioning units at FBMS.

Boys and Girls Club Morning Program

Asst. Supt. Miller updated the Committee on the morning program that the Boys & Girls Club is running at the elementary schools as well as the school day remote learning and after school programs run at the Boys & Girls Club.

V. FUTURE MEETINGS

A School Committee meeting is scheduled for October 6, 2020.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Mrs. Campbell moved to adjourn to Executive Session, not to return to open session, to discuss the MOA agreement with the MEA. Ms. Boyd second. VOTE: 5-0-0.

ROLL CALL:

Ms. Boyd	Yes
Mrs. Campbell	Yes
Mr. Costello	Yes
Mr. Greer	Yes
Mrs. Brait	Yes

Meeting adjourned to Executive Session at 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan M. Pozerski
School Committee Secretary